

SPRINGWATER-WEBSTER CROSSING HISTORICAL SOCIETY

EST. 1993

THE END OF THE SPRINGWATER BICENTENNIAL YEAR WAS COMPLETED ON APRIL 17, 2017

NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2017, VOLUME 24, ISSUE 2

In this issue, you will find programming details, Covered Bridge history, the citizen of the year, 2017 scholarship recipient, fund raisers, and membership information. Please join the Springwater / Webster Crossing Historical Society (SWCHS) to learn, volunteer, and share your ideas.

Sunday, September 3, 2017

Annual Pulled Pork Dinner



12 Noon until gone
SWCHS Museum, 8130 Main Street, Rt. 15
Springwater, NY 14560

Approximately fifty people enjoyed the annual Pulled Pork dinner prepared by Ted Canute and Scott Standish. The \$10 Dinner included Salt Potatoes, Macaroni Salad and Coleslaw, dish-to-pass Dessert, and Pink Lemonade. Cookies to advertise the Christmas Cookie Sale were available for purchasing or tasting. Society members had tables set up in front of the Museum which is open for tours. Everyone enjoyed the occasion, the good food, and the pleasure of knowing they helped to preserve our history.

Judien Cooper, Chairperson from Lima Historical Society 2017 Lima Historic Homes Tour, has announced the tour for Sat. September 9. Details are at 585-582-2652 or judienmarie@twc.com

Tuesday, September 26, 2017

Donna Walker, Coordinator

6:30 PM Dish-to-pass Supper, 7:15 PM followed by program,
Legion Post 905, 7998 School Street, Springwater



The History of the Genesee Valley Hunt
Presented by Linda Gibbs, Hunt Historian

Founded in 1876, the Genesee Valley Hunt is a fascinating local institution. Its history is populated with interesting characters and reflects both the continuity and change that has taken place in Livingston County over the last 140 years. Linda will also speak to a Genesee Valley Hunt (GVH) – Springwater connection. To see the Hunt in action, watch the parade of hounds in Geneseo, Sat. 9/23/17 at 7:30 AM.

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

*Do the environment and the Historical Society a favor. Please save your recyclable bottles and cans, rinse, and take them to Dansville Redemption Center, 22 Ossian Street, an alley way with a small sign (unless you have been there it is hard to find. Phone 585-335-8510 to request the hours they are open and for directions). **Ask that the proceeds be posted to the Springwater / Webster Crossing Historical Society.***

Tuesday October 24, 2017

Tom Canute, Coordinator

6:30 PM Dish-to-pass Supper, 7:15 PM Program,
Legion Post 905, 7998 School Street, Springwater



Don Healy's Native American Flag photo
from Seneca Nation Tribalpedia

A Modern Day Native American Experience

Presented by Jason Pragle and a friend

Jason Pragle and a friend that works with him will be putting on the presentation about Indian living and practices. Jason works as a government employee doing safety on the gorges. He lives on the Genesee County Seneca Indian Reservation and is the son of John Pragle and Gloria Hampson.



Tuesday, November 28, 2017

Molly Tweedel, Coordinator

6:30 PM Dish-to-pass Supper, 7:15 PM Program
Legion Post 905, 7998 School Street, Springwater

Harry Reynolds presents How to Get Started in the Music World

Come and enjoy some entertainment and information that will keep you on the edge of your seat all evening. Those of us that are acquainted with Harry (the one man band) know he will have a memorable evening planned for you. He lives in Wayland with his wife Carol. The two of them lived in Webster Crossing during their early life together. Between them they have put together some Springwater/Wayland music history.

2017 Scholarship Winner Emily Burke



Emily Burke with teacher Robert Toland

Emily Burke, daughter of Jennifer and Terry Burke was selected to receive the 2017 SWCHS scholarship. This award goes to a Springwater resident that graduates from Wayland Cohocton Central School whose character displays integrity, thoughtfulness, and community spirit. Emily will attend LeMoyne College in Syracuse in the fall to study nursing.

Pat Willsea, Springwater's 2017 Senior Citizen of the Year

Every May, each of the 17 Livingston County towns select a senior citizen known for a lifetime of community service and good citizenship to be recognized at the Seniorama presented by the Livingston County Office for the Aging. SWCHS is very proud that Pat Willsea, a long time valuable member, is Springwater's honoree this year.

Patricia Willsea and her late husband Phillip moved to Springwater in 1969 after purchasing the 150 acre Burdick farm on Liberty Pole Road. The first year, they purchased two White-Faced Polled Hereford cows and began a business. They adopted three children. Their community service began when they became members of the Volunteer Ambulance of Springwater.

Phillip died in 1991. Pat continued running the farm (now with the help of her fiancé Bill Morgan) and took a job as Town Clerk for many years.

Pat presently serves on the Springwater Town Board as a town councilman. She joined the Springwater-Webster Crossing Historical Society shortly after it was formed and serves as recording secretary, is a trustee of the Wayland Free Library Board, and is president of the Springwater American Legion Auxiliary.

Springwater and SWCHS lost three long time, valued members of our community recently. We will miss them.

Roger L. Humphrey, age 84, passed away peacefully Sunday, March 12, 2017 at the Vincent House in Wayland.

Roger was born December 22, 1932 in Springwater, a son of Theodore & Eva (Lawrence) Humphrey. Roger was a veteran of the US Army, serving from 1955 to 1957. He owned & operated Humphrey Dairy Farm in Springwater. He was predeceased by his wife Waneta (Lyke) Humphrey on June 8, 2000. In addition to his parents and wife, Roger was also predeceased by a daughter, Pamela Daley; and a brother, William Humphrey.

Roger was a member of the Webster's Crossing United Methodist Church, a former member of the Livingston County Farm Bureau, the Springwater Grange, the Conesus Milk Co-Op, and the Holstein Association. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, gardening and taking day trips with Waneta, but most of all, he loved farming and spending time with his grandchildren and family.

Roger is survived by his children, Mark (Leanne) Humphrey, Brenda (Gary) Green and Phil Pellor; his son-in-law, Tom Daley; 6 grandchildren; 11 great grandchildren; 1 great-great-granddaughter; his brother, Herbert (Joyce) Humphrey; 2 sisters, Carol Anderson & Jane Humphrey; a sister-in-law, Katherine Humphrey; 2 nieces, Jerriane (Stephen) Scheiderich & Karen (Ben) Mathes; many cousins & dear friends.

Norbert R. Johnson, died April 19, 2017, at age 70 years. He is survived by his wife, Iva; daughters, Theresa (George) Candie of Springwater, & Kimberly (James) Bowers of Philadelphia, PA; 4 grandchildren, Sarah & Ashley Moore; Andreanna & Ryan Bowers; brother, David (Melba) Johnson of Webster's Crossing; & sister, Sandra (Brian) West of Webster's Crossing; several nieces & nephews.

Norb was a special friend to many, always going out of his way to help others whenever he was able. As a member of the Springwater United Methodist Church he volunteered in countless ways, one of which was to select, put up, and take down the donated Christmas tree from All Western Evergreen Farm. He is missed by his family and friends in the communities of Springwater and Webster's Crossing.

Jean A. Malone, 77 years of age, passed away early Friday morning June 30, 2017 at the Conesus Lake Nursing Home in Livonia.

Jean was born March 6, 1940 in Rochester the daughter of Harry Platt Jr. and Rebecca Ann (Price). She grew up in Springwater and lived the majority of her life there. Jean and William "Bill" Malone were married June 13, 1959 and together they celebrated over 58 years of marriage. In 2001/2002, Jean's dream house was built and they moved to Wayland where they resided ever since.

Jean enjoyed keeping her family together and hosting family gatherings at her home that included a wonderful state of the art kitchen. She would cook and bake for these family gatherings, for the church and for area senior citizens. Her hobbies were many as she enjoyed her beautiful gardens, attending yard sales, teaching arts and crafts for over 20 years at vacation bible school and collecting different items that decorated her home (dolls, angels and chickens). Jean loved to buy obnoxious noisy toys for her grandchildren.

She was a member of the Springwater Historical Society, the Lowell Club in Wayland, and a very avid church member at the Springwater Church of the Nazarene. Jean "told it like it was" whether you liked it or not. She will be dearly missed by all her family and friends of the community.

