

SPRINGWATER-WEBSTER CROSSING HISTORICAL SOCIETY

EST. 1993

THIS IS THE YEAR OF THE SPRINGWATER BICENTENNIAL



COME AND CELEBRATE WITH US ALL YEAR! THE CALENDAR IS AVAILABLE IN SEVERAL PLACES. AMONG THEM IS BY GOING TO THE WEBSITES WWW.LAKECOUNTRYWEEKENDER.COM OR WWW.HEMLOCKANDCANADICELAKES.COM UNDER FAIRS & FESTIVALS, OR BY PICKING UP A HARD COPY OF THE CALENDAR BROCHURE IN SPRINGWATER

NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2016, VOLUME 23, ISSUE 2

We have a nice slate of Historical Society programs lined up for the upcoming months and hope you will join us for one or all.

Sunday, September 4, 2016

Historical Society Pulled Pork Dinner

Noon until gone

Springwater Historical Society Museum
8130 Main Street (Route 15), Springwater

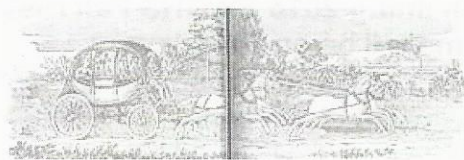
Be sure to walk through the Museum when you come.



Noon until the Pulled Pork is gone; the Society is serving a Dinner prepared by Ted Canute and Scott Standish. The \$10 Dinner includes Salt Potatoes, Corn-on-the-cob, dish-to-pass Dessert, and Pink Lemonade. Cookies to advertise the Christmas Cookie Sale may be available for tasting or purchasing. Society members will have tables set up in front of the Museum on South Main Street, Springwater. The Museum will be open for tours. Everyone is invited to enjoy the occasion, the good food, and know they are helping to preserve a bit of history of the Township.

Tuesday, September 13, 2016

**Doug Morgan, Lima Historian, Springwater
Historical Society VP will present:**



Stagecoaches, Inns and Taverns Along the Old State Road

Dish-to-pass Supper, 6:30 PM
Program 7:15 PM

Springwater American Legion Post 905 on School Street

Doug will also be giving a presentation on Sunday, September 11 at 2 PM at the Jack Evans Community Center (Old Hemlock School) in Hemlock on the **Little Finger Lakes History including that of Springwater.**

Saturday, September 24, 2016

1:00 – 6:00 PM

Springwater Fall Festival
includes

Springwater Fire Department

Parade of Decorated

**Antique & Vintage Cars, Tractors & Trucks
(expanded to include for example,**

Motor Cycles,

Go-Carts and Bicycles)

Contact Tom Canute, Sr. at 585-669-2429 for parade information.

Tuesday, October 18, 2016

(Note this is the third Tuesday!)

The Wetmore Connection

Dish-to-pass Supper, 6:30 PM

Program 7:15 PM

Springwater American Legion Post 905 on School Street

Gordon Pierce of the Steuben County Historical Society will present on the recently transcribed 1908 diary of Daisy Wetmore Conrad. Daisy was born in Springwater and lived in Wayland most of her life. In addition to giving insight into life at the turn of the 20th century, the diary discusses the water project at Hemlock and Canadice Lakes. Gordon will also cover the genealogy of the Wetmore family and the activities of the Steuben County Historical Society.

The remaining 2016 SWCHS Fall Historical Programs will be on Tuesdays,

November 1st and December 8th 13th

Nov 8th Dish-to-pass Supper, 6:30 PM
Program 7:15 PM

Springwater American Legion Post 905 on School Street

Watch for the **details for these** and the **Cookie Sale** in the community, calendar sections of the local papers, and on the posters on Springwater bulletin boards.

Memories of Jake & Bertha Smith

Tom Canute submitted these memories of Jake and Bertha Smith, his maternal grandparents.

