



Carriage House Crier

WOLCOTT HISTORICAL SOCIETY • 5994 Jefferson St., Wolcott

Spring 2019 www.wolcottny.org 315-594-9494 P.O. Box 51, Wolcott, NY 14590 **FREE**

*To sponsor a newsletter or offset printing costs, please contact Bob Stell at 315-594-9065 or Renée Steves at 315-594-8660.
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DECORATION DAY



The Civil War ended in 1865 and claimed more lives than any conflict in US history. Arlington National Cemetery was established. By the late 1860s, Americans all over the US began holding tributes to fallen soldiers by decorating their graves and reciting prayers.

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On May 5th, 1865 the Civil war ended. On May 5, 1868, General John Logan, then leader of The Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) called for a nationwide day of remembrance. The 30th of May was chosen since at the time it wasn't the anniversary of any particular battle and flowers were more abundant across the country.

On the first Decoration Day, General James Garfield made a speech at Arlington National Cemetery.

The veranda of General Robert E. Lee's former home in Arlington was draped in black. The former Union General, then Congressman James Garfield delivered an address. "We do not know one promise these men made, one pledge they gave, one word they spoke; but we do know they summed up and perfected, by one supreme act, the highest virtues of men and citizens. For love of country they accepted death, and thus resolved all doubts, and made immortal their patriotism and their virtue."

5,000 participants decorated the graves of the 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers buried there.

Much of how the day was celebrated is continued today. Each year, to this day, on Memorial Day, a national moment of remembrance takes place at 3:00pm. The sitting president or another government representative, attend and lay a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

By 1890 Northern States made Decoration Day an official State holiday. On the other hand, Southern States honored their dead on separate days. Several states still hold a separate day of observation throughout the spring. Alabama, Mississippi and South Carolina all recognize official days of remembrance for fallen confederate soldiers. Decoration Day, observed on May 30th, became a National holiday to commemorate American military personnel who died in all wars.

Approximately 25 towns and cities across the nation claimed to be the origin of Decoration Day. Many of those towns and cities were in the south where most of the Civil War dead are buried. In 1966, Congress and President Lyndon Johnson declared Waterloo, NY to be the "birthplace" of Memorial Day.

In 1968 Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act which changed the name from Decoration Day and established Memorial Day as the last Monday in May in order to create a three day weekend for Federal employees. The change went into effect in May 1971. That same law also declared Memorial Day as a Federal Holiday.

Cities and towns across the nation host Memorial Day parades that involve military personnel and veterans organizations. Cemeteries and memorials are visited where flags and flowers are placed on the graves of veterans.

It is unclear as to what year the first Decoration Day parade was in Wolcott. Pictures of parades were found but were of the first Founder's Day in 1907. Our earliest pictures were found by Jon Countryman. These photos appear to be taken in the 1960's.

Today, the parade in Wolcott includes more than veterans. Wolcott's Memorial Day parade involves everyone and includes firemen, Elks, Scouts, and the school band. The idea behind including the whole community is to get everyone involved and to educate. In past years, the 4th and 5th grade students from North Rose-Wolcott schools are bused to 9 local cemeteries to assist in placing flags on approximately 1,400 veterans graves. Students learn respect in the cemetery and most importantly the sacrifices that were made on their behalf. In the case of inclement weather, volunteers considerate it an honor to continue the tradition and decorate the veteran's graves.

Wolcott Historical Society

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Carriage House Museum Hours



1st and 3rd Saturday of the Month

10 am until 2 pm

SUMMER HOURS:

July and August

Every Saturday, 10 am until 2 pm

or by appointment

by calling Bob Stell at 315-594-9065

New Members

Dorothy Colvin..... North Rose, NY

Cindy Langer.....East Palmyra, NY

Eleanor Sears..... Wolcott, NY

John Persic Jr. Wilmington, IL

Charles Janeway Lopez Island, WA

Sally Zoppo Needham, MA

Nick and Oakley Wojciek Red Creek, NY

Gerald DeCausemaker..... Wolcott, NY

Thank you!

