



Elsie Hartmann

# A Light On The Past

The West Sparta Historical Society Newsletter

Volume 7 Issue 1

## PRESIDENTS LETTER

As always, the Annual meeting is a significant event, in effect ending our program year. The 2013 Annual Meeting was held February 19, at the Town Hall and eighteen members attended. We welcomed Supervisor, Gerad Levey, as our guest for the evening. Refreshments during the break including Elsie Hartmann's famous carrot cake adding some festiveness to the occasion.

Elections were held and congratulations are in order for four new trustees; Howard Perry, Sue Noragong, Rick Pfaff and Shirley Palmer, and to our new Treasurer, Linda Johnson. Congratulations to reelected officers, Sarah Booher, President, Greg Kysor, Vice President, Margie Cansdale, Secretary. Recognition also goes to continuing trustees, Elsie Hartmann (who is recuperating from a broken hip), Fred Bundschuh, and Deanna Mastin. A contact list for Officers and Trustees is included in this newsletter. Thanks go to Deanna Mastin and the nominating committee for recruiting our new trustees and officers.

Leaving the Trustees are Dick White after completing a three year term as trustee, Barbara Nagle and Sarah Booher after serving six years as trustees, also outgoing, Sue Erdle after completing six years as trustee and Treasurer. Our deepest thanks to all of these folks for their service.

Sue Erdle, Treasurer reported our financial status. In the Historical Society account we ended 2012 with a total of \$2052.27 a decrease of \$166.65 from 2011 account due to several extraordinary expenses (\$400 application fee to the IRS, and over \$600 spent on producing and

installing the History Display in the Town Hall). In the Old-Fashioned Day account we ended the year with \$1652.38 and increase of \$1084.11 over 2011. Combining both accounts we ended the year with a total of \$3704.65 a net increase of \$917.46 over 2011. Gerri Long reported that the Audit Committee had reviewed the books and found them all in order.

Once again in 2012 the Historical Society played a key role in coordinating a successful Old-Fashioned Day along with co-sponsors, the Town of West Sparta, West Sparta Methodist Church and West Sparta Fire Department. In reviewing 2012 I feel the Historical Society's other key accomplishments include : creating an 18 month Strategic Plan, producing and installing the West Sparta History Display at the Town Hall, expanding community involvement through increase of volunteers at Old-Fashioned Day, acquiring the IRS Tax Exemption status under section 501 ( c ) 3 of the IRS Code (See the sidebar on our exempt status in this newsletter), and acquiring a grant of \$950 for Old-Fashioned Day 2013 from the Decentralization Program, a regrant program of the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Council on the Arts. This was in addition to our regular schedule of programs, newsletters, governance meetings, collection work days and committee work throughout the year.

Objectives for 2013-14 include three Strategic Plan goals: 1. adding to the body of printed history about West Sparta, 2. producing reference maps of West Sparta's historical sites, and

(continued next page)

- The purpose of the West Sparta Historical Society is to collect, preserve, interpret, and make accessible to the public the history of the town and the people of West Sparta

### Inside this issue:

Palmer's Antique Tools	3
Jane Oakes presentation	6
'Wall of Honor'	7
Upcoming Events	8
Trustees and Officers List	9
Spaghetti Dinner report	10

## A Light On The Past

### Presidents Letter—continued from front page

3. cataloging and creating digital formats of our archival collection of documents and photos for storage in other locations. I am also working to decentralize the leadership of Old-Fashioned Day 2013 (essentially spread the responsibility around) and facilitate a process to improve West Sparta's historic cemeteries.

After a cake break we took a few minutes to discuss the idea of recognizing accomplished individuals from West Sparta's history. Having a process whereby we actively search for information about accomplished people from our community is a good way to learn more about the human side of our history to add to our lists of historic dates and historic locations. We've named the process "West Sparta Wall of Honor". Look for the form in this newsletter to contribute your ideas.

