

MARCH 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

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

The Wallenpaupack Settlement,
The Story of Wallenpaupack’s Permanent European Settlers
and Their Fort Lackaway

*The third program of the WHS Local History Series,
Presented by Audrey Graybill with group discussion*

Please join us for this local history program about the first successful permanent settlement on the Wallenpaupack River and the settlers’ Fort Lackaway, a structure built to enable defensive combat with the American Indians. This program will be the third part of a six-part series about the earliest history of the Wallenpaupack region.

2015 Program
Refreshment
Committee

March - Audrey Graybill
April - Gert Schleiker and
Ann Wiedenman



left, Audrey presented in January on the pre-settlement history of the Wallenpaupack region.

right, Jon presented in February on the Carter family from Connecticut, and their attempt to form a permanent homestead on the Wallenpaupack in the middle-eighteenth century.



Thank you to the following Society members whose generous donations were received in Bob’s memory -

*Robert Graybill
1932 - 2015*



Dr William and Mrs Thelma Dewar
Mrs Joan Douglas
Mrs Alice Ehrhardt

Mr Eugene Glantz
Mr Jon Tandy and Ms Bernadine
Lennon

A History of Wallenpaupack's First School Houses

True to their New England origin, the first settlement on the Wallenpaupack valued the education of their children and employed a school teacher responsible for academic instruction. As noted in Don Coutts' *Palmyra Township, Pike County, A History*, "Mr Fry, one of the original Connecticut settlers, was the first schoolmaster in the young wilderness settlement; however, due to the lack of printed documentations, we do not know if he taught from his home, from his students' homes, or perhaps at the fort." The first school houses of Wallenpaupack were built as deemed necessary and existed in and out of use until the era of primary school consolidation in the early twentieth century, with the Paupack Consolidated School being the first primary school to replace the one-room school houses of colonial and post-colonial days.

Coutts states, "Palmyra Township's first known classroom was located on the Pellet property built before 1800 in the center of the farming community of Paupack.... The dilapidated stone foundation approximately 24' x 24' is still recognizable.... Nearby rests the remains of the little fresh water spring which fulfilled the needs for clear, cold drinking water.

"A second primitive schoolhouse built in the early years of the 1800s was located in the small unnamed settlement adjacent to the stone quarries along the trail between Tafton and Kimbles (Bear Run Road) near the Decker Swamp. This was known as the Purdy School, named for the schoolmaster who taught there, George Purdy.

"In 1834, *The Free School Act* established a system of free public education in Pennsylvania. The law established local school districts and permitted the levying of taxes to pay for elementary education. It was during this same period that mini-communities in Palmyra Township began to spring up around places of employment, usually a saw mill, a tannery or a stone quarry, and, in two instances, near the apex of several large farms. When ten or more school-age children resided in those neighborhoods, a school would be built within walking distance of that populace. Walking two or three miles to school was not at all uncommon and often necessary.

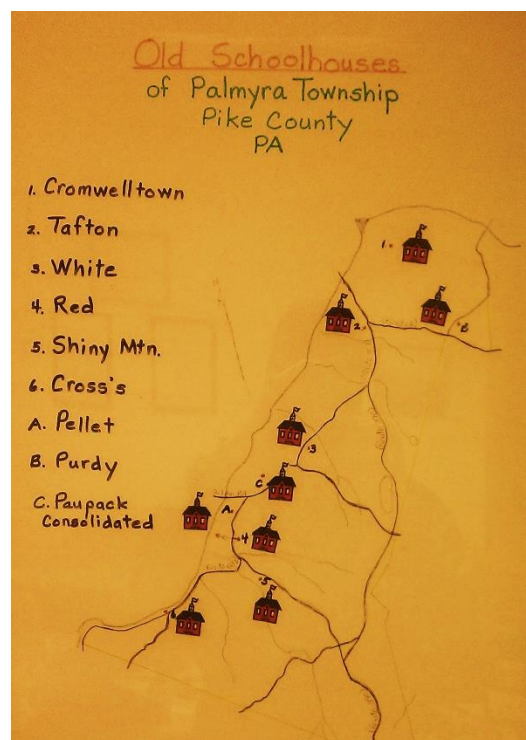
"In the year 1868, E. S. Decker, Pike County Superintendent of Schools wrote in part:

"There are fifty school houses in the county, all wood frame buildings. About ten percent are unfit for use. About forty have no out buildings... Books are a great obstacle to the progress of the schools, as very few have a good selection of books... The directors generally keep open the schools at such times when they will be most attended. Hence, there is no one time in the year in which all the schools are open...."

As noted in Coutts' *History*, Mary Waltz recalled her one-room school day experiences in an article published by a local newspaper:

"School was opened by repeating the Lord's Prayer, followed with a song, sometimes by pupils quoting a verse of scripture --- we liked to search out short verses. There were mottos on the walls --- one was 'do not tell a lie,' another 'do not steal - it is a sin to steal.' We had a fifteen minute recess at 10:30 and an hour for lunch. As we lived just around the corner from the school, we went home for lunch, hurrying back to join in the games or whatever. On Friday afternoons we had either spelling or arithmetic battles, or recitations. At times the teacher would read a story to us...."

Pictured at right, a map by Joan Glazier of Palmyra's one-room schoolhouses including the Paupack Consolidated School hangs in the Palmyra Township Municipal Building. The Tafton School (#2) closed in 1924 because it would soon be under the new Lake Wallenpaupack. The Paupack Consolidated School opened in September 1925, rendering all of the remaining one-room schoolhouses obsolete for academic instruction.



*Wallenpaupack
Historical Society
Incorporated*

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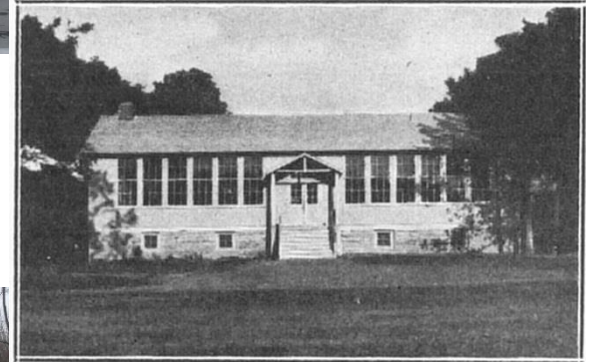
www.WallenpaupackHistorical.org

**A LOOK at the ADAPTIVE REUSE of FORMER
PIKE COUNTY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS**



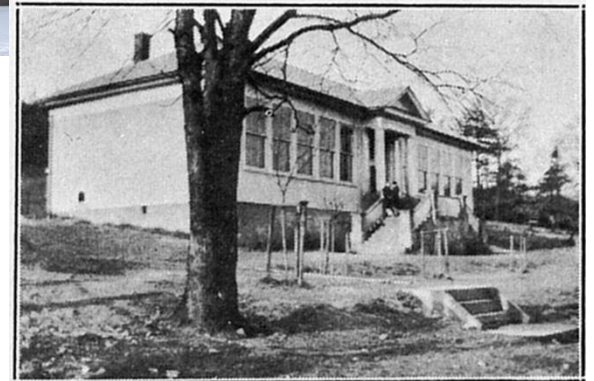
The Greeley School present, left, and past, below

Presently this building is owned by St Luke's Lutheran Church and is a preschool



The Lackawaxen School present, left, and past, below

Presently this building is a private residence



The Paupack School
Two modern renderings of the Paupack Consolidated School, front façade (below) and rear façade (left), envisioned as a community center



The Bushkill School
Presently owned by the National Park Service and houses NPS archives

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.”

There are many activities that are conducted by the Society, 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 and fundraisers, writing and transcribing articles for the monthly newsletter, updating the Society’s website, and serving on the Board of Directors.

For anyone willing to donate your time, WHS has a place for you to contribute either for 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:

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

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: