



Carriage House Crier

WOLCOTT HISTORICAL SOCIETY • P.O. Box 51, Wolcott, NY 14590

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www.wolcottny.org

FREE

To sponsor a newsletter, contact Norma Stewart at rhstewart@mail.com or Mary Ann Ryan at tommaryryan1@gmail.com.

PICKING APPLES WITHOUT LADDERS

by Lois Wafler

Wayne County in New York State has been known for its apple industry for decades but there have been some changes. Old varieties have been replaced. Apple drying houses and shipping barrels are things of the past. Big trees have given way to smaller and closely planted trees. Wire supports are becoming common. However, the harvesting has still depended on the hard work of people and climbing ladders to reach many of the apples. Neither the agricultural colleges nor engineers at farm equipment factories have come up with an apple picking machine.

Ladders remain, just shorter. This fall, thanks to a local apple grower, no ladders were used to pick apples on a large apple farm. After years of trial and error, Paul Wafler has perfected an apple picking platform. While it does not pick a single apple, it does allow workers to more efficiently and easily pick apples without ladders.

Some of Paul Wafler's background has proved useful in developing his invention. He was raised on a farm that grew fruit, vegetables and had an apple tree nursery. Paul, at an early age, not only learned how to use but also to understand the operation of tractors and other big farm machinery. A year on a large California farm exposed him to some different farm equipment. At Morrisville College

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he gained electrical, diesel and farm economics background. Invaluable was the tutoring by his father Fritz, who was forever experimenting with new ways. He took Paul along on tours to other countries to check out new ideas in their apple industry.

When Paul began to take over the Wafler apple farming operation in Huron, he saw a need to reduce costs and be more efficient. About ten years ago the first prototype of a picking platform was constructed and with each harvest season he kept making improvements. When problems arose, he spent countless hours in redesigning, checking the internet for additional information, consulting with experts in many fields, and locating cheaper and better materials to use. At the same time, new orchards were being laid out to best use this new concept of harvesting. Finally, this past fall, using multiple machines that incorporated the numerous modifications, the entire Wafler apple crop was harvested without ladders.

This self-propelled apple picking platform has dual tiers of picking platforms at different levels on which pickers stand with a sloping set of five

storage bins in the center. Each of the workers picks the apples in the small vertical area just in front of them. Whenever they chose, they simply turn around to empty bags of apples into one of the bins behind them. There is an unique and precise system of unloading the five bins when full onto the ground and at the same time loading five empty bins from a carrier trailer that is pulled behind. Both of these bin transfers are accomplished without stopping the machine or work of the apple pickers.

Seeing the platform in operation and understanding its improvement to the apple harvest process, one can appreciate its value. Also, the pickers are very happy to no longer spend a third of their time going up and down ladders and walking to empty very heavy bags. This same platform may also be used in hand thinning of fruit, in trimming trees and in stringing lengths of support wire in new orchards. Apple growers from around the world have been viewing this machine with great interest. You will see more growers using this invention in the coming years.



Wolcott Historical Society

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President's Message

The Carriage House Museum is truly an under-appreciated and under-utilized treasure in our midst. It is a wonderful repository of artifacts and historical information about Wolcott.



We encourage people to come in for a visit and look over our exhibits and material on display. Make use of our research library. Our docents and directors will help if we can. Purchase items from our gift shop of which the proceeds help support the museum.

Perhaps you, or someone you know, have documents, ephemeral or artifacts of local historical interest that they would be willing to have copied and shared with the museum. We are a non-profit organization and any gifts are tax deductible. It is our desire to be of service to this community as we seek to encourage persons of all ages to understand and appreciate our historical heritage.

Looking ahead—In the next Carriage House Crier I hope to share “Little Known Facts About Wolcott”.

- Rev. Jake Denny

PAST PROGRAMS

We have several events planned for the next few months. The first was an APRON FASHION SHOW, which was held on February 28th at the Carriage House Museum. This program was presented by Carolyn Adriaasen, Marion Historian, on the history of aprons and displaying her collection of aprons. The audience shared their memories of Mom's and grandmother's aprons. Aprons were modeled by members and also by board member Alexandra Madison's 2 daughters, Clara and Anna. We had a fun time with quite a few laughs.



Christmas Festival DECEMBER 2014



Many participated in the Festival of Trees in the North-up Park Christmas season of 2015. The first place winner for the Youth group was the NRW Girl Scouts. The Adult first place winner was the mystery tree and the Best of Show was awarded to the North Wolcott School Historical Society.

The organizations that decorated trees for the 2015 year's festival were:

- Faith United Methodist Church
- Huron Presbyterian Church
- Tug Youth Group
- Eastern Wayne County Explorer Post
- Lakeside Ambulance Service
- NRWS Art Club

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Christmas Festival

DECEMBER 2014



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- Wolcott Fire Department Auxiliary
- Wolcott Lioness
- Wolcott Lions Club
- Wolcott -North Rose Masons & Eastern Stars
- Chamber of Commerce
- Wolcott Historical Society
- South Butler Golden Friends
- After School Discovery Program
- One Mystery Tree
- Village supplied tree for bandstand

We thank these fine organizations for making the park a special place at a special time of year!

