



Wilson Historical Society

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FRANCIS GALLAGHER

WILSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

43RD ANNUAL

MEMORIAL DAY FAIR

MONDAY, MAY 30TH, 2016

8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM GROUNDS

ROUTE 425 TOWN OF WILSON

SUPER FLEA MARKET

250 VENDORS

FREE ENTERTAINMENT

FEATURING *THE BARROOM BUZZARDS*

GREAT FOOD INCLUDING CHIAVETTA'S CHICKEN BBQ

FREE PARKING IN THE VILLAGE WITH FREE

SHUTTLE BUS SERVICE TO THE GROUNDS*

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED THROUGHOUT THE DAY!

CALL 751-6704

THERE WILL BE A MEMORIAL SERVICE AT THE FAIR-GROUNDS AT 12:00 P.M. TO HONOR OUR VETERANS.

Thanks SO MUCH
for your support!!

EXCERPTS FROM BOARD OF DIRECTOR MEETINGS**NOVEMBER 2015 ~ MARCH 2016**

Repairs to the Tugwell Bldg. were discussed

Francis Gallagher discussed a possible winter programs—a Geneological Program

John Sinclair reported that cars were driven this past weekend, and repairs to the fascia of the car museum will need to be taken care of. He is also looking into Chainsaw Art for the Memorial Day Fair.

Lois Barnum reported that plate was received from the family of Joyce Hardison Campbell.

John was asked to contact Time Warner Cable for the Barnum Building.

Correspondence from Crossborder Btourism and Recreation Alliance was received thanking the WHS for previous use of our grounds, and telling us they will be moving the event to a new location. A check for \$500 was attached.

A motion to have the carpeting cleaned for \$300 was approved.

The planning board meeting was held and multiple projects were suggested.

There was a discussion of the Memorial Day Fair responsibilities. It was suggested we offer “pre-sale” tickets for the Chiavetta’s chicken barbeque.

The Wilson Lions Club request for use of the building on March 26th for their annual Easter Egg Hunt was approved.

Dan Kerwin, Brad Clark and Francis Gallagher will be on the Wilson Bicentennial 2018 committee. Several events were suggested.

Wally announced the Car Show/Band Concert will take place on August 14th, and the Christmas Concert is scheduled for December 4th.

John will work on the recharging of the fire extinguishers.

Three estimates for furnaces will be sought.

Don Sinclair is interested in donating a 1951-1953 IH Super C Tractor to the society, for us to use or auction off.

THOSE WHO DON'T KNOW HISTORY ARE DESTINED TO REPEAT IT.

100 Years Ago

From *The Wilson Star* October 22 through December 3, 1915

10/22/1915: The new concrete road on Young Street, which has been under construction for several weeks, is now completed and is a great addition to this village. When the muddy roads come farmers and others who drive will greatly appreciate this improved highway. (Sic)

10/29/1915: It is feared that much confusion will result on election day at the polling places owing to the similarity of Amendment and Constitution ballots. Many voters will not feel safe in voting on those issues for fear of mistakes and a light vote in consequence is predicted. (Sic)

The preceding statement became a self-fulfilling prophecy as the amendment for women's suffrage along with an amendment to change the state constitution did not pass. It is interesting to note *The Wilson Star* barely mentioned the upcoming vote for women's suffrage in the issues leading up to the election. One could speculate that those in power were hoping the issue would go away if they did not report on it.

November 5, 1915: According to lawyers who have been consulted by the suffragists, it will be impossible to submit another suffrage amendment to the people of this state, through legislative action, before 1919. Suffrage was beaten in New York State by more than 175,000 and the revised constitution rejected by more than 450,000.

Temperance was also a hot topic in the news. Late return (sic) contradict early reports of the result of the local-option votes. The wets won in each town by these pluralities: Royalton 43, Cambria 40, Lewiston 75, Porter 85.

12/3/1915: The play "The Vampire," which was given by local talent on Friday evening, at Albrights Opera House, was an artistic success, and there was good attendance. The local members of the cast consisted of Mrs. Warren A. Bush, Mrs. Walter H. Cuddeback, Ray Clark and Merle Wilson. Mrs. J. E. DeNeau, Frank Faery and Huntington Cuddeback furnished musical numbers between the acts. The local players turned over their share of the proceeds, amounting to \$9, to the Wilson Free Library.

12/3/1915: A petition to establish a lighting district on the Town Line Road, from the south line of the village to the residence of Marc S. Wilson is being circulated, and has been signed by two-thirds of the property owners in the district. The Town Board will soon give the matter a public hearing, after which they will grant the request if it is deemed expedient. The petition asks for the lights three hundred feet apart from the village to the station and four hundred feet apart from the station to the south terminal of the district. (The station refers to the train station current site of the Wilson Historical Society)

HISTORY: GOSSIP WELL TOLD

Did You Know?

Many if not most of the requests for information that come my way have to do with genealogy. When I began serving as town historian, I did not have much experience in this field. However, over the past few years I have discovered and used a number of resources to help answer the sometimes difficult questions that genealogy research throws at you. In this article, I will be sharing some of these resources to help you, the reader, in your genealogical research of links to the past. One thing to keep in mind when beginning your research is: What information do I already have and what am I looking for? This will loosely dictate an order for your search. However, there are a couple of websites that almost everyone will want to begin with.

By now, most of you have heard of www.ancestry.com. This is an excellent starting point for anyone beginning to research their family tree and for numerous other types of historical research questions. It is available to use for free at most if not all public libraries. While at the library, also take a look at old city directories. These were a yearly publication of who lived where before the telephone directory took over this function.

If you know where the person you are researching lived at a point in time prior to 1940, census information is available free at: <http://www.census.gov/history> Currently, records up to 1940 are searchable online. The actual 1940 census can be found here: <http://1940census.archives.gov/>

If you are searching for where someone is buried, <http://www.findagrave.com/> is sometimes useful. If you don't have any luck there, but you know the approximate year of a person's death, the Erie County Library has death certificate notices on microfiche for most of Western New York. Once you have a death certificate number, you can contact the village or town that issued the certificate. With that information, the place of burial should be easy to find. Although it may be necessary to be a relative of the deceased in order to get a copy

The library and The Buffalo History Museum also has many old newspapers on microfiche. Here, you can look through the obituaries which may be helpful. In the same vein, birth notices can also be researched. The best advice is to not get frustrated. Be prepared for dead ends, false leads etc. However, even when you don't find what you're looking for on a particular search you will most likely come across some interesting tidbit of information that will possibly come in handy at a later date. The following list is by no means complete but it is packed with information for researchers. Most of the sites below are the home pages of various organizations that include additional links to other genealogical search sites and databases. Lastly, if at some point you are having a difficult time or feel that you have exhausted all of your leads, or perhaps you just don't have the time there are researchers for hire who may be able to assist with the particularly difficult and obscure scenarios.

www.wnygs.org: Western New York Genealogical Association

<http://www.buffaloresearch.com/> Buffalo and Erie County

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nyniagar/genres.html>

<http://www.fultonhistory.com/Fulton.html> a searchable database of thousands of New York State Newspapers. A little cumbersome to use at first until one gets familiar with its idiosyncrasies.

Francis Gallagher

Town of Wilson Historian

The Wilson Historical Society gratefully accepts donations of historical items related to the Town of Wilson. The value of the items would be tax deductible to the donor to the extent provided by NYS Law.

Wilson Historical Society
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UPCOMING EVENTS

May 30th
August 14th

Memorial Day Fair
Sanborn Band Summer Concert

Wilson Historical Society Membership Form

June 1, 2016 – May 31, 2017

- Individual (\$15) Name(s): _____
- Couple/Family (\$15) Mailing Address: _____
- _____
- Life Member (\$150 single/\$250 couple)

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Checks payable to: Wilson Historical Society, P.O. Box 830, Wilson, NY 14172

Unknown Stores of WNY ~ The Cobblestone Era “ Link can be found at
http://www.wilsonnewyork.com/hist_society.html