

FEBRUARY 2014 NEWSLETTER

WALLENPAUPACK HISTORICAL SOCIETY



“Keeping the history of Lake Wallenpaupack alive and accessible for present and future generations”



January Meeting: 2014 Budget Approved

January's monthly membership meeting involved discussing and approving the 2014 budget. The 2013 Annual Report will appear in the March newsletter.

Next Meeting: February 19th 1:00 p.m. ELC

February's meeting will consist of a DVD presentation of noted local historian Ab Rutherford, namely Mr Rutherford's speech given at the WHS Fall Awards Dinner about the U.S. Constitution, Articles of Confederation, and James Wilson of Wilsonville.

All WHS meetings are open to the public. The meetings are held each month, the third Wednesday of each month, at 1:00 p.m. at the PPL Wallenpaupack Environmental Learning Center, 126 PPL Drive, Hawley.

New Historical Books by WHS Director Emeritus Donal Coutts

WHS Director Emeritus Donal Coutts has written and published two new books relating to Wallenpaupack history. The first, *See a Penny, Pick It Up*, is a memoir about life growing up during the Great Depression on a small dairy farm in Paupack, when the construction of the lake had recently been completed. Mr Coutts dedicated this book to his grandchildren, who will now have a collection of local, family history in published form. The second book, *I Pledge Allegiance*, describes the military service of Donal Coutts' father, George, during WWI, and the military service of seven of the Coutts brothers during WWII and the Korean War. *I Pledge Allegiance* is available for purchase for \$12, *See a Penny, Pick It Up* for \$10, by calling Don Coutts at phone (570)226-4454.

Notes on WHS Restoration of Purdytown Cemetery

A January 7th newspaper article printed in *The Times-Tribune* featured the WHS Cemetery Committee volunteers, now known as the "Stonewall Stackers" for their work in building a traditional fieldstone wall around Purdytown Cemetery. The article mentioned the volunteers' efforts in restoring the 200 year old Purdytown Cemetery, recently acquired by the Society from PPL. Dick Briden, Brian Behonick and Andy Anderson were among the group of WHS volunteers who contributed to the restoration and were pictured standing next to the new stone wall.

Purdytown Cemetery, c.1810, is unique in that its original location was on a knoll by the Wallenpaupack Creek and was subsequently relocated to its current location on Lake Shore Drive in Lakeville in preparation for the flooding of the creek basin in the 1920s. *The Times-Tribune's* article noted the volunteers' restoration work of clearing trees, putting down a weed barrier, gravel and chips, resetting gravestones, and adding a new sign identifying the cemetery, and also noted that WHS rededicated Purdytown Cemetery in October with a community ceremony which included representatives from Daughters of the American Revolution, who provided information on Revolutionary War soldiers buried at the cemetery.

“Friends with a Heart” Are True Friends Indeed

By Kristen Brown

Many people have heard of the Friends with a Heart quilting group, but how many really know of the extent to which this group of volunteers contributes to the communities of Pike and Wayne Counties? Friends with a Heart are the ones responsible for creating the quilt that every year is donated to WHS to be raffled, the proceeds of which are the most reliable and important fundraiser annually for WHS. Yet Friends with a Heart creates quilts, blankets and household items for many organizations in addition to its work for WHS. It is a charitable organization in its own right, but with beginnings in Wallenpaupack Historical Society.

It was in the late 1990s when Wallenpaupack Historical Society had incorporated and begun formally to organize its work for the purpose of, according to its 1998 bylaws:

- a. [to] Collect, catalog, restore, preserve and display artifacts and documents relating to the history of the Lake Wallenpaupack area,
- b. Designate areas of specific historic significance,
- c. Promote general public interest in the history of the area by making artifacts and documents available for research, and publishing material as appropriate, and
- d. Cooperate with other historical societies where there is mutual benefit.”

It was then in 2001 when Sylvia Gregor made and donated a quilt to WHS in order for the organization to raffle it as a fundraiser. WHS members Shirley Coutts, Ginny Buehler, Jean Hansen, Dorothy Guccini, Janet Fucci, Beatrice Martin, among others, formed a WHS Quilt Committee, also contributing their efforts in constructing a child’s quilt and other quilted items for fundraising purposes, in addition to organizing the fundraiser and selling raffle tickets. The WHS Quilt Committee sold over 1000 Quilt Raffle tickets in 2001 throughout the summer and fall. The first fundraising quilt, the lovely blue and white star pattern by Sylvia Gregor, was won by William Lukacinsky in November 2001 and is now in the possession of his daughter, WHS Treasurer Donna Stuccio.



