

WILSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER

January 1974 Vol. 3, No. 1

"THUMBNAIL SKETCHES": We plan to make "Thumbnail Sketches" a part of future "newsletters" so that present as well as future generations will know a little about the Wilsonians who are making history today. We are happy to present Doctor John F. Argue, FACP, who, by his foresight and generosity, has made it possible for the Town of Wilson to have a Museum and meeting place for the Wilson Historical Society.

Doctor John attended the Lockport Public Schools and the University of Buffalo Medical School. He has been a practising Physician and Surgeon in Wilson since 1937, and served as a Doctor in the U.S. Air Force from 1943 to 1945. He is a member of the Niagara Co. Medical Soc. and past President (1971). He is also a member of the N.Y.S. Medical Soc.; A.M.A. American Academy of Family Physicians; Gross Medical Society; Intercommunity Memorial Hospital Staff; Mt. View Hospital Staff; Wilson Health Officer (1948-1953), and School Physician from 1937

to the present day.

Doctor Argue's father, Frederick Argue, came from Canada and of Irish origin. His mother, Louise Rose Power, came from American-German heritage.

"MODERN NELLIES": If anyone thinks that a quilting party is something to associate with "Aunt Dinah" or "Seeing Nellie Home", it is quite likely that they haven't been visiting the Museum lately. A group of our own "modern Nellies" have been setting another precedent sewing on a quilt in a manner that would have made their grandmothers proud. The beautiful red and white coverlet was pieced together by Dorothy Thilk's great grandmother, Harriet Ames, and was donated to the Society by Dorothy. It is hoped that it will be quilted in time for the 2nd annual "Country Fair" on May 27th. One dollar donation tickets are available to anyone wishing to acquire a chance to own this priceless quilt.

OUR APOLOGIES: It is unquestionably risky attempting to list names of all who have contributed to the work around the Museum. This was amply illustrated in the last "Newsletter" when, in recopying the page for publication, we inadvertently omitted some of our hardest workers. We hope they will accept our apologies: Gertrude and Carol Schnoor, Chuck and Marion Campbell, Fred and Sara Berry, Bernice Brown, Phyllis Hurst, and Betty Stimson.

"MUST BE DOIN' SOMETHIN' RIGHT: At the end of the first year, May 1, 1973, there was a total of 144 Society members. Six months later that total increased to 245. Some are out-of-State members, but most are from this vicinity. Now we are proud to welcome and add these new names to the rolls: Mr. Bert Ward, Mrs. Beryl Tovell, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Moxham, and Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Goodman Wilson; Barbara Poyfair and Mrs. Earl Poyfair, Newfane; Daniel Wiepert of Ransomville; Mr. Gary Jacobs of Sanborn; Mr. and Mrs. Howard Klaiber of Williamsville; and Mrs. Marion Horton of Florida.

All members are welcome to join or help on committees wherein their interest lies. Committee membership as presently constituted is as follows: HISTORICAL SITES: Dorothy Thilk, Chrm., Marion Campbell, Winifred Stacy, Gerry Swann, and Don Croop; LIBRARY: Mildred Middleton, Chrm., Eloise Culverwell, Marie Reynolds, Kay Ness, Dianne Albright, Zilpha Petty, Nancy Kent, Dora Wakeman, and Lois Jennings; MEMBERSHIP: Marion Campbell, Chrm., Sara Berry, Bessie Cole, Dorothy Tracey, Gwenn Wright, and Doris Tarr; MUSEUM: Joe Higgins, Chrm., Flossie Lortz, Anna Mae Nevins, Ella Mae Baker, Helen Borngraeber, Millie Croop, Jean Argue, Verna Caufield, Phyllis Hurst, Eleanor Myers, Francis Cake, Lois Barnum, and Gerry Swann; PROGRAM: John Rodgers, Chrm., Dora Wakeman, refreshments; WAYS AND MEANS: Nancy Kent & Dorothy Lort, Co-Chrm., Eleanor Myers, Ellen Golde, and Nettie Stimson; PUBLICATIONS: Don Croop, Chrm., Esther Albright, Laura Eick, John Parker, Carol Smith, Millie Croop, and Marie Reynolds.

BY-LAWS COMMITTEE: Karl S. Wright was recently appointed Chairman, and would like volunteers to help him contribute ideas and suggestions for reviewing and revising (where needed) the By-Laws of the Society. To insure a smooth running organization, Mr. Wright feels that the decisions his committee might refer to the Board of Trustees for action, would not only be vital but essential.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: Sometimes when traveling, one finds a church that has been closed and converted to Commercial use. Looking at one of these Edifices of past Glory, one wonders just how great an influence that former church may have had in the community.

George Washington recognized the importance of religion when he expressed the opinion that "Religion and morality are indispensable supports of Government, and that National morality cannot prevail if religious principles are excluded." The churches of Wilson have always been a strong, integral force within the Community, and today more than ever before, the principles for which they stand are sorely needed.



East Wilson Methodist Church
Chestnut Road, East Wilson

A CALL TO ORGANIZE the East Wilson Methodist Church was issued March 6, 1871. The meeting was held at the home of Stephen C. Wakeman with Rev. H.R. Smith presiding. The first three trustees elected were: Stephen Wakeman, Benjamin Bull, and Warren Wetmore.

Incorporation papers were filed March 13, 1871. The trustees acted as a building committee with the following added: Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Bull, C.H. Fowler, V.M. Snyder, and George W. Hallifax. The church was built on land donated by Stephen Wakeman, and the cornerstone ceremony was held on June 21, 1871. In it were placed a Bible, picture of Deacon Bates, county newspaper, and "shinplaster", a type of discontinued Civil War currency.

Masonry work was done by the Farleys; foundation and fixtures provided by the trustees; and the Edifice was erected by William Morgan, a Hartland Builder. A Dedication Service was held January 29, 1872.

The Methodist Society joined with North Ridge and Dickersonville for a short time, and the first pastoral charge associating East Wilson with Warrens Corners came in 1879 when Rev. Woodruff Post was appointed Pastor.

Early choristers were: Charles W. Sweet, Ruby Bull, James Bond, and Cora Stockwell. Organists included: Mattie Wakeman, Frances Bye, Ruby Bull, Doris Stockwell, Mildred Felton, and Mrs. Oscar Munch.

The church held its last service on Sunday, May 31, 1964, and the East Wilson congregation joined with the North Ridge Church. The church building was sold and is now an antique shop.

"REST IN PEACE": Getting the plaque attached to the stone marking the site of "Billy Sherman's" last resting place was no small feat. We weren't going to mention it because we know John Myers isn't looking for any more jobs like it, but we feel compelled to say something because of the mitigating circumstances involved. John attached the plaque with a special bonding cement after having spent considerable time building a form to accommodate it. This should have been the end of the story, except for some unknown reason, the cement failed to harden. So John had to scrape the rock clean, rebuild the cement, and do the entire job over. Now, when everyone drives by the "rock" we're sure they'll thank him for his perseverance.

TELEPHONE COMMITTEE: Miss Flossie Lortz and her telephone committee have been doing a vital and indispensable task of keeping the membership informed about emergency meetings or events, which, by their timing can not always be placed in the "Newsletter."

We note with particular interest that Miss Lortz has added a Junior member, Miss Donna Eick, to her committee, and her foresighted action may encourage other Junior members to realize that their participation is welcomed. The other committee members are: Lois Barnum, Laura Eick, Sara Berry, Nettie Stimson, Francis Cake, Connie Swick, Millie Middleton, Gertrude Schnoor, and Ernestine Walpole.

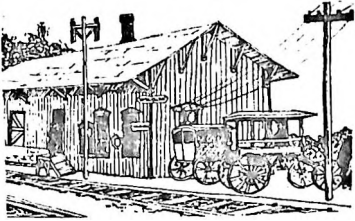
CHRISTMAS PARTY: Everyone attending last month's Christmas party was impressed by the beautifully decorated tree which was trimmed in the "old fashion" way with strings of popcorn, cranberries, and ornaments brought from home by some members. There also was an exceptionally fine showing of antique dolls and furniture on display by Mrs. Peggy Ward and Mr. and Mrs. Harry Brown. An unexpected visit by Santa Claus, a "Goode" friend of children, enlivened the party when he agreed to pass out the gifts.

Perhaps if we're real good this year, Santa might help us to get a light fixture for the waiting room; a desk lamp for the President so he can see to conduct a meeting; a few extra folding chairs so everyone would be able to be seated; a light over the expressroom door entrance so it could be used for an entrance in bad weather, and allow the meeting room to be free of cold drafts; and perhaps some much needed shelves and files for the library.

WANTED: Bookcase for library; 6'x 4' or 5' with glass doors.

COMING EVENTS: Museum will be open Sunday afternoon from 2 to 4 in January. Special Displays: January 6th, Joe Higgins-"Red Bohemian Glass", Helen Borngraeber, Hostess; January 13th, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Brown-"Antique Collection", Anna Mae Nevins, Hostess; January 20th, Bessie Cole, Sara Berry, and "Millie" Lonsberry-"Old Glass Collection", Jean Argue, Hostess; January 27th, "Historic Old Picture Display", Marion Campbell, Hostess. All quilters welcome.

MEETINGS: January 21st: Guest speaker will be Doctor Tobias Collins of Lewiston who will talk on the History of old time medicine. Refreshment Comm. hostesses: Dianne Albright, Sharon Monroe, Mae Loomis, and Marion Pettit.



WILSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER

March 1974 Vol. 3, No.2
...Don Croop...

THUMBNAIL SKETCH: Mrs. Laura Alvers Eick attended the village Elementary School, High School, Teacher's Training Class, and Buffalo State Teachers College. She taught school in Wilson for six years, and is a member of the Retired Teacher's Association, Delphic Circle, Womens Auxiliary of Inter Community Hospital, and first recording Secretary of the Wilson Historical Society.

Her family origin is Canadian, French, and English, and she is a descendant of long-established Wilson families. Her great great grandfather, Guy Salisbury and descendants, were farmers in town since the early 1800s. Her great grandfather Alvers fought under Captain Perry in the Battle of Lake Erie, War of 1812. Grandfather William Salisbury fought in the Civil War and enlisted at Lockport with his friend, Ira Pettit.

Mrs. Eick's grandfather, George Alvers, once worked in an old lumber yard located at the Wilson Harbor. Her father Edwin, with brother George, started the Alvers Realty Co. in 1910 and conducted their business in the village for about 40 years.

MEMBERSHIP: A recommendation by Marion Campbell and her committee has been approved which will allow two classes of membership in the Society, Regular & Junior. All memberships expire and are renewable May 1, 1974 at \$5.00 for couples; \$3.00 for single; and \$1.00 for Juniors under 18yrs.

We are pleased to welcome two new Junior members who recently joined: Hannah Goodnight, and Rhodes Barclay, both from Wilson.

WOMENS LIB?: An 1898 news item in the Wilson Star stated that 100 votes were cast at the annual school election, and that the ladies all turned out to "make it interestin ". The "Star" observed that they probably told their husbands how to vote, which raises the question, "Why did they need Women's Suffrage?".

CONGRATULATIONS: It is reported that Doctor Argue has been getting many donations on the antique "Path thru the Woods" quilt being sewn by "historical" ladies. The drawing could prove to be very beneficial, and all members are urged to acquire a book of tickets from Nancy Kent. The purchase of at least one ticket could be a way of saying "thank you" for the hours spent by the ladies quilting. Not only that, a dollar donation will enable one to be the lucky winner of an antique bedspread that undoubtedly could be priceless.

IN SYMPATHY: The Wilson Historical Society sadly notes the passing of Mr. Glenn Bickford, and extends its sympathy to the family.

REFRESHMENTS: Those serving refreshments please be advised that coffee, tea, sugar, cream, and cups are provided. An electric coffee pot and tea kettle is also available. It should be noted that an excellent job has been done by the ladies who have been providing refreshments in such an attractive and pleasing manner. Since it was impossible to announce the February hostesses in the last newsletter, Joann Wiltse, Ida Mae Waters, and Nettie Stimson are to be commended for the beautiful "Washington Birthday" spread which featured "American Flag" cookies.

MUSEUM EXHIBITS: The Museum will continue to be open to the public Sunday afternoons from 2 to 4 during the months of March and April. Joe Higgins, Museum Chrm., has designated March as "Oriental" month, and April as "Miscellaneous". Anyone who has personal items they would like to display in keeping with those themes may bring them to place on exhibit.

Museum Hostesses for March displays will be: Ella Mae Baker, 3rd; Winnie and Rex Stacy, 10th; Millie Middleton, 17th; Cheryl Brown, 24th; Fred and Sara Berry, 31st; In April, Jim and Sharon Monroe, 7th; (Easter Sunday) 14th; Jerry Swann, 21st; and Bessie Cole, the 28th.

PROGRAM: March 18th. Margaret Goff Clark, local author of numerous books including "Freedom's Crossing", "Danger at Niagara", and "Mystery Horse", will be the guest speaker.

Refreshment Hostesses will be: Jackie Roberts, Emily McAvoy, and Celeste Crawford.

John Rodgers has suggested we might have a bus tour to the Batavia Museum Sunday afternoon, April 21st. This would replace the regular meeting which ordinarily would be on April 15th. Discussion and decision to be made at the meeting this month (March). April hostesses, unless changed, will be Cynthia Wilson, Flossie Lortz, Helen Stevens, and Mary Weiler.

A **THANK YOU** to Ronnie Schearer, Robert Hahn, Douglas and Darrell Smith for moving the cutter donated by Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Munch to the Museum.

The following article is condensed from research material supplied by Harold W. Albright, who faithfully served the Wilson Community as Postmaster for twenty one years:

Reuben Wilson received an appointment as the first Postmaster, Dec. 4, 1824. Twenty seven persons have served in that office since including two women, Miss Elizabeth C. Harrington and present Postmaster, Mrs. Ruth Myers.

Mail was first delivered by "Pony Express" when Richard Holmes, at age 12, received special permission from the Postmaster General to carry mail by horseback from Olcott to Youngstown via Wilson. The trip was made once a week.

Prior to 1855 letters could be sent either "prepaid" or "collect", and stories have been handed down about how those receiving letters would try to discover if the contents enclosed were worth the postage charged. About that time it cost six cents to send a letter 30 miles, and 25 cents for 450 miles or over. The Postal Act of 1855 required that all inland postage be prepaid at the rate of three cents up to 3,000 miles, and ten cents over 3,000 miles.

When the R. W. & O. started passenger service in 1876, mail was brought by train from Rochester and Niagara Falls. It was transported from Depot to the Wilson Postoffice by several different men including: Fred Faery, Fred and Adelbert Mudge, Clayton Stockwell, and Edward Moore. Two stage coach lines also brought mail to Wilson from Lockport via East Wilson.

The first "penny" postcards were issued in the 1890s, and the first stamped envelopes in 1899. Up to the year 1901 when rural free delivery service was started, the Town of Wilson also had several other established "Postoffices", most of which were in the homes of the various Postmasters. One was at East Wilson where D. H. Sweet was first appointed Postmaster, June 14, 1856. The South Wilson Postoffice was established June 26, 1849 with Micah Anderson serving as first Postmaster. The Maple Street Postoffice was established June 14, 1867 with Guy W. Loomis appointed first Postmaster. The North Wilson office was established June 20, 1855 with Emulus Stacy the first Postmaster.

When the outlying Postoffices in Town were closed in 1901, the first rural mail delivery from Wilson was established under Postmaster Elmer A. Johnson. There were two routes covering 23 miles and they were serviced by John Small and William Kruske. They used horse and buggys or cutters depending on the weather. The route was later combined into one and increased to 29 miles. William Kruske handled the new enlarged route assisted by Fay Campbell. Stanley Giles replaced Kruske shortly after World War I, and he was succeeded by the present carrier, Rollin H. Phillips.

Rail delivery of mail was discontinued in 1932 and a truck delivery service called the "Star" route was inaugurated. Mail was delivered from Niagara Falls via Model City and Ransomville and terminated at Wilson. There were two trips daily in each direction, and the method is used to the present day. When the Postoffice was closed Saturday afternoons, one delivery was discontinued, however an outside box collection was made Sunday mornings at eleven.

Frank Campbell was appointed Postmaster in 1934 and held the position for 15 years. He was succeeded by Mr. Albright who assumed charge in 1949. He served under five Presidents, and retired in 1970. Miss Mildred Mudge, a mail clerk in the Wilson office for 39 years, also retired in 1970.

"COUNTRY FAIR": Millie Croop, general chairman of the 2nd annual "Country Fair" reports a splendid response to her request for Fair Chairmen, and indicates that "All Systems are Go!" She will be assisted by Ella Mae Baker as Co-Chairman. The annual "Fair", which is becoming the major fund raising event for the Society, will be held Memorial Day, May 27th.

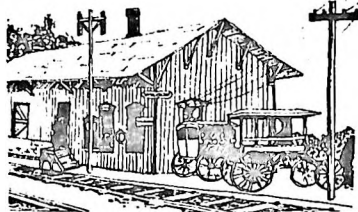
Committee Chairmen who have agreed to serve in various fields of activity are as follows: Anna Mae Nevins and Joe Higgins, Dealer Supervision; Millie Middleton and Nettie Stimson, Coffee and Donuts; Sara Berry and Lois Barnum, Food Tent; Art Schnoor and Richard Adams, Hot Dogs; Nancy Kent, Dorothy Lort, and Jackie Rodgers, Ceramics; Bessie Cole and Millie Lonsbery, Candy; Rex Stacy, Parking; Ed Wolters, Security; Jerry Swann, Flea Market Table; Sue Cruickshank, Lemonade and Popcorn; Sue Toenniessen, Fishpond; Marion Campbell, Membership enrollment; Bill Smith, Balloons; Don Wiltse, Cleanup; Don Croop and Jack Rodgers, Publicity; Doctor John Argue and Ken Tracey, Antique cars.

The first planning meeting for the Fair was held Sunday evening, February 24.

VETERINARY SURGEON: Several notable contributions have recently been made to the Wilson Museum by Mrs. Eloise S. Culverwell which include a Bible with records of the Crampton family as well as "Mortar and Pestle" used by Dr. Crampton.

The Doctor was born at Bergen, N.Y., October 18, 1824, and came to Wilson in 1851. He had learned the trade of carpenter and joiner after leaving school, but having a great liking for domestic animals, determined to become a Veterinary Surgeon in 1854. His practise extended over Niagara and Orleans countys, and he was known as a specialist in his line. He was unable, however, to prolong the life of "Old Billy", Wilson's famous Civil War horse, when it died at age 32

The Crampton house once stood on the site of the present Rex Stacy home, and Mrs. Culverwell has a picture of the house and barn taken then. Mr. and Mrs. Culverwell have offered to display many antiques from the Crampton Estate in the future.



WILSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER

May 1974 Vol. 3, No. 3
...Don Croop...

FAIR CLEANUP STARTED: "The Difficult is that which can be done immediately; the Impossible that which takes a little longer." Such was the impression made several weeks ago when a work party cleaned up the old freight room and Museum.

Given the "green light" by Doc Argue, who had several antique cars removed, an assorted variety of heavy equipment was shifted from one end of the room to the other. Sparked by the "know how" of Don and Mike Kerwin, Gordon Mawhiney, and Ken Tracey, an industrious group including Whitney Barnum, Elwin Upton, Fred Berry, Archie Petty, Fenton Cole, Elton Kropp, Bob Hahn, Bill and Darrell Smith, Tom Sharpe, Art Schnoor, Edgar Culverwell, Ted Lonsbery, Don Wiltse, Doc Argue, Joe Higgins, and John Rodgers, completed the task in short order. Approximately 800 square feet of space was exposed which led Doc Argue to

observe that long range plans might well include remodeling this area into a spacious meeting room. Coffee and donuts were served to the men by Millie Croop, Ella Mae Baker, Sara Berry, and Anna Mae Nevins.

"THUMBNAIL SKETCH": Miss Flossie D. Lortz, a retired school teacher, attended the Buffalo Normal School, Univ. of Buffalo-Millard Fillmore College, and Cornell Univ. She is a member of the Wilsonian BPW Club, Buffalo and Nat. Audubon Society, N.Y.S. Federation of Bird Clubs, N.Y.S. Retired Teachers Assoc., and Trustee of the Wilson Historical Society. She is probably one of the best informed authorities on birds in the Wilson area.

Her family origin is German and Dutch-German from Alsace-Lorraine. Her maternal grandfather fought in the Civil War, and a great-great grandfather taught German and Flute in Buffalo.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS: Joe Higgins, Trustee and Chairman of the Museum Comm., is also Vice-Pres. of the Niagara Co. Historical Soc. Our local group is fortunate in being able to benefit from the knowledge Joe has acquired as an Officer in that splendid county organization.

OLD-FASHIONED FAIR: Monday, May 27th, is the date to circle on your calendars. All Fair Comm. Chmn. report good progress, and nearly every member of the Society living in the area has volunteered to help in some manner. Flea market items may be left at the Museum from 2 to 4 Sunday afternoons. Bessie Cole would like donations of either cash or ingredients for candy. Sara Berry needs plastic cottage-cheese containers, also plastic trays used for packaging meats. It is suggested that everyone participating wear old-fashioned attire to carry out the Fair theme.

JUST A REMINDER: Membership in the Wilson Historical Society is a bigger bargain this year than ever before. In spite of inflation, the same fees are charged now as when the Society was formed. Please don't forget that all memberships were renewable on May 1st. Couples, \$5.00; Singles, \$3.00; and Juniors, \$1.00. If you prefer to renew by mail, make checks payable to The Wilson Historical Society, and send to Mildred E. Croop, Treas., 4559 Chestnut Road, Wilson, N.Y. 14172.

MUSEUM PROGRESS: Joe Higgins has been authorized to purchase a chandelier for the meeting room, and Berne Kent is investigating the purchase of some extra folding chairs. As weather permits, Joe would like to get his "brush-wielders" together again--both inside and outside the building.

A BIG "THANK YOU" to Don Wiltse's Cub Pack, Troop #21, for a fine opening ceremony and presentation at the March meeting. The Society will be proud to display the 15 star flag given them by the Scouts....also to Janet Sporleder for responding to a notice in the Jan. Newsletter and donating a bookcase for use in the Museum Library....and to Hank Jones for preparing glass for recycling, and "Red" Clark for delivering it. (Members may still dispose of their glass in the same manner at the Jones's home on Lake Street.)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! The Wilson Town Board held its regular monthly meeting and celebrated its 156th Birthday at the Wilson Museum, April 8, 1974. A group of Wilson Historical Society members greeted the Town Officials, and showed them what had been done in the building to date as well as plans for the future.

Doctor John F. Argue thanked the Town Board for having given the Society a much needed boost, and presented each member with a souvenir coaster of the old 1897 Depot.

A beautiful birthday cake, provided by Dorothy Thilk, was then served with ice cream and coffee.

WILSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
400 LAKE STREET WILSON, NEW YORK 14172

First Class-return requested

THE WILSON FREE LIBRARY, By Mrs. Eloise Culverwell: In the early 1900s there were very few libraries in New York outside the big cities, so the Western Federation of Women's Clubs stressed starting libraries in rural communities. In 1909 the Delphic Circle sent Mrs. S. A. Miller and Mrs. James Pettit as delegates to a Federation meeting in Salamanca. They returned enthused, and later Miss Belle Brown, Pres. of Delphic, invited a few ladies for tea with Mrs. Jeanette Parsons as their guest. The ladies decided to hold another meeting at the home of Dr. G. N. Smith with two members from each Wilson Organization invited. Mrs. Parsons was named Chairman, and an open meeting was scheduled for Albright's Hall on November 11, 1910.

At this meeting, G. Herbert Swick was chosen Chairman with Isabelle Wright, acting secretary. A library association of five members was formed Nov. 21st and the following officers were elected: Charles Tugwell, Pres., G. Herbert Swick, Vice-Pres., Mrs. Millicent Crowie, Secy, Dr. G. N. Smith, Treas., and Mrs. Parsons, 5th member.

The Delphic Circle, Monday Club, and WCTU, started acquiring books for the library, and Arthur Dobbs was chosen Librarian at a salary of \$80.00 per yr. He not only carted books received from the State Library to his home from the Depot, but placed them on shelves and provided light and heat for the library. His home on Pettit Street is now the residence of Mrs. Ruth Myers. The library was opened to the Public in January, 1911. The Provisional Charter was granted January 25, 1911, and the Absolute Charter was received April 16, 1915. The library remained in Mr. Dobbs home until January, 1919, when it was moved to rented rooms in the Blake Block.

Arthur Pease was appointed Librarian in 1919 when the Haner property was purchased and became the permanent location for the Wilson Free Library. Mr. Pease served until July, 1935, when Mrs. Roy Blake was appointed Librarian. In October, 1939, Mrs. Grace Smith became Librarian and served until January, 1961. Following her retirement, Mrs. Fred Reynolds, the present Librarian, was appointed.

A "Friends of the Library" group was formed to collect funds to build a children's room addition on the west side, and this was dedicated, January 26, 1955. On January, 1968, a restaurant east of the Library was purchased and incorporated after remodeling. An Open House was held June 8, 1969.

In 1949 a Memorial shelf was started, and as of February 1, 1974, 1,150 books have been given in memory of loved ones. Wilson can be proud of their beautiful Library today because of the many organizations and townspeople who have supported it.

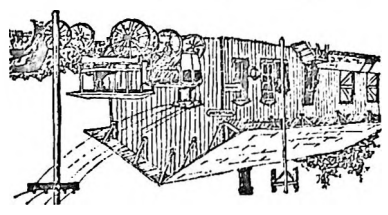
TIDBITS: We wish to acknowledge the interest and generosity of Mr. W. H. Moody, of Sun City Center, Fla., for his recent contribution to our Society's treasury.....The story of "Billy Sherman" is getting around, thanks to Charles Peacock of Chickamauga, Ga., it appeared in a recent edition of the Chattanooga Times. The Society's first pamphlet has also been accepted by the Library at Cornell University.

IN APPRECIATION: The Society will sponsor an Appreciation Dinner for Dr. John F. Argue, Sunday, Sept. 29, 1974 at the South Wilson Fire Hall at 6:00 o'clock. Our membership will be given first opportunity to obtain tickets, and should make reservations with Betty Stimson as soon as possible, as there will only be 400 available. When tickets are printed, any that are not reserved will be sold to the general public.

MAY 20, 1974 Hostesses: Cynthia Wilson, Flossie Lortz, Helen Stemens and Mary Weiler. June 17th: Sue Toenneison, Jane Sinclair and Helen Horton. Programs for these meetings pending.

WILSON, NEW YORK 14172
400 LAKE STREET

Wilson Historical Society



June 1974

PERMIT No. 8	_____
PAID	_____
U.S. POSTAGE	_____
Nonprofit Org.	_____



ELECTION: The Nominating Committee composed of Don Croop, Arthur Schnoor, and Mildred Middleton, recommended at the May meeting that membership on the Board of Trustees be increased from seven to nine members. The committee felt that because of the overwhelming increase, from approximately 60 to 300 members in the past two years, additional members on the Board is desirable. The proposal will be voted on at the June 17th meeting.

The following members have consented to allow their names to be placed in nomination for the four openings that will occur on the Board if the above resolution is approved: Richard Adams, Fred Berry, Helen Borngraeber, Edward Lonsbery, Eleanor Myers, Arthur Schnoor, Betty Stimson, and Norman Thilk. The three candidates receiving the most votes will be elected to three year terms, and the fourth will serve for two years.

The Nominating Committee also proposed the following slate of officers for 1974-75: Pres., Dr. John F. Argue; Vice-Pres., Karl S. Wright; Recording Secy. Sue Cruickshank; Corresponding Secy., Ella Mae Baker; and Treas., Millie Croop.

* * * * *

OLD FASHIONED FAIR: Millie Croop and Ella Mae Baker, Co-Chairmen of this year's successful Fair, wish to thank the many hard-working Committee Chairmen and all their willing helpers who pitched in with so much enthusiasm and co-operation. They also wish to thank all who volunteered their services to paint, scrub, and clean the Museum (both inside and out). "Light is the task when many share the toil" (Homer-Iliad) Miriam Robinson won the antique quilt.

* * * * *

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS: A recent news item revealed that Dorothy Thilk and Mildred Middleton have been named to the Advisory Board of the Niagara Falls Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution. We also can be especially proud of one of our Junior members, Miss Donna Eick, a Senior at Wilson Central School, who was awarded a prize of honor at the State Science Congress held at Calspan Corp. in Buffalo. Her award, called "Wave Motion", was in the physics category.

* * * * *

THUMBNAIL SKETCH: Karl S. Wright, Vice Pres. of the Wilson Historical Society, and former Traffic Control Manager of the Carborundum Co., is spending his retirement years as a gentleman farmer on the old Wright Homestead on Daniels Road. Mr. Wright received his early education in Wilson. His family origin is English, Irish, and German.

His great grandparents lived in a 16x20 log cabin until the homestead was built by George Wright in 1852. His great great grandfather, Abner, served in the Revolutionary War.

It is of significant historical interest that Karl's ancestors were once engaged in raising tobacco and manufacturing cigars--an unusual occupation for the Wilson area. They also experimented with raising silk worms, and a black mulberry tree imported from Albany for this purpose, still stands in the front yard of the homestead. It was partially destroyed by wind in 1973 up to which time it was the largest of its kind in New York State.

* * * * *

BELIEVE IT OR NOT: It took the sharp eyes of Junior member, Norman Eick, to point out that our membership cards were improperly printed. See if you can find the error. (Note: They were not printed by Cambria Reproductions--John Parker checks his work too carefully).

* * * * *

THANK GOODNESS Doc Argue is a G.P. As such, he was able to get our hard working printer and cheerful treasurer out of the hospital in time for the Old Fashioned Fair.

BOYHOOD MEMORIES: (Note: The experiences that older members could tell us about their early days in Wilson would be of interest to "Newsletter" readers and also could become a valuable record for the Museum archives. We hope this article by Helen Borngraeber will encourage others to jot down their favorite memories that made their lives happier because of having lived in Wilson.)

"From 1908 to 1910, I (Stanley) lived in a house on the site of the present Kerwin Gas Station. Directly north was a small fieldstone building known as the G.A.R. Hall. At that time there were approximately twenty-five to thirty members of the G.A.R.---old men who had served in the Civil War and who met almost daily in the hall to reminisce, and who marched annually in the Decoration Day parades.

Accumulated in the hall were rifles, swords, knapsacks, and other military equipment. Village boys of ten years or so of age often went to the hall to listen to the stories the old veterans would tell. We were interested in both the stories and the equipment, which these men were glad to display and explain. We were allowed to handle and play with the various pieces. In our imaginations we used them to fight many battles, and fond memories remain of those days.

The years took their toll and the ranks diminished until there were only about a dozen men left to use and maintain the headquarters. Finally they gave up the building (which was later used to house early fire equipment), and that was the time when a few of us who were regular visitors fell heir to some of the equipage. I was given a rifle, a knapsack, and two short swords, which also were used as bayonets. Over the intervening years the rifle and knapsack disappeared, but the two swords remained in my possession. Burned into the leather scabbards were the names of the original owners, J.E. Irish, and L.E. Burge, but the years have erased from my mind the names of the other old veterans who were so kind to us.

When the Wilson Historical Society was organized, Helen and I decided that the appropriate place for the swords was in the Society's Museum so we presented them at one of the early meetings. We were proud to have them recognized and admired by members of the 19th Corps, Light Field Artillery, N.Y.S. Volunteers (NSSA) when they displayed their equipment at the Museum on "Billy Sherman" day.

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LAND OF COBBLESTONES: The Lake Ontario Plain extending seventy miles east and west of Rochester, has the unique distinction of being known as the land of the cobblestone houses. The style of architecture was popular from about 1825 to the Civil War, and no doubt influenced by the great number of cobblestones available on the bed of old Lake Iroquois that once covered the area between the Ridge and present lake shore.

Families of the settlers gathered the stones carefully, sometimes taking as long as three years to accumulate enough for a house. Stones were graded to size by passing them through iron rings or holes cut in boards. Many of the Masons who had come to this area to build the Erie Canal, applied their talent to the cobblestone structures after the canal was completed. Some were very jealous of their formula and wouldn't allow anyone to watch them at work. Many took their secret with them to their graves, but it could hardly be called a "lost art". Reproduction today is probably restricted more by the high labor costs that would be involved.

Of the eight cobblestone houses in the Town of Wilson, the old Luther Wilson home at the corner of Lake and Young is probably the best known. Three homes are owned by Historical Society members; the A.J. Hathaway "Anchor Farm" on Townline Road; The Richard DeNatale home on Lake Street; and the Charles McManus home on Maple Road. The Whitney Barnum home on Maple Road is possibly the best example of "Fieldstone" masonry in the town.

Historian, Dorothy Thilk, is planning a pictorial display of all the stone houses in the township at the offices of Richard Reed, Niag. Co. Historian. The homes were photographed by Jack Rodgers, and will be enlarged to 8x10 size by Mr. Reed.

* * * * *

WELCOME: The hand of fellowship is extended to new members who joined up to May 24th, 1974: Mrs. Lester Belschner, Mary Ellen Belschner, Dennis Carrol, Maryalice Carroll, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Clark, Michael Fritton, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Hunter, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Hutton, Mr. and Mrs. A. William Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Kerwin, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Mawhiney, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Perry, Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Schearer, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Sharpe, Jr., Deanna Swann, all of Wilson. Also, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Wiepert, and Jeffrey Wiepert of Ransomville; Mr. and Mrs. John Argue of Lincoln, Nebraska; Mr. and Mrs. Donald McArthur of Lehigh Acres, Florida; Mr. Charles Peacock of Chicamauga, Georgia; and Mr. and Mrs. William Stedman of Saunderstown, R.I.

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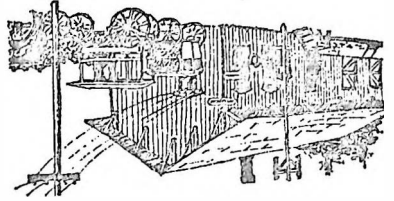
NOW AVAILABLE: "Tall Tales and Legends". New and Old stories about Wilson.

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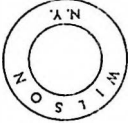
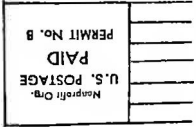
JUNE 12th: Elections: Bob Hedrich, Maple Road, will have a display of Rev. War Flintlock & Kentucky Rifles, and discuss customs of the period. Hostesses will be Sue Toenniessen, Jane Sinclair, and Helen Horton.

WILSON, NEW YORK 14172
400 LAKE STREET

Wilson Historical Society



July 1974



PRESBYTERIAN SABBATH SCHOOL: Miss Helen Stevens provided the material from which we were able to record some interesting historic facts about Wilson's first Sunday School. Helen's great Uncle, Elmer Bickford, was a prominent member of the congregation when the Sabbath School celebrated its first semi-centennial in 1870.

The school was established in 1820 and some of the early founders were: Deacon Daniel Holmes, Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Pratt, Mr. Luman Case, Mrs. Sally Holmes, and Richard C. Holmes.

The schoolhouse where the first Sunday School was held was on Lake Rd. two and one quarter miles from the village on land owned by Luther Wilson. The property later became known as the Sayre Farm. The hearth in the schoolhouse was wide, and a chimney of sticks and clay was built up on the outside. Furnishings consisted of an unpainted pine table and a single chair. Desks with suitable seats were fastened to the outer inside wall of the building, and during public worship, additional "loose" seats were arranged in the middle of the room.

The early pioneers spent many days of hard labor removing the dense tangle of underbrush and virgin timber that covered the area. It was not uncommon for children walking to Sabbath School to see the tracks of wolves and bears crossing their path. The boys and girls had to walk because fast horses and Sunday afternoon drives were unheard of in the 1820's.

The clothing worn by the children was very much alike, so nobody was hindered from attending Sabbath School because of their dress. Although the garments were worn all during the week, meticulous mothers always made sure the clothing was clean and pressed for Sunday. In the summer, the children all attended barefoot, and the boys were usually in their shirtsleeves. If a girl's bonnet gave out, they would place colorful bandannas over their heads rather than stay away from Sabbath School until new ones could be acquired.

The great aim of the early Sunday School was to familiarize scholars as much as possible with the language of the Scriptures. Children were encouraged to commit large portions of the Bible to memory every week. A scholar was expected to recite at least a chapter every week and it was quite common to repeat 50 or 60 verses. Singing was sparse and seldom was more than one hymn sung during a session.

Library material and religious papers were also little known, but young people read books such as "Pilgrim's Progress", "The Holy War", "Rowland Hills' Village Dialogues", and others of the same type over and over again. Since there was a great shortage of books, none of any consequence was read only once.

After the Sunday School had been in operation for a while, it was decided to move it to a schoolhouse on Townline Road where the settlement was more thickly populated. The school was located on property that was to later become known as the Harvey N. Johnson farm.

In 1828 there was a religious revival in the town of Wilson, and young Christian converts of the Presbyterian Church systematically organized and maintained Sunday Schools in every district of the town. When the Presbyterian Church was built in the village in 1835 all the town schools were merged into a general Church School.

Ninety-five years later on July 25, 1930, Rev. Gordon A. Neufang of Lewiston was authorized by the Niagara Presbytery to grant church letters to all members of the Wilson Presbyterian Church thus ending the Society in Wilson after having exerted a strong influence on the Community for one hundred and ten years.

OFFICERS ELECTED: Officers elected at the June meeting were as follows: Dr. John F. Argue, Pres.; Karl S. Wright, Vice-Pres.; Sue Cruickshank, Recording Secy.; Ella Mae Baker, Corresponding Secy.; and Mildred Croop, Treas.

Three trustees were elected for three year terms as follows: Betty Stimson, Arthur Schnoor, and Fred Berry. Mrs. Helen Borngraber was re-elected and will continue to serve for two years. From now on three trustees will be elected each year for three year terms.

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APPRECIATION DINNER: Betty Stimson, ticket chairman for the dinner honoring Doctor John F. Argue at the South Wilson Fire Hall on Sunday, September 29 at 6:00 o'clock, urges everyone who plans to attend to make their reservations with her immediately. She would also like to ask all who have made reservations to pick up and pay for their tickets before September 1st. For reservations call 751-6839.

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MEMBERSHIP: The Society is happy to extend a hearty welcome to our following new members: Mr. and Mrs. Richard Beatty; Darlene Clark; Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Clark, Sr.; Mr. and Mrs. Richard DeNatale; Jacob Hamilton; Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Ziemendorf, Frank Rodgers, Jr.; Mr. and Mrs. Larry Scheffler; Mrs. Gregory Swann; Richard and Mark Wiltse; Kelli Wolters; and Mrs. Robert Dinse, of Wilson: Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Thompson, J. Robert Stephanski, Jr.; and Stuart Brown, of Lockport: Mrs. Patricia Bury of Tonawanda: Mr. and Mrs. Gary Fitch of Olcott: Mrs. Florence Schultz of Ransomville: and Frank Baker and Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Bollmann of Ohio.

Our Treasurer reports that membership renewals are lagging. If those who have overlooked or forgotten to renew would do so, our Society could boast a membership total of over 300 persons. Dues may be paid Sunday afternoons from 2 to 4 at the Museum or by mailing directly to the Treasurer, 4559 Chestnut Road, Wilson N.Y. 14172.

