

*THELMA ROGERS GENEALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
And NATHANIEL DYKE MUSEUM  
118 EAST DYKE STREET, WELLSVILLE, NY 14895  
December 2008*



**Upcoming Dates:**

**December 4** – Dave Pinney will speak on the History of the Wellsville Fire Department, 7 PM at the Trinity Lutheran Church

**January** – No meeting or newsletter

**February 5** – Bring a Treasure or Tale

At our last meeting, Jane and I told the story of Thelma Rogers and our historic firehall/museum. We had a light turnout, but a good session with some give and take.

The museum is now closed for the season. We keep the heat turned down as low as it can go. Dave Pinney installed a new thermostat that has a lower temperature range than the old one. We do need to keep the heat turned on to prevent damage to the papers and cloth in our holdings. Our painting is about 50% completed. Joe just ran out of good weather for painting. What is done looks wonderful, and he will pick it up again in the spring.

The calendars developed by the Historian Preservation Roundtable of Allegany County are here. We will bring a few to our December meeting. The calendar has old pictures from all of Allegany County and sell for \$10.00 each. They will make great Christmas gifts!

Look for our “Fantasy of Light” tree on the library lawn if you are in the neighborhood.

In January, Jane and I will give a presentation to the Wellsville Area AARP at the Christian Temple – topic yet to be determined.

**Cuba Patriot** - I want to make a clarification of a statement I made in our last newsletter. The Cuba Patriot had no intention of tossing the pictures they gave us. The Patriot was well aware of the historical value of the pictures and made every effort to sort them and distribute them to the members of the Historians Roundtable group. I apologize for writing that the pictures were destined for the trash, when they clearly were not. Again – our thanks to the Patriot for these pictures.

**Thanks for your gifts:**

**Bill Cavanaugh** – a shoehorn from Garwood Shoe Co. “Everything In Footwear” Wellsville, N.Y.

**Christian Temple** – a monthly mailing of newsletter “The Temple Times”

**Dick Golas** – Products made in Allegany County Booklet; Dresser Digest Special Edition September 1998; The Legend of Ingersoll Rand.

**Ralph Hills** – Babble-On-Bible Book of Ralph Volume 4-Number 1.

**Don LaForge** – 2 “Wellsville Marching Lions” button badges; a “Wellsville Football Boosters” button badge; “A Night On Broadway Wellsville Indoor Guard February 27<sup>th</sup> 1988” button badge; a Lunn Lumber Company pencil; a Pfuntner Service pen.

**Jim and Betty Meehan** – 1941 NYS Citizen Resident Fishing License; Book of 6 cent US Air Mail stamps; A Basic Mileage Ration Card made out to Lura L. Schreiner; Wellsville High School Owl newspaper March 22, 1944; Immaculate Conception School Graduation Exercises Program June 27, 1948; Wellsville High School Commencement Program June 29, 1948; “Funcrest Rollerwrites Newsletter” December 1948 and Feb. 20, 1949.

**Wish List:**

We are still wishing for old Wellsville phone directories, old Wellsville yearbooks and Wellsville sports memorabilia. We know baseball was a huge part of life in Wellsville, yet our files are very thin on anything relating to it.

**From the Archives:**

Jane thought you might enjoy a few excerpts from the diary of Carlton L. Farnum (1811–1898). Carlton came to Wellsville in June of 1848 and entered into the mercantile business almost immediately. He was

postmaster in 1849 and was elected one of the three highway commissioners at the first Wellsville Town meeting in 1856. He held the positions of trustee, supervisor and assessor over the years. During the war, he worked for the Quartermaster's Department at Alexandria, Va. Leaving Wellsville for a few years, he returned in 1870 and in 1876 he was elected to the position of town clerk for 19 successive years. Below are a few of his diary entries, you can get a feel for the growth of the area.

June 1849 - Strangers are coming in daily and many are investing their funds in real estate, especially in pine lands. The Erie railroad company now have a strong force of laborers on the line.

December 1850 – Our village, under the expectation of the New York & Erie, is growing rapidly. The census for '49 gives us a population of 400. Village lots are selling briskly and many cheap buildings are being erected for places of business.

March 1851 - Pine lands nearby are changing hands and eastern lumbermen are erecting mills and building roads in order to manufacture the pine; wooden blocks are springing up like mushrooms in all parts of the village; bought a lot on Main and State Streets and fitted up a store to which I moved my goods and the Post Office to the great satisfaction of the citizens on the east side of the Genesee... Tradesmen are rushing in and stores and wooden blocks are springing up like mushrooms in all parts of the village.

March 10, 1868 - I was told today by a person who claims to know, that more than one thousand broken rails on the Erie were replaced between Hornellsville and Olean. This exhibit certainly shows railroad traveling to be very hazardous in the North during the winter season.

August 20, 1871 – The fires in the vicinity were raging fearfully; very dry and a strong south wind; alarm rung about noon, calling for aid to assist our neighbors, George Wagner, A.N. Cole and James Dunham, in the warfare with the fire fiend. The fires were soon somewhat subdued after consuming considerable hemlock bark and timber in the forests near the village.

October 5, 1880 – There was quite a rush to the Driving Park at Riverside this afternoon, this being the opening day. I did not attend, but I hear that there were present many of our sporting men and a fair display of county nags.

November 13, 1880 - Lewis Gordon died of diphtheria, and as it was gradually spread in the village an epidemic was feared.

November 18, 1880 - At four o'clock this morning was aroused by the alarm of fire which was caused by the burning of the American Hotel on Main street [1895 site of City Hall which burned in 1954, now Madison Street]. The Fire Department worked bravely and confined the fire to the one building.

November 21, 1880 - It is bitter cold. The Genesee is frozen from shore to shore. 6 degrees above zero. The boys are having a fine time skating on the mill pond.

November 25, 1880 - National Thanksgiving Day. Thermometer at zero. Union service at the M.E. church preached by Rev. F.W. Beecher.

December 1, 1880 - O.P. Taylor's oil well near Petrolia is reported a very good one and is called "Topeka, No. 1". He is now tubing it.

December 24, 1880 - An organ concert at Congregational Church; a Christmas tree representing an oil derrick at the Methodist church.

December 25, 1880 - Services in the churches and quite a stir in the streets. Sleighs are constantly passing. We had a turkey dinner that would have been a credit to Delmonico. We think the lady of the house cannot be excelled in the culinary art.

December 28, 1880 - 20 below zero and a piercing wind from the west. Snow only four inches deep with good sleighing.

Have a happy holiday season – See you in February!

*Mary*

**Officers TRHGS**

Jane Pinney, President  
Don LaForge 1<sup>st</sup> Vice  
Diane Converso 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice  
Judy Hardy, Secretary  
Mary Rhodes, Treasurer  
Hilda Stout, Trustee 1 Yr  
Floy Donovan, Trustee 1 Yr  
Albert Kerton, Trustee 2 Yrs  
Dave Pinney, Trustee 2 Yrs  
Ann Comstock, Trustee 3 Yrs  
Jim Dello, Trustee 3 Yrs

**Museum Hours – Wednesday 1 – 4 PM from May 1 to October 31, or by Appointment.  
Call Jane at 585-593-4515 or Mary at 585-593-1965  
thelmargh@gmail.com**