Friends with a Heart quilting items for sale at Lake Wallenpaupack Visitors Center.

The members of the WHS Quilt Committee soon realized they could do more with quilting, and expanded their efforts to make quilted items for other local organizations and to create items for sale at the yearly festivals in Hawley. And in the late 2000s, the quilting group adopted the name “Friends with a Heart.” Currently, Friends with a Heart are grateful to be invited by the Lake Wallenpaupack Visitors Center to have a permanent display, so that people are able to purchase quilted, handmade items whenever the Visitors Center is open. Items for sale at the Visitors Center made by Friends with a Heart include, when available: pot holders, wall hangings, table runners, baby quilts, assorted size quilts and Christmas items. All of the proceeds from items bought at the Visitors Center or at the Hawley festivals are donated to local food pantries.

What Then Makes a Quilt?

The members of Friends with a Heart enjoy working together to create a finished product that is a true collaboration by many. Aside from the actual sewing, much additional work goes into making the quilts and handmade items, starting with the reading of sample books and magazines, deciding on patterns to use, making trips to the fabric stores, planning the stages of the quilt, and then the actual work of cutting, sewing, framing, stenciling the stitching pattern, and finally “quilting” or sewing the multiple layers together. The quilters were recently delighted to find a pattern of cabins and pine trees, perfect for this year’s commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the founding of Pike County, and perfect for the 2014 WHS Quilt Raffle!

What then makes a quilt a quilt is the fact that it is actually a sandwich of fabric layers, from the top layer which has been sewed from many different fabrics to make the design of various squares and

triangles, to the middle batting or filling layer, to the bottom layer of backing, all three layers of which are sandwiched together using a quilting frame in order that the layers will be held taut to sew together all three at one time.

The quilting frame contains two rollers which enable the layers of the quilt to be kept taut in the process of quilting, and Friends with a Heart has two working quilting frames, one at the Visitors Center, one at the Municipal Building, and a third frame currently being customized in order to accommodate for traveling to craft workshops, local festivals, or for displays at schools and libraries.

Other than WHS, local organizations that the Friends donate quilted items and blankets to include Caleb's Pennies from Heaven, Hawley Senior Center, and Tafton Fire Company. The Friends have already donated over 500 lap robes to veterans' hospitals in Scranton and Wilkes Barre, and are also working on small quilts for Project Linus, a national organization that receives donations of "blankies" for children with severe illness. A Stitch in Time fabric store in Honesdale collects these quilts on behalf of Project Linus (named after the cartoon character from *Peanuts* with Charlie Brown) and then forwards the items to Wayne Memorial Hospital. Other local care facilities including Ellen Memorial in Honesdale have also received items made by Friends with a Heart. In the past, the Friends have supplied Wayne Memorial Hospital with boo-boo dolls: large, stuffed gingerbread-people that were given to children with broken bones or who were to receive shots. Through all of these many projects, the quilters in Friends with a Heart still consider making the quilt for the annual WHS Quilt Raffle to be their primary mission, even though they continue to do so much more.



The 2014 WHS Quilt Raffle quilt, still on the quilting frame. This quilt honors the 200th Anniversary of Pike County.

Friends with a Heart quilter Vera Moyer has made over 100 pillowcases for the national ConKerr Cancer organization, which distributes handmade pillowcases to children with life threatening illnesses. The Mountain Quiltworks, a fabric store on Grandmas Lane in Honesdale that supplies Friends with a Heart with much of their fabric and sewing needs, receives these pillowcases on behalf of ConKerr Cancer. In keeping true to their name, Friends with a Heart also honors requests to make a quilt, lap robe, comforter or special item for someone who is ill or for a child or newborn, and for donations to local silent auctions. If there is a member of WHS who would like to request a quilt, comforter or special item, either for someone you know or for a silent auction, please contact Barbara Briden at the phone number listed below.

Even though Friends with a Heart is reimbursed for the fabric costs of large projects such as the WHS Quilt Raffle, this is not the case with smaller items. The proceeds from items bought at the Visitors Center or the Hawley festivals are donated by Friends with a Heart to local food pantries. The Friends are present at Wally Lake Fest, Hawley Winterfest, the Hawley Harvest Hoedown, and perhaps at this year's Hawley EarthFest in April, not only to sell quilted items but also to donate graciously their time in selling raffle tickets for the WHS Quilt Raffle.