I was born in Jake and Bertha's farm house on the top of Marvin Hill. They owned 500 acres up there and had 21 horses that were rented out as well as used on his farm and on Town Equipment for road repairs.

Jake had two trustees from jail that worked at the farm, for board, eats and some freedoms they didn't get in jail. He had about 30 cows and shipped milk and had a big truck that hauled his and other farmers' milk in 10 gallon cans to the milk plant in Wallace. The truck would carry about 120 cans. They would drop off the clean, empty cans at the farm and pick up the full ones.

Jake raised potatoes to sell and they would store them in the basement of the big farm house and sell them in peck bags and distribute from Springwater as far west as Perry, NY.

They had chickens for their eggs, some pigs for pork to feed the usually 6 to 12 people. The dining table sat 15-18 people. The kitchen was very large – maybe 24'x30'.

Grandma (Bertha) was an excellent cook and always made sure there was enough to eat, and good at that. Once a year, after the harvest, they would have a party with a band that would last for two days. There would be 20-30 people there for the celebration.

At one time, Jake was a Town Constable, an assessor as well as his wife was an assessor. Bertha worked in the Courthouse as a woman security officer when needed.

They had this farm until Jake died. They had started selling off lots, of which my sister Ida bought one and built a house on it. Next door, my brother bought a lot and built a home. My nephew Randy still lives on the land that Ida bought.

Jake's family members included:

- Margaret Smith who married Raymond Peglow and owned a big farm on Peglow Road in East Springwater. Margaret delivered me at Jake's house.
- Another sister of Jake, Martha Smith married Warren Buckley and they owned a farm on Dutch Hollow Road. His father owned a farm on Grouse Road Extension of Tabors Corners Road.
- Jake's brother Christian Smith owned a farm adjacent to Jake.
- His sister Julia married George Ames in Bath and they had a fuel oil business, farm implement store and a tire store.

They all worked to get what they had and their profits were well deserved.

Grand Army of the Republic in Springwater

Submitted by Judy Tripp-Neu

The "Grand Army of the Republic" (G.A.R.) was a fraternal organization composed of veterans of the Union Army (United States Army), Union Navy (U.S. Navy), Marines and the U.S. Revenue Cutter Service who served in the American Civil War for the Northern (Federal) forces. It was a precursor to the American Legion which is a federally chartered corporation formed in Paris on March 16, 1919 after WWI by veterans of the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF).

The G.A.R. was founded in 1866 in Decatur, Illinois, by Dr. Benjamin F. Stephenson on the principles of "Fraternity, Loyalty, and Charity" and grew to include hundreds of posts (local community units) across the nation, predominately in the North, but also a few in the South and West. It was dissolved in 1956 when its last member, Albert Woolson (1847–1956) of Duluth, Minnesota, died at the age of 109.

The G.A.R. became one of the first organized advocacy groups for veterans. Men who had shared the experiences of war became very vocal lobbyists in American politics, supporting voting rights for black veterans, promoting patriotic education, pushing to make Memorial Day a national holiday, lobbying the United States Congress to establish regular veterans' pensions, and supporting Republican political candidates. Its peak membership, numbering more than 490,000 veterans, was in 1890. That was the year that so many commemorative and dedications of monuments ceremonies were held. The purpose and vision of the G.A.R. was to be a brotherhood of veterans dedicated to helping other veterans. The G.A.R. was succeeded by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (S.U.V.C.W.), composed of male descendants of Union Army and Union Navy veterans.

Originally, when the G.A.R. was organized, each post, presided over the area of one city, town, county, etc., and was set up similar to a Union Army encampment. Every post had

"sentries" at the door. In order to go to another post you needed a "transfer;" and members could be "court-martialed" as well as "dishonorably discharged." The post-commander would act as general officer, and would report to the departmental commander (assistant-adjutant general), who was in charge of all the posts in one state. He in turn would report to the national-commander (adjutant general). Every post in America was expected to adopt the same rituals and constitution.

