

THELMA ROGERS GENEALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

118 EAST DYKE STREET, WELLSVILLE, NY 14895

Newsletter April 2008

Jane Pinney and Mary Rhodes

Upcoming Dates:

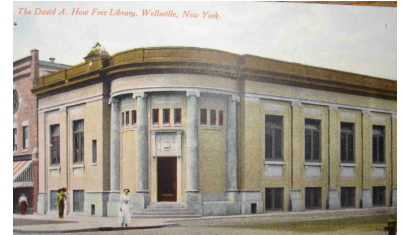
Apr 3rd – Jim Pomeroy will present “The Story of the Buffalo & Susquehanna Railroad”. This program was postponed due to weather a few months ago. Think Spring!!!

May 1st – Joan Hand, the unofficial Historian of Jones Memorial on “Life at the Jones”

June 5th – Art Van Tyne will speak on Oil in Allegany County. If you have any questions on this subject, let us know and we will pass them on to Art.

At our last meeting, Dan Nicholson opened his books of postcards and let our fingers do the walking. Dan fielded our questions and just let us enjoy his hobby. Thanks Dan, we all appreciated the night.

For those of us with computers, the Society took a step into the 21st century this month by initiating our first email address. Our address is thelmargh@gmail.com. This is a totally free email service, no fees involved at all. Either Jane or Mary will check email on a daily basis. Ron Taylor has posted the new e-address on the Allegany County Local History web site, and within 24 hours we had an inquiry on the John W. Gallman family from the southwestern part of the USA.



Dues: Once again, if you get a little blue membership form with this newsletter, we have not yet received your 2008 dues. Postage will be going up again, your dues help pay for the postage. We currently have 77 paid memberships. This breaks down to 21 family memberships (2 people) and 35 single memberships. There are 21 memberships (singles and family) that have not yet paid for the year.

Acquisition: Coats Manufacturing Company was a vital part of our community for many years, and the museum did not have a single piece that we could definitely identify as “Coats”. With a little help from a member, we purchased a vanity made by Coats Manufacturing, we confirmed it by the label, which is still attached to it. The piece is now on display at the museum.

Textiles: A wish has been granted!!! Tina Wightman has agreed to help us as our “Textile Careperson”. Our museum is rich with dresses, shawls, uniforms and baby clothes from bygone days. Our aim is to keep them healthy so we may use them in displays or for educational purposes. Tina has already started sorting and packing items in archival boxes.

Disbursements: Ann Comstock has volunteered to replace Shirley Engle in our Disbursement Program. Many items in the museum are basically taking up space, they have no reason to be in our museum, and have not been accessioned. We don't know who donated them, or how they got there. These items may serve another museum well, or simply be sold to aid in new acquisitions.

Exterior Painting: Jane presented two bids for painting the exterior of the museum this summer. The members selected Joe Maxwell of Wellsville to do the job. His quote was for \$3,000, and included water washing, priming, painting and opening upstairs windows (provided they are not beyond repair). Approval is pending.

Our Thanks For Your Donations:

Wellsville Lions Charities Inc. - \$500.00

BP - \$500.00

Member Cash Donations for March - \$295.00

Wellsville Firemen's Auxiliary - \$100.00 targeted for exterior museum work

Don Baldwin – A 1949 Tax Map Book, Real Detective magazine featuring an area murder, Hakes & Boyce Hardware invoices.

Nancy Crowell Cotoia of Cape Cod Mass – photos of the John Phillips family and Weldonian Dairy

Albert Kerton – a book “How the Way Was Prepared” by Rev. Calvin Fairbanks of Angelica

Bob McCracken – A Centennial Banner, two bow ties and a Centennial pin

Shirley Neu – Davies newspaper articles, advertisements and posters

The Runzo Family – Genesee Headwaters Citizen Assoc. memorabilia, photos of Christian Temple and Wellsville houses, an 8 x 10" picture frame, two unidentified photos; pictures of WHS Class of 1937 and the choir

Wish List:

- Someone to initiate a Thelma Rogers web site, and help develop a new brochure for the museum.
- Year books and directories for the Wellsville area.
- Pictures of the area that have not been seen before (we know they are out there). We will copy and return to you if you do not wish to donate them.
- Your family genealogies

Our Neighbors: Carol Donovan notified us of a Quilt show in Cuba on May 3 – 4 at the Cuba VFW Hall, 305 North Cuba Road, to benefit Cuba's Friends of Architecture.

From the Archives:

Lebbeus Sweet was one of a score of men who came to town between 1850 and 1860 and indelibly impressed themselves on the character of Wellsville. Mr. Sweet was a member of the firm of Sweet, Whittaker & Co., a machine shop on Foundry Street. (Lower Jefferson) The foundry was located near the railroad tracks on the south side of the street. Mr. Sweet became sole proprietor in 1860 and did a large business in the manufacture of boilers, engines and mill machinery. He made a specialty of the "Iron Slave" and the "Royce Reaper". One of these Royce Reapers is on exhibition at the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan. The following is from the March 17, 1900 Wellsville Daily Reporter.

Reminiscence of Wellsville in Her Earliest Business Days

Editor Reporter: Forty-eight years ago Friday (March 16, 1852) I came to Wellsville to make it my home. I recollect it was a beautiful day. The buildings for the shops had just been completed and I came here to oversee the putting in of the machinery and tools to start the business. The village was a crude one, very few buildings on Main street. The only thing that would attract attention was the huge piles of pine lumber brought here for shipment. It was a city of pine lumber piles. Splendid pine trees were standing in different parts of the village. The ground where Wm F. Jones block and Jas. Thornton's house now stand had a clump of magnificent trees and both sides of Main street north of the residence of Ephraim Smith were covered with them. The north-east side of the railroad was an unbroken forest from the clearing the Uncle Nat Johnson made for his house almost to State street.

The commencement of building a village dates back to the spring of 1852. E. B. Hall came here a few days before I did and was already shingling his store between my shop and Main street, on the ground where the telephone office is now located. He started the drug business in connection with dry goods and groceries. Other places of business were rapidly built and at the end of that year Wellsville began to look like a prosperous village. The new comers were hustlers and did their best.

There was no church of any description. Divine services were held in the little old school house. There were two churches commenced that year, the Methodist and Baptist and completed the next season. A. N. Cole moved his printing establishment here in 1853 and started his paper. Some of the surrounding villages were prosperous, particularly Scio, large lumber interests centered there, Knights Creek was lined with saw mills and among the operators were the late Wm. L. Norton, and Wm Duke, particular friends of mine to the end of their lives.

Most of the old settlers have passed away. Only a few remain, I.N. Fassett, Wm Pooler, A. A. Goodliff, E. B. Hall, H. N. Lewis, Joseph Doty, Maurice O'Connor, Cornelius Sullivan, Mead Shepard and perhaps a few others are all that are left.

Officers TRHGS Jane Pinney, President Don LaForge 1 st Vice Diane Converso 2 nd 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

Wm F. Jones came here the following summer and hung out his shingle as a lawyer. He had a pretty rough time of it with the back woods attorneys whose strongest argument was a knock down one, but he kept right on cutting ice regardless of consequences. L. Sweet.

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