

The Wilson Story

The Town of Wilson was formed from Porter on April 16th, 1818, and Reuben Wilson was the first supervisor. The Village was incorporated on May 11th, 1858, and Reuben's son, Luther, was the first President of the Board, now known as the Mayor.

Wilson gained fame as an educational center when the Collegiate Institute was built in 1845. The Town was made a Port of Entry in 1848 and for many years, Wilson prospered as a lumber and ship building port. The area was also known for its choice fruits and vegetables, which were shipped out by both ship and rail. In the 1890's, the community became well known as a popular resort area. Today, Wilson is still a leading producer of agricultural and nursery stock.

Several fine yacht clubs and marinas are located in the natural boat harbor formed by 12 Mile Creek at Sunset Island, and the well-stocked Lake and streams provide excellent fishing for trout, salmon, perch and bass.

There are 13 old Cobblestone Homes in the Town of Wilson that were built before the Civil War. For more information, see the Society's Booklet "The Land of Cobblestones", which is available at the Museum or by mail.

1903 NY Central Caboose—Renovated under the direction of Burt Jennings. Current restoration supervised by Darrell Smith and Donald Burrows, features Railroad memorabilia.



The Wilson Historical Society Museum is open the 1st and 3rd Sunday afternoons from 2:00—4:00 pm or tours are available by appointment. We are closed during the months of November—April.

Membership is \$15.00 for singles, couples or families. Lifetime memberships are also available.

For more information, contact the Town Clerks' Office at 716-751-6704.

Visit the Town of Wilson website at www.wilsonnewyork.com for photos and newsletter highlights.



Wilson Historical Society & Museum

645 Lake Street
P.O. Box 830
Wilson, NY 14172-0830



The Wilson Historical Society is a non-profit entity operating under an absolute charter granted by the NYS Board of Regents. Its mission is to preserve the history of the Village and Town of Wilson. Membership is open to everyone.



The Wilson Depot

The Croop Room - The Railroad Waiting Room retains décor of the 1912 era. Exhibits include Dr. Argue medical Supplies, glassware, photograph equipment, Wilson volunteer Fireman case & memorabilia from former Wilson businesses. Postcards, booklets and souvenirs are available here.

Middleton Library - Books, maps, acquisition files and genealogical records may be examined here with the permission of the Librarian.

Myers Room - American flags, artifacts of past wars, radio equipment case and memorial to past President John Myers.

Express Room - When trains operated, all express and freight shipments were handled here. This room has been remodeled by the Society as a kitchenette with restrooms. Life Member Plaques are mounted on the wall.

Patterson Room - This former freight room has been remodeled into a meeting room & named after Richard Patterson, long time station agent. Exhibits include old tools used to build twentieth century homes & barns in Niagara County, a rare Indian Map of NY State, a square grand piano from 1870, an 1898 Edison Phonograph, a doll house built by Elwin Upton and memorials to the Senator Earl Brydges of Wilson.

Schnoor Room - Old kitchen displays, Donner loom, 1845 stone sink, round steel ice box, old carpet sweepers, sewing machines & items from Reuben Wilson home.

Lock and Tool Shed - Former business artifacts, farm tools, fishing nets.

The Randall Road Schoolhouse



The 1861 Randall Road one-room schoolhouse was moved to the Museum grounds, renovated and dedicated on May 18th, 1997. This is a "working" schoolhouse, where teachers hold classes to allow children to experience first hand what it would be like to attend a rural school.

Tugwell Cabin



The Tugwell Cabin was moved to the Museum in 2000. Donated by Floyd "Red" Clark, the cabin was the former retreat of Rexford Tugwell, a former Wilson resident who became an important advisor to then President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Barnum Building—Features a modern kitchen and dining area, and exhibits showing the former Wilson Post Office and County Store

Carriage Room—Features Williams restored Cutter, Mark's Buggy, the Democrat Wagon and a Firemen's Hose Cart.

Fittro Shop—Former Blacksmith Shop, Barnum Plow and Agricultural Equipment.



Dr. Argue Memorial Car Building

One of the special attractions at the Wilson Museum are its antique and classic cars—but they probable would not be there today except for the interest and enthusiasm displayed by the society's first President, Dr. John F. Argue. He donated the 1904 Covert "Chainless" shown above, along with several other antique cars. In October of 1978, the society approved the construction of a new steel and concrete transportation building. The actual erection of the building was done with volunteer labor.