

CARRIAGE HOUSE CRIER

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

Spring 2025 villageofwolcottny.gov/historical-society 315-594-9494

To sponsor a newsletter or offset printing costs, please contact Bob Stell at 315-594-9065 or Kara Chapin at 315-905-4268.
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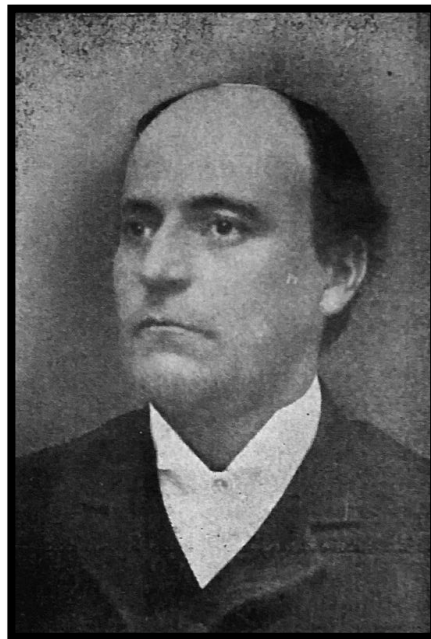
A YOUNG CIVIL WAR RECRUIT 1864:

TIMOTHY S. FISH

Young Timothy Fish served in the NY 111th regiment in 1864. The "GRIP'S" Historical Souvenir of Wolcott, published in 1905, was kindly sent to George McGraw by Cyndi Fowler. That history has provided important information shared here about the life and death of a 111th soldier who did not appear in the 1903 Adjutant General report: Timothy Fish. A physician and drug store owner for many years in Wolcott, he was born in September 1849 in Williamson to Harry and Fanny Fish. Timothy grew up on the family farm with his six siblings. On August 31, 1864, eleven days shy of his 15th

of October, when they took part in the siege of Alexandria, VA.

It did not take long for the officers of the



Doctor T. S. Fish
GRIP'S Historical Souvenir of Wolcott

111th to determine that Timothy was underage and to arrange for his honorable discharge on November 16, 1864 (with a surgeon's certificate of discharge for age). He returned to Wayne County where he went back to school and graduated from the Marion Collegiate Institute in June 1870. He then attended the Detroit College of Medicine and graduated in 1873, when he moved back to Wolcott, opened a drug store, which he sold to E. J. Peck three

years later, and concentrated his efforts on his physician's practice. Later, Dr. Fish again engaged in the drug store business while continuing his private practice. He continued his education with post-graduate courses at Bellevue College in 1878, and a three-month

birthday, he enlisted in Co. A of the 111th. Timothy only served 80 days in the army, and it is unlikely he saw any combat. With new enlistments and soldiers returning to duty from the hospital, the ranks of active-duty men in the NY 111th rose from fewer than 100 at the end of August to just over 500 at the end

Continued next page

course in London in 1884.

Dr. Fish was married to Sarah Rogers of Marion. They had three daughters and a son. A month before his 52nd birthday, Timothy died of heart failure in August 1901 and was buried in Glenside Cemetery in Wolcott. Doctor Fish was remembered as a doctor, a profession of love as well as pride with him, for he enjoyed doing good. He was a man of strong convictions, possessing energy and enterprise, a Christian with a broad liberal view of life, closely attached to his family and loyal to his friends. Public spirited, he took a deep interest in the advancement of the community. He was a member of the Board of Health, Leavenworth Institute, the Masonic order, the Grand Army of the Republic Keesler post 055. Dr. Fish was serving as examining surgeon for the Knights of the Maccabees and as president of the Board of Trustees of his Methodist church at the time of his death.

This is an excerpt from the Times of Wayne County article written by George McGraw, published July 7, 2024. Used with permission.



National Color of the 111th Regiment NY Infantry
NYS Military Museum and Veterans Research Center



The Grand Army of the Republic

Dr. Timothy S. Fish was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) Keesler (formerly Dutton) Post 055, located in Wolcott.

GAR was a fraternal organization composed of veterans of the Union Army, Union Navy, and Marines who served in the American Civil War.