This military system only lasted until 1869, at which time it was replaced by a fraternal order fashioned after the Masonic lodges. This form of organization, with its grading system and strict rules, did not appeal to the vast majority of veterans, and therefore, membership plummeted. This was to change during the late 1870's because of changes in the organizational structure and the demise of the grading system. As a result of these changes, the G.A.R.'s membership rose sharply in the 1880's and several new posts were organized.

Springwater formed its own G. A. R. post, the William B. Hazen G.A.R. Post 518, on January 17, 1887. It was active until 1919, and was officially chartered on March 3, 1911. The post was named after Major General William Babcock Hazen who was born in West Hartford, Vermont. He graduated from West Point. He is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

Original members of Springwater's William B. Hazen G.A.R. Post 518 listed on the charter include: Albert H. Wiley, Henry A. Wiley, James Capron, Daniel Norton, Charles Odell, Scott W. Snyder, Norman Gibbs, John Jay, N. Webster Tyler, I. N. Dunkleburg, J. Tremain, C. H. Mack, William Robinson, Pelick H. Sawdey, Albert Daniels, Philip Hunt, DeWitt C. Purcell, Cornelius D. Jones, George E. Withington, John Miner, C. B. McNich, William Barber, George W. Sawdey, John Straight, William R. Barber, and I. N. Philhower.

The G.A.R. was, without a doubt, a powerful political organization. It has been described by many as a "bloody shirt Republican club," and

while this may be true, it is overshadowed by the organization's patriotic and social work. It was through the G.A.R. and the pension lobby, that many soldiers and their families received pensions. The G.A.R. also promoted patriotism through parades, national encampments, the placement of war memorials, and the establishment of Memorial Day as a national holiday.

SWCHS Scholarship Winner 2016 Nicholas James Van Scooter



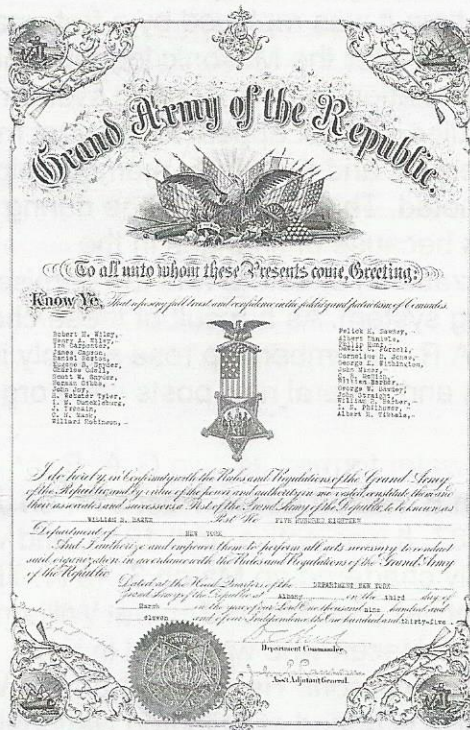
In March 2016, Nick was nominated for the Springwater / Webster Crossing Historical Society 2016 Scholarship by the All Western Evergreen Nursery & Christmas Tree Farm owners. This photo is courtesy of Melonie Coley, Public relations, WCCS, from June 2016 when he received the scholarship.

Nick has worked part- time on AWEN&CTF for four years, has missed almost no days of work or school in his entire life, and serves the community in the Fire Department as a Junior Fireman (He is active in the Springwater Fire Department like his grandfather and other Van Scooter family members)

Nick helps people in our community. When Nick was young he served as an acolyte at Webster Crossing UMC and over the years has helped with several activities like garden work, removing the Christmas trees after the holiday from both the sanctuary and the dining room, and doing heavy inside or outside work.

He is active in sports at school, like football and basketball. Recently he was featured as one of the models from the Boy's Basketball Team for the Fashion Show that honored the military and was written up in the *Genesee Country Express*, Thursday, 2-25-16, page A 3.

In the future, Nick would like to be a large equipment operator and is pursuing a career similar to that of his Grandfather James Van Scooter. He has learned much at BOCES and has applied for college work.



Copy of the original charter for Springwater G.A.R. Post 518 courtesy of the New York State Archives in Albany, NY

Do the environment and the Historical Society a favor. Please save your recyclable bottles and cans and take them to Dansville Redemption Center, 22 Ossian Street, an alley way with a small sign (hard to find when you don't know where it is, so 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.

Town of Springwater SENIORAMA Senior Citizen of the Bicentennial Year

Livingston County Office for the Aging 36th Annual SENIORAMA, May 7th, 2016 celebrated the lifetime achievements of Community Service and Good Citizenship of special individuals that have helped to make Livingston County a Community of all Ages.



Katherine J. T. Humphrey

Born with dual Mexican-American citizenship in 1934 in Chihuahua, Mexico, Katherine spent her early years in a small mining town before moving to El Paso, TX for high school. She attended college in Texas at both the University of Texas at El Paso and Texas Tech in Lubbock majoring in food and Nutrition. She made her way to New York State in 1957 when she interned at the US Public Health Service Hospital on Staten Island, worked as a dietitian at Penn State, took graduate work at Cornell University, and was hired at the University of Buffalo in charge of their main dining hall. Commuting between working at UB and Cornell, where she was trying to finish her Masters degree in Institution Management, she met William Humphrey. They were married on September 10, 1966 and moved to a permanent residence in Springwater, NY on Liberty Pole Road in 1968.

At this point, Katherine's long career of community involvement really began. She was hired as a Cornell Cooperative Extension Agent in Livingston County, Home Economics Program Leader in 1969. Also at this time she was a 4-H club leader for over 10 years. Currently, she is still employed part-time by Cornell as one of two Master Food Preservation Instructors in NYS.

Katherine and Bill also began All Western Evergreen Nursery and Christmas Tree Farm in 1968 when they planted their first trees. They have won numerous awards at both the State and National levels for their involvement in the promotion of the real Christmas tree and their commitment to employing local youth. Since Bill passed away in 2009, she and her daughter have kept the farm going.

After retiring from full-time employment, Katherine volunteered to organize the American Cancer Society's "Notes to Neighbors" campaign during the 1990's for the Town of Springwater and eventually for several surrounding towns as well. In 1997, she took over the "Springwater Party Line", a weekly newspaper column detailing activities in the Town of Springwater. The column currently appears on the town website and in the *Genesee Country Express*.

Never believing it was proper to be a part of a volunteer organization without committing to some type of leadership post, Katherine currently holds the following positions: Member and historian in charge of records for the Webster Crossing United Methodist church (since 1969), Newsletter Editor for the Springwater /Webster Crossing Historical Society (since 2010), Secretary to the Springwater Trails hiking group (since 2010), current member of the Springwater Bicentennial Committee in charge of farm tours (2015-2016).

Katherine has three siblings, one daughter, a son-in-law, and two grandchildren.

Saturday and Sunday, September 17 & 18, 2016

The Springwater Music Fair

and American Crafts Show



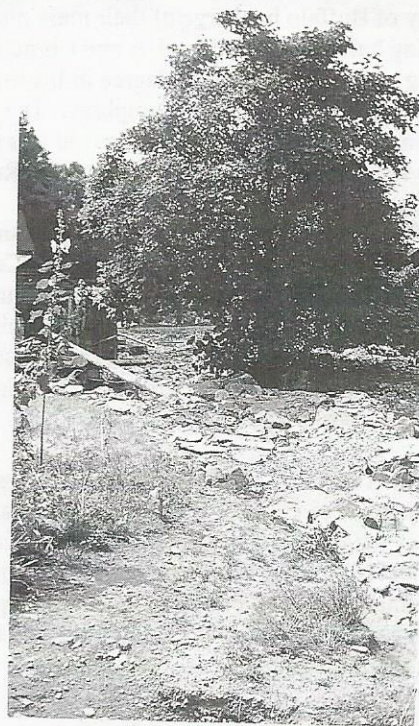
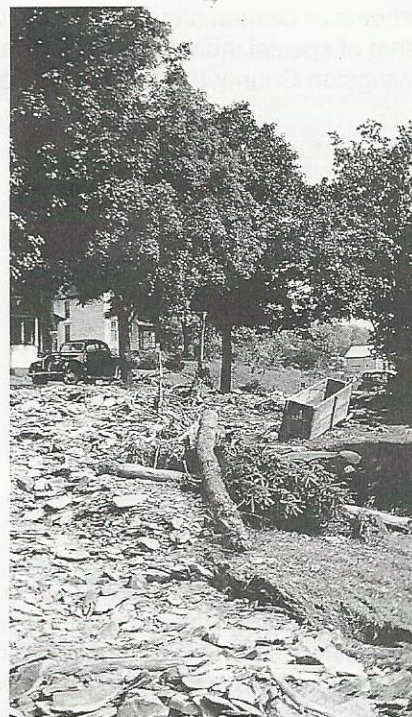
in celebration of the Springwater Bicentennial is at Punky Hollow Farm, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. rain or shine. Admission is \$10.00 per day and children under 10 are free. www.springwatermusicfair.org

Be sure to stop by the Punky Hollow School and Museum to see the exhibits and hear the history!



District 17
Punky Hollow

Punky Hollow School House #17 in Springwater NY circa 19xx.



Springwater Flood of July 23, 1945

Photos donated by Jill Michielsen,
Homer Fogle's daughter

Springwater / Webster Crossing Historical Society

March 2015 – March 2016

Board Members:

Chair:

Donna Walker

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Havilah Toland

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585 738-7957
historian@townofspringwaterny.org

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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

Is there someone who would like
to serve as a member-at-large
on the Board?

Contact Donna Walker

We welcome new members to join with us.

The membership year runs from January-December.

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

2016 Calendar of Programs at a Glance

Sunday, September 4, 2016

Pulled Pork Dinner

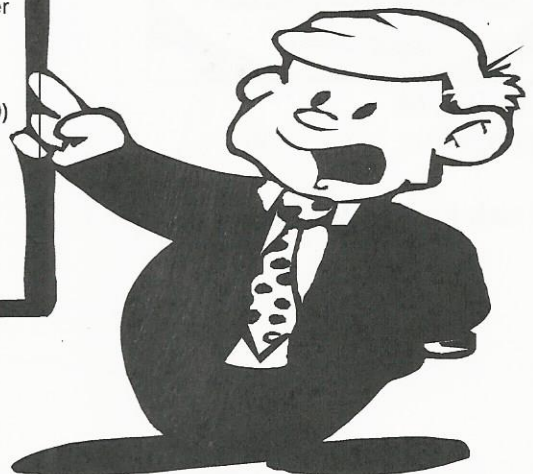
12: Noon until gone at SWCHS Museum, Main Street Route 15, Springwater

Tuesday September 13, 2016

6:30 p.m. Dish-to-pass Supper, 7:15 p.m., Legion Post 905
Stagecoaches, Inns, and Taverns along Old State Road (Routes 5 & 20)
Douglas Morgan, Lima Town Historian

Tuesday, October 18, 2016

6:30 p.m. Dish-to-pass Supper, 7:15 p.m., Legion Post 905
The Wetmore Connection
Gordon Pierce, Steuben County Historical Society



Springwater-Webster Crossing Historical Society Membership form

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

E-mail Address _____ Telephone # _____

Membership Levels

() Individual \$10.00 () Family \$ 15.00

() Sponsor \$25.00 () Life Membership \$100.00

() Donor of Artifacts or Memorabilia () Additional Donation()

() Donation valued more than \$50 Patron Level for one year

Mail To: S-WCHS, P.O. Box 68, Springwater, NY 14560