

AUGUST 2014 NEWSLETTER
WALLENPAUPACK
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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



AUGUST 9, 7:00 p.m. at the Environmental Learning Center
"THE TOWN UNDER THE LAKE"

Jon Tandy will be giving a presentation about Wilsonville, the town under the lake. Once the county seat of Wayne County, Wilsonville is named after James Wilson, one of the first associate justices of the Supreme Court. The town was flooded in the middle 1920s with the construction of Lake Wallenpaupack.

The program includes photographs, maps and side-scan sonar images of Wilsonville, and the stories of people who owned the property and the businesses that were there. Jon will also answer the common questions: "Is there still a town under the Lake?" "Can you really hear a church bell ringing when the water is low?"

SEPTEMBER 19, 4:00 p.m.
ANNUAL PRESERVATION AWARDS DINNER

Wallenpaupack Historical Society's annual Preservation Awards Dinner will be held on Friday, September 19th at Ehrhardt's Waterfront Resort, which is located at 205 Route 507, Hawley, Pa., 18428. Please make your reservation today by completing the following form and mailing it to Nancy Gumble.

SILENT AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED

Items are needed for the Silent Auction which will take place at the September 19th Preservation Awards Dinner. Please contact WHS Director Bob Essex to arrange donating items for the auction by calling Bob's home phone (570)226-6240 or cellular (570)352-5130.

ANNUAL PRESERVATION AWARDS DINNER at EHRHARDT'S WATERFRONT RESORT
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19th 4:00 p.m.
RESERVATIONS \$35.00 PER PERSON

Reservations due by Friday, the 12th of September.

Anyone with a question may call Nancy Gumble (570) 226-6596.

Please make your reservation by completing this form and returning with your check (payable to Wallenpaupack Historical Society) for \$35.00 per person attending to:

**Nancy Gumble
P.O. Box 303
Tafton, PA 18464**

NAMES of PEOPLE ATTENDING: _____

CONTACT PHONE NUMBER: _____ **AMOUNT of CHECK ENCLOSED:** _____

WALLENPAUPACK HISTORICAL SOCIETY UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, August 4, 5:00 p.m. at Zane Grey Museum – Signing of Treaty of Renewed Friendship with Lenape Nation.

Saturday, August 9, 7:00 p.m. at the ELC – “Town Under the Lake” by Jon Tandy, a program about Wilsonville.

Wednesday, August 20, 7:00 p.m. at the Palmyra Township Municipal Building, Pike Co. – Town Hall Meeting about the restoration of the Paupack School, costs of needed repairs and future use as a community center.

Saturday, September 13, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. at Palmyra Township Park – Pike 200th Anniversary Commemoration by Palmyra Township.

Friday, September 19, 4:00 p.m. at Ehrhardt’s Waterfront Resort – Annual Preservation Awards Banquet.

Wednesday, October 15, 1:00 p.m. at the ELC – Dr Alberta Weber will present about the year her husband and she worked as missionary doctors in Africa.

Wednesday, November 19, 1:00 p.m. at the ELC – Rick Bodenschatz of the Historical Association of Tobyhanna Township will present “The William Henry Chrisman Story”, a veterans’ program about Private Christman of Tobyhanna Township, the first soldier ever buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

Wednesday, December 17, 12:00 noon at the ELC – Holiday Party and Concert by WAHS Choir.

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*Wallenpaupack
Historical Society
Incorporated*

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

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*103 Manor Woods Court
P.O. Box 345
Paupack, PA 18451*

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(570) 226-8980

www.WallenpaupackHistorical.org

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From the contributing editor Nan Coutts Brown:

We are pleased to reprint the following article, “Pippins and Pork”, from 1893, which we found while browsing through the Chronicling America website (www.chroniclingamerica.com). This website is a treasure trove of old newspapers and includes some old Hawley, Honesdale and Scranton newspapers.

This article, re-printed from the *Philadelphia Times* in Texas’ the *Fort Worth Gazette* on October 22, 1893, paints a vivid picture of one particular hunting adventure of our very own Marcus N. B. Killam. Marcus was the great grandson of the original settler Zadock Killam. He was married to Nancy Jane Bennett, who was the grand-daughter of the original settlers Stephen Bennett and Mary Gates.

While there are some known inaccuracies in this article (is it a “tall tale”?), it is obviously based in some truth. During his lifetime, Marcus was, in fact, known as “the most successful hunter in Northeastern Pennsylvania”.

In addition, we recently spoke with Nancy Gumble (who is a great, great-grand-daughter of Marcus Killam) regarding this article. She said she thoroughly enjoyed reading and studying the article, and agreed that it is “pretty flowery” and that it included some factual errors. Although Nancy had not heard of this story or of the mentioned rifle named “Old Betsy”, a rifle that did belong to Marcus Killam is in the possession of WHS and is on display at the Williams House. Our newsletter next month will feature an historical account of the lives of Marcus and Nancy Killam.

[From the *Fort Worth Gazette*, October 22, 1893]

PIPPINS AND PORK

The Wallen-Paupack River runs through a wild but beautiful valley of Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and it is often skirted by dense swamps. And, where the big hemlocks, birch and oak trees still stand, Bruin finds his congenial haunts and plays wild havoc among the sometime fertile farms of the Paupack valley, carrying away young calves, but occasionally loses his life by reason of being too fond of climbing apple trees.

(continued)

Marcus Killam is a "logger" and a farmer and has 1,000 acres under cultivation in Palmyra township. Marcus was 75 years old on the 4th day of July. He goes to church at the Paupack Valley Methodist meetinghouse on the Wallen-Paupack once every Sunday, dressed in gray pantaloons, big boots and a blue cutaway coat with brass buttons, and standing 6 feet 2 in his stocking feet looks like a sturdy English gentleman yeomen of olden times.

Marcus loves the flocks and herds. But he entertains a deadly hatred for bears.

It was over a fortnight ago that he found a pig missing whose dying squeal had not aroused the honest old farmer from his sleep of the just, and what enraged him most, a favorite apple tree was scratched up and down the trunk. The limbs were broken and the tree was absolutely denuded of apples. Bears had been there, old Marcus well knew.

Summoning his nephew Volney Bennett, a lad of only 16 but ready to shoot anything from a woodpecker to a white Rocky mountain goat, he put the boy on the trail to diagnose the situation.

Young Bennett sought the neighboring village on the Wallen-Paupack River and there found three travel stained hunters who had trailed the pig-stealing bear all the way from within three miles of Binghamton, N.Y., across the river and in among the big hemlocks and oaks of Palmyra township. The New York sportsmen were down in the mouth because after a tramp of 10 miles they had lost traces of the bear. Young Volney was cute enough while "pumping" the foreign bear hunters not to say anything about old Ephraim's fondness for raw apples and his Uncle Killam's uncooked shoats. There was an "early to supper" and an "early to bed" at the Killam farmhouse that night, and long before the break of day, a hot breakfast of fried trout, flapjacks and wild honey and buttermilk antedated the hunters departure in search of the bear meat. A casual glance at the pigpen revealed the blood of another lost pig a year old, bodily lifted by Bruin over the palings of the pigpen. Another apple tree stripped. Then old Marcus breathed firebrands and death against that particular black bear.

Marcus had old Betsy, a rifle with which he had brought down a bounding buck in the Paupack valley "60 years ago come next Christmas". Young Bennett had a double-barreled shotgun loaded with buckshot. All day they tracked that bear through the hemlock swamps and through the laurel and wild blackberry bushes.

Night came on and the old farmer asked his nephew if he could stand a night in the woods. "Sure", said the boy, and producing a box of matches and a fish line he handed the matches to old man Killam and with the trout line sought a trout stream emptying into the river, and every hole in that stream knew him and he knew it.

Farmer Killam soon had the fire ready, but not too soon for Volney returned in half an hour with a dozen beautiful trout, which wrapped in a moist newspaper, after being washed and cleaned, made a supper fit for the gods on high Olympus, and the old man produced a flask of generous size from the side pocket of his hunting coat. But whether it contained buttermilk or the spirit of "Oh be Joyful", young Volney did not disclose.

The hunters had tramped 15 miles in a hot August day and they slept without dreaming, and only Gabriel's final "horn" or a catamounts yell could have broken their slumbers.

A council of war was held at 4 o'clock in the morning, and Farmer Killam decided that the bear would try another pig that morning as he had swallowed undisturbed the best yearlings in the pen already. Water was brought up in the now empty flask and the wood fire extinguished, for every thing was as dry as a tinderbox. A straight walk was made for the apple orchard, and just as the bridegroom of the morning left his kisses of purple and gold on the edge of a flossy eastern cloud, the anxious hunters reached the dense oak woods fringing the apple orchard on the west side.

