



Carriage House Crier

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

Winter 2016

www.wolcottny.org

FREE

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

My acquaintance with Reginald Crouse was that he was the Principal at Leavenworth Central when I was in High School. I remember him as stern and all business. As a sign of respect then and now, I shall refer to him as Mr. Crouse in this article.



He was born in Herkimer, NY, on May 7, 1906, to John and Emma Ertman Crouse. He had a brother, J. Ertman Crouse who was 3 years older than Reginald. Early in life Mr. Crouse was a go-getter. When a youngster he would be outside

the Remington-Rand Factory in Ilion, NY, selling newspapers as the workers went to work. He graduated from high school in Ilion, NY in 1924. He was the class president in both his Junior and Senior year. Upon graduating he managed the Endicott Johnson Shoe Store in Ilion one year before enrolling in the St. Lawrence University in 1925. He had landed a four year scholarship. In his college years he sang in a quartet that the Dean would take to University functions. Four years later, 1929, he graduated. Upon graduation he came to Wolcott, signed a contract to teach science with the stipend of \$1,800.00.

REGINALD W. CROUSE

He roomed at Ida Cosad's, who was the school superintendent. He took his meals with the Robert Williams family, who also took in teachers for room & board.

He had met his future wife, Laura Payment, when he attended college. Under Laura's yearbook picture it read "although under the spell of a golden voice she has amassed many friends and many activities." On July 1, 1933, Reginald & Laura married in Tupper Lake, NY. Mr. Crouse was appointed Vice Principal of Leavenworth Central School in 1933. He continued to advance his career as an educator by receiving his Masters degree from SUNY Albany. In 1943/44 he became the principal of Leavenworth. He later was appointed Superintendent of schools circa 1955. After working 41 years in the Wolcott School District he retired. A gala party was held at the Anchorage Restaurant, Wolcott, NY.



At High School Graduation. As president, he is in the center.

Continued on next page

While maintaining his teaching, administrative duties and a family, he was a Rotarian for 55 years. He appeared in the Rotary Minstrels as the interlocutor plus adding his singing voice. He would often at Christmas time sing White Christmas over the PA system. He was a member of the Masons for 65 years. The Crouse family were members of the Presbyterian Church and Mr. Crouse sang in the choir. He served on the Board of Directors at the Clifton Springs Hospital. In the Village of Wolcott he served on the Board of Appeals. Another of his many talents was photography. For the first time since 1929 a year-book was published in 1946, being called "ROLL CALL". Mr. Crouse was credited for photography.

Through all his activities he and Laura raised two children. Jean, who lives in Tupper Lake, NY, and John, a master craftsman in woodworking, who lives here in Wolcott.

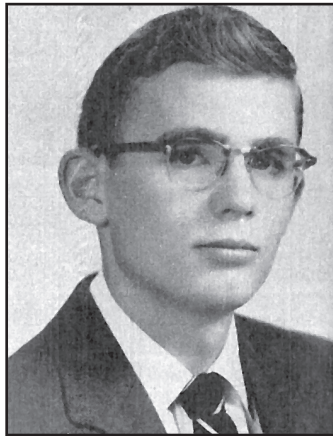
Reginald died on February 8, 1999 at the age of 92, at his home on West Main Street, Wolcott.

In the 1949 ROLL CALL, he is quoted as saying, "There are some values, however, which have not changed with the years. Among these are character, self-reliance, and the willingness to earn our own way. It is my hope that you will hold these values, for the world does not owe us a living unless we earn it."

Mr. Crouse was a man of many talents!



Jean Crouse



John Crouse



Reginald & Laura Crouse



Recognize Anyone?

This picture from the fifties captured some of Wolcott's finest. Pictured are Mr. and Mrs. Graydon Curtis, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Johnson, Dr. and Mrs. Pasco, Mr. and Mrs. Jake Janeway, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Fisk, Mr. and Mrs. Reg Crouse and the Rev. and Mrs. George Wolf. Photo courtesy of John Crouse.

If you have any memories or pictures you would like to add, please contact us and we'll include it in our next newsletter.

-Norma Stewart

Donations

Carolyn Waterman
Charles Janeway
Marshalls
Joyce Pittenger
Cyndi Fowler
Robert Prindle
JR & Linda Ruiz
Cassandra Ashman
Barbara Warren
Casey & Jennifer Gilbert
Gene Bavis
Herman & Joyce Schwingle
Duane & Jocelyn Van Gelder

Thank you!

Correction Carriage House Crier - Fall 2015 Issue

**The thrashing machine picture should
have read Alfred "Alf" Michaels not
"Elf" Mitchell.**

THE PASSING OF MARY BOYE 1925 - JULY 2015



Mary was a descendant of Jonathan Melvin, considered to be the founder of the Village of Wolcott (circa 1807), and she herself a benefactor to Wolcott.

Mary lived most of her 90 years in and around Reedsport, Oregon. She is survived by two daughters.