*We welcome these members and
invite them to participate in our activities.*

MEMBERSHIP

\$10.00 — *Individual Membership*

\$15.00 — *Family Membership*

\$25.00 — *Organization Membership*

\$100.00 — *Contributing & Sustaining Membership*

\$500.00 - \$999.00 — *Life Membership*

\$1000.00 — *Endowment Membership*

*A 2-year complimentary membership will be offered to
students 6 grade through high school seniors. Thereafter,
a membership of \$7.00 will be charged annually.*

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.*

COMMEMORATIVE **BRICK ORDER**

We will continue to take
brick orders and place when
we have received a minimum.

If you would like information or to
place an order, please call:

Bob Stell at 315-594-9065 or

Linda Shippers at 315-594-2765.

Be sure to stop and view
the many bricks that have already
been placed in front of the museum.

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

April 13, 2019

The Wolcott Historical Society held its Annual Dinner Meeting at the Wolcott Presbyterian Church on Saturday, April 13th. The doors opened at 5:00pm and guests were welcomed with appetizer trays of cheese and crackers, fruits, vegetables and dip. At 6:00pm, our member Lois Waffler said grace and a roast beef dinner was served. There were relish trays on the tables along with rolls and butter and a fresh tossed salad. The roast beef was tender as promised with mashed potatoes and gravy. An array of wonderful desserts were waiting on a long table along with fresh coffee and lemonade.

While dessert was being enjoyed, a brief business meeting took place. Our Board of trustees were introduced. There was no election of officers this year. Our recent fundraiser was discussed. \$1,750 had been raised at that point with our March mailing fundraiser.



We are looking for volunteers to be board members. When the historical society was formed back in 1999 there was 35 members, 25 of those members interested in being on the Board. There was no Carriage House at that time to care for. Now, as of our dinner meeting there are 148 members and only 8 Trustees charged with the upkeep of the museum. As with a lot of organizations, volunteers are always needed. Every



year we honor a volunteer of the year. This year we recognized Craig Trine.

The attendees then went up to the sanctuary for the program. This year, Eleanor Stearns of Geneva gave a very interesting account of Amelia Earhart's life from early childhood to later in her career.

Craig Trine Honored as Volunteer of the Year

Craig was an early member of the Wolcott Historical Society. He became active during the 2003-2005 renovation of the Carriage House. He joined a growing group of volunteers involved in the long list of on site projects to be completed.

It was at this time that Craig rendered a line drawing of the Carriage House that became a feature of the new WHS logo that is used on our letterheads and elsewhere. Craig is known for his talent in depicting area homes and historical buildings with detailed pencil line drawings.

The Wolcott Historical Society sponsors the Festival of Trees in Northup Park every holiday season. The trees are decorated by organizations in our town and village and then judged



Craig, with Jim and Ruth Chatfield

before a tree lighting ceremony. Since the first year, Craig has overseen the lighting of these trees. He insures that up to twenty trees or so will have electric and will light on time for the public to attend the ceremony.

The Wolcott Historical Society takes great pleasure in honoring Craig as Volunteer of the Year.

ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

In the Spring of 1844, Rev. W.H. Delaney, 1st Bishop of the Diocese of Western N.Y. visited Wolcott and the first Episcopal service was held in the Methodist Church (now Gallo's). In September of 1867 Saint Stephen's Church was incorporated with 9 male members. The first officers were elected. Oliver T. Ladue - Senior Warden, Norton E. Merrell - Junior Warden, Thomas B. Baird, Robert B. Underhill, William H. Walker, Johnthan Allen, James Armstrong, Fred C. Lander and William Conventry - Vesteymen.

In December of 1867 Rt. Rev. A.C. Coxe, Bishop of the Diocese and Rev. L.B. VanDyck of Clyde visited the new parish. Services were held in a hall owned by Oliver Ladue. In 1868 the Rev. Lichery Wilber became rector and began collecting money to build a church. He reported 18 families, 19 communicants, 64 individual members with 16 baptisms in the first 3 months.

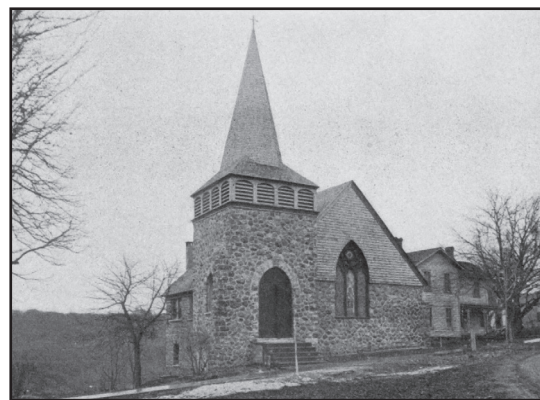
Through various causes the parish failed to support the minister and again became dependent upon the rector of Clyde.

In 1870, Oliver T. Ladue died and the financial part of the church suffered. Mr. Ladue's hall, which contained the chapel, and the money to build a church burned about the same time and the Episcopalians were once again without a house in Wolcott.

Services were held in "The Upper Room" which was the Grange Hall in 1902 (also now Gallo's) Congregants had been giving 25 cents weekly. On May 12, 1903 a lot at the head of East Main St was purchased for \$300.00. and ground was immediately broken for the new church. It was decided to build a chapel to cost \$3000.00. The lot was paid for in cash and with money that was raised. There was \$1,500.00 in the treasury. It was decided not to build any further than there was cash for. The corner stone was laid by Bishop Walker on November 6, 1903. On February 6, 1905 Archdeacon William L. Davis held the opening service.

The stone framed building consisted of the sanctuary and entrance. Although they built a steeple with a place for a bell, they had no bell. The basement was not exca-

vated. It did have 3 beautiful stained glass windows. The first service had no altar, only a small altar table with one small table linen.



As with many churches of the times, there were many fund raising projects. The ladies guild held quilting bees and made a quilt to raffle much to the disapproval of the priest. There were church suppers. The ladies would prepare the meals in their homes and bring the food to the church where it was warmed on a borrowed three burner oil stove. Water to make coffee was carried from the house next door. Many fundraisers were planned and they all helped the church to prosper. The first Bazaar was held in the Thacker Store (later The Wolcott Bargain Center) on Main St. as part of Old Home Week in 1907. The most of the money raised was through 2 plays. "Twelve old Maids" a play about the

problems of finding a good bachelor and "Clubbing a Husband" a play about the problems with the husbands they snagged.

Rev. W. Aubrey Arlin found the church building looked more like a Baptist meeting house. In 1939, the church was still lacking an altar and items needed to have a proper service. An altar and other items were found in an abandoned church in Nunda, NY.

Between WW1 and WW11 the Church experienced a sharp decline. This lack of interest caused the church to close. The building declined along with it's congregation. Other Churches in the area provided Sunday School and it was thought that many who had children chose to attend those churches.

In the summer of 1946 with only a scant few, Reverend Wood of Lyons held Sunday evening services. The church was reorganized and reactivated in 1947, by Archdeacon Parsell and accurate records were kept again. The furnace was switched to oil in 1949, the broken steps were replaced as were the front doors.

By 1952 the congregation was growing and the church was reviving. The old reed organ was replaced with a new electric one. More changes were made during the 1960's. The basement was remodeled and a gas furnace installed.

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ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Continued from previous page

The choir loft was removed. The pews and altar placed in reverse. A school bell was purchased for the empty belfry. The congregation was enjoying prosperity and fellowship. Between 1981 and 1982 the altar and pews were put back in it's original places and the choir loft was put back in.

The congregation aged, younger people were not joining. The congregation grew smaller. In 2004 the church was closed. The congregation consisted of only 2 couples. They would meet at each others homes. Retired Pastor Dan Pope from Palmyra would visit and give a short service.

Although the church is once again empty, the beautiful stained glass windows remain.



MARCH 2019 FUNDRAISER

To answer the never ending need for funds, the Trustees of the Wolcott Historical Society decided to try a mailing fundraiser this year. In the past we have held fund raising events. Sadly, we lack enough volunteers for a committee to hold an event. Here is the results of the mailing fundraiser and Shopper ad as of this publication. So far we have received \$2,895. A very special thank you to the following:

Beth Dunton
Hank and Phyllis Wetherby
Marian Crossman
Henry and Andrea Felker
Lois Waffer
Margaret Kasper
Sallie Soule
Robert and Cynthia Fowler
James and Donna Gordon
John Persic Jr.
Dennis Conger
Donald and Maryann Crowell
Sarah Goodwin Soule
Otto and Phoebe Meijer
Gene Colvin
Maryann Sparnon
Julian and Linda Ruiz
Lawrence and Suzanne Maier
Robert and Lucia Monroe
George and Georgia Pendleton
Jim and Ruth Chatfield
Mary Ann Ryan
Linda LaGasse
Karen Hoskins
Midge Jordan
Pomona Packing LLC

THANK YOU ALL !