Farmer Killam, who has an eye like a falcon's and doesn't wear glasses for all he is 75, peered out behind a big oak tree. "My God," he said - and he is a good Methodist - gasping for breath. "My God, there's old Ephraim a-ruinin my pippin apple tree!"

The wind was right and the bear was full of fresh pork and unconscious of danger. He munched apples while the stealthy hunters sought a coign of vantage in a fence corner. By the dim and misty light Killam drew a bead with his trusty Betsy on the too-confiding Bruin.

The rifle ball went home and down dropped a 300-pound bear. Both hunters ran to the bleeding bear. And as Killam, flushed with victory, reached with his bowie knife for Ephraim's jugular, the bear, the blood gushing from his right shoulder, hit Killam with his left paw, knocking him six feet out from under the pippin tree and leaving bare three inches of the farmer's scalp, which will stay bare until he dies.

While the old man was temporarily hors du combat, the youthful Volney gave the bear a coup de grace at 10 paces and sent a load of buckshot crushing into his brain. Ephraim quivered and died. Old man Killam soon revived, and the hunters both executed a war dance around that ponderous bear. By the time the farm folks got out to see a bloody farmer and a bleeding bear, Mrs. Killam informed the forgetful hunters that it was Sunday morning! This fact in the excitement of the chase was totally forgotten.

The next Sunday "the frosty son of thunder," who expounds and pounds the gospel along the Wallen-Paupack valley preached a rousing sermon against violating the Sabbath with guns. His text was "Ephraim is joined to the idols; let him alone."

It was not quite clear to Marcus Killam whether the preacher was hitting at him and his nephew or not, but he said to his wife at dinner that day: "Mrs. Killam I don't just know what that preacher meant by leaving Ephraim alone; but, by gosh, I won't leave no bear alone who steals my best yearlin pigs and ruins my best apple trees. No, by gosh, preacher or no preacher." -- Philadelphia Times



Volunteer with Wallenpaupack Historical Society

Wallenpaupack Historical Society has many volunteer opportunities available for people interested in participating in the mission of "Keeping the history of Lake Wallenpaupack alive and accessible for present and future generations." Volunteering is a good way for students and young professionals to gain experience and build resumes. It could also be an opportunity to work on a project together with your family, or an occasion for retirees to spend time for the betterment of their community.

There are many different types of activities that are available, such as organizing and displaying collections and artifacts, working outdoors on upkeep of the Williams House or historic Purdytown and Taft Cemeteries, organizing annual programs or fundraisers, writing or transcribing articles for the monthly newsletter, updating the Society's website, serving on the Board of Directors, and many other possibilities.

For anyone willing to donate your time, WHS has a place for you to contribute either on a single project or for an ongoing basis. If you would like to volunteer, please complete this form and mail to:

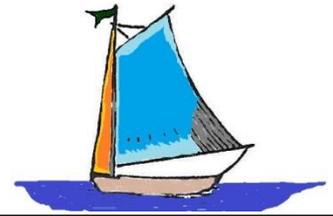
WHS, P.O. Box 345, Paupack PA 18451

NAME:

PHONE NUMBER:

VOLUNTEER INTERESTS

- Organizing or displaying Society artifacts
- Facilities upkeep for the Williams House and historic Purdytown and Taft Cemeteries
- Planning special programs or fundraising events
- Contributing to the monthly newsletter
- Website maintenance
- Yearly financial auditing
- Serving on the Board of Directors
- Other interests such as:



Give a Gift of Membership or Recommend WHS Membership to a Friend

Membership benefits include a monthly newsletter, special notices of upcoming programs of interest, and the right to vote in the corporation. Memberships are for the calendar year. New membership applications received in the final three months of the fiscal year (October, November and December) are automatically extended until the end of December in the following year.

Please complete the following form and mail with your payment, payable to Wallenpaupack Historical Society, to:
Wallenpaupack Historical Society
P.O. Box 345
Paupack, PA 18451

- Student \$5.00
- Individual \$15.00
- Family \$25.00
- Corporate \$50.00

Name:

Address:

City, State, Zip Code:

Phone:

E-mail:

Please check here if you would like to receive the monthly newsletter via email instead of U.S. Mail.

For student membership only -

Name of school, college or university: