

# NOVEMBER 2015 NEWSLETTER

## WALLENPAUPACK HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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



### Wallenpaupack Historical Society's Upcoming Events

2015 Program  
Refreshment  
Committee  
November - Rolf Moeller

**Veteran's Day Program**  
November 18, 1:00 p.m. at the  
**Environmental Learning Center, Hawley**  
- A veterans' program in honor of Veteran's Day

**Holiday Party**  
December 16, 12:00 noon at the ELC  
- Annual holiday party with performance by the  
WAHS Chamber Choir and Show Choir  
- Please bring holiday refreshments to share, especially for the  
WAHS Choir as this is the students' lunch on that day.

*Wallenpaupack  
Historical Society*

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**OFFICERS**

*Robert Essex, President  
Kristen Brown, Vice-President  
Jon Tandy, Secretary  
Donna Stuccio, Treasurer*

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**DIRECTORS**

*Arnold T. Anderson  
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**Meeting Notes**  
**Update from October Board Meeting**

**Collections Committee**

*History of Wyoming Valley* by Charles Miner is missing from the Williams House. If anyone knows of its whereabouts, please call Ann Wiedenman (570) 226-4453. The display in the Visitors' Center has been updated for the fall / winter. The current display is Depression-era glass.

**Facilities Committee**

Committee will be spreading lime at Purdytown Cemetery and will be selecting plants and trees for next year including wild flower seeds. Committee is soliciting estimates for Williams House porch repair and house painting for work to be completed this fall or next spring.

( Continued )



## Meeting Notes

### Update from October Board Meeting

Thanks to generous assistance from Katie Lester, Talen (now Brookfield) Energy staff member, and Jon Tandy on behalf of WHS, the Society was able to receive funding from PPL (Talen Energy) for the carbon-dating of the carved canoe on display in the Environmental Learning Center. A test completed by the University of Georgia Center for Applied Isotopic Studies provided inconclusive on a definitive date, however the study devised five potential date ranges of the age of the canoe, the most probable being approximately 1830 - 1840.

## U.S. Route 6 Tourist Association's History of The Grand Army of the Republic (Memorial) Highway

In honor of Veterans Day, the following history of U.S. Route 6, also named The Grand Army of the Republic Highway, is contained here. Special thanks to the U.S. Route 6 Tourist Association for allowing me to reprint the following content found on the organization's website [www.route6tour.com](http://www.route6tour.com).

The Grand Army of the Republic (Memorial) Highway is the present official name, however, during the late 20s and early 30s it was also known as the Roosevelt Highway, after President Theodore Roosevelt. Prior to 1926 it was called (in-part) the Midland Trail Roadway.

The Historic Highway began as an entity in November of 1926 when the American Association of State Highway Officials (AASHO) adopted the U.S. numbering system for marking the Nation's main Interstate highways.

At first, U.S. Route 6 was a short route running between Provincetown on Cape Cod, Massachusetts, to Brewster, New York. Over the years it was extended in stages to transcontinental length as improved roadways moved westward. It was in 1937 that AASHO approved the extension of U.S. Route 6 to Long Beach, California (a distance of 3,652 miles from Provincetown) making it the longest U.S. Route in the country.

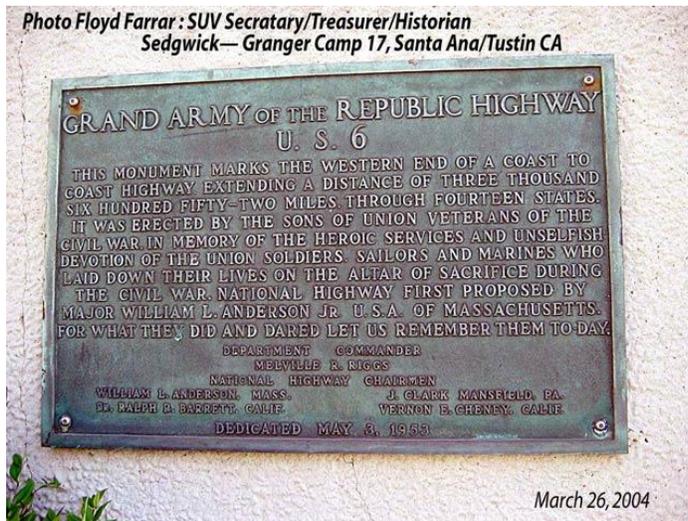
### HISTORIC U.S. ROUTE 6 --- COAST-TO-COAST THROUGH 14 STATES

At this point, U.S. Route 6 was still just a patchwork of miss-matched highways. Writer/Historian George R. Stewart commented that, "Route 6 runs uncertainly from nowhere to nowhere, scarcely to be followed from one end to the other, except by some devoted eccentric." However, it lost its transcontinental status in 1965 when AASHO approved a request from the State of California to end the Historic Highway at the Town of Bishop. Currently, U.S. Route 6 is 3,227\* miles long, making it the second longest U.S. Route in the country. U.S. Route 20 is now classified as the longest route at 3,345\* miles. Much of the original alignment remains intact between Bishop and Long Beach, California.

