

Reminiscing

Boyhood memories (Stanley Borngraeber)	6/74
Bugs Bunny (Last one)	11/76
Cassandra Southwick (Bessie Cole)	4/76
Census revelation	9/73
Centennial news (1876)	9/73
Childhood memory (Beryl Tovell)	9/74
Dog Power	2/76
Early 1900's	4/75 - 5/75
From the Star (news items)	1/77
Historic briefs notes	11/75 5/73 - 11/75
Historic homes (Reuben Wilson)	5/76
Hojack (Speaking of R.R.)	12/76
Holmes, John (Historic apple tree)	4/75
Lampe, Otto (Former Wilsonian)	10/77
Looking back 1895	10/77
1957	9/77
Page from History World War-2	8/76
Nelson (Pioneer family)	9/74
Putnam, Daniel (Pioneer)	8/77
Postscript (Willow Road)	8/76
Recollections Lloyd Smith	1/76
Reminiscing Wilson 1918	9/76
Romantic Highway (Route 104)	10/77
Puppeteers (Twinkling Thimblers)	8/76
Unusual Occupation in the past	12/77
Wild Wilson 1819	8/74
Women's Lib 1898	3/74

Schools

Collegiate Institute	12/75
Reunion Class of 1926	9/76
Rural	12/76
Union Free	8/77

Bicentennial News

3/75 - 4/75 - 5/75 - 9/75 - 11/75  
 2/76 - 3/76 - 4/76 - 6/76 - 9/76  
 11/76 - 12/76

Auto

1904 Covert	4/77
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Museum. History of

Appreciation dinner (Dr. Argue)	10/74
Bake sale first	11/75
Caboose (He did it)	1/75
Fair committee first	2/73
Flagpole erected	11/74
Freightroom (Ready to go)	2/75
Meeting at depot First	6/73
Officers & committee chairman	8/72
Organization meeting	5/73
Quilt first	1/74
Senior citizens picnic first	8/75
Title turned over to town	12/72
Non-profit organization	9/75

Miscellaneous

Ho-de-no-sau-nee-ga Indian Map	10/74
People of the Long House	5/77
Stop-Look and Listen (Birds)	8/74
Territorial development	8/75
Topography Town	2/76

Thumbnail Sketches

Argue, Dr. John	1/74
Barnum, Whitney	9/74
Carter, Alice Bull	4/75
Clark, Gladys Swick	12/75
Cole, Elizabeth Russell	9/75
Croop, Mildred Elson	11/74
Culverwell, Eloise Smith	6/75
Eick, Laura Alvers	3/74
Faraday, Mildred Sherman	5/75
Gale, Ashley	6/76
Goodrich, John	11/77
Harvey, Martha Stockwell	1/77
Kerr, Ruth Bartlett	8/76
Kirk, Grace	5/76
Langdon, Marguerite Stockwell	11/76
Lonsbery, Edward	9/76
Lonsbery, Mildred	10/75
Lortz, Flossie	5/74
Middleton, Mildred Diez	8/74
Parker, John	10/74
Pisello, Faye	10/76
Porter, Florence Partington	10/77
Smith, Carol Croop	7/74
Southard, Lydia Berlin	1/76
Sporleder, Janet Miller	7/75
Stedman, Ruth Mudge	3/75
Stevens, Helen	11/75
Stinehoff, Stella Croop	8/75
Swick, Louis	2/75
Tarr, Doris Knapp	10/76
Treichler, Jennie Pettit	12/74
Ward, Bert	1/75
Winger, Marion Stockwell	4/77
Wright, Karl	6/74
<u>Pioneer families</u>	
Crampton, Dr.	3/74
Exley, Thomas	9/75
Honeywell, Dora Hatch	2/77
Moody, A.J.	7/76
Moody, Wilfred	10/77
Nelson, Capt. Benj.	9/74
Patterson, Richard	3/76
Putnam, David	8/77
Sheldon, Stephen	11/75
Singer, Thomas	4/77
Southard, Donald	3/76
Swick, Blonzo	9/77
Tabor, Dr. Hiram	6/77
Wilson Pioneers	3/76
Wilson, Reuben	11/74

