

FEBRUARY 2015 NEWSLETTER

WALLENPAUPACK HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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



Wallenpaupack Historical Society's Upcoming Membership Meeting

- February 18, 1:00 p.m., the PPL ELC -

The Carter Family,

The Story of Wallenpaupack's Very First European Settlers

The second program of the WHS Local History Series,

presented by Jon Tandy

Please join us for this local history program about the Carter Family's settlement on the Wallenpaupack River, their conflict with the American Indians, and whatever became of the Carter descendants. This program will be the second part of a six-part series about the earliest history of the Wallenpaupack region.

2015 Program
Refreshment
Committee

February - Bruce Taylor
March - Audrey Graybill

Thomas Kennedy 1946 - 2015



We mourn the passing of Thomas Kennedy on January 4, 2015. Tom was a member of Wallenpaupack Historical Society, and an embodiment of our pledge to "keep the history of our area alive and accessible to present and future generations." Tom developed a local history curriculum for Wallenpaupack's fourth grade, he conducted historical tours for adults, he gave numerous presentations to the public, he served as a resource for specialized knowledge of area railroads, served as a local history consultant for the Northeastern Educational Intermediate Unit, and furnished his office as Principal of Wallenpaupack North Intermediate School with enough artifacts to qualify it as a museum.


His presence will remain with us for a long time.

The following information is courtesy of Art Glantz and regards the missing first name of the student, whose last name was DeGroat, who appeared in a photograph of the Paupack School, 1936. The photo of the classroom of grades 5 - 8 was printed in January's newsletter.

Art states, "I am quite certain that the first name of the DeGroat listed there was Harold. He would have been in the HHS Class of 1940. I have a picture of him with three of his classmates, Leo Cuccini, George Conklin, and a third person who I have never been able to identify.

"Harold was lost in WW II. He was a gunner on a B-17 that was shot down over Germany. His remains were eventually returned to the US and were reinterred in Elmira where his wife was living at the time. He had a son who was born shortly before Harold's wife was notified of his loss."




 The following history is reprinted, source :
Palmyra Township, Pike County, A History by Donal S. Coutts, published by
 Wallenpaupack Historical Society, 2007, page 115.

History of the Paupack School, Palmyra Township, Pike County

History of the Paupack Consolidated School, continued from the January newsletter

On November 29, 1950, in his application to the Department of Education, on behalf of the Palmyra Township School Board, in order to have the Paupack School approved as a proper education facility, Chester B. Dissinger, County Superintendent of Schools, wrote:

“Here is found an excellently organized and efficiently conducted elementary school for grades 1 - 8 inclusive. Service systems are adequate and complete in every respect; teaching equipment is well provided; the teaching is very effective; transportation service is all that can be desired; school grounds are adequate and well equipped; and the building is maintained in every respect. Full approval of this school is anticipated.”

As part of the learning process, to instill confidence, improve retention skills and generally increase one’s ability to learn, Miss Heberling insisted that each student, grades 5 through 8, learn and recite before the class, at least one poem per month. These were at times the 21st and 23rd Psalms. A small example of the poems chosen would be “Trees,” “Abu Ben Adam,” “The Village Blacksmith,” “Snow Bound,” and the ever popular “In School Days.” Because John Greenleaf Whittier’s “In School Days” so masterfully depicts our nearly forgotten, once important rural schools, it is reprinted here:

In School Days

John Greenleaf Whittier (1807 - 1892)

Still sits the school house by the road,
A ragged beggar sleeping;
Around it still the sumacs grow,
And blackberry vines are creeping.

Within the master’s desk is seen,
Deep scarred by raps official;
The warping floor, the battered seats,
The jackknife’s carved initial;

The charcoal frescoes on its wall;
Its door’s worn sill, betraying
The feet that, creeping slow to school,
Went storming out to playing!

Long years ago a winter sun
Shone over it at setting;
Lit up its western window-panes,
And low eaves’ icy fretting.

It touched the tangled golden curls,
And brown eyes full of grieving,
Of one who still her steps delayed
When all the school were leaving.

For near it stood the little boy
Her childish favor singled;
His cap pulled low upon a face
Where pride and shame were mingled.

Pushing with restless feet the snow
To right and left, he lingered—
As restlessly her tiny hands
The blue-checked apron fingered.

He saw her lift her eyes; he felt
The soft hand’s light caressing,
And heard the tremble of her voice,
As if a fault confessing.

“I’m sorry that I spelt the word:
I hate to go above you,
Because,”—the brown eyes lower fell—
“Because, you see, I love you!”

Still memory to a gray-haired man
That sweet child-face is showing.
Dear girl! The grasses on her grave
Have forty years been growing!

He lives to learn, in life’s hard school,
How few who pass above him
Lament their triumph and his loss,
Like her, because they love him.

