



Carriage House Crier

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

Winter 2014

www.wolcottnyhistory.com

FREE

To sponsor a newsletter, contact Norma Stewart, Historian, at 315-594-9361

MAIL'S HERE!

The first postal service in America came to be in February 1692! A grant from the British King William and Queen Mary, empowered Thomas Neal "to erect, settle and establish within the chief parts of their majesties' colonies and plantations in America, an office or offices for receiving and dispatching letters and packets, and to receive, send and deliver the same under such rated and sums of money as the planters shall agree to give, and to hold and copy the same for the term of twenty-one years."



The postal desk that was used to keep mail by Dr. David Arne. This can be seen at the Carriage House Museum.

There were no home deliveries. The Postmaster usually kept the mail in his house. Mail would be picked up by the addressee. The first postmaster in the Town of Wolcott was Dr. David Arne. He lived in the black house on West Main Street, which was later moved to Smith Street and is now Mike and Linda Douglass' house. We have the desk the mail was kept in at the Carriage House Museum. Former historian William Armstrong rescued it and stripped of its paint. For a time the desk

was used in Dr. Charles Single's office. Mail service began in 1902 here in Wolcott, NY.

One of the earliest pictures of R.F.D. carriers and a postmaster was pictured in the 1905 "Grip's" Historical Souvenir of Wolcott. (BELOW) 1st Row: Lee Dowd, Postmaster A.C. Brink, Eugene Seymour. Standing: Mr. Wicks, Thomas Carr, Wallace Phillips, Charles Plumley, Oliver Bennett, and a dog named "Doc". Lee Dowd, one of the original mail carriers of Wolcott, retired from that service January 1, 1934. He was married to June Tague of Huron and they had three children. Eugene "Gene" Seymour was also one of the original carriers. He married Phebe Sillman. His father was Dr. Lester Draper Seymour. Gene was born in 1875 and died in 1940.

Mail was delivered by train and picked up, sorted and the rural delivery men would deliver by horse and buggy. Notice the smart uniforms and hats. Throughout the years the uniforms have changed with the times. The mail carriers in Wolcott wear the postal





blue pants or Bermuda shorts, white shirt with postal insignia, jacket to match pants, and a pith helmet in inclement weather. Often you see a cape being worn to keep the mail bag dry. Today, those that deliver by car wear their regular clothes.

This picture (ABOVE) was taken in the early 1960s. Front Row: Billy Powell, Louise Knapp (Postmaster), Lee Mitchell, Hugh Henry. Second Row: Glen Prudom, James Chatfield, Don Johnson, Arthur Bush.

Louise was appointed Postmaster in 1944 by Franklin D. Roosevelt. She never wanted to be called Postmistress. She remained in the position for 28 years. When she retired Hugh Henry became Postmaster.

Each rural carrier had a substitute as well as those that delivered in town. Aside from those pictured, other names of those that delivered

our mail and worked in the post office were: Russell Doolittle, Walt Hall, Alfred Stewart, Peter Demass, Jim Mundy, Harvey Johnson, Ruth Fisher and Sara Wells.

When automobiles were introduced into the market, the federal government purchased a certain number for each postal district. These were used in the Village and to deliver parcels.

**Russell Doolittle
delivering mail to Larry Sears.
He retired in the early 1960s.**

Photo by W.A. Armstrong.



Our condolences to the Ryan family on the passing of Tom.

Tom & Mary Ann supported the Historical Society & Museum through taking pictures of special events and always available to help with our activities.

We miss you Tom.

Wolcott Historical Society

Officers & Board

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ANNUAL MEETING

On May 4, 2013, the Wolcott Historical Society held their annual dinner meeting at the First Baptist Church of Wolcott. This meeting was presided over by President Robert Stell. A very tasty meal was prepared and served by members of the church. (A sincere thank you for the great job!) We had a short business meeting. There were no expired terms, and the board will remain the same.

Each year, the society honors a person or couple who, during the previous year, had been outstanding in their dedication of volunteerism. This year, Linda LaGasse was the surprised recipient of the Jim & Ruth Chatfield Volunteer Award.

Linda is a board member and also heads the docent committee. Linda makes calls to society members to secure a docent when the museum is open. If no one is available, she will be there herself. At the museum's open house at Christmas time, Linda works with Alex Madison to present crafts that can be made and taken home. You can be sure that Linda will be there to help decorate the museum at this time. Several years ago, the board decided we would like to show our appreciation to those that volunteer in our society. Jim and Ruth Chatfield were the first, and the award was named after them. A plaque hangs in the Carriage House Museum and each year, the name or names are added to it.



Ruth Chatfield, Linda LaGasse, Bob Stell, Jim Chatfield

Photo by Mary Ann Ryan

On the first Saturday in December we held our annual **Christmas Open House** at the Museum. Free crafts were available for all those that attended and free refreshments. Well attended event.



We usually sponsor a fund raising project each year. As we put a considerable amount of time in the Venus Celebration, we did not complete the plans for another project last year. We would like to appeal to our membership to join us in helping plan and execute some of our projects. As the costs keep escalating, the funds we have on hand can't keep up. Please call or contact any of the board members if you'd like to volunteer or say yes if asked!



COMING EVENTS

WINEMAKER'S DINNER

The fundraising committee is busy planning the Winemaker's Dinner at Dockers Banquet Facility on March 29, 2014. The facility will open at 5:30 and serving will start at 6:00 p.m. The wine being served comes from Inspire Moore Winery in Naples, N.Y. Recently Diane and Tim Moore opened a tasting room next to Kitchen's Country Market called the Sodus Tasting Room, open seasonally, at 1006 Ridge Road, North Rose, NY.

Tickets are on sale at the Lyons National Bank, Carriage House Museum and from the Board Members. Seating is limited. Five courses will be served paired with the appropriate wine.

Appetizer of cheese, crackers and fresh fruit; vegetable soup; salad of baby greens, feta cheese, walnuts and cranberries; main entrees to choose from-Charbroiled Sirloin topped with portabella mushrooms; Chicken (breast) and Artichoke (hearts) French sautéed in white wine and lemon sauce; Eggplant (fresh) Parmesan, topped with marinara sauce and baked off with mozzarella cheese; included with each entrée will be red skin mashed potatoes, fresh seasonal vegetables, warm rolls; desert, Raspberry sorbet. All for a fee of \$30.00!

Our FAMOUS SILENT AUCTION BASKETS will be displayed for you to bid on and take home for yourself or give as a gift!

Remember, we have only 96 seat for this dinner! Get your tickets soon.

This year our annual meeting will be held at the First Presbyterian Church in Wolcott, on April 12, 2014. The program will be presented by Loreen Jorgensen on the history of churches in Butler, Huron, Rose and Wolcott. The meal will be prepared and served by the members of the church and Historical Members are being asked to supply the desert. Tickets are \$10.00 for the meal. These can be purchased at the museum, from board members or at the Village Pharmacy. Serving will start at 6:00pm and consists of stuffed chicken breasts, mashed potatoes, salad, vegetable, desert and drinks. We are asking those that bake if they would like to bring a desert. Contact Henrietta Trine @ 315-594-1161.

Dear Members,

I'd like to apologize to the membership for not getting the newsletters out to you last year. Due to time constraints and low energy, I just didn't get it done. I will try to get the four out this year. Thank you for your patience.

— Norma Stewart, Historian

Gift Shop

Do you sew, crochet, knit or do other crafts that you'd like to donate to our gift shop? We've sold a number of aprons, mittens, jars of jam, jewelry and other items. Our inventory is dwindling and its time to restock. We thank member Henry Wetherby for the small wooden crates that he has made and donated. Linda LaGasse crocheted snow flakes for a Christmas item. One lady donated several aprons that were her mother's.

Contact any of the board members if interested.

We will take your used ink cartridges to recycle. Please leave at the museum.

— Thank You

New Members since our last newsletter

Marian Crossman	Pittsburgh, Pa.
Melvin Heck	Wolcott, NY
Terry Krug	Rochester, NY
Kathleen Marshall	Wolcott, NY
Kelly McDorman	Wolcott, NY
Georgia Pendleton	Wolcott, NY
Gary Penner	Wolcott, NY
Roger & Lynn Pritchard	Wolcott, NY
J.R. & Linda Ruiz	Pittsford, NY
Wendy Van Der Bogart	Syracuse, NY
Carolyn Waterman	Martville, NY

On Sale at the Museum

Individual **TOWNSHIP MAPS OF NORTHEAST WAYNE COUNTY**

INCLUDES Wolcott, Huron, Butler,
Rose & Savannah

Photographed from Gillette's 1858
Wayne County Wall Map

Sizes: 12" x 12" or 11" x 14"

Includes index of 1858
property owners' locations

\$9.75 each if picked up a Museum
(+ postage if mailed)

Wolcott Historical Society - Sponsor

*The Village of Wolcott was
treated with a beautiful setting
of Christmas trees in the park.*