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GLASS RECYCLING has proven to be not only patriotic, but profitable as well, however, members are urged to leave their glass at the Jones's home on Lake Street, and not at the Museum.

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THUMBENAIL SKETCH: Carol May Croop Smith started school at District #7 and entered Wilson Central School one year later. She graduated in 1953 and received a B.S. in Art Education at Buffalo State in 1958. She later earned her Master of Science degree at the same college in 1971.

She had three children by her marriage to William G. Smith, Douglas, Dale (deceased), and Darrell. Their home is at Pekin, N.Y.

Carol is a member of the Baptist Church, Home Bureau, Home Extension, N.Y. State Teacher's Assoc., National Teacher's Assoc., and Art Teacher's Assoc.

Carol's middle name, May, has come down through 12 generations from John May, born in Mayfield, Essex Co., England in 1590. He was Master of the vessel "The James" that sailed between the Port of London and New England as early as 1635. He settled at Roxbury, Mass. in 1640.

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PLANNING BOARD: It was decided at the June meeting to have a planning board to formulate long range policies for the Museum. President Argue has appointed the following members to serve on the board: Whitney Barnum, Ollie Clark, Don Wiltse, Art Schnoor, Elwin Upton, and Don Croop.

* * * * *

MEETINGS: The Cobblestone Tour scheduled for July 14 will take the place of the regular meeting which ordinarily would have been held the following night, July 15th. All members will tour the area at their own leisure starting at 1 o'clock and finishing up at the North Ridge Church at 5:00 where Mrs. Wirt Wakeman will give a history of the Church. Four homes will be open for the tour including the Richard DeNatale home at 81 Lake Street, the A.J. Hathaway home at 2533 Wilson-Cambria Rd., the Whitney Barnum home at 2804 Maple Road, and the Robert Hedrich home at 2995 Maple Road. Refreshments will be served at the Church.

The regular meeting for August 19th will be preceded by a picnic supper at the Museum grounds starting at 6:00 o'clock. It is planned to invite some of our older citizens to enjoy the picnic and perhaps refresh their memories with some tales of earlier days. Anna Mae is in charge.

Their are tentative plans being made by our new program Chairman, Lois Barnum, to possibly participate in a side paddle boat trip from Lockport to Middleport. Since there are many questions involved it would be necessary for her to know how many members would be interested before making further plans. Please see or phone Lois if interested.

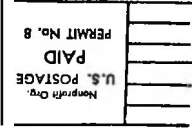
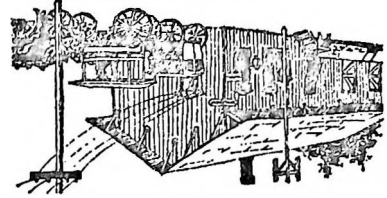
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HAVE YOU NOTICED? the new bulletin board obtained by Dorothy Thilk... the new light fixture acquired by Joe Higgins... the new ticket window glass painted by Carol Smith... the picture frame molding installed by Fenton Cole and Elwin Upton... the display cabinets assembled and put in place by the Tom Sharpes, Walter Hutchison, and Joe Higgins...

WILSON, NEW YORK 14172
400 LAKE STREET

Wilson Historical Society

August 1974



STOP! LOOK! and LISTEN! by Miss Flossie Lortz

There is a beauty and song in the village of Wilson and surrounding area. Whatever the season, however, we are fortunate in the number of birds that come here. During the long winter months, gulls settle like snowflakes on the piers or icy lake waters. If you have a bird feeder, chickadees, juncos, tree sparrows, and evening grosbeaks enjoy your generosity along with the blue jays and cardinals.

After a seemingly long winter of snow, ice, and rough winds, the coming of spring, heralded by pussy willows, snowdrops, and the first geese flying north, delights us. In the early morning or late afternoon, the whistle of cardinals or racious scolding of blue jays may be heard along Lake or McChesney streets.

Any day in summer, watch martins at Art Schnoors home as they gracefully swoop and feed on mosquitos. Red-headed woodpeckers are rare, yet you may find them in an old tree in the Schearer yard on Ontario street.

Take time to sit along the bank behind the T-Club and with patience you will be rewarded by the sight of mallards, sora rails, and an occasional king fisher. If you are lucky and more venturesome, you may see the great blue and little green herons and dozens of red-winged blackbirds and bitterns in the swamps behind the cemetery.

Blue birds are scarce but they have been seen in the vicinity of Maple road and route #18. Goldfinches and yellow warblers are common thruout the town while a flash of orange in an orchard will indicate a Baltimore oriole. Catbirds sing in the low trees, and cedar waxwings like the berries of the mountain ash. Kildeer and meadowlarks abound in the fields while morning-doves like to nest in the pines. A great variety of hawks and owls help keep the field mouse population down. Small ponds and marshes thruout the town lure migratory birds which may be seen in abundance in the spring and fall, while the beautiful ring-necked pheasant attracts many sportsmen to the area.

With the first frost and hint of winter in the air, the geese fly north, and the friendly robin disappears. This is the time to set up your bird feeder. However, if you do, be sure you keep it filled all winter as the birds soon learn to depend on it.

The Wilson Free Library has several very fine bird books such as "Song Birds in Your Garden", by John Terris; "The Bird Watcher's Guide", by Henry Hill Collins, Jr., and several books with beautiful pictures for your enjoyment. Much pleasure can be had "bird watching", and you will have many a pleasant experience if you do. STOP! LOOK! and LISTEN!

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FOR POSTERITY: A family information sheet has been made up in co-operation with the Library Committee which could become a vital part of the proposed genealogical records to be kept on file in the Museum Library. The sheets will be mailed to all Historical Society members, and it is hoped that most will be returned.

It is easy to put off until tomorrow something that could be done so easily today. Just a few minutes of your time now could provide accurate information that might prove very helpful to one of your descendents. So when your sheets arrive, please fill them out and return to Millie Middleton, Chrm. of the library committee, or a member of her committee; Eloise Culverwell, Marie Reynolds, Kay Ness, Dianne Albright, Zilpha Petty, Nancy Kent, Dora Wakeman, and Lois Jennings.

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A THOUGHT FOR TODAY: Woodrow Wilson once said, "I believe in Democracy because it releases the energies of every human being."

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COBBLESTONE TOUR: Over 80 members of the Wilson Historical Society participated in the tour of cobblestone houses last month which terminated at the North Ridge Methodist Church. Four of the 13 houses on the route were open for inspection, namely, the Richard DeNatalie home on Lake St.; the A. J. Hathaway home on the Wilson-Cambria road; and the Whitney Barnum and Robert Hedrich homes on Maple Road.

All houses were tastefully furnished, and a credit to their owners who have preserved the distinctive beauty of these pre-Civil War homes.

Mrs. Wirt Wakeman, who has done extensive research on the origin and history of the North Ridge Church, gave a very interesting talk following the serving of refreshments in the church parlors.

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LAST CALL: They're going fast. If you plan to get tickets for the Appreciation Dinner, make your reservations with Betty Stimson before Sept.

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MRS. NORMAN EICK has announced that she and Dr. Eick will be happy to hear from their Wilson friends at their new home in 1112 Morningside Drive, Eustis, Florida-32726. Laura served for two years as the Society's first recording secretary, and we feel certain that this warm and friendly person will be sorely missed.

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THUMBNAIL SKETCH: Mildred Diez Middleton, Chrm. of the Library Comm., is a retired registered nurse from Niagara Falls Memorial Hospital. She received her early schooling at Dist. #5 and the Wilson Union School. She then attended the Deaconess School of Nursing at Buffalo.

She is a member of Exley United Methodist Church; N.Y.S. Nursing Assoc.; Niagara Falls Chapter, D.A.R.; Buffalo Mayflower Assoc.; W.N.Y. Genealogical Society; Elberta Mothers Club; and the historical societies of Lockport, Cambria and Wilson.

Her family origin is Canadian and German. One of the first brick houses in town was built by her grandfather, John Diez, Sr. in 1867. The famous Sutherland Hotel was built by another grandfather, Benjamin H. Sutherland, in 1895. Mrs. Middleton is a member of the Mayflower Society through her ancestors Frances Cooke and Richard Warren.

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PERHAPS YOU CAN HELP: If anyone has a picture of Reuben or Luther Wilson or knows someone who has, will you please notify Mrs. Dorothy Thilk.

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A FRIENDLY WELCOME to our latest new member, Mrs. Brian (Connie) Moss of Pensacola, Florida.

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PUBLICATIONS: Newsletters are now being sent out under non-profit mailing status. This has reduced overall publishing costs by about 50%. Since 3rd class mailings are somewhat slower we want to be sure all Niagara County members receive theirs prior to meeting dates. Tell us if you don't.

Verna Caufield, former correspondent for the Niagara Falls Gazette, has agreed to serve on the publications committee and handle newspaper publicity for the Society.

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BUSY BEES: Art Schnoor spent about a day re-finishing the library bookcase to its present shiny condition.... Elwin Upton and Fenton Cole made it look easy when they built the partition in the freight room.... and if you noticed the split panels in the freight office doors, you can appreciate the fine job Fred Berry did replacing them....

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MEMBERS IN THE NEWS: Sue Cruickshank, recently elected secretary of the Wilson Historical Society, has also been elected President of the Thomas Marks Parents-Teachers Association.... Miss Donna Eick and Carl Wiepert, Jr. were June graduates from Wilson Central School.... "Hank" Jones was one of 5 Scouts receiving the highest vigil honor when 40 members of the Lewiston Trail Council, B.S.A., were taken into the Order of the Arrow at Camp Ditmer, Phelps, N.Y.

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AUGUST MEETINGS: The Board of Trustees will meet Sunday evening, Aug. 18, at 7:00 o'clock in the Museum. Comm. Chairmen are welcome to attend.

The annual family picnic will be held on the Museum grounds starting at 6:00 P.M. Monday, August 19th. Please bring folding tables, basket lunch, and service for your family. Beverages will be furnished. The regular monthly meeting will follow.

Because of limited space and the large number of persons signing up, it was necessary to limit the boat ride through the canal locks to members only. It will be possible to arrange another trip in October should enough persons be interested.

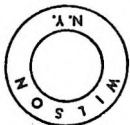
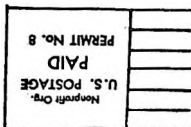
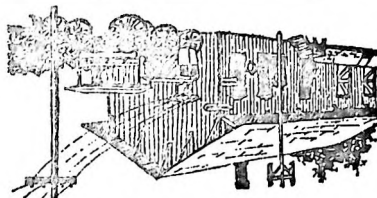
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WILD WILSON: At the first town meeting, April 6, 1819, bounties were placed on wolves, \$250 was voted for bridges, and \$25 was allotted to support the poor. The first town supervisor was Reuben Wilson.

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WILSON, NEW YORK 14172
3070 YOUNGSTOWN ROAD
MRS. PAUL MIDDLETON

Oct. 1974



HO-DE-NO-SAU-NEE-GA

The casual observer paying a visit to the Wilson Historical Society Museum, might give only a passing glance at an Indian map hanging on the library wall. A closer look, however, would disclose a chart of intricate detail revealing the Mythology and legends of the Ho-de-no-sau-nee-ga, or "people of the Longhouse". Compiled in 1851 from early French maps dating 1720 or earlier, it shows ancient Indian trails, lakes, villages, and other principal locations with their aboriginal names.

Eber L. Russell, historian and authority on Indian culture at Perrysburg N.Y., redrew the map in 1962 adding over 150 translations based on 50 years of research as a Seneca Indian scholar. He was adopted by the Senecas and received the Peter Doctor Citation for distinguished service as a "true advocate of Indian legend, tradition, and history". School libraries and colleges of western New York have been the recipients of over 20 reels of his recordings on local Indian history.

The late Mr. Russell was not only a lay preacher in the Methodist Church but also served as one of the first Scout masters in his area. His large collection of Indian artifacts may be seen at the Cattaraugus County Museum at Little Valley, N.Y.

Indian designations used on the map for familiar landmarks of today are of special interest. Wilson's 12 mile creek, for instance, was called Te-car-na-ga-ge or "Black Water into the Lake". The Niagara River was known as Ne-ah-ga, and its "Great or Highest Falls" was Date-car-sko-sase. The Whirlpool, or Byo-n-was-da-se meant "Current goes round and round", while the Devil's Hole was named Dyus-da-nyah, or "Cleft in the Rocks".

Indian Mythology and legend is well illustrated as it relates to their beliefs, and the Ga-o-wo-wah, or "Great Canoe" authenticated the presence of Norsemen on the great lakes prior to Columbus reaching the New World.

It took Mr. Russell six weeks to reproduce, in color, each master map by hand. Of the few copies made, one was purchased by the Buffalo Museum of Science, and another by St. Bonaventure University. A copy is also on exhibit at the Holland Land Company Museum at Batavia.

The Wilson Historical Society is fortunate to also be able to display one of these rare and valuable maps through the generosity of Mrs. Fenton (Bessie) Cole, a daughter of Eber Russell.

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THUMBNAIL SKETCH: John C. Parker of Cambria attended the Buffalo Public Schools, Emerson Vocational School, and the University of Buffalo School of Engineering.

He is a member of the Salem Lutheran Church of Buffalo, Cambria Voluntary Fire Company; Masonic Order; and Historical Societies of Niagara County, Cambria, and Wilson. As a member of the Wilson Society Publications Comm., he has been very helpful reproducing copy for "Newsletters" and other books.

John served with the U.S. Airforce during World War II in the European theatre from 1941 to 1945. He retired as a toolmaker in 1963, and is now a self employed ceramic artist and printer of special projects.

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OCTOBER MEETINGS: Trustees; Wednesday, Oct. 16, 9PM at Museum. Regular meeting; Monday, October 21, at Museum, 7:30 P.M.

Mrs. Mary Pfeiffer of Amherst will demonstrate and speak on hand painted china. Refreshment hostesses for the October meeting will be Dianne Albright, Lois Barnum, and Jean Argue.

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SORRY! We can no longer send "Newsletters" to members in arrears. Yearly dues are payable each year on May 1st.

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APPRECIATION DINNER: A sell-out gathering of 400 friends of Dr. John F. Argue attended the Appreciation Dinner held in his honor at the South Wilson Fire Hall, Sept. 29, 1974. The occasion was under the auspices of the Wilson Historical Society with dinner served by the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Fire Company.

Whitney L. Barnum and Karl S. Wright shared the roll of Masters of Ceremony, and honored guests scheduled to speak were: Sen Earl Brydges, retired; Harold Mosher, Mayor; William C. Stein, M.D.; Burt Jennings; James Cornell; and Rev. Ernest L. Kerrison. Human interest stories and tape recorded skits were part of the evening fun, and several of the doctor's earliest patients were introduced.

Ella Mae Baker, Chairman for the affair, presented the doctor with a guest book containing the signatures of all present. A special plaque was also presented with an inscription thereon thanking Doctor and Mrs. Argue for their generous gift of the old railroad depot for use as a Town Museum. The plaque will be attached to the outside of the Museum.

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MUSEUM MYSTERY: Ruth Gale, Millie Croop, and Millie Middleton, (while serving as hostesses one Sunday last month), discovered three baby kittens hidden in a box in the old freight room. It was said that when Millie Middleton reached into the box, and her hand came in contact with the three furry creatures, she almost suffered a heart attack. How or when the kittens arrived is a mystery, but it is to be hoped that their mother checked with our Museum Chairman, Joe Higgins, before acquiring such vital exhibit space.

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IN MEMORIAM: Our sympathy to the family of Orton Holden, 61, who died unexpectedly while vacationing in Vermont.

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INVITATION: Gertrude Salisbury left Wilson in 1921 but recently wrote she would welcome hearing from old friends. The Salisburys live near Los Angeles, but are on a high desert surrounded by mountain peaks. She says it is a lovely place with clean air, good water, and good people. Her address is 7888 Fox Trail, Yucca Valley, Cal. 92284.

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DEDICATION: *John Hamblin* The Niagara Falls Chapter, D.A.R., will honor John Hamblin, only revolutionary war soldier buried in Greenwood Cemetery, Sunday PM Oct. 13, at 2:00 o'clock. A plaque will be presented for mounting on the cemetery entrance gate and will identify Greenwood as having a revolutionary war soldier buried within. A marker will also be placed at the gravesite.

Richard C. Southard, Town Attorney, is a direct descendent of John Hamblin, and will plan to attend the ceremony. The public is invited.

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GLASS RECYCLING: Glass no longer has to be sorted by color, but any metal objects should be removed. Betty Stimson has announced that she will be doing some "cycling" herself, so we think it well to advise everyone to be careful what they put in their trash containers.

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TIMELY GIFT: Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Hathaway of "Anchor Farm" have responded to Society plans to erect a flagpole on the east lawn by offering to donate one on their property. According to Art Schnoor, the pole is being moved to its new location by courtesy of Bob Rohring.

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COMMITTEES: As a matter of general information the function of various committees will be outlined. This month we will start with the Publications Committee, who, according to the By-Laws of the Society, is responsible for finding ways and means of publishing individual or joint research studies, books for publicity, newsletters to membership, and arranging for TV, radio, and newspaper publicity.

Two booklets have been published to date, "Billy Sherman" and "Tall Tales and Legends". There was good TV coverage at the "Billy Sherman Marker Dedication", and wide radio, TV, and newspaper coverage of the Annual Fair. Regular news items have appeared thruout the year publicizing museum events and related activities.

Several good suggestions for future booklets are being considered, and all members are urged to write down and submit human interest stories about Wilson families, local events, or little known business enterprises.

Besides the chairman, the publications committee is composed of Esther Albright, Sec.; Karl Wright, Advisor; John Parker, Printing; Carol Smith, Posters; Marie Reynolds, Proofreading; Millie Croop, Promotion; and Verna Caufield, Newspaper Publicity.

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NEW MEMBERS: Last but not least, we welcome the latest new members to the Society, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Feigenbaum of Wilson.

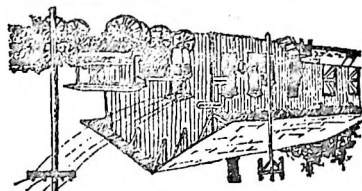
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BON MOT: The only way to keep your health is to eat what you don't want, drink what you don't like, and do what you'd rather not. (Mark Twain)

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WILSON, NEW YORK 14172
400 LAKE STREET

Wilson Historical Society



Nov. 1974

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WILSON, NEW YORK 14172

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Nonprofit Org.



REUBEN WILSON-FOUNDER

When Reuben Wilson and his family landed on these Lake Ontario shores in April, 1810, all of Niagara County, as we know it today, was called the town of Cambria. The Wilsons, accompanied by the Eastman family and Gilbert Purdy, rowed along the lake shore in open Bateaux from a point near Toronto, Canada. They brought their household and farm utensils with them, and unloaded the goods about a mile and a half east of the mouth of 12 mile creek. The boats were used as temporary shelters, but after three months time elapsed, substantial cabins were erected. Gilbert Purdy helped Wilson and Eastman build theirs, then went west to 12 mile creek where he put up a cabin on lot #26.



There was very little land cleared when Reuben settled here, and it wasn't until the fall of 1811 that a road was opened up from Fort Niagara to Somerset. Supplies were obtained at the Fort and also in Canada, but after two years, he had cleared 15

acres of land and was able to grow his own provisions.

The early settlers suffered severe hardship during the War of 1812, and the British applied the torch to most of their homes. The Wilson cabin was spared because Mrs. Wilson had been kind and hospitable to the British officers, also it set far back from the highway and was invisible from the road.