Throughout the Second World War and the Korean War, Civil Defense became an important and serious consideration. From the Emergency Welfare Service for Civil Defense for Pennsylvania, via the office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, came this directive:

“In many communities, the only structures equipped for the care of the homeless and injured are school buildings. If schools are used for any emergency, during which time the resumption of classes will be an impossibility, their use is approved. If an emergency arises, it is recommended that the following policies be observed:

1. Keep school on the usual schedule if at all possible.
2. If disaster comes, use the building for as brief a period as possible, and then resume the school program as soon as health and safety permits.
3. Give thought to the maximum use of the building as (A) shelters for the homeless, (B) feeding stations, (C) emergency medical service stations, (D) food storage depots, and (E) clothing distribution centers.

“School personnel are urged to give their complete co-operation and support in making plans for Civil Defense.”

Miss Heberling’s article in *The School Directory of Pike County*, edition 1952/53, states:

“In addition to the two full-time teachers who serve the pupils of grades one to eight inclusive, a school nurse, a music teacher, and an art teacher are on the staff. Our children, therefore, are enjoying an enriched educational program which is not generally found in too many schools of like size and pupil enrollment.

“Palmyra Township people believe in a sound basic school experience for their children and they, with the help of the state, are providing it.

“All high school pupils are entered in the secondary grades of the Hawley Borough High School.

“Our P.T.A. and the local American Legion helped to make our school a model one. These organizations, with the school authorities, have made available play equipment, sound movies, a phonograph-radio-recording machine and a thriving school community library.”

Due to an ever-increasing student population by 1952, the school board was beginning to develop

a plan for coping with over-crowded classrooms and larger class sizes.

It was not until 1958 that the additional classroom was added by installing a folding door at the stage / library area and converting that space into a separate classroom. Proper furniture and lighting were provided and Virginia Buehler was hired as the third teacher.

A population explosion due to the land developments around the lake region during the mid-1950s created serious growing pains in the local school system. Over-crowded classrooms in the Hawley High School caused the Department of Labor and Industry to serve notice that the building would no longer be approved. The several school boards of Palmyra (Pike), Palmyra (Wayne), Lackawaxen, Blooming Grove, Paupack, White Mills Independent, and Hawley Borough all shared the Hawley High School and held many community meetings in an attempt to work out an equitable solution to the ever-increasing problem.

. . . After airing their frustrations, the Palmyra (Pike) board decided to proceed with the other five boards on jointure talks. Articles of Agreement were finally signed on May 8, 1959.

The new jointure having duly formed, the next issue of great controversy was seeking a unifying name that could be approved by all districts involved. In the final analysis, the proposal recommended by the Palmyra, Pike school board was voted on and approved, creating the “Wallenpaupack Area Joint School System.”

Meanwhile, in the southern area, the bordering townships of Greene and Dreher, realizing the newly formed Wallenpaupack Jointure had advantages in proximity and in their children’s future needs, requested that they also be allowed to join. Approval being granted, the jointure was then governed by a 45 member board (five from each district), under the supervision of Wayne County.

Overcrowding in all the district schools once again became a major concern. By 1970, 93 students attended the Paupack School which had a capacity of only 81. The last meeting of the Palmyra Township School Board was held May 5, 1970, and the following month all assets were turned over to the new Wallenpaupack Area School District.

(continued, next page)

*Wallenpaupack
Historical Society
Incorporated*

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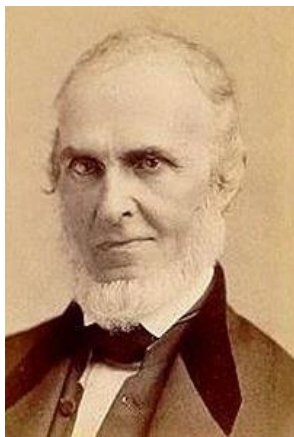
www.WallenpaupackHistorical.org

The WASD officially closed the Paupack Consolidated School in 1988, and all the students were carted to the newly created jointure.

With apparently little or no regard for their provenance or potential significance as historical artifacts, the WASD auctioned off all the Paupack School's furniture and fixtures, denuding the building of its valuable historic artifacts. The facility was then used as a convenient place to store used and useless parts, furniture, and equipment until [the late-1990s when] Wallenpaupack Historical Society became involved in its preservation as a viable community center.

In 1999, the Palmyra Pike/Wallenpaupack Historical Society registered the Paupack Consolidated School with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission in Harrisburg. The historical society formed a Paupack School Committee to work closely with the Palmyra

Township Board of Supervisors and the Wallenpaupack Area School Board, to have the old school returned to Palmyra Township for preservation and restoration and to be used once again as a community center. The sale and transfer finally occurred with the official signing of the appropriate papers in September, 2002. The Paupack School was once again back in the control of Palmyra Township.



John Greenleaf Whittier, b. 1807 Haverhill, MA, died 1892 Hampton Falls, NH, was a poet, Quaker, and abolitionist, most noted for his poem *Snow-Bound*.

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



For student membership only -

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