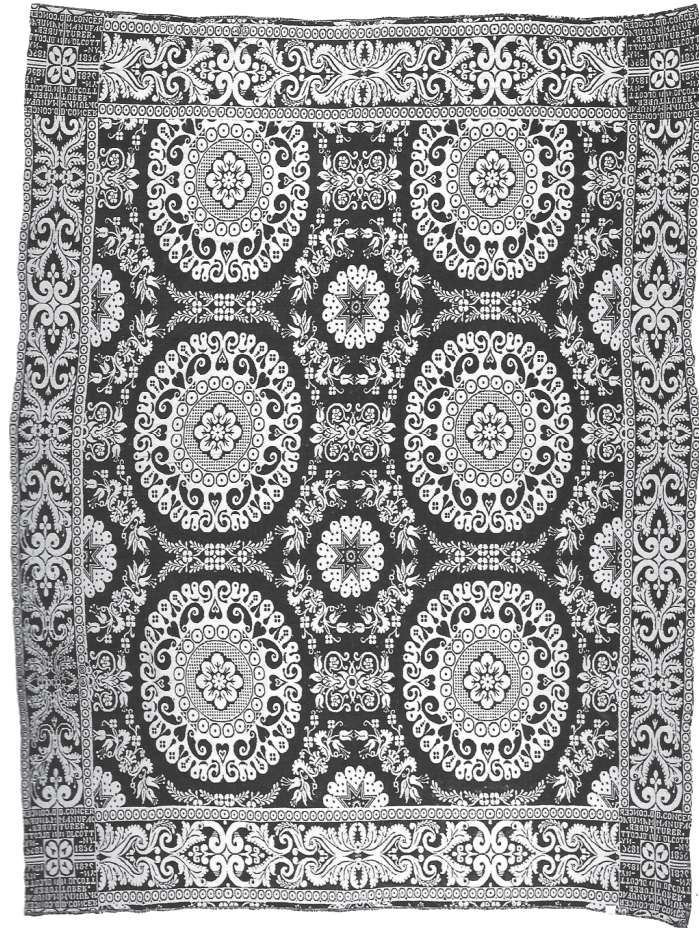
*A big thank you for
all that participated.*

Thanks!

The Historical Society would like to **thank** those that have sent contributions since our last newsletter. They are: Marshall Farms, Joyce Pittenger, Don Chatfield, Duane Van Gelder, Rich & Pam Lee, Phil Wagner, Nancy Carroll, Barb Warren in memory of Bob Warren, Anne Sapp, Beth Dunton, Elizabeth Gaydos Tenney in memory of Mary Worden Gaydos, Wolcott American Legion Auxiliary, Wolcott American Legion Post, Nancy Aten, Marvin Tryon, Fowler Brothers, and Lyons National Bank.

Thank you!

Recently we have had 2 fine Daniel Conger coverlets donated to the museum. The one pictured is a Double Weave, blue wool and natural cotton. The inscription on the corners: D. CONGER/MANUFACTURER/WOLCOTT/NY/1856. It is a full loom width, seamless. This was donated by Carolyn Waterman and her siblings. Currently it is displayed with the "Keeping Warm" display.



Lonny Drake of Red Creek donated a pair of eyeglasses which had been purchased from Morris Burke, a local optician.

Sherri Sheldon sent our way wooden nickels which were used in Wolcott's Sesquicentennial in 1900.

One of the other coverlets we received was from Heidi Rothfuss. That one is red wool and natural cotton, and also woven by Daniel Conger with the same inscription with the exception of the date of 1857.



Loren & Laurie Dates found in an old house a bill from Harnden & Motts Mill for grain dated 1928.

Linda & Glen Minier donated family pictures from Glen's mother's home. All have not been identified yet.

Thanks to those that feel it is important to save the past for future generations.



The Carriage House Museum is open all year.

During the winter months we're open on Saturdays only, from 10-2.

During the summer months, from 10-2 on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

We will also open specially for you with a simple phone call to 315-594-9494

and leaving a message. We also will open for meetings of your group.

There is no charge for visiting the museum, but donations are always appreciated.



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



COMMEMORATIVE BRICK ORDER

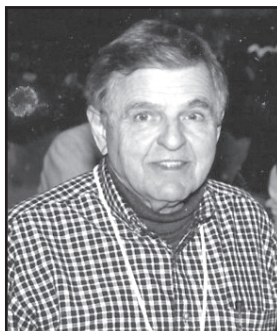
We will continue
to take brick orders
and place an order

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!

**ORDER BEING
PLACED SOON!**

President's Message



The Society's Carriage House property continues to serve quite well as a venue for group meetings, as well as a convenient and comfortable location for our collection, sorting and cataloging of artifacts, photos and printed materials of area historical significance.

Volunteers (docents) are stepping up throughout the year to allow for regular museum "open" hours, even through the cold and snowy winter months. Displays are changed periodically. We welcome your visits and your requested off-hours visits.

The Society encourages member and all residents of the 4 N.E. Wayne County townships to remember the Carriage House Museum as family photos, artifacts, etc. are sorted for disposition. Contacting the Historical Society about them—for preservation— is encouraged.

The Society Board of Trustees meets monthly on the 1st Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Museum. Any and all are welcome and encouraged to attend, observe, and voice views.

Robert Stell