Jean was pre-deceased by her parents Harry Jr. and Rebecca Platt; and her daughter Becky Levee. She is survived by her husband, Bill Malone of Wayland; her children, Shelley (Jeffrey) Blackham of Wayland, Toby (Carrie) Malone of Dansville, Darren (Beth) Malone of Lyndonville and Tracey (Michael) Cratsley of Naples; her son-in-law Timothy Levee of Dansville; her grandchildren, Trevor and Emily Levee, Chad Malone, Troy and Steven Blackham, Abigail and Cory Malone, Jamie (Evan) Vianese, Tessa and Jake Cratsley; a great-grandson, Noah Malone; her sister Nancy Rynders; her brothers and sisters in law, Jim (Ruth) Malone of Wayland, Shirley Belcher of Bloomfield, John "Jack" (Ruth) Malone of Livonia Center, Ann (Carlton) Hoppough of Springwater, Richard (Diane) Malone of Springwater, Kenneth (Barb) Malone of Springwater, Linda (RJ) Pfuntner of Springwater, Dave (Beth) Malone of Webster, Carol (Frank) Hoerner of TN, Kathleen Malone (Dave) of Brighton, Fern (Russ) Piriano of Henrietta and Jacqueline Malone of Springwater; along with many nieces and nephews.

The Covered Bridge over Reynolds Gully

At the SWCHS Board meeting July 11, 2017, the Board members were reminded of the plaques from the Old Covered Bridge that were at the Museum:



Joyce O'Neil, board member, had some pictures from her vast collection to share.

President Donna Walker suggested that we use the photos and history for this newsletter as given by J. Reid Robinson, also published in the Valley News and on the Hemlock and Canadice Lakes website by Rick Osiecki.

Not knowing exactly from Mr. Robinson's description as to where this bridge was located in Springwater, a quick search on the internet locates the gully 2.2 miles north of the blinking light where State Route 15A branches off of State Route 15. For the last three years, Springwater Trail's hikers have helped Department of Environmental Conservation maintain the trail from Wheaton Hill to the Reynolds Gull falls.

Springwater History: The Covered Bridge

By J. Reid Robinson

Before the first covered bridge was built across the Big Gull, Reynolds Gull or Stuart Gull, the first highway crossed it at a place a few rods east of the present county known as the "Sky Acres". In fact, the roadway to the creek used

by the present owner is about where the first highway road was built.

The old road crossed the creek to the south and turned westward for about half a mile along the south bank of the gull and south meeting the Tabor's Corner Road east of the place now occupied by Hilbert Jensen.

In the year 1840 Orson Walbridge and Gooden Thayer built the first covered bridge across the "Reynold's Gull" on the same site that the iron bridge was built years later. The first bridge was a lattice work bridge.

According to Mr. Walbridge, there was at the time of building the bridge, a saw mill in operation on the north bank of the gull, nearly where the fill was made for the new road crossing. Hemlock lumber that came from the Wiley Jackman's farm, now owned by Merle Crooks, was used in construction of the bridge.

It is of interest to note the cost of the lumber for the bridge. Hemlock logs delivered for the mill cost \$2.50 per thousand board feet. The charge for sawing the logs into lumber was \$2.00 per thousand, thus making the total cost of \$4.50 per thousand board feet delivered at the bridge site. Since the mill was located on the north side of the gull, the logs were hauled over a rather poorly constructed road down the south bank and up the steep north bank.

The bridge itself was much shorter than the iron one that replaced the second covered bridge. As nearly as can be estimated, the covered bridge was approximately 70 feet long and 16 feet wide. The bridge had a gable roof covered with hand shaved shingles. The sides were enclosed from the floor up for about five feet. The rest of the way to the plate that supported the roof was lattice work. The clearance was about ten feet. The bridge was very noisy when a wagon passed through it due to planks being loosened by the traffic.

Stephen Brophy, father of Frank Brophy and grandfather of Waldo Snyder, replaced the first covered bridge in 1873. This bridge stood until the spring of 1902, when it fell into the bottom

of the gull. There was, at the time, much speculation as to what may have caused it to collapse. One theory was that the rhythm of a dog trotting through the bridge set it into a vibration causing it to be shaken from its foundation for it was claimed a dead dog was found in the fallen bridge. Another explanation for its failing was that the south entrance had become rotted and thus weakened and when the frost left the ground it somehow caused the south end to move off its foundation enough to cause it to crash.



The covered bridge, sometimes served as a shelter from a rain storm. It was also rather hard for a team to draw a loaded sleigh through it because sleigh runners did not easily glide over dry boards.



A longer steel bridge was erected by the United Construction Company during the summer of 1902, replacing the old covered bridge. This bridge stood until 1952, when it was hauled down sometime after the fill was made for the road west of the bridge site.

The fill that was made to straighten the road and to take out the sharp steep curves of the approaches that led to the former bridge may prove to be more permanent and in the final analysis, perhaps cheaper.

Three photos showing construction one the 1902 bridge without the cover:

Pete Englert's 1926 Model T Ford on the 1902 Bridge in 1952 – just before the bridge was pulled down.



Chairs from the Old Town Hall



The Historical Society has been given chairs from the old Town Hall, the building on the south side of Route 15 just north of the blinking light, to use as a fund raiser. If you would like a set of the chairs, we are asking for a \$20 donation to the SWCHS.

Most long-time residents have fond memories of events in the Old Town Hall. We are collecting these memories and ask that you share them with us by writing your thoughts down and either giving them to us at the Museum when we are open for tours, or by sending them to SWCHS, PO Box 68, Springwater, NY 14560.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY HOLIDAY COOKIE SALE



Orders will contain an assortment of several kinds of cookies!

3 dozen cookies - \$12.00

6 dozen cookies - \$20.00

Name _____

Telephone number _____

How many dozen desired? 3 doz. _____ 6 doz. _____ More? _____

Limited Production Project

Pre-orders only

Orders must be received by: Monday, December 3, 2017.

Fill out this form & send to: P.O. Box 68, Springwater, NY 14560

Orders will be ready for you to **pick up** on Saturday, December 17, 2017

At the Springwater Town Hall, 8022 Main Street, Springwater
between the hours of 10:00 AM and 12:00 Noon.

Questions? Telephone: 669-2376 or 669-2478

This is a Holiday fund-raising project to support the Springwater Webster Crossing Historical Society.

Springwater / Webster Crossing Historical Society

March 2017 – March 2018

Board Members:

Chair:

Donna Walker
3150 Chandler Road
Piffard, NY 14533
585 737 7345 cell
dlw2@cornell.edu

Vice Chair:

Doug Morgan
8 Old French Road
Honeoye Falls, NY 14472
585 624 5902 cell
dmorgan21@rochester.rr.com

Treasurer:

Brenda Haywood
8103 Main Street
Springwater, NY 14560
585 669 2478
dhaywood@frontier.com

Recording Secretary:

Patricia Willsea
6609 Liberty Pole Road
Dansville, NY 14437
585 728-5552 669-2376

Corresponding Secretary:

Margaret Gray
7448 Canadice Road
Springwater, NY 14560
585 669 2776
peg@bluefrog.com

Newsletter Editor:

Katherine Humphrey
6840 Liberty Pole Road
Springwater, NY 14560
585 669 2659 home
585-737-5205 cell
kjth@allwesterntrees.com

Springwater Town Historian, Emeritus Advisor to the Board:

Havilah Toland
PO Box 85
Springwater, NY 14560
585 738-7957
historian@townofspringwaterny.org

Members at Large:

Tom Canute
7748 Marvin Hill Road
Springwater, NY 14560
585 669 2429

Joyce O'Neil
7692 North Main Street
Springwater, NY 14560
585 669 2617

Marion Walker
7670 Walker Road
Wayland, NY 14572
585-728-5373

Gladys Weed
7273 Main Street
Webster Crossing, NY 14560
585 669 2481

Molly Tweddell
4 Ivy Lea Drive
Wayland, NY 14572
585-728-2296
dmtwed@stny.rr.com

For some, the time for beginning or renewing SWCHS membership is today!

We welcome new members to join with us.

The membership year runs from January-December (Easy sign-up membership form on last page of newsletter).

Membership carries the satisfaction of knowing that you are doing some small thing to preserve artifacts and historical stories of the Town of Springwater.

At a Glance – 2017 Fall Events on the SWCHS Calendar:

Sunday, September 3 – Donna Walker, Coordinator
12 Noon until gone. SWCHS Museum, 8130 Main Street, Rt. 15, Springwater, NY 14560
Annual Pulled Pork Dinner @ \$10/each, eat in or take out

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A modern Day Native American Experience by Jason Pragle and his accomplice

Tuesday, November 28 – Molly Tweedel, Coordinator
6:30 p.m. Dish-to-pass Supper, 7:15 p.m., Legion Post 905, 7998 School Street, Springwater
Harry Reynolds presents How to Get Started in the Music World

December Cookie Sale – Pat Willsea, Coordinator
Watch for details in your mailbox, on posters and in the media. Orders are needed by December 3 and cookies can be picked up, December 17.

