

OCTOBER 2014 NEWSLETTER

WALLENPAUPACK HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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



Wallenpaupack Historical Society's Upcoming Events

- ‡ Wednesday, October 15, 1:00 p.m., the ELC - Dr Alberta Weber's presentation about the year her husband and she worked as missionary doctors in Africa
- ‡ Wednesday, November 19, 1:00 p.m., 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. Pvt Christman was the first soldier ever buried at Arlington National Cemetery.
- ‡ Wednesday, December 17, 12:00 noon, the ELC - Holiday Party and Concert by WAHS Choir

WHS Honors Wayne County Historical Society for Historic Preservation

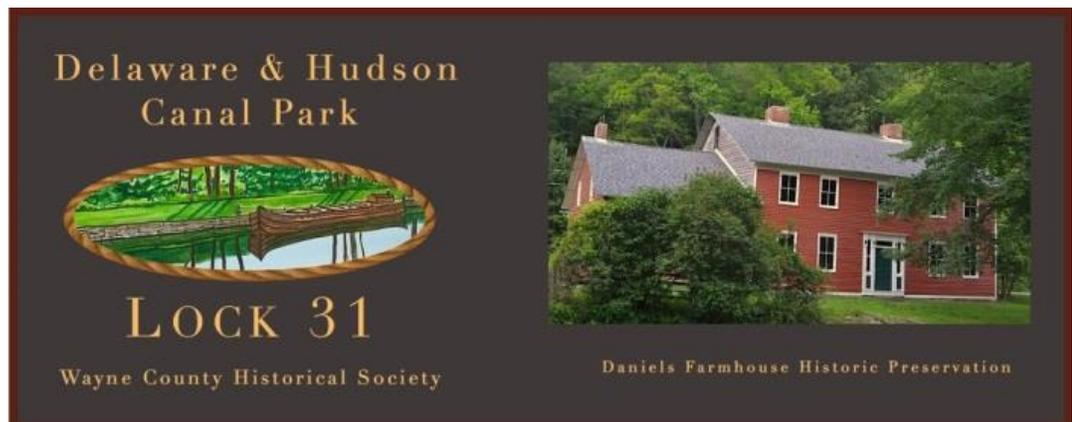
The annual WHS Historic Preservation Awards Dinner was held on Friday, September 19th at Ehrhardt's Waterfront Resort. Wayne County Historical Society (WCHS) was awarded for the work of preserving the Daniels' Farmhouse (c. 1820) at Lock 31, located on Route 6 one mile north of The Settlers' Inn. WCHS began this preservation endeavor nearly 20 years ago in 1995, and has been utilizing grants and volunteer efforts to restore the early farmhouse, highlighting the original red color of the home and carefully preserving and restoring

era-appropriate character. The Canal Park Committee of WCHS has been working diligently with a historical architect from Philadelphia, Mr John Bowie, to preserve the period character and design. In addition to restoring the farmhouse, WCHS is engaged in preserving the surrounding acreage on both sides of the D&H Canal to form a 16 acre park for public use.

Thank you to Sally Talage, Tom Colbert, and all of Wayne County Historical Society and the Canal Park Committee for their amazing commitment and success with this restoration. For more information about the D&H Canal Park at Lock 31 including the Daniels' Farmhouse, please visit the website www.wchs-lock31 or phone WCHS by calling (570) 253-3240.



pictured, Sally Talaga and Tom Colbert, chairman, of Wayne County Historical Society's Canal Park Committee and Rolf Moeller, president of WHS.



History of Wayne and Pike Counties

Pike County celebrated its 200th Anniversary at Palmyra Township Park on September 13th with a picnic and program by Pocono Wildlife.

The County of Pike was separated from Wayne County on March 26, 1814. Wayne had been separated from Northampton on March 21, 1798 and Northampton had been formed from part of Bucks County on March 11, 1752. Bucks County was one of the original counties created by William Penn in 1682.

When formed in 1814, Pike County included the townships of Middle Smithfield, Delaware, Upper Smithfield, Lackawaxen and Palmyra. By the Act of April 1, 1836, a portion of Pike County was cut off to form part of Monroe County; otherwise, its boundaries remain as they were established by the Act of 1814.

It was named for Zebulon Montgomery Pike, discoverer of Pike's Peak [near Colorado Springs, Colorado] and General, killed in the War of 1812. [Zebulon Pike was born in Somerset Co., NJ.]

Milford is the County Seat. The original courthouse was constructed in 1815. The present courthouse was completed in 1874.

The following historical account of Pike and Wayne Counties appears in Pennsylvania - A History, Volume IV, Editor-in-Chief, George P. Donehoo, Lewis Historical Publishing Company, Inc., 1926.

PIKE COUNTY.

Pike County, taken from Wayne in 1814, titled in honor of Zebulon Pike who lost his life in the War of 1812, has an area of 544 square miles of hilly land, with some fertile bottoms. Timber drew the early speculators, but with the destruction of the forest farming has come to be the main occupation. Less than half of the area is under cultivation. The civil divisions of Pike embrace 11 townships and 2 boroughs. Manufacturing takes the form of food and wood products, and the quarrying of blue stone. Population, 6,818.

TOWNSHIPS.

BLOOMING GROVE----"The central township," erected in 1850, is best known for the Blooming Grove Association owning over 1400 acres in game preserve, with one square mile under fence as a breeding park for deer. The scrub oaks of this area are made into railroad ties, and, with farming, make up the industrial life of the township. Population, 263.

DELAWARE----Erected before 1766 while in Northampton County, is sparsely settled except along the river. There are a few farms. Village, Dingmans Ferry. Population, 376.

DINGMAN----Taken from Upper Smithfield and erected in 1832, is a region of many streams and waterfalls, with arable flats along the Delaware River. Farming and the care of summer vacationists form the principal occupations. Population, 325.

GREENE----Taken from Palmyra in 1859, has many ponds and water powers. Village, Houcktown. Population, 787.

LACKAWAXEN----Erected in 1798, is named for the river which flows through it. The village of Lackawaxen has become in recent years a large vacation center. Population, 902.

LEHMAN----Erected in 1829 out of Delaware, is scientifically beautiful with its waterfalls and gorges. The village, Bushkill Valley, was settled before 1750. Population, 556.

MILFORD----Erected in 1814 with the new county, endeavored to be made the county seat. Its history and present standing is identical with the borough of Milford and may be found under that name. Population, 120.

PALMYRA----Erected with the county of Wayne in 1798, has since been depleted by the formation of Dyberry, Pike County, part of Salem and Greene. Industry, farming. Villages : Wallenpaupack, settled between 1750 and 1760 ; Wilsonville. Population, 406.

PORTER----Erected in 1851, has few permanent inhabitants. Porter Lake and some of the other ponds are visited during the summer by sportsmen and vacationists. Population, 51.

SHOHOLA----Erected from Lackawaxen, Westfall and Milford September 25, 1852, is a rocky township with many scenic points. Shohola Glen, and the village of the same name have been made a resort visited by thousands. Parkers Glen is the location of blue stone quarries. Pond Eddy, on the Delaware, is a summer fishing port. Woodman and Upland are two small settlements. Population, 434.

WESTFALL----Set off from Milford in 1839, is named in honor of the Westfall family, pioneer settlers. Its nearness to Port Jervis has made it rather better developed than many of the Pike townships. Matamoras, the borough, is the only town within its boundaries. Population, 295.

BOROUGHES.

MATAMORAS----The largest town in the county, lies opposite Port Jervis. Started as a tally-ho stop and waiting point for an unreliable ferry, with the coming of bridges, and the growth of its New York neighbor, it has become the finest suburb of Port Jervis. There are a few manufacturing concerns producing Population, 1535.

