

OCTOBER / NOVEMBER / DECEMBER

2022

WALLENPAUPACK HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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



Volume 13, Issue 7

ANNUAL HOLIDAY GATHERING THANK YOU ANSLEY BELL RINGERS HANDBELL CHOIR and guest banjo player DAVE BROWN Wednesday, December 14 at the ELC



Thank you to all WHS members and guests who attended the annual holiday luncheon, with holiday music provided by the Ansley Bell Ringers and Dave Brown.



**WELCOME
NEW WHS
BOARD
DIRECTOR
LYNDA
KOEHLER
OF
PAUPACK**
Welcome!

2022 QUILT RAFFLE WINNER ANNOUNCED

*Congratulations to Ray
Milora of Paupack for
winning the 2022
sailboat quilt. Thank
you to all who
participated in the 2022 raffle.*



**60TH
ANNIVERSARY!**

CONGRATULATIONS MARYANNE AND DICK TEETER CELEBRATING 60TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2022

*THANK YOU FOR THE GENEROUS GIFT TO WALLENPAUPACK
HISTORICAL SOCIETY IN HONOR OF YOUR 60TH ANNIVERSARY,
RECEIVED FROM YOUR LOVING CHILDREN,*

MARY HELEN AND RANDY SCHMALZLE AND FAMILY

JULIE AND DICK SEILER AND FAMILY

JEN AND MIKE PEIFER AND FAMILY

TEETERS'

LAKE WALLENPAUPACK ARROWHEAD AND ARTIFACT COLLECTION RECEIVED



The children of Frances and Robert Dommeleers of Hemlock Point, Greentown, generously donated to Wallenpaupack Historical Society their parents' collection of Native American artifacts found by the Dommeleers on Hemlock Point cove and the lake islands in the late 1900s.



These artifacts consist of a number of flint arrowheads, drills, fishing weights, pestles, and flint chip shards from arrowhead carving.

More information on the display of this collection to follow in 2023.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING RECAP, NOVEMBER 16, 2022 ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTER, HAWLEY

The November 16, 2022 annual business meeting was called to order by presiding officer Kristen Brown at 12:35 p.m. at the ELC. Directors in attendance: Kristen Brown, president; Dotty Lees, treasurer; Jo-Ann Rose, Palmyra Township Appointee; Nan Brown, Linda Calabro, Maggie Bova. Members: Lynda Koehler, Richard Teeter, Allan and Paula Whitney.

Kristen Brown displayed the recent artifact donation from the Dommeleers family containing arrowheads and Native American artifacts which were found on Hemlock Point cove and Burns Island late 20th century, and spoke briefly about the artifacts.

A slate of officers and directors for the 2023-2024 term was presented to membership.

Slate:

PRESIDENT Maggie Bova

VICE PRESIDENT Laura Engle

TREASURER Dotty Lees

SECRETARY Kristen Brown

Nan Brown

Linda Calabro

Lynda Koehler

Jill Porter, Palmyra Township Historian John Robertson

Jo-Ann Rose, Palmyra Township Appointee

A motion to approve the 2023 slate of officers and directors was begun by Paula Whitney, seconded by Dick Teeter, and unanimously approved by all. Budget reports showing 2022 profits and losses through 11/14/22 were distributed. The 2023 budget was approved by a motion from Linda Calabro, second Maggie Bova, unanimously carried.

TREASURER DOTTY LEES CELEBRATES 90TH

Congratulations to WHS Treasurer Dotty Lees, center, who celebrated her 90th birthday in the summer of 2022. Pictured left to right are WHS Board of Directors Laura Guccini Engle, Nan C. Brown, John Robertson, Dotty Lees,



Kristen Brown, Maggie Bova, and Jo-Ann Rose. Director Linda Coutts Calabro took the photo.

***President &
Newsletter Editor
Kristen Brown***

***Vice President &
Interim Secretary
Laura Guccini Engle***

***Treasurer
Dorothy Lees***

***Palmyra Township
Appointee
Jo-Ann Rose***

***Directors
Maggie Bova
Nan C. Brown
Linda Coutts Calabro
John Robertson***

***Palmyra Township
Historian
Jill Porter***

***Director Emeritus
Shirley Coutts***



**HISTORY OF HAWLEY PENNSYLVANIA,
VOLUME I, AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT
TEETERS' FURNITURE, HAWLEY, \$40.00**

**THE HISTORY OF
HAWLEY
PENNSYLVANIA
VOLUME I
PETER W. BECKER**



Edited by Wallenpaupack Historical Society

ARMISTICE DAY IN HAWLEY

by Art Glantz, in honor of Veterans Day 2022

World War I began in June 1914 as a conflict among several European countries and eventually engulfed nearly all the nations of the world. The war cost millions of lives, military and civilian.

The United States entered the conflict in April 1917, but did not have a trained army until later in the fighting. Before it ended, the war claimed the country nearly 116,000 American casualties.

As the war dragged on, it became a stalemate and eventually negotiations led to an armistice that was to begin on November 11, 1918 - at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month.

A peace treaty, that many felt was a statement of revenge rather than a peace treaty, was signed in 1919.

In that year, U.S. President Woodrow Wilson "proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration to honor the soldiers who fought in that war." The day was originally known as Armistice Day. November 11 became a federal holiday in 1938.

The intent of this piece is to remember Armistice Day as it was observed by the public schools of Hawley in the late 1930's and early 40's. Armistice Day, like Memorial Day in the spring, was a semi school day, in that there were no formal classes, but all school children would participate in a program of remembrance.

After arrival at school, classes were lined up in the school yard in preparation for a parade downtown, with the high school band leading the way. (continued next page)

In retrospect, I think our school was very lucky in that we had a school principal, Mr. Joseph Jacobs, who was a strong advocate for music in our curriculum. School budgets were probably fought over as much then as they are today.

Unfortunately, music and art are often the first to suffer the budget cuts. But under Mr. Jacobs' leadership, he saw to it that the Hawley school system had a school orchestra and a uniformed school band.

When we arrived downtown we would be met by town folks some of whom were American Legionaries. They were identified by the Legion caps they wore, noting that they were members of Wilson-Kelch Post 311 that had been named for two men who had been killed in W W I. The Post maintains a Legion Home on Church Street to this day.

Two people in particular stood out because they wore their W W I uniforms. Mr. James Spence, I was told had been a commissioned officer in the war, but I was not able to recognize the military insignia. Mr. Spence was not from Hawley so few people knew him. Mr. Spence was the owner and publisher of the "Hawley Times," the town's only newspaper. The other person was Eugene Vandemark who was a local, but, few people knew anything about.

My friend and classmate, Joan James Douglass told me that her family was friendly with the Spence family. Joan told me that Mr. Spence was an accomplished artist and that he would bring his brushes oils and easel with him when he visited Joan's family at their cottage on Fairview Lake. The Spence family moved away from Hawley before I really met them. His

daughter Mary Ann was in my second grade class in school.

One of Mr. Spence's employees at the "Times" was Jack Boyle. After Jack's military service in W W II, he worked for the Federal Government and in time became head of the Government Printing Office with the title of Public Printer.

The Armistice Day program moved into the Ritz Theater where the formal program was held. No doubt we started with a pledge to to the flag, "a moment of silence" to honor those who died in the war, and we had a speaker.

There was always a period of singing songs that were familiar to American "Doughboys" and English "Tommies." We sang songs with words such as "It's A Long Way to Tipperary," "Goodbye Piccadilly," "Farewell Leicester Square" and "Pack Up Your Old Kit Bag."

Tipperary, I learned later, was in Ireland; Leicester Square (pronounced Lester) and Piccadilly were parts of London. On reflection in later years, one had to wonder if these songs were not soldiers' lament if they would ever see those places again after being sent off to "the front."

I wrote that our Armistice Day programs must have included speakers, but, frankly, I don't t recall any one speaker, except one. Our school always observed another program, in the spring, that was called Decoration Day or Memorial Day. On one such occasion, I recall a speaker who talked about the horrors of war, a topic that I had never heard during the Armistice Day programs.

(continued next page)

ARMISTICE DAY NAME CHANGED TO HONOR ALL VETERANS

When World War II formally ended in September 1945, the war had truly been a world wide conflict with the war having been fought on many places on the globe. Since then, of course, the United States has been involved in several wars starting with the Korean conflict that began in 1950. A new term Veterans Day, to honor veterans of all wars was proposed in 1947 by Raymond Weeks, a W W II veteran from Birmingham, Alabama. The term was later approved by Congressional Resolution.

A FEW WORDS ABOUT THE RITZ

In February 1935, Hawley had one movie theater, the Dreamland, a wood frame building at 506 Church Street. In the early morning hours of the 18th, the building was destroyed by fire.

In June of 2012, the local paper "The News Eagle" carried a story about the planned construction of a new theater on a lot at 512 Keystone Street. An old Victorian home that occupied that site was to be torn down to make way for the new theater. The house had been owned by the Ames family, but was then (1935) occupied by the Frank Miller family.

The new theater would be built of brick, fire proof, air conditioned; its interior would be in the Art Deco style and it would be able to seat approximately 700

patrons. Estimated cost was about \$65,000 and construction was to begin in July of that year. Amazingly, the construction of the theater, started in mid year, was opened for its first show on Christmas Day of 1935. The movie was "Patty O' Day" starring Jane Withers. My friend, the late Roger Lobb, told me that he had bought the first ticket from Katy Denver, who was the cashier at the Ritz as she had been at the Dreamland.

The Miller family, that had moved from the Victorian home, had one son at the time, Jimmy, a boyhood friend of mine. He later entered West Point at the start of a military career and retired as a full Colonel. A picture of the Ames house can be found on page 161 of the book "Illustrated Wayne County Edition 1900-1902."

The theater was used for high school graduation exercises and had even presented vaudeville shows. With

the advent of television, the Ritz lost its place as the major entertainment medium in Hawley. The building was eventually purchased by the Murphy family who used it for summertime theater productions.

Art Glantz is a member of Wallenpaupack Historical Society and has made oral and written contributions to the Society. Sources for this article: As noted in the text and news articles from newspapers of the time as found in computer sources. Comments or questions: aglant7@ptd.net