Join Friends with a Heart or Donate Fabric and Sewing Items

Friends with a Heart does not ask for any monetary donations, but is very happy to receive donations of fabric and sewing items that the group can use for smaller items and projects. If you happen to have extra sewing fabric or extra 100% cotton cloth that you do not need, please consider donating these items to Friends with a Heart. Or if a loved one has passed away and has left sewing baskets, fabric, thread, or other sewing items, please do not throw these items out. The best way to donate fabric or sewing items is to bring the items to Friends with a Heart during their meeting times.

Friends with a Heart meets at the **Palmyra Township Municipal Building** at 115 Buehler Lane, off of Gumbletown Road, **every Thursday from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**, officially, but some start earlier and arrive around 11:30 or 12:00 noon. The meetings are cancelled when Wallenpaupack Area High School cancels school due to inclement weather, or if there is a holiday on that day. Friends with a Heart also meets

at **Lake Wallenpaupack Visitors Center**, on Route 6 in Hawley, on the **second Sunday of every month**, starting at **10:00 a.m. and ending at 3:00 p.m.** Anyone who would be interested in joining and sharing in the work of Friends with a Heart should “take heart” that quilting experience is not necessary; however a sense of humor may be required!

Please call Barbara Briden at phone (570)226-8231 with any questions about joining the quilters or donating fabric or sewing items. Current members of Friends with a Heart are Barbara Briden, Shirley Coutts, Janet Fucci, Sylvia Gregor, Harriet Gumble, Keta Kaminsky, Bea Martin, Carol MacLean, Vera Moyer, Katerina Mueller, Carolyn Santiso, Stephanie Savage, Doris Schumacher, Terry Slotter, Pat Spruce and Ann Wiedenman.



Friends with a Heart quilters present at a January meeting, from left to right: Barbara Briden, Carol MacLean, Stephanie Savage, Ann Wiedenman, Harriet Gumble, Sylvia Gregor (not shown).

Volunteer on a WHS Committee - New Committee Members Welcome -

Included is a list of the WHS Standing and Ad Hoc Committees which oversee the functions of the Society. If you would like to serve on a Wallenpaupack Historical Society committee or hear more about any of the following, please contact the committee chairperson for more information.

Standing Committees

- As Noted in the WHS Bylaws -

Facilities Committee: Responsible for all matters relating to any facilities which may be owned or operated by the Society. This includes the acquisition, maintenance, improvement and disposition of structures, facilities and equipment for use by the Society. Chairperson, Dick Briden (570) 226-8231.

Collections Committee: Responsible for all matters relating to the artifacts and documents, which may be owned by the Society. This includes collecting, cataloging, restoring, preserving and displaying artifacts and documents relating to the history of the townships. Chairperson, Ann Wiedenman (570)226-4453.

Historic Preservation Easement Committee: Responsible for all aspects of monitoring and enforcing historic preservation easements held by the Society, and shall report annually on the inspection of all easements, and any enforcement actions taken or recommended. Chairperson, Jon Tandy (570)857-0882.

Ad Hoc Committees

Quilt Raffle Committee: Oversees the annual Quilt Raffle fundraiser by organizing raffle ticket sales and presenting the winner with the Raffle Quilt. Chairperson, Dick Briden (570)226-8231.

Publishing Committee: Coordinates WHS publications with vendors and organizes the printing of WHS publications. Maintains a working inventory of all publications. Chairperson, Jon Tandy (570)857-0882.

Membership and Newsletter Committee: Writes and edits articles for the monthly newsletter; functions to recruit new membership and retain current membership. Chairperson, Kristen Brown (215)740-8731.

Monthly Program Committee: Plans the monthly WHS programs. Chairperson, Rolf Moeller (570)226-2726.

Cemetery Committee: Oversees the upkeep of the Taft Cemetery and Purdytown Cemetery. Chairperson, Bob Ammon (570)352-7099.

Research Committee: Conducts research to answer incoming requests to WHS for information about local history. Chairperson, Jon Tandy (570)857-0882.

Finance Committee: Oversees WHS budgetary practices, develops future budgetary options. Chairperson, Bruce Taylor (570)857-1153.