MILFORD----The county seat, deriving its name from the fact that there was, at the time of its settlement, a ford across the Delaware and a mill, early became the trading point for the farmers drawn by the rich bottom lands surrounding it. A large lumber company has its headquarters in the town. Newspapers : "Milford Dispatch," "Pike County Press." Population, 768.

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WAYNE COUNTY.

Wayne County, named after "Mad Anthony Wayne," was organized from Northampton County with much more than its present 739 square miles in 1798. The county is slightly mountainous, dotted with some 76 lakes and ponds, with the Lackawaxen River and its affluents bordering and draining it. It has great potential water power, and the character of its terrain has made it quite a summer resort. The anthracite coal basin is near, sand suitable for glass making is present, which is drawing manufacturers. The principal industry is farming and orcharding, three quarters of the county being under cultivation. The civil divisions embrace 22 townships and 6 boroughs. Population, 27,435.

COUNTY SEAT.

HONESDALE---Settled in 1803, incorporated in 1831, was made the county seat in succession to Bethany in 1841. Named after Phillip Hone who had large interests in this region, and who was a liberal patron of the Hudson Canal which was made in 1812, the place soon became the trading center for a wide territory and made good growth. The factories of Honesdale produce : Elevators and hoists, cut glass in large quantities, hosiery and knit goods, tobacco products, boots and shoes, furniture, silks, axes, machinery, chemicals, condensed milk. Newspaper, "Independent." Population, 2756.

TOWNSHIPS.

BERLIN---Erected in 1826, diminished in 1846 by the excision of Oregon, is a good farming district with red shale soil and fertile bottoms. Population, 894.

BUCKINGHAM---One of the original townships established in 1798, included Scott, Manchester and part of Preston and now extends for a distance of 14 miles on the Delaware and has as average width of six miles. The first settlement was at Stockport in 1790 by Samuel Preston. Villages : Stockport, Kingsbury, Sunshine and Equinunk. Population, 702.

CANAAN---Erected in 1798, then included Salem, Clinton, South Canaan and the boroughs of Waymart and Promton. The general elevation of the district averages 1450 feet, culminating at Far View at 2740 feet. Stock raising and farming, principal occupations. Villages : Canaan Corners and Fermoy. Population, 845.

CHERRY RIDGE---Settled in 1781, erected in 1844, has for its main industry, farming. Villages : Clarks Corners, Middle Valley. Population, 572.

CLINTON---Formed from parts of Canaan, Mount Pleasant and Dyberry in 1825. Farming and lumbering are the main industries. Villages : Aldenville and Forest City. Population, 1573.

DAMASCUS---The largest of the townships, erected in 1798, included originally, Lebanon, Oregon and parts of Dyberry and Berlin. The land is rolling, arable, with soil of good quality ; the working of which is the main industry. Towns : Damascus, Galilee, Tyler Hill, Darbytown, Boyds Mill, Eldred and Branningville. Population, 2077.

DREHER---Separated from Sterling in 1877 and Lehigh was taken from it in 1883. Contains a fine fertile valley, part of which is known as "Newfoundland," which supplies the main industry of the residents. Population, 519.

DYBERRY---Erected probably in 1804, taken from

Damascus, Palmyra and Canaan, was settled in 1794 by pioneers attracted by its fertility of soil, which to-day supplies the principal occupation of the inhabitants. Village, Tanners Falls. Population, 666.

LAKE---Settled in 1803, erected in 1877 out of Salem and Canaan, was, until recent years, a densely forested section containing several lakes. Villages : Ariel, Chapmantown, Forest Mills and Tresslersville. Population, 1268.

LEBANON---Erected 1818, contains 37 square miles. Farming and cattle feeding are the main industries. Villages : Shieldsboro, Rileysville. Population, 364.

LEHIGH---Taken from Dreher in 1883, settled in 1856. Industry, farming. Villages : Sand Cut, Marsh, Gouldsboro. Population, 536.

MANCHESTER---Originally a part of Buckingham, was created in 1826. It extends along the Delaware River for 14 miles. An abortive attempt was made in 1793 to settle the land by the "Union Sugar Company" with the purpose of making sugar from maples. Is quite a vacation center. Hamlets : Priceville, Bramans, Equinunk. Population, 729.

MOUNT PLEASANT---Settled in 1790, erected in 1798, is scenically remarkable, with some of the highest hills and most attractive lakes in this district. Farming is the main industry, although there is a large plant making wood products in one section. Villages : Rock Lake, Pleasant Mount, Stevenson Mills, Whites Valley and Belmont. Population, 1334.

OREGON---Erected in 1847, is one of the smallest townships. Since lumbering and their accompanying tanneries have ceased operations, farming has been the main industry. Villages : Girdland and Carley Brook. Population, 393.

PALMYRA---Erected in 1798, lost most of its importance and historic interest when Pike County separated from Wayne in 1814, taking the larger and more settled section of this township. The borough, Hawley, is the one town and center of the industries of this area. Population, 552.

PAUPACK---Settled in 1783, did not have a separate existence until 1850. Lumbering, grist mills, and farming engage the attention of the township. Villages : Wilsonville, Purdytown, Hemlock Hills. Population, 427.

PRESTON---Taken from parts of Scott and Mount Pleasant, was erected in 1828. Its lakes and streams have much potential water power, some of which is utilized by grist mills. These latter, together with agriculture, make up the backbone of the industrial life. Villages : Preston and Lake Como. Population, 1208.

SALEM---("land of peace") was set off from Canaan and Delaware in 1808. It contains much bottom land of good fertility which is used for farming and dairying, both of which are on a solid basis. Villages : Hollisterville, Hamlington, Arlington and Ledgesdale. Population, 1111.

SOUTH CANAAN---Settled in 1804, erected from Canaan in 1851, contains the original settlement of this section. It is a fair agricultural territory. Villages : Canaan and South Canaan. Population, 975.

STERLING---Set off from Salem in 1815, is a good grazing section and dairying is the main industry. Villages : Sterling, Nobleville, Howes Valley. Population, 515.

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Incorporated**

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

(570) 226-8980

www.WallenpaupackHistorical.org

TEXAS---Erected in 1837 from Dyberry, was settled in 1765 in an endeavor to replace the Indians, who used what was known as "Indian Orchard" as a meeting place. Farming and the making and cutting of glass are the main industries. Villages : Seelyville, the seat of a large cotton goods plant, Traceyville, outside of Honesdale, Leonardville, White Mills and Clarks Corners. Population, 3635.

BOROUGHES.

BETHANY---Formerly the county seat, settled in 1799, incorporated in 1805, seemed destined in the early days, to become the business and legal center of the county. But with the change of the county seat in 1841, its growth was seriously retarded. It is now the trading place for the farmers of the outlying districts. Population, 106.

HAWLEY---Settled in 1803, had the foundations of its prosperity laid in 1826 when the engineers of the Delaware and Hudson Canal started operations, and was greatly helped by the building of a gravity coal road a few years later. Incorporated in 1884, the town has made steady progress. Manufacturing interests produce : Glass (cut and bottles), silks, hosiery, timber, clothing and boxes. Newspaper, "Times." Population, 2756.

PROMPTON---Incorporated in 1845 and enlarged and reorganized in 1850, had its first dwelling in 1818. Of its industries the making of cut glass is the largest. Population, 220.

STARRUCCA---Incorporated in 1853, is located at the head of Starrucca Valley, one of the most beautiful and fertile in the country. A hundred years ago was the first grist mill erected, and of the various industries which have been established here, this is the only survivor. The prosperity of the town comes from its importance as a shopping center to the farmers of the valley. Population, 397.

WAYMART---Organized from Canaan township in 1851, is the central market point for a large farming territory and does an extensive mercantile business. Population, 507.

Wallenpaupack Historical Society Membership

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

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