( Continued )



*Photographed on left, a sign on Route 6 in Pennsylvania, courtesy of Route 6 Tourist Association. On right, road sign located east of Bishop, CA looking towards the Nevada state line. Photo by Mike Blubaugh 8/4/2001*



Dedicated May 3, 1953, by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War in memory of the Union veterans, the plaque reads “Grand Army of the Republic Highway - U.S. 6 - This monument marks the western end of a coast to coast highway extending a distance of three thousand six hundred fifty two miles through fourteen states. It was erected by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War in memory of the heroic services and unselfish devotion of the union soldiers, sailors and marines who laid down their lives on the altar of sacrifice during the Civil War. National highway first proposed by Major William L. Anderson, Jr. U.S.A. of Massachusetts. For what they did and dared let us remember them today.”

### PLAQUE AT THE WEST END

Thanks to the Historical Society of Long Beach, California, and to Floyd Farrar, Historian with the Sons of Union Veterans, we now know the current location and have some pictures of the Plaque which established the West End of Historic U.S. Route 6 on May 3, 1953. The Plaque is located on the wall in front of the Long Beach Performing Arts Center at Ocean and Long Beach Boulevard. Russ Lombard, President, U.S. Route 6 Tourist

### ABOUT THE SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

*The following information is reprinted from the website [www.suvcw.org](http://www.suvcw.org), Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War*

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) is a fraternal organization dedicated to preserving the history and legacy of veteran heroes who fought and worked to save the Union in the American Civil War. Organized in 1881 and chartered by Congress in 1954, SUVCW is the legal heir and successor to the Grand Army of the Republic.

In 1866, Union Veterans of the Civil War organized into the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) and became a social and political force that would control the destiny of the nation for more than six decades. Membership in the veterans' organization was restricted to individuals who had served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, or Revenue Cutter Service during the Civil War, thereby limiting the life span of the GAR. The GAR existed until 1956.

In 1881 the GAR formed the Sons of Veterans of the United States of America (SV) to carry on its traditions and memory long after the GAR had ceased to exist. Membership was open to any man who could prove ancestry to a member of the GAR or to a veteran eligible for membership in the GAR. In later years, men who did not have the ancestry to qualify for hereditary membership, but who demonstrated a genuine interest in the Civil War and could subscribe to the purpose and objectives of the SUVCW, were admitted as Associates. This practice continues today.

Many GAR Posts sponsored Camps of the SV. In 1925 the SV name was changed to Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW), under which its federal charter was issued in 1954. ( Continued )

The SUVCW is legally recognized as the heir to, and representative of, the GAR.

Today, the National Organization of the SUVCW, headed by an annually elected Commander-in-Chief, oversees the operation of 26 Departments, each consisting of one or more states, a Department-at-Large, a National Membership-at-Large, and over 200 community based camps. More than 6,360 men enjoy the benefits of membership in the only male organization dedicated to the principles of the GAR – Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty. It publishes “The BANNER” quarterly for its members. The SUVCW National Headquarters is located in the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.



**Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War**  
National Headquarters

The SUVCW is one of five Allied Orders of the GAR. The other four Orders are: Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic, Woman’s Relief Corps, Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

**MEMBERSHIP TO SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR**

When you join the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, you enter a network of more than 6,000 men who form lifelong bonds, honor their heroic ancestors, and promote historic preservation, education, and patriotism in their communities. There are hereditary members, who trace their lineage to those who served honorably in the Civil War, and associate members, who do not have the requisite ancestry but wish to join the fraternity. Each is described in greater detail below. Further questions regarding eligibility or the application can be directed to the Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief at [jvcinc@suvcw.org](mailto:jvcinc@suvcw.org).

*To our friends who would like to become new members -*

**Not Already a Member? Please Join Wallenpaupack Historical Society!**

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: