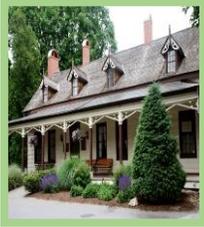


# THE HOMESTEAD CHRONICLE

VOL.3 NO.4 A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE WAPPINGERS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OCTOBER 2017



The Mesier Homestead

Please donate to the Homestead Preservation Fund. Make checks payable to the Wappingers Historical Society



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Wappingers Falls, NY  
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1967

50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

2017

CELEBRATING FIFTY YEARS OF PRESERVING LOCAL HISTORY!

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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## President's Message

Dear Friends,

A heartfelt thank you on behalf of the Wappingers Historical Society Trustees for your support as we celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. Our speaker series has been very successful and we are grateful to be able to use the American Legion Hall on Spring Street to accommodate more attendees. "The Spirit of Mesier" in June was a huge success with the proceeds allowing us to join with the Village of Wappingers Falls in obtaining an architectural assessment of the restoration of the original 1741 section of Mesier Homestead. Please check our calendar to see more exciting activities planned for the rest of this year—and please join us.

~ Beth Devine

**Welcome to our new members:**

**Cheryl Wallace, Jeff Cito, Wilford Bryan Lammers,  
and Bill and Eileen Murphy**

Editor's note: Many of our readers may be surprised to learn *The Homestead Chronicle* is not the first newsletter published by the Wappingers Historical Society. The *Wappingers Historical Society Newsletter* made its debut in 1972. The Newsletter Committee compiled historical tidbits and articles in a four page mimeographed circular which was distributed to WHS members. The following article is from the April WHS newsletter of 1972, Vol. 1, No. 2. If anyone knows the whereabouts of the parade float trophy, please contact the Wappingers Historical Society Board of Trustees: [info@wappingershistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@wappingershistoricalsociety.org)

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY ASSISTS WITH CELEBRATION OF VILLAGE CENTENNIAL

by Zita MacDowell

The year 1971 was a great year in the history of Wappingers Falls. It celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a chartered village.

The Wappingers Historical Society during the winter of 1970-1971 discussed our possible participation in this celebration. It was decided that we would take part in several ways. First, we would open to the public our restored room in the Mesier Homestead which under the direction of Daniel Tackas and Robert MacDowell, emerged from its many coats of dust as a bright, cheerful room full of mementoes of the past. Its acceptance by those who visited it was to spur us on to further work in the future. Due to the lack of heat in this area of the Homestead, our work days are limited to certain seasons of the year.

Our second venture was an information (and lost & found) booth to be manned by members of the organization on the day of the homecoming picnic held in Mesier Park. This too, under the direction of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Tackas, was a huge success. Many old friends were "found" as were numerous children, parents and uncountable items. At last report, no one had claimed a pair of ladies shoes! Fortunately, we did not have any left-over children or parents.

Our third and most ambitious decision was to enter a float in the parade to be held on Saturday, August 28, 1917. Charles Palmateer was appointed chairman to be assisted by Mrs. Zita MacDowell. A number of suggestions were made as to the theme of the float and it was finally decided to accept the suggestion of our president, Joseph McCloskey - the signing of the Village Charter. With this idea in mind, we started our planning. Meetings were held, plans were discussed, finalized, changed, and finally with the help of many members and many who were not society members, we went forward. Our float was assembled in the barn of a nearby estate and after many hours of work, was ready. But, we had an unexpected guest at our celebration. Hurricane Doria arrived on the big day and everything was postponed until the next day. The big parade was cancelled but WE were ready to parade, and parade we did on that Sunday. Our group assembled on the grounds of

the Wappingers Junior High School and marched up South Avenue behind our flag carrier, Miss Zita E. MacDowell and our banner carriers, the Korber twins and the Palmateer twins of Hughsonville to the Homecoming Picnic-in-the-Park! There we joined the other floats which were to have participated in the parade and when the judging was over, we were the proud possessors of the second place trophy which is currently on display in area banks and stores.

Without the help, cooperation and generosity of many members of our society and non-members, we would not have been able to achieve the success that we did.

Charles Palmateer deserves a standing ovation in bringing this project to its successful conclusion and then beside him should stand all those, too numerous to name individually who assisted him in any way.



## PHOTOS FROM THE ARCHIVES



1975

WHS members working on plans for the nation's bicentennial celebration.

Seated from left: Edith Valente, John R. Ferris, Ann Peragino

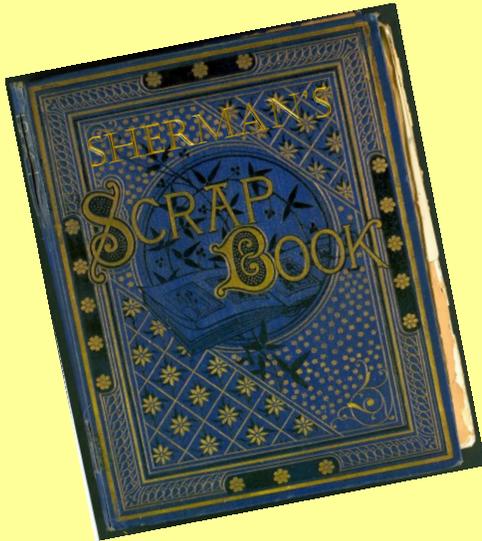
Standing from left: Jack Devine, Lisa Hoff

1975: Local historical society members collaborate on a bicentennial cookbook.

Left to right:

Elisabeth Scardpane, artist; Gladys Ketcham, Fishkill Historical Society, Elizabeth Tackas, Wappingers Historical Society; and Lois VanSwearangen, East Fishkill Historical Society.





# SHERMAN'S SCRAPBOOK



Newsy bits of information  
collected by Honorary  
Village Historian, the late  
Joe Sherman.

## **Poughkeepsie Eagle - News**

### WAPPINGERS FALLS NEWS

November 1, 1904

Probably never before in the annals of the village of Wappingers Falls was the spirit of Hallowe'en entered into with the enthusiasm that prevailed here on Monday evening. For the past few years the custom of masquerading has grown with rapid strides and now the custom seems to be almost universal. From early in the evening on Tuesday until late at night, the streets were thronged by persons in masquerade attire from the small boy and girl of 8 or 10 years to persons who had long since grown to the estate of manhood and womanhood. The costumes which appeared on this largely celebrated occasion consisted of every variety, nationality and character that it was possible to imagine, judging from the appearance of some of the characters.

The dark and remote corners of garrets and other places where the apparel of ancestors long since departed had been stored had been once again resurrected and brought into use. The whole scene had the appearance of a huge carnival. On Main Street and South Avenue seemed to be the principal promenade for the participants of this interesting jollification. Along these streets, hundreds of spectators arranged themselves in ranks on either side of the sidewalks leaving a passage through the center up and down which the varied and grotesque characters passed while the spectators viewed them with much merriment. Hallowe'en parties were held at numerous houses and apple-bobbing, etc. were indulged in. The occasion was one to be long remembered.

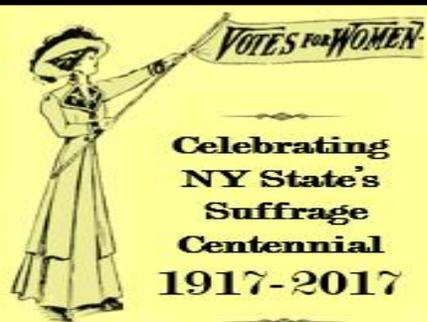


## VILLAGE OF WAPPINGERS FALLS, 1912:

It was a cold December morning when Jessie Hardy Stubbs stood on a workbench and began speaking above the din of whirring sewing machines. As the seamstresses and workers at the Sweet Orr Factory on Mill Street began to gather round, Superintendent Daniel Walker called a halt to all work and instructed the speaker to take as much time as she needed. The speech culminated an exciting overnight visit by four suffrage pilgrims led by Rosalie Jones. The small band of marchers were on their way to Albany, stopping at the various small towns, villages, and municipalities that dotted their route. Having left New York City ten days earlier, the marchers were footsore and weary, but determined to bring the suffrage cause into the political spotlight. A cadre of newspaper journalists trailed after the women in various modes of transportation. Their daily reporting circulated throughout the nation. After Miss Stubbs's speech, twenty factory girls continued the march with the visiting suffragists, escorting them all the way to Poughkeepsie. Two months later the Wappingers Falls Women's Equal Suffrage League organized and began holding monthly meetings and tea parties at each other's homes and at the Mesier Homestead. Suffrage cookbook sales helped raise money for the statewide campaign. The local suffrage league held cake sales and card parties to raise funds. On November 6, 1917 women won the right to vote in New York State. On March 19, 1918, 600 hundred local women exercised their right to vote in an unprecedented Village of Wappingers Falls election.

Join us for

## A Taste of History



On Sunday, October 8, 2017, from 1pm-4pm, the Wappingers Historical Society will commemorate NYS Women's Suffrage Centennial with the unveiling of an in-depth exhibit depicting the history of NYS Women's Suffrage. The opening of the exhibit coincides with the society's annual Taste of History event, appropriately titled, *Tea and Suffrage*. In addition to viewing the exhibit, visitors may take a guided tour of Mesier Homestead. Inspired by the suffrage tea parties, cakes sales, and suffrage cookbooks of bygone days, tea and cake will be served on the homestead front porch. Admission is free.

# RECOLLECTIONS

*...of days gone by*



"Sunset" by N. Rockwell



## Cider Season by Steve Dunham

Editor's note: Steve Dunham and his family resided on a farm on All Angel's Hill Road from 1949-1960. Steve currently resides in Florida.

All of our apple trees were in a seventy acre cow pasture. There were over five hundred apple trees; most had been "planted" by the cows. The trees were growing without having been planted by us or anyone else. There were fifty very old apple trees in a section that had been planted many, many years before we moved there. I called them "Mother Trees." Someone must have had an orchard on that old farmland. There were at least ten different varieties. We never gave any care to them. Never sprayed, dusted, or pruned. Yet many of the trees had nearly perfect apples, truly organic apples. There were rarely any drop apples or any apples on the tree branches close to the ground. The reason was the cows would go "bananas" over apples. They love to eat them...as many as they can. Very few people realize, that cows love apples because it gets them drunk! Because cows have four stomachs, the juice in the apples quickly changes to alcohol = hard cider, causing the cows to become intoxicated. The cows begin feeling intoxicated soon after eating the apples and the effect can last a long time. I mentioned the cows plant apple trees. They do that by their droppings which contain lots of seeds. That's why so many trees in our orchard were healthy trees, being fertilized by the cows. Thanks to the fifty cows we had pastured in that orchard, I had a wild time harvesting apples for cider. Whenever the cows saw me amongst the apple trees, they'd come running over. My method was to put a tarp down under the tree, then shake the branches so the apples fell to the ground. I would gather the apples in a basket and then put the basket in a burlap bag. The cows would steal and gobble up my apples like you wouldn't believe! I'd yell at them, try to chase them away, throw apples at them...did no good. I couldn't control fifty cows crammed under one apple tree. Once they began feeling drunk, it got lots worse. They'd bunt me out of their way or nearly run over me. Some would stagger, bumping into each other. It'd be a very wild scene. It's funny now to recall.

Certainly wasn't funny at the time. I couldn't gather apples while the cows were "raising Cain", afraid for my own safety. I had to outsmart them at their game. If I could get to the trees unseen & unheard – that would be the ticket. I'd been going to the trees on a tractor with a cart attached to it. The cows would see and hear me coming. Then they'd follow me to the trees. I tried walking over the half mile distance, carrying a basket, bags, and a tarp. With lots of trees in the pasture, I was hidden. After my bags were full, I'd tie them and hide them in the brush, then walk back for the tractor and cart. Once I returned with the tractor, the cows of course would run over. Some figured out there were apples in the bag and tried to punch me out of the way. Once I got the bags on the cart, I was on my way home. Some cows would follow me a bit or try to jump in the cart.

The best cider has as many different varieties of apples at the same pressing. The darker the cider, the sweeter it is. I usually picked enough apples for two pressing days, although I most always made cider at night... too busy with the farm work during the day.



Steve Dunham  
operating his  
cider press,  
1965.



If you have a recollection you would like to share. Please submit to: [info@wappingershistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@wappingershistoricalsociety.org).



**Where:** Wappinger Town Hall, 20 Middlebush Rd.

**When:** October 14, 2017. Check-in at Town Hall begins at 8:30am. Rally starts promptly at 9:00am.

**Cost:** Pre-register by 10/13: \$20/person and \$70/car of 4 people

Walk-ins \$25/person and \$100/car of 4

**COFFEE/DONUTS and BOXED LUNCH will be provided!**

\*Fees are tax deductible.

Join the Wappingers Historical Society for its first annual Road Rally! In what can best be described as a "driving scavenger hunt," participants will drive to and answer questions about not only our town's famous historic landmarks, but also less well-known hidden gems. Winners are not necessarily those who finish first, this is not a race! Register now at \$20/person or \$70 for a car of 4 people. Walk-in price increases to \$25/person and \$100 for a car of 4 people. Reservations are highly recommended as space is limited! Please wear comfortable clothes and shoes as some walking is involved. Sign-up online at [roadrally.brownpapertickets.com](http://roadrally.brownpapertickets.com) or contact [info@wappingershistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@wappingershistoricalsociety.org) for an email form to print out and mail in with your check.

**WAPPINGERS HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS TO REMEMBER**

**OCTOBER 5:** WHS BOARD OF TRUSTEES MTG. @ MESIER HOMESTEAD, 4PM.

**OCTOBER 8:** TASTE OF HISTORY: TEA & SUFFRAGE EXHIBIT. MESIER HOMESTEAD & MUSEUM OPEN FOR TOURS. 1PM-4PM.

**OCTOBER 12:** WHS MEETING @ AMERICAN LEGION, 7PM. At 7:30pm, Joe Santacroce will present *The Mansion on the Hill*, a film about Washington's Headquarters in Newburgh, NY.

**OCTOBER 14:** WHS FIRST ANNUAL ROAD RALLY, 8:30AM-1:00PM, WAPPINGERS TOWN HALL

**NOVEMBER 9:** WHS MEETING @ AMERICAN LEGION, 7PM.

**NOVEMBER 12:** TOURS OF MESIER HOMESTEAD, 1PM-4PM.

**DECEMBER 10:** HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE TOURS OF THE MESIER HOMESTEAD, 1PM-4PM & WHS MEMBERS' HOLIDAY PARTY, 5PM

*Happy Holidays!*



**OCTOBER 12, 2017  
7:30PM AT THE  
AMERICAN LEGION HALL**

Local filmmaker, Joe Santacroce will present a screening of his film, *MANSION ON THE HILL*, *The Story of the Hasbrouck House or Better Known as Washington's Headquarters, Newburgh, NY*. A short meeting will precede the presentation.

**Filly Baisley**

**PLATINUM SPONSOR**

for

*The Spirit of Mesier*



**Purchase all your holiday gifts at  
the Mesier Homestead Gift Shop  
this year! Books, maps,  
ornaments and more!  
All proceeds go to the support of  
the Mesier Homestead.**



**VILLAGE EVENTS**

**OCTOBER 14:** Fourth Annual Wappingers Falls Halloween Parade & Fall Festival, Saturday 1 PM

**NOVEMBER 11:** Veterans' Day. Memorial Service at MIA/POW Park, 11 AM - 12 PM

**NOVEMBER 25:** 8th Annual Holiday Light Parade, Sat 6 PM

For Village information visit the village website:

[www.wappingersfallny.gov](http://www.wappingersfallny.gov) or

<https://www.facebook.com/WappingersFallsEvents/>

Questions regarding recreational events call 297-8773

For Town of Wappinger Recreation Events:

<http://www.townofwappinger.us/recpages/recreation.html>

For events and programs at Grinnell Library:

<http://www.localendar.com/public/Grinnell>



All photos are from the Wappingers Historical Society Collection unless otherwise noted.

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Cider Season  
Heritage Recipe

**HOMESTEAD CHRONICLE, V.3, #3,**  
©WHS: J. Hammond, ed.  
E. Stickle, copy editor; B. Devine, contributor; S. Dunham, contributor; Z. MacDowell, contributor; S. Vacchio, F. Bosaz heritage recipe.



## ***SAVE THE DATE!***

Sunday, December 10, 2017  
Holiday House Tours: 1pm-4pm  
Annual Members' Holiday Party: 5pm

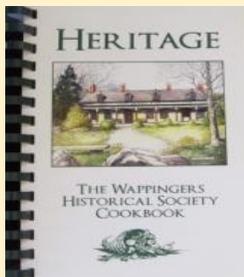


### **New Additions to the Homestead!**

Each year we have been able to add a few items to our collections to enhance the historic narrative in the Homestead. We are most grateful to Tony D'Arinzo for the donation of a beautiful dining room buffet. We also thank the Hauck-Barr family for their donation of an original rope bed. Donations like these continue to enhance the historic relevancy of our 'jewel in the village' - Mesier Homestead. ~ Beth



### ***'Tis the season to be baking!***



## **HERITAGE RECIPE**

FEATURED RECIPE:

### **PUMPKIN CRANBERRY BREAD**

(p.346) contributed by Samantha Vacchio & Flavia Bosaz

The WHS Heritage Cookbook makes a great gift! Now available from the WHS Gift Shop for \$20.00.

#### **Ingredients:**

3C. flour \* 1TBS + 1 tsp. pumpkin pie spice \* 2 tsp. baking soda \* 1 tsp. salt  
3C. sugar \* 15 oz. canned pumpkin \* 4 large eggs \* 1C. vegetable oil  
½ cup orange juice \* 1C. dried cranberries.

#### **Directions:**

Preheat oven to 350. Grease and flour two 9 inch loaf pans. Combine flour, pumpkin pie spice, baking soda, and salt. Combine sugar, pumpkin, eggs, oil, and orange juice. Beat until well blended. Add pumpkin mix to flour mix and stir until moist. Fold in cranberries. Spoon batter into two loaf pans, about 3.5 cups into each pan. Bake 60-65 minutes or when a toothpick comes out clean. Cool 10 minutes in pan, then turn out onto a wire rack to thoroughly cool.

### **JOIN THE WAPPINGERS HISTORICAL SOCIETY!**

If you've enjoyed reading our newsletter, please forward it on to friends and family! If you are not yet a member, please consider joining the Wappingers Historical Society. Your support & involvement help preserve our local heritage and the historic Mesier Homestead. See the last page for more information regarding membership.



# *Wappingers Historical Society*

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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Join us in preserving the history of Wappingers Falls. Become a member of the Wappingers Historical Society.

Please complete this form and mail it and your check to:

Wappingers Historical Society  
P.O. Box 174  
Wappingers Falls, NY 12590

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

INTERESTS: \_\_\_\_\_

(Docent, historical research, genealogy, archiving, fund raising, etc.)

ANNUAL DUES:     \_\_\_\_\_ INDIVIDUAL MEMBER~ \$20.00

                  \_\_\_\_\_ FAMILY ~ \$35.00     \_\_\_\_\_ BUSINESS/CORPORATION~ \$75.00

OR: \_\_\_\_\_ LIFETIME MEMBER ~ \$500.00     \_\_\_\_\_ BENEFACTOR ~ \$1,000.00

You will receive a confirmation membership card upon processing of your application.  
We are a non-profit (501c) organization. Donations are tax deductible.

[www.WappingersHistoricalSociety.org](http://www.WappingersHistoricalSociety.org)