In 1816, Reuben purchased the property on 12 mile creek where Daniel Sheldon and Joshua Williams had built a saw mill the previous year. He moved from his original cabin to this location about 1818 where he erected a large log house. In 1825 he built a frame two-story building that incorporated the log walls of the first house. He also bought 150 acres of surrounding lands and built a grist mill next to the saw mill. At about the same time he opened up a stone in his home. That house, still standing and well preserved, is considered a Niagara County landmark. A monument from which all surveys in the village are said to have been made is buried in the yard beneath the sod.

Reuben Wilson was elected Constable of Cambria in 1817. Pontre was formed from Cambria in 1812 and included all the present town of Wilson. Reuben was elected Justice of the Peace in Pontre in 1818, and on April 6, 1819, he presided over a meeting to set up the political organization for a new Town of Wilson. He served as its first Supervisor from 1819 through 1829. In 1824 he received the first appointment as Postmaster.

Reuben Wilson was born April 19, 1777 at Spencer, Mass. He had three wives, Esther P. Oliver, Chloe M. Sheppard, and Elizabeth Oliver Pettit. The birthplaces of Reuben's 14 children pinpoint the places he lived in on his journeys from Mass. to Wilson: Luther was born at Broadalbin, N.Y.; Calvin at Northampton, N.Y.; and Oliver, Alexander, and Zannah, were born at Richfield, N.Y.; Anna, Orson, and Elizabeth were born at Haldenman in Upper Canada; Orrin, the first child born here, was born in Cambria; Charlotte, Lucinda, and Caroline were born in Pontre; while Luron and Esther had a Wilson birthplace.

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VETERANS DAY: Fifty years ago, very few G.A.R. veterans were left to participate in the Armistice Day Services held each year on November 11th. We know it now as Veterans Day, and again the ranks are thinning for yet another brave legion of men who served their country in that great conflict known as World War 1.

Nearly 100 men answered the call from Wilson, and we are reminded that 6 of them paid the supreme sacrifice. We salute: Pvt. George W. Anderson, Pvt. William Daunce, Pvt. Martin F. Jennings, Pvt. Joseph B. Middaugh, Pvt. Henry C. Thienke, and Corp. Vincent L. Yingling. May their cause not have been in vain.

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Bon Mot: One advantage in growing older is you can stand for more and fall for less. (Crane)

COMMITTEES: The Museum Committee is responsible for collecting, cleaning, and repairing historic objects; for arranging museum exhibits and their correct historical interpretation; and for the care and upkeep of the museum quarters.

The committee, assisted by the general membership, have undertaken a wide variety of projects related to the actual improvement of both building and grounds. A wall was moved to provide adequate space for a library and two new rest rooms; plywood floors, rug, and linoleum were laid; walls, ceilings, and floors were scrubbed, painted, and refinished thru-out the building; the entire outside was scraped and painted; windows were washed and broken panes replaced; roofing repairs were made and insulation placed above ceilings; picture moldings were installed; a variety of show cases were acquired; and the general appearance of the property enhanced by regular trimming of lawns. Work sessions were also held for making dress forms, and for cleaning of old woodworking tools loaned or donated to the Society.

Regular visiting hours have been established on Sundays from 2 to 4, and in order to keep interesting displays before the public, monthly themes have been planned a year in advance. The following committee members will assume responsibility each month, and Gerry Swann will provide hostesses for each Sunday afternoon: October (past) "Decoy Ducks", Joe Higgins; November, "Kitchen and Tinware", Millie (noop); December, "Toys and Dolls", Peggy Ward; January, "Ironstone Pitchers and Bowls", Lois Barrum; February, "Indian Antifacts", Tom Sharpe 3rd; March, "Lighting Fixtures and Devices", Frances Calk; April, "Beaded Bags", Eleanor Myers; May, "Majolica", Ella Mae Baker; June, "Milkglass and Victorian", Anna Mae Nevins and Verna Causfield; July, "Tools", Tom Sharpe, Jr.; August, "Sewing Crafts", Jean Angue; and September, "Education in Wilson", Flossie Lontz and Helen Bongraeber. Any member having items they would like to display in one of the above categories, please contact person in charge.

Joe Higgins, the members of his committee, and all others who have helped, deserve a sincere vote of thanks for all the time and effort expended.

HISTORIC CELEBRATION: On Sunday, November 17th, Exley United Methodist Church will celebrate the 90th anniversary of the building of its present brick edifice. Members of the congregation with over 40 years affiliation will be recognized at the morning worship service, and at a reception to follow in the church parlors.

The Society was incorporated as the "First Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the Town of Wilson", January 2, 1836. The first frame building was erected in 1836, and remained in use until 1884 when it was sold and moved to the lot north of the church where it became known as the Albright Opera House.

A generous gift from the Exley family made the present Church, which bears their name, possible. It has been remodeled several times with a kitchen and dining room added in 1912, and modern kitchen, rooms for Christian education, and redecoration of the entire church accomplished in 1951.

THIRTY-NINE SKETCH: Mildred Elson (noop) became a resident of the town of Wilson in 1934. She graduated from Hempstead High School, Long Island, and was immediately employed in the Personnel Department of the Chase National Bank, New York City. In 1954 she joined the Wilson Branch of the Marine Trust Co., and retired as a note teller after 15 years service.

She has been a Girl Scout leader for nearly 35 years, and is presently leader of Brownie troop #44. She has also served with the Niagara Council of Girl Scouts as Chairman of the Selections Committee and member of the Honor Committee. "Millie" is a member of Exley United Methodist Church, Wilsonian B.C.F.M. Club; Womens Auxiliary, Inter Community Hospital, and Treasurer of the Wilson Historical Society.

Her family origin is Scandinavian, and her father, the late Walter H. Elson, served for many years as President of the School Board in her girlhood home.

"RALLY 'ROUND THE FLAG": Art Schnoon, Fenton Cole, and Fred Berry, (with the moral support of Rev. Ernest L. Kerrison), have now made it possible for the Society to fly the American Flag on special occasions.

A heavy 35' pole, donated by the Hathaways, and moved to its new location through the courtesy of Bob Rohring, was securely installed on October 21st. At least 3 dozen large rocks and three bags of sacrete were used to cement the base in position, and to quote Art, "It'll be there a long time after we're gone." Now when the tulips that were donated and planted by Millie Middleton start to bloom, we're sure the "new" flagpole will be a real asset to the general appearance of the Museum.

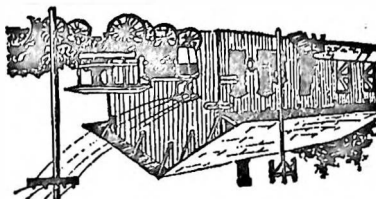
MEETINGS: The Board of Trustees will meet at the museum, Wednesday evening, Nov.-13th at 9PM. Committee Chairmen are urged to attend all meetings in order to correlate their activities with decisions of the Board.

Regular meeting, Monday evening, November 18th: An auto caravan will leave the museum at 7:30 PM sharp for a visit to the new Earl Brydges Library at Niagara Falls. Car pooling is urged, and please offer to take those without transportation. There will be no coffee hour at museum upon return to Wilson.

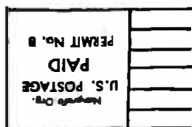
TIMES SAID: According to pioneer William C. Olmsted, the intersection of the R.W. & O. and Lockport-Olcott trolley line at Burt, had a permanent effect on that hamlet's growth. It seems the two railroads were always striving for ways on how not to make connections, and passengers concluded it was easier to settle there rather than wait for the next train on trolley.

WILSON, NEW YORK 14172
400 LAKE STREET

Wilson Historical Society



Dec. 1974



DEVELOPEMENT OF THE VILLAGE OF WILSON

Luther Wilson was considered the business genius of his family, and was more prominently identified with the early enterprises in town than was his father. He was untiring in his energy and public spirit, and there were few early improvements that weren't a monument to his perseverance.

He started the village of Wilson by having a portion of his lands surveyed into village lots by Jesse P. Haines in 1842. These lands were at the southeast corner of Lot #9, township 15, range 8 of the Holland Land Co. survey. It was bounded on the east by Lake Street, north by the lands of Luman Case, and south by the lands of Simon Sheldon. A map was filed in the County Clerk's Office.

Soon after, Simon Sheldon had his farm divided into lots by surveyor William Woods on the northeast corner of Lot #8, township 15, range 8.

There was further development when Andrew Brown sold off all his frontage on the northwest corner of Lot #90, township 15, range 7, with the exception of the lot on which he lived. His property was bounded on the west by Lake Street and south by Youngstown Road east.

John Onderdonk, who came to Wilson about 1850, purchased a farm on the southwest corner of Lot #91, township 15, range 8 which he quickly sold off for village lots.

The first complete map of the village was made in 1889 by surveyor Eldert V. W. Dox, and copies were filed in the State Comptroller's Office, Niagara County Clerk's Office, and Village Clerk's Office. The one in the village was destroyed by fire.

Wilson was incorporated as a village by act of the New York State Legislature on May 11, 1858. The corporation boundaries included 416 acres of land and the population was about 715 persons.

The first village officers were: Luther Wilson, Pres., and John Hosmer, Village Clerk. Trustees were: Lauren D. Wilson, Reuben F. Wilson, Henry S. McChesney, and William P. Grout.

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NEW MEMBERS: We are happy to welcome the following new members into the Wilson Historical Society: Mr. and Mrs. Donald Southard Mr. and Mrs. Robert Thomas, Stuart Forsyth, Peter Jones, and Jeff and Tammy Monroe of Wilson; Laurie and Jeffrey Albright of Newfane; and Mr. Dennis Horvath, and Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Ranken, Margaret and Gordon, of Ransomville.

Active membership has now reached a total of 325, with 291 adults and 34 Juniors on the rolls.

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THUMBNAIL SKETCH: Jennie Elizabeth Pettit Treichler was born in Wilson in 1884. She was a schoolteacher and received her education at Wilson High School and Oswego Normal School. Jennie is a member of the 1st Baptist Church of Wilson and Order of the Eastern Star, Lodge No. 268.

She has 12 grandchildren and four great grandchildren, and her father, Levi Pettit, was a Civil War Veteran.

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DECEMBER MEETINGS: Anyone who would like to help trim the Christmas tree this year, please be at the Museum Wednesday evening, December 11th at 7 PM. A Board of Trustee meeting will follow at 8:30 PM.

The regular monthly meeting will be held Monday evening, Dec. 16th, at 7:30 PM. A Christmas Carol Songfest will be featured with Berne Kent at the piano. Everyone is requested to bring a \$1.00 gift to exchange. Please mark gifts "Man", "Woman", "Jr. Boy", or "Jr. Girl" as applicable.

Refreshment Hostesses will be Millie Croop, Sue Cruickshank, and Mildred Faraday. "At Christmas, play and make good cheer, For Christmas comes but once a year."

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MUSEUM PROGRESS: Six Linden trees have been planted along the east walk by Ron Schearer, and a special note of appreciation is in order for Bob Rohring, who not only dug the holes with his backhoe, but removed cinders and stones and furnished topsoil for planting. We also wish to thank Mr. Norval Goodman who donated the twelve cedar posts used for fastening guide-wires to hold the trees straight.

With concern for the safety of all our members, the Planning Committee proposed that steps be placed by the north main entrance. It has been done.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE: (By Marie Reynolds) The functions of the Library Committee are numerous and varied, and most interesting. The Chairman is Mildred Middleton, and the committee members are: Dianne Albright, Eloise Culverwell, Lois Jennings, Nancy Kent, Kay Ness, Zilpha Petty, Marie Reynolds, and Dora Wakeman.

We meet at least once a month to keep records of all gifts given to the museum up to date. Each item is entered in an accessions book and all donations are indexed on 3x5 cards. Each gift, at this time, has been recorded and we are in the process of putting taped numbers on each piece.

The library is a small room to the right of the main part of the museum. This committee has purchased a carpet, draperies, table lamp, up-right file and central overhead light. We also bought a new reproduction copy of the 1875 Atlas.

Mr. and Mrs. Andre Sporleder donated a library bookcase, and Mildred Middleton, a gate-legged table for the room. All these appointments account for a most attractive library. Our hope for the future is a place to store all donations in the rear of the Museum. Progress is being made.

ENTHUSIASTIC RESPONSE: We understand that Fred Berry was so anxious to help out when a recent work party was organized to clean out the museum basement, that he got up bright and early on Friday morning, "Rarin' To Go" Trouble was, the work party was scheduled for Saturday morning instead.

One half ton of scrap pipe was put on Jim Monroe's truck, and he and Tom Rodgers unloaded it at Kugler Bros. in Lockport. Eight barrels of debris and other trash was taken to the town dump by Sue Cruickshank and Douglas Smith.

All scrap wood was disposed of and usable materials were neatly stored in the south room basement. Anyone who may have seen the cellar before the work crew started, can appreciate the clean-up job done by our historical men.

While everyone got the dust out of their throats with some of Millie Croop's instant coffee, we took note that the following men had "pitched in": Howard Hunter, Elton Kropp, Tom Rodgers, Tom Sharpe 3rd, Jim Monroe, Ed Allgeir, Fred Berry, Dick Adams, Elwin Upton, Robert Thomas, Fenton Cole, Art Schnoor, Douglas Smith, and Darrell Smith. We also wish to thank Sue Cruickshank for the use of her pickup truck.

ON TIME?: There is an amusing tale about the old R.W. & C. railroad concerning a "Drummer" who, upon taking the train at Wilson for Charlotte, asked the ticket agent how late the train was reported to be. He was astonished when the agent replied, "On Time", because this seldom occurred.

"How come it's on time?", the salesman asked in amazement.
"Oh, this is yesterday's train", replied the agent, "She's just twenty four hours late."

SPECIAL EXHIBIT: There will be a special exhibit in the library this month in addition to the regular monthly display of "Toys and Dolls" supervised by Peggy Ward. It will feature old Christmas cards, and anyone having any they would like to show, please give them to a member of the library committee. Please put all cards in an envelope plainly marked with your name, and also indicate whether a loan or a gift.

LIBRARY VISIT: A small but interested group from our Society recently visited the new Earl W. Brydges Library at Niagara Falls, and everyone was impressed by the beautiful modern structure. Mr. Donald E. Loker, Historian, greeted the Wilson contingent, and discussed the facilities available while guiding them on a tour. Mr. Loker is the author of the recent Niagara Co. Historical Society booklet, "News of The Day---Yesterday".

FLAG CONTEST: The "Yorkers", under the guidance of John Rodgers and Berne Kent, will be eligible to participate in a flag designing contest for the purpose of producing a symbolic pattern for making up a flag suitable for the Wilson Historical Society.

MERRY CHRISTMAS: As the 3rd year of the "newsletter" draws to a close, on behalf of the Publications Committee, we want to wish everyone a "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year".

As many mince pies as you taste at Christmas, so many happy months will you have. (Old English Saying)

MUSEUM AQUESTIONS: Eight photos of "Sunset Island" footbridge and harbor, from George Collins; "Folk of the Mill District", by Elizabeth Steimer, from Lockport Historical Society; "Compiled Index of Niagara Trail", from Ronald Roberts, Tahoa, California; 1916 edition of Webster's Dictionary and Medical Dictionary, (donor unknown); Unusual collection of photos, cards, and booklets from Mrs. Helene Borngraeber; and 26 booklets on domestic arts by Mary Brooks Picken(1916) and decorative designs by D.M. Campana(1913), (donor unknown).

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IN MEMORIAM: We sorrowfully acknowledge the passing of Ellen Adams, wife of Richard Adams, who succumbed recently after a long illness. The Society expresses its deepest sympathy to Dick and members of his family.

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PUBLICATIONS: A new booklet titled, "The Churches of Wilson", is now available at either the museum or Nettie Stimson's "Barn Shop". The booklet will sell at \$2.00 each, and will feature a picture and condensed history of each church in town. There are also brief accounts of extinct churches once in the town.

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MUSEUM NOTES: Things are happening so fast at the museum, we find it hard to keep our readers posted. For example, we noticed the new "Ways and Means" souvenir stand was recently stained--we understand that Joe Higgins was the gentleman who did it....Art Schnoor and his "Busy Beavers" have installed the new ceiling, covered it with insulation, and constructed the west wall and exit door. Workers on this project (in addition to Art and your editor), were: Bert Jennings, Rex Stacy, Tom Sharpe, Ed Peters, Fred Berry, "Chuck" Campbell, Ed Culverwell, Berne Kent, Tom Sharpe, Jr., Karl Wright and Whitney Barnum. Ollie Clark picked up and delivered Upson Board from Lockport....The Planning Board okayed a recommendation from the Decoration Committee to stucco ceiling and cover panel seams with strips of old barn wood giving it a Colonial-style Cape Cod effect. Walls of room are being enclosed with masonite and will be covered with old barn boards as soon as they can be accumulated. More barn wood is needed. Tell any member of the decorating committee if you have any or know where some is available. The Decoration Committee is composed of Peggy Ward, Dianne Albright, Lois Barnum, Nettie Stimson, and Millie Croop....Some material for kitchenette has been purchased and work on this project will also be under way soon. Plans for kitchenette were drawn up by Anna Mae Nevins and Nancy Kent.

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HISTORICAL BRIEFS: (From the pen of Marguerite Langdon) In 1831, all the area where Wilson now is was called the "Great North Woods"....The Frank Campbell home used to be a tenant house on a farm belonging to Samuel O. Idell. The main house, now owned by Wilson School District and adjacent to Dr. Argue's home, once stood where High School is now....The house at 266 Wilcox Street, where Peter Saggese lives, was old when Henry Stockwell was born there in 1844....The Wilson Upholstering Co., started in 1919 by Ray Clark and LaMott Hamilton, specialized in 3 piece over-stuffed living room suites. Salesmen covered retail trade in New York, West Va., Maryland, and Ohio....The D. L. Barnum Foundry, established in the mid 1800's, was home of the famous "Wilson Plow".

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DATES TO REMEMBER: Every Sunday "Childrens Furniture and Toy" exhibit, Museum, 2 to 4 PM.; Dec. 10th, Trustee Meeting, Museum, 8 PM; Dec. 15th, Regular Meeting, Museum, 7:30 PM; Program: Christmas Party featuring carol sing-a-long with Jean Weaver at the piano. Children especially welcome to enjoy Xmas stories and skit by Norm MacAskill. Everyone may bring \$1.00 gift to exchange. Mark gift for man, woman, boy, or girl. Only those bringing gifts may receive one in exchange. Hostesses for Christmas Party will be Dora Wakeman, Esther Albright, Marietta Goodman, and Edna Martin.

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THUMBNAIL SKETCH: Gladys Swick Clark, retired accountant, was born in Wilson in 1900. She attended Wilson High School and Kelly Business School at Niagara Falls. She was a member of the 1st Baptist Church of Wilson until 1928. She now belongs to 1st Presbyterian of East Cleveland. She is a member of the Y.W.C.A, a volunteer at East Cleveland Hospital and Nursing Home, and member of the Wilson Historical Society. She was a daughter of C. Edgar Swick and Alice Dobbs Swick, and her great great grandfather fought in the American Revolution. She is also a member of the Society of Mayflower Descendents through her ancestor, Elder William Brewster. Her brother, Louis J. Swick, has been a well known Wilson farmer for more than 50 years and now resides on Route 93, Lockport. (Editor's note: William Brewster, Miles Standish and John Alden, were leaders of the early Pilgrims. Elder Brewster organized the first Congregationalist Church in America in "Separatists" movement of 1620.

DECEMBER EXHIBIT: Museum will feature "Children's Furniture and Toys. If you have items to exhibit, please contact Jean Argue or Peggy Ward. Hostesses Note: Instructions are in top drawer of desk--please try to come before 2 PM.

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BON MOT: Will Rogers once said, "Even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there."

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