The Lucky winner of the Christmas Raffle

Basket was Carolyn Waterman!



**North Wolcott School
Historical Society**



**NR-W Girl
Scouts**



Mystery Tree

COMING EVENTS

On March 14, 2015 from 1:00 am-3:00 pm. We are planning a "MAD 'HAT'TER TEA PARTY" at the Museum on Jefferson Street, Wolcott. This program will be presented by our members and features a variety of teas, tea sandwiches and tea cookies. We will also have a short program about hats. Space is limited. Reservations are needed. Call Norma Stewart at 315-594-9361. In order to gain entrance you will need to wear a hat. We do have some hats on sale at the museum.



**WONDERING WHO LIVED IN YOUR
HOUSE IN 1858? COME IN & CHECK
OUR 1858 MAP!**

Our next planned event is our Annual Meeting on April 11 at the Wolcott Presbyterian Church at 5:30. The meal will consist of salad, chicken, potatoes, vegetable, homemade desert and drinks, at a cost of \$12.00. Tickets are available from the board members or at the museum. The program after a short meeting will be presented by Eleanor Stearns portraying Clara Barton. She will give you glimpses in Ms. Barton's life. Included in her program, her involvement during the Civil War, and her role in the founding and activities of the American Red Cross. She will also be reading portions of a Memorial Day address that Clara delivered in Dansville, NY. Eleanor Stearns does extensive research on the characters she portrays. She also portrays Emily Dickinson, Amelia Earhart, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton.



Come and join us for an enjoyable evening

Victorian Mystery Dinner Theater

On April 18, we will present a Mystery Theater Dinner at the Wolcott Elks Lodge. It will be a sit down dinner. Look for further details in local news-paper and posters, as to time, tickets and price.

The Historical Society is looking for donated items for their annual basket raffle that will be held during the Mystery Dinner Theater. Any donations of items or cash will be greatly appreciated. This is our main fund raiser for the year. Items may be dropped off at the Museum on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. While there take a few minutes to look around the gift shop and the many displays.

Donations & Volunteers

We depend on donations and volunteers to support the running of our small museum. Listed below are those that have done that from May 2014 - January 2015.

**Leavenworth Alumni Association
Duane Van Gelder Kathleen Marshall
Robert Prindle Marshall Farms
Joyce Pittenger Anne Sapp
Lauren & Laurie Dates
Rich & Pam Lee Suzanne Warren
Ruth & Jim Chatfield
Julie Ann Kriskern Cassandra Ashman**

*We received an old crazy quilt from **Shaun Ann Lord**, Forest, NY. It is beautifully done and has Wolcott, NY, embroidered on it. It appears that it might have been a group effort quilt in that several names are embroidered on the blocks. One such name is Aunt Fannie '86. The fabrics are mainly silk, satin and taffeta. As soon as some research has been done on it, it will go on display.*

WHAT IS THERE TO SEE AT THE MUSEUM?

Ruth & Jim Chatfield have spent endless hours putting together scrapbooks on deaths and marriages of the Wolcott people. Boy Scout Alex Gleken in 2010 to earn his Eagle badge charted the Glenside Cemetery. You are now able to locate the gravesites. There is a photo album of the Bicentennial Celebration in 2007 and one of Venus's 100th birthday celebration in 2013, as well as many reference books including the four issues of Jon Countryman and Norma Pearson's books on Main Street and Side Street. In the Gift Shop some of these books are for sale. When the Carriage House was moved photos were taken each step of the way and all of this adventure is in an album. We are working on a narrated video of the move to be viewed at a later date.



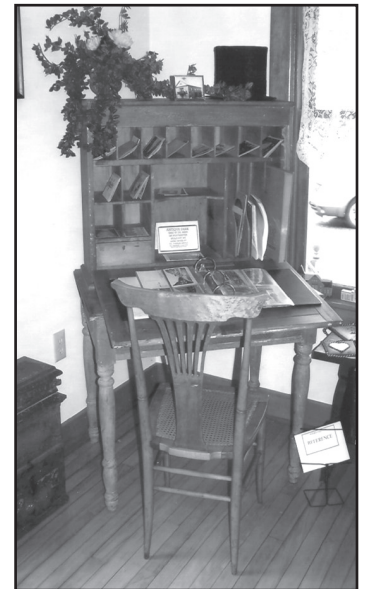
Mrs. Northup's wedding dress



Reference books



Aprons in the Gift Shop



Postal Desk used by Dr. Arne

These are some of the displays inside the museum. This June, to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of Leavenworth Central School we will be featuring a display of school memorabilia.



On January 21, 2015 the founder of the Wolcott Historical Society, Robert Stewart passed away after a long struggle of kidney and other health issues. In 1998, he had the vision to see that the artifacts and memorabilia that had been collected by the former historians, should be saved and put on public display for all to enjoy. He tried to buy the railroad depot, but the price was prohibitive. When it came to the attention that the building, that was at one time the carriage barn on the old Northup property was slated to be burned, a group of very dedicated members went to work and were able to obtain the building with the stipulation that it be moved off the Main Street property. Another set of obstacles were overcome and it was moved to Jefferson Street on property donated by the Delfs. The members went to work bringing the building up to code and by 2005 it was opened to the public. The museum has continued to grow. Thanks!

There were many donations to the museum in Bob's memory. They were made by Barbara Shear, Mary Ann Ryan, Raymond & Linda Shippers, Arthur Bush, and the 108th NY Volunteer Infantry Re-enactment Group.

- Each year the second graders study local history. They visit the museum, the Presbyterian Church, the Wolcott Falls and the Venus Fountain.
- As a requirement for one of their badges the Cub Scouts visit and ask lots of questions.
- Each year we have different fund raising activities. Last year we sponsored a dinner at Docker's which we paired with wine from Inspire Moore Winery. In November 2014 the Bake Sale was a great success bringing in \$507.00. A big thank you to everyone who baked goods and to those who chose to donate cash. Our Christmas open house was well attended and the trees added a festival atmosphere to the park.



We have received a \$1,000.00 grant from the Hoffman foundation. We applied for this to have a picture timeline made for the main room in the museum.



**COMMEMORATIVE
BRICK
ORDER**

We continue to take commemorative brick orders and place an order when we have received a minimum. If you would like information or to place an order please call Bob Stell 315-594-9065 or Linda Shippers 315-594-2765. Be sure to stop and see the bricks that are in place at the front of the museum!

MEMBERSHIP

\$10.00 — Individual Membership
\$15.00 — Family Membership
\$20.00 — Group Membership
\$100.00 — Contributing & Sustaining Membership
\$500.00 - \$999.00 — Life Membership
\$1000.00 — Endowment Membership

Send to:
Wolcott Historical Society
P.O. Box 51
Wolcott, NY 14590

An excellent way to help secure the future of the Wolcott Historical Society is to designate the WHS as a beneficiary of your will, foundation, or trust. We are a non-profit 501-(c)-(3) corporation. Donations are tax deductible to the maximum extent allowed by law.

BOARD MEETINGS

Our monthly meetings are on the first Tuesday of each month at the museum. They start at 7:00 pm and last between 1 hour and 1 1/2 hours. Minutes are read & approved. Treasurer's report reviewed and bill paying approved. Committee reports discussed. New business brought up and discussed.

We are open year around. During the winter on Saturdays from 10:00 am—2:00 pm, and during the summer months of June, July and August, Wednesday and Saturday, 10:00am—2:00pm. You may also ask for a special appointment by calling the museum at 315 594 9494 and leaving a message or call historian Norma Stewart, 315 594 9361 or one of the other board members.



Each year the board, at the Annual Meeting honors a person or persons for volunteering throughout the year.

In 2014, Bob and Norma Stewart were selected to receive the Jim & Ruth Chatfield Volunteer of the Year Award.

Bob was ill and unable to attend, so we have shown this picture which was taken several years ago.

As always, a big thank you to our dedicated museum volunteers! If you are interested in Wolcott history, please consider spending 2 to 4 hours as a museum docent. A great way to learn more about the town and village, as well as a way to share our history with visitors to the Wolcott area. If interested in becoming a docent, please stop by the museum when open, or call any board member.

We also have Leavenworth Yearbooks for sale.



Yancey's cider mill in Huron, NY



Christmas open house at the museum

Again this year we will be having a yard sale at the Carriage House, Donations will be accepted at the museum during open hours. Watch for the date of this event at a later date



Wolcott Historical Society
P.O. Box 51
Wolcott, NY 14590



Think Spring!

Proclamation

Bob and Norma Stewart guided a small group of interested Wolcott people in visualizing then organizing, the Wolcott Historical Society in 1998. This group was successful in attaining a substantial roster of original members, providing some early revenue to proceed with the efforts to achieve a functioning organization. Bob and Norma kept those members informed and involved by publishing newsletters, writing local history articles, sorting and recording many types of local historical documents, books, photos, etc.

During the 17 years since, Bob and Norma have remained proactive in the working of the Society and the establishment and operation of the Carriage House Museum site not only with their time and know how, but also with financial support when and where special projects have needed a “boost” to proceed.

That they have made a major difference is certainly an understatement.

Thank you, Stewarts.

If you would like to know more about any of the subjects in this newsletter, contact any of the board members.