President's Message

I have been looking back over the past year as president and I especially recall a few good men. That is not to say that all of our members and volunteers are not important to our Historical Society, rather there have been some that come immediately to mind.

After our Annual Dinner Meeting last year we were fortunate enough to have Jerry DeCausemaker join our Board of Trustees. He jumped on board with both feet and took on the task of deciphering our insurance policies. We as a Board needed clarification as to what was covered and to whom the policy would be paid in the event of a loss. It was a lot to take on as the newest member of the board and we appreciate him clearing up those questions.

We had been looking for a painter to paint our Carriage House for two summers. There were many calls and estimates made in order to find the right painter. We not only found a painter, we found an outstanding, caring, dedicated painter when we hired Nick Wojieck. When you look at the Carriage House now that it's painted, it really shows how much loving care he took in painting it. He made beautiful window bonnets to match the existing ones. He did this willingly and donated them to us because he felt the building deserved them. I can't tell you how many compliments I have gotten. I never hesitate to tell people that Nick Wojieck painted it. We are very pleased to have Nick and his family as new members of the Wolcott Historical Society.

That being said, we are so proud of our beautiful building that we asked Chris Trine of Chris Trine Photography to take a picture of the Carriage House for us to use in promotions. He gladly volunteered, and immediately took to that task. He took a wonderful photo that we will use in our future fund raising efforts.

Another Trine that I would like to acknowledge is Craig Trine. Every year he helps with the Festival of Trees by making sure all the trees are upright and that there is electricity to every tree. This year was no exception. We often have inclement weather and I'm sure there are other things he would rather be doing with his time off on cold winter days during the busy holidays.

As president, I'm not only speaking for myself when I say that we appreciate whatever you may do in whatever way to support the Wolcott Historical Society.

Renée Steves

THE WIDOW MAKER



The Wolcott Historical Society was pleased to have Susan Gateley do a book signing at the Carriage House on our opening day Saturday, May 4th.

Susan has published a half dozen non fiction books on the ecology and maritime history of Lake Ontario. This book, *The Widow Maker*, is a maritime historical tale of a young woman recently widowed who now finds herself owning and operating a cargo schooner in the year 1880.

We found it interesting to think about her character's life back in a male dominated waterfront setting. It was believed to have been bad luck to have a woman on board back in 1880. How did she manage? We discussed the problem of cooking for a crew on board a cargo schooner on a wood cook stove and what they may have eaten.

It was an interesting presentation. Refreshments were served. It was a fine way to celebrate our opening day for the year. Thank you Susan.

REMEMBERING WOLCOTT, NY AND VICINITY

“Remembering Wolcott, NY and Vicinity” is the name of a Facebook page that is the creation of long-time Wolcott Historical Society member, Jon Countryman.

Jon has spent endless hours collecting articles from the old Lakeshore News, old yearbooks and pictures. He has helped to write several books about Wolcott, NY. Recently he has created a Facebook page in which to share them all.

The “Remembering Wolcott, NY and Vicinity”

Facebook page is a members-only site and now has 476 members. Jon’s purpose for creating this Facebook page is stated at the beginning of the page.

“This site is meant to provide a space for people of Wolcott and vicinity to post articles and photos from the past and present. Hopefully it will generate conversation between past and present members of the area.”

Jon has sent pictures for this publication with a promise of more in the future.



This is Wolcott’s old fire hall that was once on New Hartford St. In 1912 it was moved to Leavenworth Ave and converted into a residence. It has been in the Trine family since 1960 and is now owned by Craig Trine.



Find us on
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Wolcott Historical Society
P.O. Box 51
Wolcott, NY 14590

Local History Matters

Locations and objects in our community often reflect the long heritage of past generations, and learning the stories of Wolcott's past can add context to the way you think about the present. Local history can help you realize that the grand scheme of historical change is made up of countless individuals like yourself and your neighbors, all of us, who, in our own ways, contribute to the ongoing story of our community.



In 1999, the Wolcott Historical Society was established, in an effort to preserve and restore items of historical significance, educating present and future generations so that they might have a sense of their important heritage. Housed in the Carriage House Museum on Jefferson Street, the Wolcott Historical Society receives little funding from municipal sources, relying mainly on private monetary donations to keep the doors open and artifacts safe.