For over 30 years, Mary worked 6-8 months annually in Alaska, hanging and mending nets for commercial fishermen. This type of work is now considered a nearly-lost skill. She traveled to various countries around the world, including Australia and New Zealand, both which she especially enjoyed.

In 2007, Mary spent several days visiting in Wolcott. She wanted to see and hear about Wolcott and its history, starting with Jonathan Melvin's building of the first Wolcott Falls grist mill. We who met and toured her around found ourselves in the company of a most delightful and alert lady. She was fun! Soon after this visit, Mary sent a donation of \$3,000.

This at her request was to be used for improvements and upkeep, including the bandstand, at the Northup Village Park in Wolcott. At this time Mary was asked to participate in the 200 hundred year celebration of Wolcott. She led the parade on the float that depicted the Wolcott Falls.

She loved people and having adventures!

Written by Bob Stell.



Main Street, Wolcott — 1935

**Our next newsletter will be about
the railroad here in Wolcott;
memories and pictures would be
appreciated. We can make copies of
pictures. Museum is open
Saturdays 10-2 pm.**



Upcoming Events



***March 12** Wine Makers Dinner
at Captain Jack's in Sodus Point,
NY. Dinner at **6:00 pm**

5-6 cash bar, SILENT AUCTION
\$40.00 per person or **\$75.00**
per couple

Featuring Finger Lakes Wine **En-
trée choices:**

#1-Char grilled sweet potato
steak with sauteed cremini mushrooms over a garden
barley salad

#2-Mediterranean free range chicken stuffed with
roasted red peppers, spinach, feta cheese finished
with Abruzzo cream

#3-Pork tenderloin kabobs, Caribbean seasoned, fire
roasted over long grain wild rice.

5 course meals includes: #1- Misto plate-cured meats,
imported cheese & fresh fruit

#2-Strawberry & baby spinach salad with a blueberry
vinaigrette & toasted ginger walnuts

#3-Homemade Ricotta Gnocchi in a carbonara sauce

#4-Main course

#5-Dessert: chocolate cracker peanut butter pot pie

TICKETS AVAILABLE at LNB Bank Wolcott &
Lyons, Board Members & Captain Jacks

No at the door tickets sold

***April 9** Annual Meeting at Wolcott Presbyterian
Church, Main Street, Wolcott **5:30 Family Style supper-**
chicken and fixings **PROGRAM:** Presented by Bruce &
Edith Harrington on life of a late 1800s farm taken from
7 diaries.

Election of officers. Presale tickets \$12.00. Sold by
board members or at mu-
seum.



Information contact
Henrietta Trine, 315-594-
2604 or
Bob Stell 315-594-9065.

***May 7** Mother's Day Tea Saturday 2-4 at Carriage
House Museum Admission \$3.00. Program-History of
Mother's Day, assorted teas, tea sandwiches, tea cook-
ies.

For information call Renee Steves, 315-594-8660 or
Norma Stewart 315-594-9361

Limited space, please reserve with a
call to Renee Steves, 315-594-8660.



Wolcott Historical Society

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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.

Old Home in Wolcott

One of the oldest homes in Wolcott is that of Charles & Renee Steves on the corner of Lake Avenue and West Port Bay Road. This home was built in 1817 by one of the early pioneers, Lambert Woodruff. When Lambert was 14 he served with George Washington at Valley Forge. About 1807 he traded his Massachusetts property for 1428 acres of land, Williamson's Patent, Pultney Estate in the old town of Wolcott. In 1811 he started out with his family of 8 children, 1 grandchild and his wife to the property in Wolcott. From Massachusetts, they traveled with wagon and a team of 5 yoked oxen and left the turnpike at Auburn, NY. Lambert hired men from Auburn to help him navigate the woods between Auburn and Wolcott. They took fourteen days to get to banks of the Wolcott Falls. Lambert gave his children acreage for their own farms. He proceeded to clear land for pastures and build a homestead. He farmed



Picture Taken by Wm. Armstrong February 1976



The House on February 14, 2016

and raised cattle.

The Steves' home has been owned by Dwight Fox. At the turn of the 1900's a Mr. McIntyre owned the home and held Civil War Reunions there. At that time the front porch was renovated to what is seen in the picture with the cement columns. Renee and Chuck purchased the house from Leland & Margaret Mitchell.

At 3 a.m. on October 8, 1978, the Wolcott Fire Company responded to the call and the home was saved, but much damage sustained. Everyone was safely evacuated from the home, Chuck, Renee and 2 small children. Chuck & Renee gutted the damaged parts and put the home in livable condition. They continue to maintain and improve the home and property.



Early Firefighting Apparatus on New Hartford Street Circa 1910

Scheduled Meetings

The Society Board of Trustees meets the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m., usually at the Carriage House Museum on Jefferson Street. Occasionally we hold the meeting at the Lyons Bank Community room. WHS members are welcome to attend these monthly meetings.

The Society will gladly provide upon request to any member the minutes of these meetings. Contact any board member and a copy will be sent promptly. Your views and comments are encouraged.....the Society desires input from the membership.



Raymond Shippers

The WHS Board of Trustees recently voted to confer life memberships to 4 members: Linda & Raymond Shippers, Jon E. Countryman, and Anne Brandt Sapp.

Linda and Ray have been regular active participants in the development and successes of the society since its inception in 1999. This includes the establishment of the Carriage House Museum/WHS headquarters—a 2 year renovation occurring 2003-05—and on-going improvements since. Linda has continued to serve as the society treasurer, a time consuming job that requires much precision and effort to keep stable the financial condition of WHS. Linda is a



Linda Shippers

tireless worker, always on hand to lead and help.

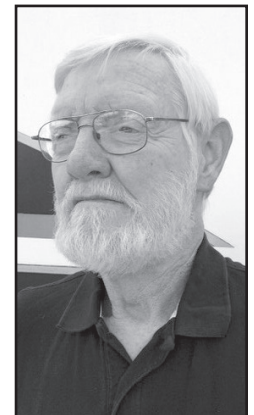
Jon, now of Palm Coast, Florida, but a Wolcott native, (L.C.S, Class of 1962), has been among the Society's best friends over the years. He has assisted WHS and the museum in many improvements and maintenance projects, as well as being present to help out at various Society fund-raising events and community outreach functions. Notable too, are the 4 volumes researched

by Jon and put together with Norma Pearson, Cypriana Porter and Cyndi Fowler, of Wolcott village history. These were published during a 5 year period several years ago. Sales and circulation have been good, and the books are enjoyed by many.

Anne, now for many years a resident of Tucson, Arizona, but raised in Wolcott, has been at the Carriage House during visits to Wolcott over the years. She has been an enthusiastic supporter, both in interest and appreciated financial support. Many of us recall Anne as a L.C.S. student (Class of 1952) who participated in school activities, especially those involving music and intramural sports. Scholastically, she was her class' Salutatorian.



Anne Brandt Sapp



Jon Countryman



Does this home on West Main look familiar to you? At one time it was Hal-ligan's Furniture Store. For a time it was the home of Christian & Kaye Reyn and family. Does anyone have more information on this beautiful home?



1858 MAPS

The Wayne County township colored maps remain available at the Carriage House Museum. These were successfully reproduced from the original 1858 Gillette's Wayne County Wall Map. The sizes are 12"x12" or 11"x14". Included are Wolcott, Village of Wolcott, Huron, Butler, Rose, Sodus, Savannah, and Galen. These include an index of the 1858 property owners' location. The cost is \$9.75 each if picked up at the Museum, plus postage if mailed.

We also have for sale the 1874 Town of Wolcott map. For restoration purposes we had the entire 1858 Gillette map reproduced and now have it framed.



Wolcott Firemen Team at Wayne County Waterball Tournament **Sodus Point, July 4, 1971**

Row 1-Sharon Smith, Beulah Betts, Bev Early, Roy Betts, Bob Reynolds, Terry Farnham, Clem Smith
Row 2-Joyce Fowler, Lori Reynolds, Lois Fowler, May Lou Bower, JoAnn Fisher, Carl Fowler, Brian Loveless, Don Fisher, Hutch Bower, Jim Fowler and Jim Early
Quite often the Wolcott Firemen and their families participated in these events. Picture taken by George Chatfield.



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

*** We would like to express our
condolences to the Pete Merrill family ***



*Jean Crouse &
Henrietta Shortsleeve*

Henrietta Shorsleeve Trine

Henrietta was born and raised on a small farm in Huron. She is the youngest of seven children. Her school years were spent at Leavenworth Central. She graduated in 1955 and was the Roll Call Yearbook editor. Retiring Editor, Jean Crouse (Class of 1954), hands the reins over to Henrietta Shortsleeve (Class of 1955). Henrietta was active as a cheerleader, a member of the Glee Club, High School Choir, and Band.

After graduation Henrietta attended 2 years at SUNY-Morrisville, graduating in '57 with an AAS in food service. In the same year she was married and for 12 years a stay-at-home Mom. Circumstances changed, she divorced and became a working Mom. She went to work at Xerox to support her family of six children, aging from one to twelve.

She worked at Xerox for 20 years, advancing from an entry level posting clerk to an accountant. During these years, she attended night school and graduated from RIT with an AAS in Business.

After the children grew up, Henrietta remarried and move to Pennsylvania. She worked 10 years for a gas and oil company as an auditor of several mini-marts. February of 1998, she started work for a lawyer as a title researcher, spending much time in the county court house.

In 1999 she bought a Victorian house in Wolcott and with much help from her family, renovated, restored and redecorated the house to her satisfaction. She opened a guest house, "New Hartford on The Ridge." Her son Craig, took care of business during the week and she took the weekends.

Once again circumstances changed due to the death of her husband. She needed her family closer and moved back to Wolcott. She soon became involved with the Historical Society and is now am the secretary. She is a member of the Presbyterian Church and a fantastic baker!

Her children are: Jerry, Mark, Craig, Teresa, Scott, and Chris, have a hard working and a great Mom!

