

*APRIL 2014 NEWSLETTER*

**WALLENPAUPACK  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**



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



**Next Meeting -  
Who Was Flooded Out by  
Lake Wallenpaupack?  
April 16th 1:00 p.m. at ELC**

The April membership meeting was scheduled to include a presentation by Dr. Alberta Weber on civil-war era medicine, however Dr. Weber had to cancel this meeting. WHS hopes to reschedule this program for a different date.

Instead, Jon Tandy will be giving a presentation about the people who were owners of land flooded out by the Lake, and their connection to each other. For example, how are the Tafts and the Ansleys connected? Why is Thomas Mangan's name associated with the Lake, and who was he? Who was Reuben W. Ross that his name is printed all over the Stillwell maps, and did he get along with his sister and cousins? Why did Simeon Ansley's heirs fight, and how was the conflict resolved? How was Clarence D. Simpson connected to the Simpsons of the Globe Store?

Also noted in the presentation will be some of the early power companies connected to the dam project including the Paupack Power Company, the PA, NY and NJ Power Company, and more. Please join WHS in attending this interesting presentation about our local history.

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.

**March Meeting -  
Williams House Discussion**

The membership meeting held on March 19th at 1:00 p.m. at the PPL Environmental Learning Center consisted of a general discussion about the repairs needed at the Williams House and the results from the survey about the Williams House which was sent to every WHS member.

A common thread among the WHS members is the need of and request for more information such as financial information of the current status of the organization, more specific facts about the needed repairs, elaboration on a contingency plan for the artifacts in the Williams House if the house were to be sold by WHS, and the list continues with the general need for more information being of most importance. This article intends to outline the path organized thus far to answering these important questions.

One significant consideration is that many WHS members are either part-time residents of  
(continued)



Lake Wallenpaupack (snowbirds or summer residents) or they are not residents at all but care very much about the organization and its mission, having either ancestral or sentimental ties to the community. Equally important to consider are the WHS members who live locally but work during the meeting times and cannot be present to offer their suggestions. These members who do not live locally or who are not able to attend monthly membership meetings all have opinions and support for WHS which are vital to the organization.

The fact that many WHS members are unable to attend monthly meetings is the reason why, as contained in this newsletter, you will find the 2013 Budget, 2014 Budget, and 2013 Balance Sheet: in order to provide the WHS members who cannot attend monthly meetings with pertinent information, with the hope that there will be greater awareness about the functions and status of the organization by those members, now and on a continuing basis. There will be more administrative material in the future published in the monthly newsletter so that the membership will continue to be aware of items discussed at the monthly meetings.

Another significant outcome of the March membership meeting was the need to address and adequately answer questions that are more broad than how to proceed with the Williams House repairs - broader questions about the direction and future of the organization as a whole. These larger questions, once answered, could provide a better starting point for addressing the needs for the Williams House.

Therefore, the Board of Directors will be discussing whether to produce another, more general, survey for the membership asking members' opinions about the direction and future of Wallenpaupack Historical Society. This survey would be mailed to all members in the near future, as soon as it can be completed by the directors, asking for members to weigh-in their thoughts.

Continuing on about the March meeting, 10 Board members and 6 general members attended. The Williams House survey results were outlined and discussed. Results from the survey include:

- How many surveys were returned?  
Total = 35 (26%)
- How much would you give annually to make the needed repairs?  
Total = \$7910
- How much would you contribute to a capital campaign?  
Total = \$9675
- Should the house be repaired / restored?  
Agree: 12  
Disagree: 19

A notable question was raised about the presence of WHS within the community: Do you think there are a large number of people who might not even know that WHS exists? In other words, what may seem as apathy from the general community could be in fact the absence of strong visibility on the part of WHS. So what could be done to increase awareness of the organization within the community?

Another topic was raised about the dearth of foot-traffic at the Williams House open-houses during the summer Saturdays. One suggestion was made for the house to be used as a museum and library open to the public but by appointment only, with the exception of a few yearly events, so as to not drain WHS volunteer resources in hosting weekly open-houses that result in inadequate attendance.

The underlying regard for why keeping the house is important is the sentimental and historical significance the historic home currently brings to the Wallenpaupack community and to WHS. The Williams House may also be the most economically viable solution when it comes to storing our artifacts - for as much as is needed in maintenance of this and any building, there will always be storage fees and needed upkeep in another location. The downside is precisely these costs and the question remains what is best for WHS? It is estimated that approximately \$30,000 to \$35,000 has been spent in renovating or repairing the Williams House by WHS since its acquisition in late 1999.

As the directors gather specific information about the costs of the needed repairs and possibly contact local contractors to find the best estimate for each repair, the

progress of this information will be relayed in future newsletters so that all members are aware of the Society's options. As for the repairs, the number one needed repair is work done on the porch, which has significantly deteriorated. After the porch repair, the next needed would be painting of the house. Repair of siding and clapboards, repair of windows, installing insulation, and nearby tree removal are also possible or necessary maintenance within the near-future.

Although no other local historical society has been contacted with this possibility, a suggestion was made about whether or not it would be better to pool our resources with Greene-Dreher or Pike County Historical Society, permanently, if they would agree to it. The Williams House is by itself a historical artifact complete with history, so would it not be beneficial to consider permanently collaborating with another local historical society and consolidate our memberships?

Further updates on the Williams House will remain a staple within the future newsletters. Following here are several comments from some who attended the March meeting:

"It is historical - it is historically significant to the Wallenpaupack Historical Society, that house, so it is a meaningful piece that is there, a meaningful place to have. If you take the collection and put it someplace else, there is no line of history. There is a line of history in that house. So to keep it, as it doesn't pay to go someplace else . . . the house has historical significance to the area and the society, so I think it is meaningful." Paula Whitney

"We had a display of a number of different historical societies at the Silk Mill two weeks ago, and I was amazed to see how many historical societies, small ones there are, all over the area. Do they ever get together and talk and say 'We all have the same problem, we should collaborate together somehow?'" Barb Briden

"I think one of the problems is the Williams House, the Wallenpaupack Historical Society, and the artifacts are important to us, but unfortunately they are not important to the people that come from Philadelphia, or New York, or Long Island. Sadly, but that's why you

don't get the people traffic there [for the Summer Open Houses] at the Williams House and the Historical Society. It means a lot to me, but does it mean anything to the people who come to Ehrhardts, or to the people who come to Woodloch, or to the people who come to Whispering Pines?" Dick Teeter

"The bottom line is we're analyzing problems, we're putting out wishes, things we'd like, but the bottom line is 'Who?' You have a good idea, are you going to go forward and get yourself some support of a couple people and do this fundraising thing? Who is going to give the time to solving our problems? That is the bottom line." Nancy Gumble

"We [Tafton Fire Company] have had a recruiting and retention committee that's been running for about five years now, and as a result, we've got probably a core group of seven or eight firefighters that are young guys, anywhere from 18, 19 to 35 - guys that are going to pick up a hose and go in there and fight a fire. It takes effort . . . It depends on what you're willing to do and how you're willing to work. I would agree with Nancy that the question is 'who's going to do it.' And if our first effort is to go out and find that human capital, maybe that's what we need to do before we even figure out what we're going to do with the Williams House." Jon Tandy

"I'd like to see us have some young members, young blood in our society." Rolf Moeller

"We need young blood, like the Ehrhardt boys instead of old Mom. OK well, they have all they can handle with what they're doing. So that's the problem with the young people - they can only do so much." Alice Ehrhardt

"Our connections are very small but vital, and we need to be proud of that . . . We have done some major, major things . . . and all of us contributed in our own way. Our value is the connections we make with people, the books that we've written and that have provided historical connections with people - people who come from all over in the summer and they become members. That is why we have a very large percentage of members from out-of-state, who never come to a meeting and yet they support us in many, many ways." Audrey Graybill



## Why I Believe Selling is Not the Best Option

by Kristen Brown, newsletter editor and  
WHS Director

It turns out that I started my two-year term as WHS Director in November 2013 with a major issue at residency on the proverbial plate of the Board - the Williams House needs repairs, what about selling the house and getting out of this endless black hole of maintenance?

As I said, I am new here. But I joined WHS as editor of the newsletter because I care very much about the history of Lake Wallenpaupack, especially Palmyra Township. I also happen to care, generally speaking, about most if not all historic architecture and old homes. The undeniable real-estate market reality of Lake Wallenpaupack leads me to the following conclusion: If the maintenance of the Williams House is too burdensome for WHS and the building is placed for sale, this house has a very low chance for survival once it is sold.

A remedy to this predicament (that demolition is likely) is to place a façade easement on this building, restricting the ability of a future owner to raze it. A façade easement is possible for buildings that are of historical significance to their communities. It is a tool of preservation used throughout the US to keep the historic character of communities alive and functioning. Once the building is gone, it will never come back. There are not so many homes like it that its absence will go unnoticed. Demolition will permanently change the community's living history. Is selling truly a responsible decision on behalf of the Historical Society? Whispering Pines developer CWDJS Associates/Schrenk Properties knew the answer to this question, which is why they donated it to WHS in the first place.

I am willing to accept selling if and only if there is agreement to place a façade easement on the Williams House, but I don't think that selling is the best option. There is not another property developer on the horizon that is going to offer WHS a \$1.00 priced, historically significant building. The costs of storage or rental are going to be high, and from the current prices I do not see how storage or rental property is a feasible long-term solution.

The question remains "Why care about this house?" My answer is that I value this and every old home. Please contact me, by phone (215) 740-8731 or email kristenbeth@gmail.com, with your opinions, and with your approval I will publish what you have to say about the Williams House / WHS.

## Farm Bells

Author Unknown  
Stephens Scrapbook

Do you remember when the notes sounded across the fields as women folks rang the bells to call the men to dinner? Up and down the road the sweet music sounded; in the right atmospheric conditions one could hear the faint notes of bells across the valley. Each farm bell had its distinctive sound and you knew if a neighbor family was eating noon dinner early before a trip to town.

The bells were on shed roofs or on a cedar post by kitchen doors. The big \$2.35 Crystalline metal farm bell weighed 100 pounds and set in a four-pronged iron frame on the saddle board at the end of the woodshed.

The bell was suspended from a cured yoke and at the outside end a rope was attached to an iron flange. The catalog said this bell "had an extra fine tone." It could be heard farther than a copper or tin bell.

Each family had its code for calling individual members. A boy hoeing corn in the farm field could tell which sister was ringing the bell. Sometimes there were emergencies and wild clanging brought men and boys in a rush.

Bells have been used since ancient times on land or sea. They have called men to meetings and to church; they have tolled in memory of those who have gone; they have sounded to celebrate national holidays. In country villages and urban centers bells still ring out to mark the passing hour.

But it was the farm bells a man remembers - bells that sounded their notes across a peaceful countryside. Perhaps if you listen, you can hear the notes of yesteryear floating by on a passing breeze.

### *About Stephens Scrapbook*

*Mr. Stephens was a farmer on Shiny Mountain Road. He collected newspaper articles and pasted them in a scrapbook filling all the pages until starting another scrapbook. These scrapbooks came into the possession of Donal Coutts, Palmyra Township Historian, and were one of Don's primary reasons for founding Wallenpaupack Historical Society - so there could be an organization to look after artifacts and special items like Stephens' scrapbooks.*

**Wallenpaupack Historical Society**  
**Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual**  
 January through December 2013

	Jan - Dec 13	Budget	\$ Over Budget
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>			
<b>Income</b>			
<b>Donations</b>			
<b>Books</b>			
Gumble Family Reunion	45.01		
Wallenpaupack(Wally Book)	1,284.01	900.00	384.01
<b>Total Books</b>	1,329.02	900.00	429.02
General	100.00	1,000.00	-900.00
IGA & Dutch's	145.70	250.00	-104.30
<b>Memorials</b>			
General	0.00	25.00	-25.00
Purdytown Cemetery	619.00		
<b>Total Memorials</b>	619.00	25.00	594.00
<b>Donations - Other</b>	826.12		
<b>Total Donations</b>	3,019.84	2,175.00	844.84
<b>Interest Income</b>			
Checking Interest	5.84	10.00	-4.16
Restricted Savings Interest	28.34		
Un-restricted Savings Interest	73.12		
<b>Total Interest Income</b>	107.30	10.00	97.30
<b>Membership Dues</b>	2,573.00	2,500.00	73.00
<b>Other Inc</b>	127.22		
<b>Restricted Income</b>	1,000.00	2,000.00	-1,000.00
<b>Royalties</b>	53.40		
<b>Sales</b>			
<b>Book Sales</b>			
19th Cent. Life Wall. River ...	11.32	20.00	-8.68
Cobwebs	0.00	10.00	-10.00
Dorflinger Glass Patterns	158.49	300.00	-141.51
Early Hist. Wall. River Valley	39.62	20.00	19.62
Hawley Flood of 1942	101.88	400.00	-298.12
Historic Homes of Palmyra	37.72	350.00	-312.28
Killam's 1887 History-Book ...	25.47	30.00	-4.53
Killam's 1887 History-Book...	56.60	30.00	26.60
La Tournous Colledtion	107.54		
Margaret's Diary	0.00	0.00	0.00
Margaret's Diary, 2nd Edition	67.94	20.00	47.94
Note Cards Canal	184.91		
PalmyraTwp. Pike History	124.50	150.00	-25.50
Proceeds from GDHS	273.38	60.00	213.38
Raging Canal	1,524.40		
Traditions of Wallenpaupack	0.00	10.00	-10.00
<b>Total Book Sales</b>	2,713.77	1,400.00	1,313.77
Reserve For Taxes	0.00	155.00	-155.00
S & H	0.00	45.00	-45.00
<b>Total Sales</b>	2,713.77	1,600.00	1,113.77
<b>Special Events-Income</b>			
<b>Awards Banquet Income</b>			
<b>Auctions</b>			
Chinese	0.00	300.00	-300.00
Silent Auction	602.00	500.00	102.00
<b>Total Auctions</b>	602.00	800.00	-198.00
Dinners	1,290.00	2,000.00	-710.00
Spnsors	980.00	2,000.00	-1,020.00
<b>Total Awards Banquet Income</b>	2,872.00	4,800.00	-1,928.00
Quilt Raffle Tickets	2,685.00	2,400.00	285.00
Spring Buffet-Income	1,080.00	1,600.00	-520.00
<b>Total Special Events-Income</b>	6,637.00	8,800.00	-2,163.00
<b>Total Income</b>	16,231.53	17,085.00	-853.47
<b>Gross Profit</b>	16,231.53	17,085.00	-853.47
<b>Expense</b>			
<b>Administrative Office</b>			
Insurance			
Directors Liability	930.00	1,000.00	-70.00
Loss and Liability-Property	1,434.00	1,350.00	84.00
<b>Total Insurance</b>	2,364.00	2,350.00	14.00
Office Supplies & Equipment	1,041.75	500.00	541.75
Other	151.40	120.00	31.40
Postage-Board Package	47.73	100.00	-52.27
Sales Tax	55.08	155.00	-99.92
State & Federal Fees	35.00	145.00	-110.00
Website Renewal	100.78	100.00	0.78
<b>Total Administrative Office</b>	3,795.74	3,470.00	325.74
<b>Cost of Inventory</b>			
Publications Purchase	1,662.85	500.00	1,162.85
Royalties	13.31		
<b>Total Cost of Inventory</b>	1,676.16	500.00	1,176.16

	Jan - Dec 13	Budget	\$ Over Budget
<b>Programs Support</b>			
Advertising & Signage	57.75		
Awards	117.00	500.00	-383.00
Collections	445.44	1,200.00	-754.56
Legal Fees	0.00	1,000.00	-1,000.00
<b>Newsletter</b>			
Postage and Shipping	532.70	1,000.00	-467.30
Printing	81.02	500.00	-418.98
<b>Total Newsletter</b>	613.72	1,500.00	-886.28
Presenters	150.00		
Publications Expenses	40.98	50.00	-9.02
Purdytown Cemetery	200.00		
<b>Williams House</b>			
Electricity	225.82	400.00	-174.18
Fuel & Furnace Service	0.00	100.00	-100.00
Maintenance	1,054.50	1,000.00	54.50
Repairs	42.25	1,000.00	-957.75
Security & Phone	853.56	1,000.00	-146.44
<b>Total Williams House</b>	2,176.13	3,500.00	-1,323.87
<b>Total Programs Support</b>	3,801.02	7,750.00	-3,948.98
<b>Restricted Expense</b>			
Purdytown Cemetery	3,798.10	4,000.00	-201.90
<b>Total Restricted Expense</b>	3,798.10	4,000.00	-201.90
<b>Special Events-Expense</b>			
Awards Banquet-Expense	1,354.00	1,500.00	-146.00
Picnic-Expense	103.39	75.00	28.39
Quilt Raffle-Expense	261.40	350.00	-88.60
Spring Buffet-Expense	1,050.00	1,525.00	-475.00
<b>Total Special Events-Expense</b>	2,768.79	3,450.00	-681.21
<b>Total Expense</b>	15,839.81	19,170.00	-3,330.19
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	391.72	-2,085.00	2,476.72
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>			
Other Expense			
petty cash	50.00		
<b>Total Other Expense</b>	50.00		
<b>Net Other Income</b>	-50.00	0.00	-50.00
<b>Net Income</b>	341.72	-2,085.00	2,426.72