History of Wilson

Bank Robbery (in the news)	6/75
Cemetery (Believe it or not)	9/74
Cemeteries	10/76
"Docksetter"	7/75
Fire company 50th anniversary	9/73
General History 1810 and on	5/73
Harbor	10/75
Heat Wave 1901	9/75
Highways, Town	9/77
Historic Home Reuben Wilson	5/76
Hotels (resort Town)	4/73
Hutchison, W. (Prominent Wilsonian)	11/75
Lake Island Park	1/77
Land of Cobblestone	6/74
Library	5/74
Middleton's Drug Store	6/76
Patterson, Richard (Famous son)	3/76
Pfeiffer's Foods	4/75
Pioneers of Wilson #808-18	3/76
Post office village rural	3/74 1/75
Resort Town	4/73 - 2/77
Roads, early	11/76
Sunset Island, Saga of	11/73
Tabor bridge	6/77
Tugwell (Famous son)	6/75
Tuscarora Park	1/77
Veterans G.A.R.	11/74
Wilson Yacht Club	3/77
Wilson, Luther Builder	1/76
Wilson "Star" (Dora Honeywell)	2/77
Village of Wilson	12/74

Military

Battery M.	7/75 & 9/76
Billy Sherman	7/73 - 1/74 - 9/74
Hamblin, John (D.A.R. Honored)	10/74
Yankee Doodle (Bicentennial note)	11/76
War of 1812	4/76

Churches

East Wilson Methodist	1/74
Exley Methodist	11/74
Presbyterian	7/74
Exley Methodist (Roots do deep)	3/75

Hojack

2/73 - 2/75 - 12/76 - 11/77 - 12/77

\* \* \* AUGUST 1972 \* \* \*

**GREETINGS FROM DR. JOHN ARGUE, PRESIDENT:** It is indeed a pleasure to introduce the Wilson Historical Society to everyone through this Newsletter.

It is most gratifying to have had such large numbers attend our meetings and show an interest in our Community. We want to welcome all members and anyone else who might be interested in joining. We would particularly like to invite all shut-ins who would like to receive news of the Society's activities.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Officers, Trustees, and Committeemembers, as well as all members, for their dedication and co-operation in organizing our new Society. It is an honor and pleasure to be your first President.

**OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES ELECTED:** Officers: Dr. John Argue, President; Karl S. Wright Vice President; Mrs. Norman Eick, Recording Secretary; Mrs. Ella Mae Baker, Corresponding Secretary; and Mrs. Donald Croop, Treasurer.

Trustees: Dr. John Argue, Chairman; Joseph Higgins, Whitney Barnum, Mrs. Willard Nevins, Mrs. Stanley Bonngraeben, Miss Flossie Lonta, Mrs. Wirt Wakeman, and David Weiler.

**COMMITTEES ORGANIZED:** Ways and Means; David Weiler, Chairman; Eleanor Myers, Dorothy Lont, Ellen Golde, and Nettie Stimson.

Program: Betty Stimson, Chairman; Terry Upton, Zilpha Petty, and Dona Wakeman, Refreshment Chairman.

Membership: Marion Campbell, Chairman; Sara Benny, Bessie Cole, Dorothy Tracey, Gwen Wright, and Doris Tarr.

Museum: Joe Higgins, Chairman; Flossie Lontz, Anna Mae Nevins, Ella Mae Baker, Helen Bonngraeben, Willie Croop, Jean Anque, Verna Caufield, Phyllis Hurst, Marguerite Geiser, Lois Barnum, Frances Landy, and Gerry Swann.

Historical Sites: Dorothy Thilk, Chairman; Albert Taylor, Marion Campbell, Winifred Stacy, Thomas Shaap, Gertrude Marks, and Gerry Swann.

Library: Mildred Middleton, Chairman; Eloise Culverwell, Becky Hill, Kay Ness, Marie Reynolds, Zilpha Petty, Nancy Kent, Pat Rice, and Dianne Albright.

