

WALLENPAUPACK HISTORICAL SOCIETY



December 18th Meeting Time Is 12:00 Noon at the ELC

The monthly meeting on December 18th will begin at **12:00 noon** at the Environmental Learning Center instead of the usual start time of 1:00 p.m. The December meeting will feature a choral performance by the WAHS choir, which accounts for the meeting time change. Please bring a plate of refreshments such as holiday cookies to share. Contact Audrey Graybill with any questions at phone 226-3663. As with all WHS meetings, the public is welcome to attend.

November Meeting: WHS Honors Veterans of the Civil War

November is Veterans' month and this year WHS honored the veterans of the Civil War. WHS Treasurer Donna Stuccio read President Lincoln's Gettysburg Address in honor of the 150th anniversary of its original reading on November 19th, 1863. Also, letters and diaries of soldiers were read by different WHS members. Audrey Graybill read a letter that her great-grandfather wrote to his wife the last year of the war; he enlisted for nine months but the war was over before that time and he was able to return home and plant his spring crops. Jim Pellington read excerpts from letters written by Maurice Layton of Delaware Township sent to his father. Maurice contracted a serious skin condition and remained in the hospital for several months during the end of the war. He worried about his mother's health and his own ability to earn a living after the war due to his weakness. Bruce Taylor reviewed a diary of a Salem Township young man who wrote his thoughts every day for about nine months. He was a company cook and spent most of his time tramping through the Shenandoah Valley.

Quilt Raffle Winner Announced

Congratulations to Mary Ann Teeter, who is the winner of the Wallenpaupack Historical Society 2013 quilt raffle. The winning ticket was drawn at the November meeting by Audrey Graybill, past president of the Society, from more than 1,200 tickets. Quilt Committee Chairman Dick Briden noted that Mrs. Teeter is a member of the Society. The quilt was presented to Mrs. Teeter on November 27th at the Hawley Library, where Mrs. Teeter is a board member.

Mr. Briden mentioned that the Society is grateful to the organizations which provide a venue where quilt raffle tickets are sold. These include the Lake Region IGA, the Audubon Show, the Wallenpaupack High School Antique Show, the Hawley Hoedown, Wally Lake Fest, and the Dorflinger Antique Show.

The local "Friends with a Heart" quilting group annually creates and donates a one-of-a-kind quilt to the Society for their use as a fundraiser. The Friends have already begun work on next year's quilt, which will commemorate the 200th anniversary of Pike County. Thank you to all who joined the raffle and to Friends with a Heart for making this fundraiser possible.



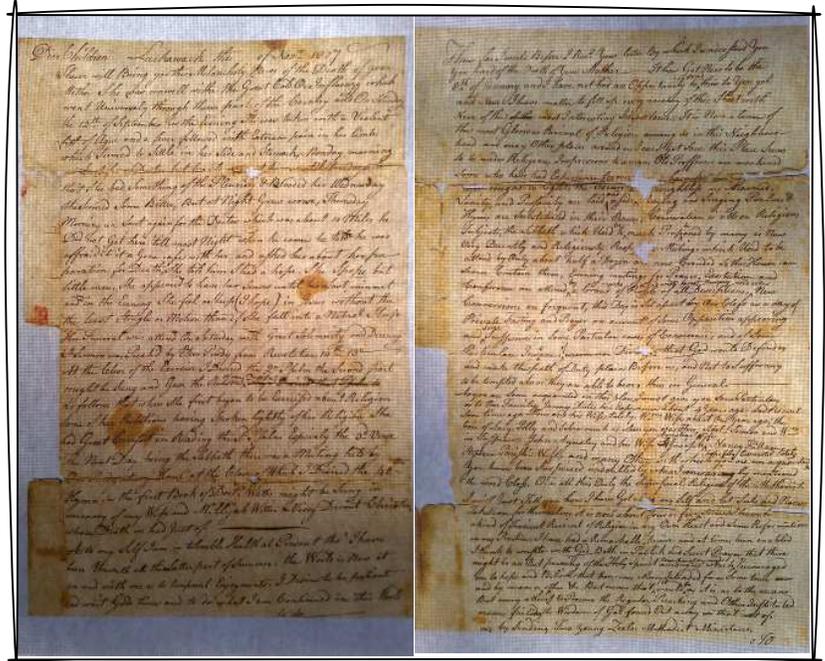
Dick Briden presenting the quilt to this year's winner, Mary Ann Teeter, at the Hawley Library.





Religious and Solemn Letter Written from Wallenpaupack in 1807

Nan Coutts Brown has submitted the following transcription of a letter written in 1807/1808 by the early Wallenpaupack settler Uriah Chapman to his son-in-law Charles Forseth and daughter Hannah of Preston, Connecticut. The letter is intended to notify the children of the unfortunate death of their mother, Sybil Chapman. Mrs. Brown discovered the letter's location in Mystic Seaport, Connecticut, while conducting online research of genealogy of the early settlers, and obtained a photocopy of this and other letters by request to Mystic Seaport in 2010. An image of the original letter, on right, was recently sent to WHS by Mystic Seaport via an email granting permission to reprint. Grammatical inconsistencies within the following transcription reflect the original writing.



Courtesy of Mystic Seaport, G.W. Blunt White Library, Coll. 277, Forseth Box 1, Family Papers Folder 5:

To: Charles Forseth of Preston, Connecticut

Dear Children,

Lackawack, the of Nov. 1807

These will bring you the Melancholy News of the Death of your Mother. She was unwell with the Great Cold or Influenzy which went universal through these parts of the Country and on Saturday the 12th of September in the Evening She was taken with a Violent Fitt of Ague and a fever followed with Extream pain in her limbs, which seemed to settle in her side and stomach. Monday morning we sent for a Doctor but could not get him until Tuesday. He [said] that she had something of the Pleurisy and Blooded her on Wednesday. She seemed some better, but at night grew worse. Thursday morning we sent again for the Doctor which was about 10 miles. He did not get here till most night. When he came he said he was afraid is a gone case with her and asked her about her preparation for Death. She told him she had a hope. She spoke but little more. She appeared to have her senses until her last minnet and in the evening she feel asleep (I hope) in Jesus without the least struggle or motion than if she fell into a natural sleep. Her Funeral was attend on Saturday with great solemnity. A sermon was Preached by Elder Purdy from Revelation 14th 13. At the close of the exercise I desired the 27 Psalm the second part might be sung and gave the reason of my desire as follows, that when she first began to be exercized about Religion some of her Relations having spoken lightly of her Religion she had great comfort in reading that Psalm espially the 3rd verse. The next day being the Sabbath there was a meeting held by Elder Purdy at my house at the close of which I desired the 40th hymn in the first book of Doct. Watts might be sung in memory of my wife and Mr. Elijah Witter, a very devout Christian whose death we had just of.

As to my self I am in tolerable Health at Present tho' I have been unwell all the latter part of Summer. The World is now at an end with me as to temporal enjoyments. I desire to be patient and wait Gods time and to do what I am continued in this World to do.

Thus far I wrote before I read your letter by which I understand you heard of the death of Your Mother.

It has got now to be the 8th of January and I have not had an opportunity to send this to you yet and now I have matter to fill up every vacancy of this sheet with news of the most interesting importance. It is now a time of the



most Glorious Revival of Religion among us in this neighborhood and other places around us I ever yet saw, this place seems to be under religious impressions to a man, Old professors are awakened some who have had Experience [...illegible...] Vanity and profanity are laid aside and praying and singing Psalms and Hymns are substituted in their room, Conversation is all on Religious subjects, the Sabbath which used to be much Profaned by many is now very decently and religiously respected. Meetings, which used to be attend by only about half a dozen are now crowded so the house can scarce contain them. Evening meetings for Prayer, Exhortation, and Conference are attended by a crowd of people of all descriptions who attend with great decency and order. New conversions are frequent, this day is set apart [...illegible...] as a day of Private Fasting and Prayer on account of some opposition appearing and some suffrance in some particular cases of Conscience, and of some particular instances of uncommon diversity that God would Defend us and make the paths of Duty plain before us, and not to suffer any to be tempted above they are able to bear this in general.

As you are some acquainted in this place I must give you some particulars as to our family. Jenny dates her experience about 4 years ago, and Roswell some time ago, Moses and his wife lately, W's wife about one year ago, Polly and Sabra much as when you was there, Sibel, Simeon, and W in suffrance, John Aynsley and his wife, Joseph Aynsley's wife, Nancy Killam, Stephen Parish's wife, and many others with which you are unacquainted [...] I will just tell you how I have got along myself and let names take care for themselves. It is now about four or five years since I have had a kind of Revival of Religion in my Own Heart and some Reformation in my Practice. I have had a remarkable desire and at times been enabled I think to wrestle with God both in Publick and Secret Prayer that there might be an out pouring of the Holy Spirit among us which temper of my mind, encourages me to hope and Believe that there was mercy intended for us some time. But never that it would be as it is as to the means but every attempt to procure the Regular Preaching and other instituted means failing, the Wisdom of God found out a way we that most of, by sending two young zealous Methodist Ministers. [The End]

About Uriah Chapman and the Settlement

The manuscript describing the history of the first Wallenpaupack settlement, *Ephraim Killam's 1887 History of the Settlement Upon the Wallenpaupack*, lists Uriah Chapman as one of the original settlers from Connecticut in 1774. Killam states in the first chapter of his 1887 *History*:

"The Settlement upon the Wallenpaupack Creek was one of the first settlements in northeastern Pennsylvania. It was settled in the spring of 1774 by a number of families from the State of Connecticut. Their intention on leaving their native state, being, to settle in the Wyoming Valley, where some of their number already had friends and acquaintances.

On their arrival upon the Wallenpaupack, they were so well pleased with the appearance of the country that they at once determined to make this their home.

The country was well timbered and well watered, and to them looked very inviting, and having determined upon settling here, they at once set about building themselves houses for shelter...

The names of the men forming this colony were Uriah Chapman, Zebulon Parish, Isaac Parish, Elijah Varnum, Joshua Varnum, Nathaniel Gates, David Gates, Zadock Killam, Ephraim Killam, Jacob Kimble, Abel Kimble, Walter Kimble, John Killam, Enos Woodward, Hezekiah Bingham, John Ansley, Elijah Witters, John Pellett, Sr., John Pellett, Jr., William Pellett, Amos Parks, Silas Parks, Sr., Silas Parks, Jr., Moses Parks, Jonathan Haskell, Charles Forsyth, Roger Clark, James Dyre, Nathaniel Washburn, Joseph Washburn, James Hallett, Jasper Edwards, Reuben Jones. Nearly all of these were men of families, and they brought with them a man by the name of Fry who was to be the schoolmaster in the Settlement to teach the children. Between the years of 1774 and 1778 there were added to their number five others, Jephtha Killam, Silas Killam, Ephraim Kimble, Jacob Kimble, Jr., and Uriah Chapman, Jr., making their whole number thirty nine."

Uriah Chapman (b. 1731) and his wife Sybil née Cook (b. 1736), were born in Norwich, Connecticut. In describing the perspective of original settlers such as Uriah and Sybil Chapman, Killam states, "When they came to the Wallenpaupack, they believed themselves still within the Territory of that State [Connecticut]... In the matter of their civil government they recognized the authority of the State of Connecticut, as their Justice of the Peace held a commission from the Governor of that State; this was Silas Parks. He, however,



dishonored the Office as the Settlers thought by playing cards, and on the accusation of his neighbors, charging him with this offense, his commission was revoked, and Uriah Chapman, Sr., was commissioned a Justice of the Peace in his stead.”

The original manuscript *Ephraim Killam’s 1887 History of the Settlement Upon the Wallenpaupack* was submitted to Wayne County Historical Society in March of 2000. The full transcription is available for hardcopy or digital purchase at Wallenpaupack Historical Society.

Uriah Chapman’s Last Will and Testament

It was not long after the death of Uriah’s wife Sybil that Uriah formed his Last Will and Testament, reprinted below. The will was found on the website of the Chapman Family Association, an organization based in Texas dedicated to the genealogy of, among other Chapman families, that of Edward Chapman who emigrated to Boston in about 1639 from Yorkshire, England, at the age of 22, and became one of the earliest settlers of Ipswich, Massachusetts. Edward Chapman is the second-great grandfather of Uriah Chapman, Sr.

Uriah Chapman lived in Paupack until he passed away in 1816. He was buried in the Old Ground of the Paupack Cemetery.

Reprinted with permission from the Chapman Family Association, www.chapmanfamilies.org:

“In the Name of God Amen. I Uriah Chapman of Palmyra in the County of Wayne and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, yeoman, considering the uncertainty of life, and especially being of great age and subject to many bodily infirmities, tho’ at present (God be thanked) in good health and sound mind and memory, think proper to make and ordain this to be my last will and testament. viz-

First I give and resign my soul to God who gave it and my body to the Earth from whence it came in hope of a glorious resurrection to everlasting life in the world to come. And this temporal property which I may die possessed of as follows. (Having given to my four oldest sons, Uriah, Simeon, William and Roswell such improvements of land as I have been able to spare, as a home expecting to live with my youngest son Moses.)

I give and bequeath unto him, my said son Moses the lot whereon I now live as a home, thru the wood lot on the mountain with all and singular the apurteneses, except what is hereafter otherwise disposed of as follows:

I considering my daughter Jane to be lame and unable to get support as the rest of my daughters, do give unto her, to improve her lifetime or while she lives unmarried, the part of my home lot as follows: Beginning at the south west corner of the barnyard and running northerly through the orchard so as to take five rows of apple trees, and then through the old field (so called) to Phineas Lester’s land so as to divide the said old field into two equal parts, and thence by said Lester’s southerly to the road, and by the road to the place of beginning.

Also I give my said daughter Jane the bedroom in the south west corner of the dwelling house while she lives unmarried, and all the household furniture commonly called hers, with the side saddle that was her mothers, with two milk cows to be her own forever, provided she does not have the cows in my lifetime.

I give my son Moses my farming utensils and a yoke of oxen if I should die possessed of any, and the rest of my cattle to be equally divided between my sons Simeon, William, and Roswell, without my wearing apparel. My small trunk with my saddle I give to William, and my silver buckles to Simeon. I give my daughter Sally Killam my bed and furniture, unless there should be spare covering which I give Polly. I desire my executor to give my daughter Polly Snyder out of my stock before is divided ten dollars – with the trunk that was her mother’s.

I hereby constitute and appoint my son Simeon to by my executor to this my last will and testament, by which I disannul all former wills whatsoever. Witness my hand and seal this eighteenth day of June A.D. 1808. Uriah Chapman”