The excerpt to the left is from the New York, U.S., Grand Army of the Republic Records (1866-1931) Post 55 Descriptive Book and includes the following information about Dr. Fish:

Name: Timothy S. Fish

Rank: Private

GAR Muster Age: 29

Enlistment Date: 31 Aug 1864

GAR Muster Date: Mar 1879

Regiment: 111 NY Inf

Residence: Wolcott, NY

Occupation: Physician

Other Wolcott residents are listed alongside Dr. Fish, including Frank M. Woodruff and John G. Strait, among others.

If you have any information regarding GAR, its members and activities in Wolcott, please let us know!

Wolcott Historical Society

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Update!!!

The website for the Wolcott Historical Society has moved!
villageofwolcottny.gov/historical-society

And our new email address is:
WHS1810@hotmail.com

The Carriage House Museum
opens for the **2025 season** in
May!
Saturdays 10-2

Membership

\$10.00 – Individual Membership

\$15.00 – Family Membership

\$25.00 – Business/Organization Membership

\$500 – Life 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 donate. We are a non-profit 501-(c)-(3) corporation. Donations are tax deductible to the maximum extent allowed by law.

Interested in Local History?

We have so much history in our little museum and we need your help to share it with the community.

The Wolcott Historical Society is looking for Volunteers!

Can you help set up programs for the community?

Do you have organizational skills or computer skills and can assist in categorizing historical material?

Are you handy with a camera and can document current events?

We Want You!

More Facts about Dr. Timothy S. Fish

The drug store Timothy S. Fish ran with Evon J. Peck was located on Mill Street where the parking lot between the liquor store and the old Radio Shack building (no longer standing) is. In the fire of August 28, 1876, Fish and Peck's store was destroyed. Peck opened a drug store on the south side of Main Street in December 1876, around the same time Fish dissolved the partnership.

Fish married Sarah Rogers on September 25, 1873, the same year he came to Wolcott. They lived on West Main Street together with their three daughters, Fannie, Annie, and Bessie, and their son Arthur.

In 1887, Fish organized the firm of Colvin, Fish & Moore. Later he became partners with J.R. Waldorf in May 1900, forming a drug store together. They continued together until Fish's death in 1901, after which his estate continued its interest in the store Fish & Waldorf through his eldest daughter, Fannie, who had become an educated pharmacist.



The Fish Family Home
West Main Street, Wolcott

LYONS NATIONAL BANK

In the last issue of the Carriage House Crier, we wrote about the first banks of Wolcott. However, we cannot forget about the Lyons National Bank which has been a part of the Wolcott community since 1990.

LNB's Wolcott branch was first located on West Main Street. The bank set up shop in a trailer in the Pit Stop's parking lot. In 1995, the bank moved to its current location on New Hartford Street.

The bank itself traces its roots back to 1852 when entrepreneur DeWitt Parshall chartered a private banking house on Canal Street in Lyons, naming it the Palmyra Bank of Lyons.

In 2024, Lyons National Bank was selected for the New York State Historic Business Preservation Registry and was nominated to the registry by state Senator Pam Helming.

IRMA...AN EXTENSIVE AND EVENTFUL LIFE WELL LIVED!

In 2022, Irma DeRoose, a 1965 Leavenworth Central School graduate and classmate and close friend of Linda Chatfield D'Amore, daughter of James and Ruth Chatfield, sent a very generous donation to the Wolcott Historical Society, just prior to her passing on April 8, 2023. Upon her death, she willed an additional extremely generous donation to the Society and Museum for the purpose of maintaining and preserving our historical archives.

Irma was born in Lyons on Nov. 14, 1947 and grew up in Wolcott. After her graduation in 1965, she attended Auburn Community College, receiving an associate's degree. After working in Syracuse for a short time, she relocated to Norwich, NY, and spent most of her career at Proctor and Gamble Pharmaceuticals. She earned her BS at Binghamton University. She was in quality control, acting as a chemist and worked in the international products division. She worked in Hamilton, NY, a short time after retirement.

As a world traveler, she visited many places, including: Alaska, Hawaii, China, England, Scotland, South America and most of Europe, including the country of her ancestors, Belgium. She volunteered for over 10 years at the Chenango County Historical Society and Museum, helping to collect and inventory the Norwich pharmaceutical and Proctor and Gamble collections. She attended the Silver Sneakers program at her local YMCA. She was instrumental in planning her high school class reunions.

In 2021, she moved to an assisted living facility, where she organized the library and was Resident Council President. She was certainly a kind, gentle, giving person throughout her life. Those of us who remember her in school, recall her infectious smile and kindness to all. The Wolcott Historical Society will be forever grateful for her generosity.



"When you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth." Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Irma's senior photo and quote.
Leavenworth Central School Yearbook
- 1965

21st Annual Festival of Trees

On Saturday evening, December 7th, 2024, the Wolcott Northup Park was blanketed with a covering of new fresh snow on this cold winter night. Christmas music filled the village from the bandstand and the Boy Scouts busily sold their wreaths, while the snow continued to fall.

Shortly after 6:30, all the lights went out and the count down for the lighting of the 21st Annual Festival of Trees began. The 19 sponsored trees were beautifully decorated and glistened in the evening sky. With about 60 participants in the park, the following awards were presented:

Best Youth Tree - The S'More Paws 4H Club

Historic Recognition of the Palace Theatre -

Sweet Indulgence Pastries

Funniest - The Lyons National Bank

Best Adult Tree - Rose Garden Club and

Rejuvenations Hair Salon (tied)

Best of Show - Petal Pusher Florist.

Everyone was treated to the Three Town Holiday lighted parade passing by on Park Street. A delightful beginning to the Christmas Holiday in Wolcott! (The Wolcott Historical Society has been the proud sponsor of this event since 2004.)

*To all our Docents **Thank You!***

We appreciate your time and dedication to making the museum a success. We look forward to another great year!

To all our Generous Donors

Thank You!

Gene & Liz Bavis

Dorothy & Gary Colvin

Gene Colvin

John & Kathy Conti

Lisa & John Cool

Lauren & Laurie Dates

David & Rosa Fox

Florence Galloway

Donna Graham

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McGraw Family Fund

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Memories of Wolcott

Published in the Lake Shore News April 30, 1925

Successful Opening

Friends of Metcalf's Tavern Assemble On Monday Evening For Housewarming

The Opening of Metcalf's Tavern – formerly The Wolcott – Monday evening, was a pleasant affair, with about 150 in attendance. Dinner was served at small tables, a larger number dining at 7 than at 6 o'clock. Music was furnished by the Royal Serenaders, an orchestra of high school players, not merely during the meal but for the dancing afterwards.

Everybody present was in a cheerful mood, and no long faces were visible. The newly-decorated hotel looked at its best, and started off under excellent auspices, with numerous

transient guests as well as the company of friends assembled for the opening.

Quite a number of tickets also had been bought by people who, for one reason or another, were unable to attend. Doubtless they were present in spirit if not in person. They wished well of the reopened hotel, in any event.

Landlord and Mrs. Metcalf were everywhere at once, seeking to make their guests feel at home. They received many congratulations, and Wolcott may rejoice not only that the hotel is again in operation but is in competent hands.

In the annex Griswold Brothers were located in their new and shining barber-shop, with handsome new chairs and spick-and-span fittings. This is a place as attractive, in its way, as is the hotel.

BUTLER-HURON-ROSE-WOLCOTT 1826-2026

SAVE THE DATE! April 3rd, 2026 marks the day that our old town of Wolcott divided into four separate towns. Butler, Huron, and Rose will be celebrating their bicentennials, and as their parent town, how could Wolcott not join in on the fun?! There will be events all throughout 2026 in all four towns. If you would like more information or want to be a part of the event planning committee, we would love to hear from you! More information to come soon.

Contact Kara at 315-905-4268 or kchapin.wolcothistorian@gmail.com



Main Street, looking West, Wolcott, N.Y

Postcard c. 1910

See this postcard and
others **in color!** at the
Carriage House
Museum

President's Message

Effective at the annual dinner meeting on April 24, 2025, the positions of WHS President and Vice President will rotate to Cyndi Fowler and Linda LaGasse. They have been the leaders among several members active in the conduct of the Society's affairs. Both are current board members.

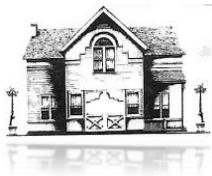
My time as president has been years of challenge with accomplishments – and failures – but fun too actually. Trying to keep it together “just in case” others are around in the future to care and nourish what is. It looks like this is to be so.

Thanks all,

Bob Stell
President

P.S. Bob will remain on the board as an active trustee, sharing his knowledge, wisdom and skills. The Board wishes to thank Bob for his continued dedication to the society and museum since 2000.

If you have an interesting story or photograph about growing up in Wolcott and would like to share it, we would love to include it in an upcoming newsletter.



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