

MARCH 2014 NEWSLETTER

WALLENPAUPACK HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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



February Meeting : Rutherford DVD Presentation

Twelve brave souls contested the winter weather and attended February's Membership Meeting. The meeting consisted of a DVD presentation of local historian Ab Rutherford and Mr. Rutherford's speech about the history of Wilsonville. Thank you to all who attended on this snowy day.

Next Meeting : March 19th 1:00 p.m. at ELC

The March Membership Meeting will consist of discussion about the needs and future plans for the Williams House. Please bring any uncompleted surveys about the Williams House to the meeting, along with your ideas, suggestions, and thoughts about the best use of this historic home.

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.

- Chronicling America - Digital Newspaper Archive by the Library of Congress

On an interesting note for researchers, local historians, and history hobbyists, digital editions of many past newspapers throughout the United States are available online by visiting the website of the Library of Congress's digital newspaper archive *Chronicling America*, <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>.

Currently, the website provides digital editions of newspapers printed during the years 1836 through 1922. Several local newspapers are available through the Library of Congress website, including the Pike County Press, Milford, 1895-1925, the Honesdale Citizen, Honesdale, 1873-1908, the Wayne County Citizen, Honesdale, 1914-1952, and the Hawley Times, Hawley, 1874-1952.

The following article about the creation of the Wallenpaupack Dam appeared on March 29, 1911 in *The Citizen*, a newspaper published in Honesdale from 1908 to 1914. The article is reprinted from the Library of Congress newspaper archive *Chronicling America*, and can be found at website <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>.

March 29, 1911

THE CITIZEN, Honesdale

THE PAUPACK DAM

Vivid Description Of The Immense Project
Comment By Prominent Hawleyites; Possible Effects On Growth of Town.

“It looks good to me,” said Mayor R. W. Murphy to a Citizen reporter, Friday, commenting upon the gigantic \$5,000,000 dam project of the Paupack Power Company, who have planned to turn the wasted energy of Paupack Falls into electric watts and kilowatts.

(continued next page)

"I had a good deal of faith in it," he continued, "for fifteen years. It's just now being worked out. They have acquired all the properties above the Falls, and nearly all below.

"It will help Hawley a lot. If they are going to have power to use, there will be some manufacturers here who will want to use it as well as at other places.

"They are getting ready, clearing off the hillside and building a saw mill. They're doing business red-hot. They are going to build an electric road from the Erie right back to the woods.

"From Wilsonville to Hawley there is a fall of 300 feet in the Paupack River. Up the river from Wilsonville there is a fall of less than a foot to the mile. By building a dam forty feet high at the Falls it will throw the water back enough to cover about 7,000 acres. That is supposed to develop 20,000 horse power for twenty-four hours consecutively.

7,000-ACRE LAKE.

"We will soon have a lake in the mountains covering 7,000 acres, with a shore line of 100 miles, dotted with bays and inlets. Think what a summer resort that would be. The shore rights would pay if turned into lots and sold for cottage purposes, even if they never turned a wheel.

Mayor Murphy waxed enthusiastic in describing the boundless possibilities of the new enterprise which is to make Hawley blossom like a rose. He is the secretary and treasurer of the Keystone Cut Glass Company, and as proprietor of one of the leading industries of the borough, as well as its official head, is ever alive to anything that will make Hawley grow.

James Butler, Moosic, representative of the Paupack Power Company, whose offices are located in Scranton, has done the purchasing of the properties, the deeds of which are in his name. He has had many years experience in the same business, having purchased the "rights-of-way" for a number of large corporations, notably the Laurel Line.

According to his statement the men back of the scheme are Col. L. A. Watres, L. H. Watres, C. D. Simpson, L. Stillwell, the man who built the Niagara Falls Power Houses, and C. A. Marcoe, all names of men to conjure with in the financial world.

\$5,000,000 SCHEME.

He said that it was the intention of the company to erect a dam at Wilsonville, and back the water as far as Ledgedale. The lake will have an average

width of a mile and a half. About 16 or 18 years ago a company came in here and spent \$30,000 to \$40,000 in attempting to develop electric power. Mr. Butler thought the scheme an entirely feasible one. "It could easily cost \$5,000,000," he said.

Thomas Mangan, president of the Hawley Bank, when seen in his cosy offices, said:

"The enterprise is not devised for the destruction of local interests. They want to increase the number of manufacturing plants, and be a benefit, not a detriment to the region. In buying up the properties, they gave every man more than he asked. No man but got more than twice what it was worth. The object of the corporation is not to do any damage to any local industry. We don't want to cripple any industry in the town. The people who are back of the project have the welfare and progress of the community at heart."

Mr. Mangan was quite anxious to make it clear that the Company, in which it is said he is financially interested, would be a help, instead of a hindrance to Hawley, as many are declaring it was bound to be.

AMERICAN LABOR.

When asked as to whether they would employ American labor on the job, he said: "I'd like to see nothing else. But where in the world would you get American labor? I'd have whiskers on me as long as Abraham before we'd get enough Americans to do the work. You couldn't get a building put up in Honesdale even without sending to Scranton for workmen."

Mr. Mangan ridiculed the rumor that it was the intention of the company to furnish water to Scranton. "You'd have to pump water over the mountain to get it there," he said.

Herman Harmes, Esq., former district attorney of Wayne County, thought the project would be a benefit to Hawley.

"They are only getting ready," he said. "I guess they are getting stuff preparatory to cleaning off the land. Homer Cross is the foreman in charge of the job. A sawmill is being erected. They are going to convert the standing timber into marketable sizes. The timber is mostly oak and pine. They are going to turn out mine props, ties, sprags and everything that is salable.

"All the properties affected by the dam are sold. All are under options, and quite a number have given deeds."

(continued)

Mr. Harmes thought it would benefit Hawley, at least, during the time they are doing it. They will employ a number of men, and bring quite a number of men here. This will be their headquarters.

SIX YEARS TO FINISH.

"It will take five or six years to finish it. The power is to be used for any one who wants to use it. When it is once finished, Hawley will be able to use the electric power, and draw more manufacturers here.

"Quite a number of families will be affected. At Tafton recently the hotel property was sold for \$9,000.

"The silk mill which is run at present by water power, has always been able to run even in dry time, by storing a little water at Wilsonville. They get 385 feet fall in a mile in the dam they are going to build. They have a method by which they use the water over and over.

"Wilsonville was temporarily the county seat of Wayne in 1801, when Wayne and Pike were one.

"Men are cutting trees in the woods. They are going to build a tramway from Wilsonville to the Eddy, to run the logs out, and to convey material for the dam up the same road. Thirty men are working in the woods. They are also erecting a saw mill, the engine bed of which is already finished."

The talk then drifted to a stabbing affray among the Squirt Hillers, where a man was cut in the back of the head and right between the shoulders with an axe; where the men would trade wives as they would horses.

To get local color for his story the reporter footed it out to Paupack Falls. It was only a mile—but then miles in the country are so long compared to city miles. He stopped at several farmhouses along the way to inquire how much farther on the Falls were.

"It's a right smart piece," "It's only a short ways," "We don't think anything of walking up there in ten minutes," were some of the replies he got to his questions. [N. B. He didn't meet a single dog on his tramp.]

Arriving finally at the scene of the proposed dam, he gazed in awestruck wonder at the mighty Falls of the Paupack; viewed the rainbow over the crest; mid deep he imagined he saw the ghostly form of an Indian maiden, with uplifted finger as if to say, "Paleface beware! Cross this yawning abyss, white man never safely passed. Begone!"

Mute mementoes of former attempts to harness the Falls were to be seen in stone-walls rapidly falling into decay. Two or three houses dotted the steep sides of the stream. Not a human being was in sight. The sun began to sink below the horizon. A ghostly feeling was in the air. Admonished by the sight of a woodsman returning homeward from his day's work, empty dinner pail in hand, the reporter wearily turned his way Hawleyward.

A passing rig driven by a stalwart farmer boy offered him a chance for a ride. He accepted it with alacrity.

FARM BOY'S STORY.

"Yes, we sold our 50-acre farm to the company and got a good price for it," was the information vouchsafed by the young man, who was driving to Hawley to take his sister, who worked in the silk mill, home from her day's work. His folks would be obliged to move to Hawley soon. He had been offered work by the Company, but since he had to drive his sister to work in the morning, and go after her in the evening, he was bemoaning his fate at not being able to accept the chance.

As the clock struck 6, the reporter landed in Hawley, tired and hungry, and with only 29 minutes to get on the outside of a good supper, and catch the Erie train, for wonder of wonders, it was on time! In his mind's eye he could see Hawley grow into a thriving, bustling municipality with 100,000 inhabitants. The relentless conductor awoke him from his day dreams with the raucous cry:

"All out for Honesdale!"



New Review for WHS Publication *The Raging Canal*

The following review of *The Raging Canal*, a recent publication edited by Audrey Graybill and illustrated by Barbara Briden, is reprinted from the American Canal Association's Winter 2014 Newsletter.

CANAL BOOKSHELF

THE RAGING CANAL: NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS OF THE DELAWARE AND HUDSON CANAL, 1870-1902

by Audrey Graybill and Barbara Briden -- Reviewed by Peter Becker

The latest book produced by the Wallenpaupack Historical Society, *The Raging Canal*, republishes newspaper articles from the 19th century that concerned the Delaware & Hudson (D&H) Canal. *The Raging Canal* was brought together and edited by Audrey Graybill, past president of the society, and richly illustrated by water color artist Barbara Briden. The book also contains vintage photographs of the canal operation.

A wealth of detail is found in this 277-page book, tidbits of daily life on the canal, revealing glimpses of the lives of people who worked on the waterway or were impacted by it, as well as its operations, dreams, and trials faced by its backers. Information found in these aged accounts offers snapshots from the time, as described through a reporter's pen. Unlike a historian reaching back in time trying to unearth the facts, faced with gaps of knowledge and separating what is known from fable, these accounts were fresh news and everyday experience when they were first printed. It is also full of editorial comment. Here are just a few items extracted from *The Raging Canal*.

- Honesdale Citizen, November 2, 1876 -- "A heavy business in cabbages is being done by the Del & Hud Canal boatmen. They bring into port some fine cabbages from 'down the line.'"
- Honesdale Citizen, May 2, 1878 -- "Hawley items: The Pioneer is making four regular trips each week, but it is no very largely patronized these hard times; most people preferring to ride on the coal cars as long as they can ride free."
- Wayne Independent, March 20, 1897 -- "The boating season will open about the 1st of April. Fifty captains have been notified that their boats will no longer be needed. Thirty of the best boats out of the 150 taken off two years ago will be allowed to operate this season. Boatmen will receive 70 cents on coal."

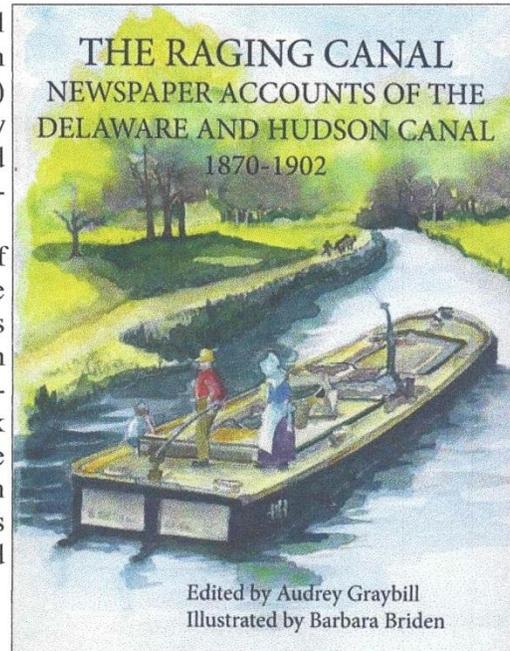
Covering the period of 1870 through 1902, the book extracts stories and briefs found in local newspapers from the era, copies of which are now either brittle and yellowed, salvaged on micro-fiche or missing altogether. They came from the Wayne Citizen and Honesdale Citizen, predecessors to The News Eagle; The Wayne Independent and Wayne County Herald.

Graybill's work was inspired from the efforts of a librarian, Dorothy Hurlbut Sanderson of Ellenville, New York, who in 1927 compiled these newspaper articles for a book she planned to write. Sanderson published some of the material in a book in 1963. The present work, however, has many differences, Briden stated. The D&H Canal, the first million dollar private enterprise in the United States, operated between 1828 and 1898, connecting Honesdale, through Hawley and Lackawaxen, PA; Port Jervis, Ellenville and ending at Rondout (Kingston), NY on the Hudson. Separate gravity rail systems ferried the mined coal to Honesdale and Hawley for the waiting canal boats.

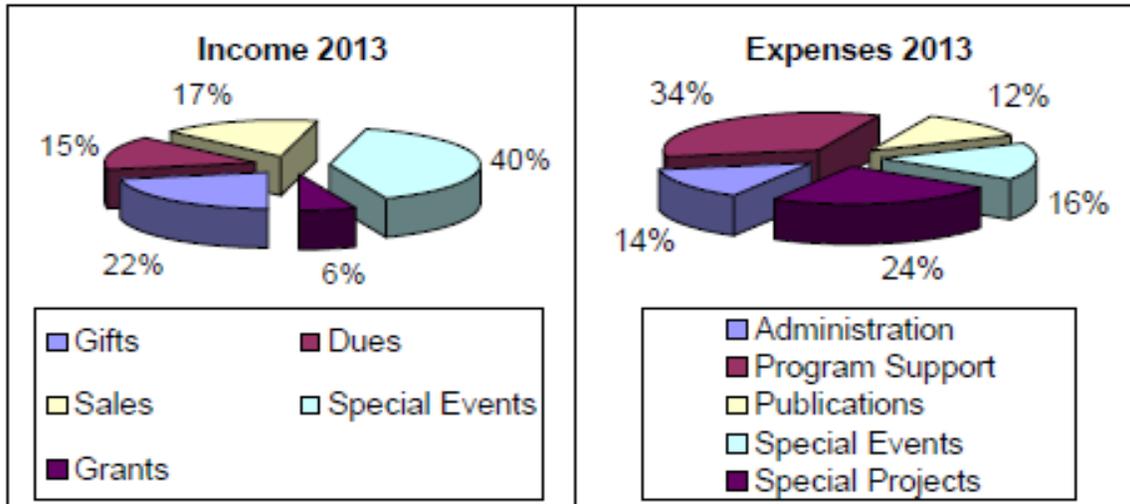
The Raging Canal also has a generous index, allowing researchers a chance to mine items of particular interest and obtain a clearer picture of life on the D&H Canal and its patron towns, an era that helped form the bedrock on which our present has been laid.

This is Audrey's fourth book. The Paupack native also has compiled a history of the Gumble family; *Historic Homes of Palmyra Township* and *The Hawley Flood of 1942*.

The book is available from the Wallenpaupack Historical Society, PO Box 345, Paupack, PA 18451-0345 for \$18.86 plus 6% PA tax (\$20.00) and \$5.00 S&H. See www.wallenpaupackhistorical.org/PublicationData/Raging%20Canal.htm for more information on the book, and for ordering information, visit www.wallenpaupackhistorical.org/PublicationsPage.htm.



WALLENPAUPACK HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT 2013



By Audrey Graybill

- Preserving Our Heritage -

There were two main thrusts for the year 2013: the first involved completing the Purdytown Project Restoration phase and the second was to carefully examine the status of the Williams House and its place within the Society's goals. Both efforts will continue into 2014. A small group of "Stone Stackers" completed the stone wall around the perimeter of the graveyard. Sufficient funds were obtained to complete the job with a balance left over to maintain the grounds and to finish the plantings in 2014. This was achieved only through many hours of volunteer labor by members and friends and donated funds from the community.

A rededication ceremony was held on October 10th with the participation of the Wayne Chapter of the DAR who served as honor guard and contributed grave markers to the two Purdy cousins who served in the Revolutionary War. The pastor of the Blooming Grove Baptist Church officiated at the rededication.

The focus on the Williams House began with a realistic appraisal of the house and grounds by members of the Board. A local contractor provided an estimate of necessary repairs. Options were offered by Board members.

A survey of our membership is on-going with discussions planned for March 2014.

"Friends with a Heart," a local quilting group, again displayed their craft as they donated another outstanding quilt for our annual fund-raising raffle. The quilt was won by Mary Anne Teeter.

- Telling Our Story -

One book was offered during 2013. *The Raging Canal* tells the story of the Delaware & Hudson Canal Co. in its later years through newspaper accounts from area papers. Nick Spinelli presented an informative program about the Delaware & Hudson Canal as an introduction to *The Raging Canal*, which was soon to go on the market. George Fluhr, County Historian, gave a program about the Great Shohola Train Wreck in May as we focused on events of the Civil War. Tom Kennedy gave a program about the two Gravity Railroads in our area. Our Annual Spring Buffet at Settlers' featured Bob Eckstein, cartoonist for several major newspapers and magazines; Mr. Eckstein gave us the story of the "Oldest Snowman."

The monthly newsletter continued to bring articles of interest to its members. A new editor, Kristen Brown, took over the publication and she is doing a great job.

"The Town Beneath the Lake" was successfully presented again in the summer at an evening program given by Jon Tandy. DJ Roberts also repeated his "Story of Lake Wallenpaupack" program at another evening program. A third program about his successful classroom program, "Smurfs in Space," given by Robert Fluhr, was presented to a younger audience as part of the summer programming. These programs, free to the public, fulfill our mission to provide historic information to our residents and summer visitors.

**WALLENPAUPACK HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ANNUAL REPORT 2013**

- Displaying Our Past -

The WHS Collection Committee continues to maintain and update displays at the Lake Wallenpaupack Visitors Center, the Palmyra (Pike) Township Building, the Dorflinger Glass Factory in White Mills, and the Ice Museum in Lakeville. Work continues on the Indian Artifacts at the Environmental Learning Center. The Committee met weekly June through October updating and cataloging tools and books. The Williams House was open weekends June through September for visitations.

New donations include 169 glass industry reference books, one goblet and one glass pitcher donated by Ray LaTournous. The LaTournous and Roberts Donations are on loan to James Asselstine for display at the Dorflinger Factory. Other donations include a photo of Ledgesdale Tannery, a 1960s Hawley Band uniform, postcards of building the dam, a map of the motor boat race course on the Lake, Vogler's Store advertising yardstick, a wire chicken catcher, and a Palmyra (Wayne) Township school ledger of the mid-1800s.

- Organizational News -

The 2013 WHS brochure was updated and distributed with a calendar of the year's events. A change in the by-laws established three-year terms for officers so no new officers were elected in 2013. At the end of 2013, there were 198 members, including 10 corporate members. Dues remained the same. The Historic Preservation parcel was inspected and there were no changes.

The website had 57,913 contacts, including 189,174 hits. The Research Committee handled four research inquiries.

Our Annual Awards Dinner for Historic Preservation recognized James and Bette Asselstine of the Dorflinger Factory and Office Building in White Mills. Mr. and Mrs. Asselstine were the recipients of the 2013 Preservation Award at Ehrhardt's Restaurant.

**- Support Wallenpaupack Historical Society -
Include the Society in Your Estate Plans**

All gifts made to the Society are fully tax-deductible as Wallenpaupack Historical Society is an incorporated 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Please consider making a yearly charitable gift to support the functions of the Society, or including the Society in your estate plans.

Anyone who would like to donate historical artifacts to the Society or who would like to discuss including the Society in your estate plans may do so by contacting the Society directly by phone.

Wallenpaupack Historical Society relies on the support of the surrounding community to fulfill its mission of keeping the history of Lake Wallenpaupack alive and accessible for present and future generations.

Thank you for being a supporting member of WHS!


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