## 2013 WHS Year in Review

### Wallenpaupack Historical Society Balance Sheet As of December 31, 2013

**Dec 31, 13**

#### ASSETS

##### Current Assets

##### Checking/Savings

##### Checking

##### Purdytown

##### Checking - Other

506.28

13,309.61

##### Total Checking

13,815.89

##### HNB-PaupkSchl CD(33)

9,524.73

##### WB-WH Endow CD(38)

7,304.19

##### WB - Restricted part CD(40)

3,489.49

##### WB - Un-restricted part CD(40)

11,783.02

##### Total Checking/Savings

45,917.32

##### Total Current Assets

45,917.32

#### TOTAL ASSETS

45,917.32

#### LIABILITIES & EQUITY

0.00

# 2014 WHS Budget Approved on January 15 2014

## Wallenpaupack Historical Society Profit & Loss Budget Overview January through December 2014

	Jan - Dec 14
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>	
<b>Income</b>	
<b>Donations</b>	
Books	1,000.00
General	700.00
IGA & Dutch's	150.00
Memorials	25.00
Palmyra Twp Donation	1,500.00
<b>Total Donations</b>	3,375.00
<b>Interest Income</b>	
Checking Interest	10.00
<b>Total Interest Income</b>	10.00
<b>Membership Dues</b>	2,000.00
<b>Royalties</b>	50.00
<b>Sales</b>	
Book Sales	2,000.00
<b>Total Sales</b>	2,000.00
<b>Special Events-Income</b>	
<b>Awards Banquet Income</b>	
Auctions	800.00
Dinners	2,000.00
Spnsors	2,000.00
<b>Total Awards Banquet Income</b>	4,800.00
<b>Quilt Raffle Tickets</b>	2,700.00
<b>Spring Buffet-Income</b>	1,600.00
<b>Total Special Events-Income</b>	9,100.00
<b>Total Income</b>	16,535.00
<b>Gross Profit</b>	16,535.00
<b>Expense</b>	
<b>Administrative Office</b>	
<b>Insurance</b>	
Directors Liability	1,000.00
Loss and Liability-Property	1,400.00
<b>Total Insurance</b>	2,400.00
<b>Office Supplies &amp; Equipment</b>	500.00
<b>Other</b>	120.00
<b>Postage-Board Package</b>	100.00
<b>State &amp; Federal Fees</b>	35.00
<b>Website Renewal</b>	100.00
<b>Total Administrative Office</b>	3,255.00
<b>Cost of Inventory</b>	
<b>Publications Purchase</b>	1,400.00
<b>Total Cost of Inventory</b>	1,400.00
<b>Programs Support</b>	
<b>AV Equioment</b>	0.00
<b>Awards</b>	500.00
<b>Collections</b>	1,400.00
<b>Legal Fees</b>	1,000.00
<b>Newsletter</b>	
Postage and Shipping	1,000.00
Printing	500.00
<b>Total Newsletter</b>	1,500.00
<b>Presenters</b>	75.00
<b>Publications Expenses</b>	50.00
<b>Williams House</b>	
Electricity	400.00
Fuel & Furnace Service	100.00
Maintenance	1,000.00
Repairs	1,000.00
Security & Phone	1,000.00

	Jan - Dec 14
<b>Total Williams House</b>	3,500.00
<b>Total Programs Support</b>	8,025.00
<b>Restricted Expense</b>	
Purdytown Cemetery	500.00
<b>Total Restricted Expense</b>	500.00
<b>Special Events-Expense</b>	
Awards Banquet-Expense	1,500.00
Picnic-Expense	100.00
<b>Quilt Raffle-Expense</b>	350.00
<b>Spring Buffet-Expense</b>	1,525.00
<b>Total Special Events-Expense</b>	3,475.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	16,655.00
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	-120.00
<b>Net Income</b>	-120.00

  
*Wallenpaupack  
Historical Society  
Incorporated*

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**OFFICERS**

*Rolf Moeller, President  
Robert Morgan, Vice-President  
Jon Tandy, Secretary  
Donna Stuccio, Treasurer*

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**DIRECTORS**

*Arnold T. Anderson  
Robert Ammon  
C. Richard Briden  
Kristen Brown, Newsletter Editor  
Donal Coutts, Director Emeritus  
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