Publications: Don Croop, Chairman; Esther Albright, Laura Eick, Millie Croop, Carol Smith, and Karl Wright.

**CURATOR PRESENTS BOOKS:** Charles Boyer, Curator of the Niagara County Historical Society, was guest speaker in July, and presented the Wilson Society with several rare editions for the library as follows:

Niagara County and its Towns, by L.L. Pechuman; Ancient History of Six Nations, by David Cusek; The Seven Sotheland Sisters, by Clarence O. Lewis; 100 Years Ago To-day, by Richard Reed; The Erie Canal 1817-1967, by Clarence E. Lewis; Belva A. Lockwood, by Julia Hull Winnen; and News of the Day-Yesterday, by Donald E. Locker.

**WILSON SOCIETY WELL REPRESENTED:** The 18th Annual Congress of Local Historical Societies held July 14th at Buffalo saw many Wilsonians in attendance. The day and evening sessions featured discussions on "Financing Small Societies", "Researching Genealogy", "Gravestone Rubbings", and "Preserving Documents."

Representing Wilson were: Mildred Middleton, Dona Wakeman, Dr. John and Jean Argue, Helen Bonngraeben, Marion Campbell, Sara Benny, Eloise Culverwell, Zilpha Petty, Becky Hill, Ella Mae Baker, Dorothy Thilk, Eleanor Myers, Phyllis Hurst, Joe Higgins, Don and Millie Croop, and Dorothy Dean.

**PROGRESS REPORTS:** Museum Committee: Joe Higgins obtained an antique headboard which will be made into a sign to designate the Society's Museum in the old R.R. Depot.

Membership Committee: Suggested ideas for a "Slinger" which was printed and distributed to area business men to encourage membership in the Society.

Publications Committee: "Slinger" designed by Carol Smith. First Newsletter published in August; October 1st, news deadline for next edition.

PROGRAM Committee: Aug. 21st: Guest speaker, Louis Swick; "Informal recollections and reminiscence about past years in Wilson."

Sep't 18th: Guests, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ruf of Newfane; "Slide presentation on historic Newfane and area.

**NOTE:** We want to make your Newsletter informative and interesting. Your suggestions would be welcome. Call Esther Albright, 751-6384, on Don Croop, 751-9827

**MEMBERSHIP:** June 1st, 77; July 1st, 93; August 1st, 106

\* \* \* OCTOBER 1972 \* \* \*

**WORK DAY SET:** A work day has been scheduled for Saturday, October 7th, at the Depot starting at 10:00 A. M. in order to clean the museum hall for the October 16th meeting. Please bring cleaning utensils with you.

Members are also asked to be on the lookout for any old kitchen or dining room type chairs that may be donated for temporary use at the hall. These may be brought either on the work day or at the regular meeting. If you are unable to donate an old chair, it is suggested you bring your own folding chair to the regular meeting on October 16th.

**MEMBERSHIP INCREASES:** A cordial welcome is extended to the 20 new members who joined the Wilson Historical Society during the months of August and September: Betty Duscher, John E. Weiler and Jennie Treichler, Burt; Carol and Bill Smith, Sanborn; John C. Parker and Stella Stinehoff, Lockport; O. Floyd Wilson, Lewiston; Mr. and Mrs. Richard Rutt, Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm McQuaig, Ontario Holder, Ruth Stedman, Janet Sponleder, Kay Ness, Ernestine Walpole, Earle Swann, and Bessie Crawford, Wilson.

It is with deep regret that we report the demise of Mrs. Alexander Pound, Lockport, a descendant of the Wilson family line. The Society extends their sympathy to her family in their bereavement.

**PROPOSED BUDGET:** Dave Weiler submitted a tentative budget at the September meeting which will be acted upon by the Board of Trustees, and presented at the October meeting for approval by the membership: Membership, \$25.00; Historical Sites, \$150.00; Program, \$100.00; Library, \$150.00; Publications, \$166.00, and Museum, \$1950.00. Total, \$2541.00.

**CURATOR MAKES PRESENTATION:** Mr. Charles Boyer, Curator of the Niagara County Historical Society, made a presentation to the Wilson Society on behalf of the family of the late Mrs. Alexander Pound of Lockport. A picture of LaBeaum Wilson and two of his water color paintings were given by Miss Ruby Coates, Lockport, a sister of Mrs. Pound. LaBeaum Wilson was a son of Luther Wilson, and grandson of Reuben Wilson, from whom this village received its name.

A hand-loomed coverlet, woven in Newfane for Sarah Wilson in 1844, was also presented by Mr. Boyer as a gift from Mrs. Pound's daughters, Mrs. Harry D. Kingsley of Rush, N.Y., and Mrs. Joseph M. Steele of Villanova, Pa.

**RECENT GIFTS** to the Wilson Historical Society include, early tools from Frank Nugent; pictures and other articles from Jane Gifford Kueger; a steam whistle and calendar plate from Betty Duscher; and an early Wilson-built yarn winder from Mr. and Mrs. Ray Fonsyth.

**INTERESTING LANDMARK:** The Historic Sites Committee is considering several locations in the Town of Wilson for placing "markers". Foremost, is the Reuben Wilson home which dates back to the 1818-1825 period and still stands, well preserved, at the West end of Young Street. Clarence O. Lewis once described it as "one of the really interesting landmarks of Niagara County."

The Committee is also planning a tour of the area, details of which will be revealed at a future meeting.

**A HISTORIC FIRST:** August 26, 1972 marked a historic first for our new Society when members turned out in colorful dress of the late 1800s to participate in the annual Fireman Field Day parade. Harold and Esther Albright led the group in Doctor Argue's 1907 Metz. They were followed by Edgar and Eloise Culverwell, Mildred Middleton, Becky Hill, Ella Mae Baker, Helen Bonngraeber, Dorothy and Susan Thilk, Zilpha Petty, Dorothy Tracey, and Millie Croop who were passengers in several other old model cars including a 1948 Packard driven by Willard Rose; a 1940 deluxe Ford driven by Ken Tracey; a 1935 Rolls Royce driven by Doctor Argue; a 1956 Armstrong-Siddley driven by John Argue; and a 1961 Lincoln driven by Carol Argue. Karl Wright drove a 1962 Alpha-Romero, and was accompanied by Miss Janet Schulz, the 1972 Dairy Princess.

**A NOTE OF THANKS** to Betty Stimson and her committee for providing interesting and entertaining programs.

A "Show and Tell" is scheduled for the October 16th meeting, and members are asked to bring old items and please limit their remarks to 5 minutes each. Refreshments will be provided by Verna Caulfield, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Cowles, and Mr. and Mrs. James Cowles.

An old fashioned Christmas party is planned for the November meeting, and refreshments will be served by Millie and Don Croop, Edgar and Eloise Culverwell, and Laura Fick.

The December meeting has been cancelled because of the Christmas Holiday Season.

D.C. - EA

A HEARTY WELCOME to Mrs. Donald Carter, Newfane; Miss Mary Margaret Weiler, Burt; Mr. and Mrs. Norman Mac Ashill, Niagara Falls; and Mr. and Mrs. Edward Lonsbery, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Whitse, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Adams, Mr. and Mrs. A. Bruce Wilson, and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hinton, Wilson; which increases membership to 135.

The Society deeply regrets the passing of Mrs. Joseph Duscher, and Mrs. Earl Howell, and extends its sympathy to the families of both.

RECENT DONATIONS for the Museum include: A cast iron heating stove from Jack Perry; A glass display case and finial from the old Miller & Brown store by Carol Scheffler; Two large display cases from Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Schnoor; Framed invitations to Wilson parties held in 1855, 1858, and 1892, and an 1897 copy of "Landmarks of Niagara County", from the Marjorie Howell estate; 1868 framed wedding certificate from Joseph Smith; Quilts, clothes, carriage robes, dishes, and 1800 bayonette from the Walter Stoll estate; and a large framed picture of the early Wilson harbor from the Niagara County Historical Society, presented by Curator Charles Boyer. Mr. Boyer also presented a picture of the Freeman Bros., in behalf of Miss Anna Bell Freeman of Lockport, and another LeBeaum Wilson watercolor from the Dona Pound estate.

PROGRESS REPORT: Doctor John Angue turned over title of the depot to the Town of Wilson at the regular October meeting. Whitney Barnum, Supervisor, accepted for the Town, and acknowledged that the depot shall be designated as the Town Museum and meeting place of the Wilson Historical Society. Henry DeLang, representing Doctor Angue, and Richard Southard, attorney for the Town, witnessed the transfer. A number of pens used to sign the legal papers were then auctioned off by Whit Barnum netting the Society over 100 dollars for its treasury.

Dave Weiler and the Ways and Means Committee have been busy planning projects to meet the current budget approved by the membership. The Committee welcomes efforts by groups or individuals to promote fund raising projects, but suggests that conflicts can be avoided if those efforts are first cleared thru the Committee.

Attractive note paper designed by Berne Kent is now available at \$1.50 per box. Each includes three beautifully etched scenes of the old Wilsonian Club, Railroad Depot, and old Wilson boathouse. Nancy Kent or Dorothy Lort will be happy to take your orders. Two year purse calendars are also available at \$1.00 each, by contacting Mildred Middleton.

Bake sales at the Wilson Fire Hall and Town Line Water Building raised a total of \$190.00 dollars. Anna Mae Hevins, Helen Bonngraeber, and Muna Karsten were in charge of the sales, and wish to thank all who contributed to make them a success.

The Museum got a big boost toward becoming a showplace for the Town when the Board voted to approve installation of new plumbing, sewage disposal system, and insulation for the ceiling in the old depot. A gas line has already been hooked up, and a heating plant will soon be added. Transfer of meetings from Town Hall to the Depot will be contingent on these repairs.

DEPOT GETS FACELIFTING: Carol Burnett made the mop and pail famous on television, but she has to take second place to the determined group of ladies who scrubbed and polished the walls and floors of the museum in October. The work party, under the watchful eye of Joe Higgins, museum chairman, quickly disposed of the dirt and grime that had accumulated from years of disuse. The energetic scrub brigade included: Jean Angue, Helen Bonngraeber, Ella Mae Baker, Becky Hill, Dorothy Thilk, Mildred Middleton, Betty Duscher, Verna Caulfield, and Millie Croop. Heavy materials were disposed of by Joe Higgins, Rex Stacy, and Don Croop, ably assisted by teen agers Doug Smith and Frank DeLang.

The following week, Joe and Don, assisted by the William Smith family, removed the sod, grass, and weeds from the brick walkways adjoining the depot. The unusual design on the bricks make the walkways well worth preserving. A weed killer will be applied in the spring.

RAVES AND REVIEWS: The "Wilson Hysterical Players", under the direction of Betty Stimson, revived memories of the old one room schoolhouse at Novemen's meeting, leaving little doubt in the minds of the viewing public as to the future of this budding group. The "plot" was based on the efforts of teacher Becky Hill to line up her incorrigible students so that the lettered cards each carried would spell out "Merry Christmas". The resulting mass confusion was topped only by the sterling performances by Anna Mae Hevins and Dona Wakeman. The unrehearsed and spontaneous "production" also featured (in original costumes) Karl Wright, Edgar Culverwell, Joe Higgins, Don Croop, Eloise Culverwell, Ella Mae Baker, Dot Tracey, Mildred Middleton, Helen Bonngraeber, and Millie Croop.

Of special interest was the old fashioned Christmas tree decorations displayed amidst strings of cranberries and popcorn. Toys of yesteryears displayed around the tree and candles on the tree branches revived memories of Christmas celebrations long past. The exhibit was tastefully prepared by Joe Higgins and Betty Stimson.

HAPPY NEW YEAR: Next meeting, Monday evening, January 15th, Town Hall, 7:30 o'clock. Guest speaker: Mrs. Kenneth Tracey who will give a talk and display on "Lockport Glass".

January refreshments: Mildred Faraday, chairman, Mr. and Mrs. Dudley Fitch, and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Gamble.

May all who read this newsletter have a "Good Old Fashioned Merry Christmas." IX