Since the Annual Meeting West Sparta Historical Society received it's New York State Exempt Organization Number for making tax free purchases, and we have applied for Charities Registration from New York State. For those who don't know, these steps in addition to our IRS Tax Exempt letter enable us to operate without a sponsoring organization. We are able to apply for grants, solicit charitable donations, and make tax exempt purchases. Old-Fashioned Day and activities of the Historical Society can be run independently and tax free. Donors who itemize deductions can now rely on the fact that contributions, gifts, sponsorships, and the like to West Sparta Historical Society qualify as charitable donations for tax purposes. (Donors are still advised to consult their own advisor in all tax reporting matters.) This exemption is backdated to Nov. 2008, so anyone who made a contribution from Nov. 2008 until present who has not claimed this as a charitable deduction should consult their tax advisor about doing so retroactively.... seriously ... its totally legal.

Of course with privilege comes more responsibility. We will also now have to report annually to the IRS and New York State. And, as our five year temporary

charter expires in November, we must now apply for a permanent charter from the New York State Education Department – Board of Regents. Such paperwork is the price of the privilege of operating an organization for the public good.

So while we'd just like to be sticking our nose into old books, searching for old photos and gathering information for historical articles, we continue to be somewhat diverted doing the business work of organizational compliance. If our newsletters are few and far between you'll just have to understand, there is other work we have take care of. Happy Spring, Sarah

### West Sparta Historical Society

Founded December 2006

c/o Sarah L. Booher, 8253 Green Road, Dansville, NY 14437

Telephone: 585 335 5094 email: [gefbooher@stny.rr.com](mailto:gefbooher@stny.rr.com)

<http://townofwestsparta.org/content>

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#### 2013 Officers & Trustees

President Sarah Booher

Vice President Gregory Kysor

Secretary Marjorie Cansdale

Treasurer Linda Johnson

Trustees Fred Bundschuh, Elsie Hartmann, Deanna Mastin,  
Sue Noragong, Shirley Palmer, Howard Perry, Rick Pfaff

Newsletter Editor Sue Erdle

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**A Light on the Past** is a publication of **West Sparta Historical Society**, a public charity chartered by the New York State Education Department and exempt from Federal income tax under section 501 (c ) 3 of the Internal Revenue Code. **West Sparta Historical Society** is qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers, or gifts under section 2055, 2106 or 2522 of the IRS Code.

**Principal Office:** West Sparta Historical Society c/o Sarah Booher, 8253 Green Road, Dansville, NY 14437. Tel: 585 335 5094. **Website:** [http:// townofwestsparta.org/content](http://townofwestsparta.org/content) (click on Historical Society). **Email:** [gefbooher@stny.rr.com](mailto:gefbooher@stny.rr.com). To obtain a copy of our annual report email or telephone your request to the office.

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## Palmer's Antique Tools

By Sarah Booher

When the earliest settlers arrived in West Sparta in the early 1800's they found swampy flats near Canaseraga Creek and fully forested hills safely above the flood plain. A well-off settler had walked hundreds of miles with perhaps other family members, a means of conveyance, one draft animal, an ax, a gun and knife, a few simple tools, some household goods and provisions for immediate survival. He was on his own, yet he not only survived but within about 20 years much of his land had been cleared, was dotted with a home, barns and small buildings, and the cleared land was planted to crops or fenced for animals. How did he do it?

On their trip west, settlers carried the lightest and most powerful assets of all, the knowledge of how to make and use simple tools suited specifically to each task and the determination to employ these tools and their own labor to make a good life. Once on site each was a manufacturer of tools, an innovator designing things to make or do other things. Often each had some special talent such as shoe making, or cloth weaving and these talents were shared within the growing community to make even more complex products and gradually transform life from the mean struggle to survive to something more comfortable.

They chose to settle on land that had an amazing abundance of trees, the resource that made so many other things possible. With the wood on their land, a few essential hand tools, iron or steel stock and the help of a hot forge (his, a neighbor's or a local blacksmiths) a tool for most any task could be manufactured.

Dave Palmer's antique tool collection is an homage to these settlers who made nearly everything they needed from the trees that filled the land. Dave has an almost reverent attitude toward the tools he has rescued from oblivion and those who made them. His respect for their ingenuity comes through as he details the perfect way the tool's form makes possible the functioning of each piece. He specializes in wooden objects and tools that are often overlooked. In fact before there were metal tools and fixtures, there was

often a wooden tool that served the same function.

You'll be happy to know you don't have to travel out of state or around the world to see Dave's collection. It is right here in West Sparta and it is displayed in three weather tight buildings (each with a history of its own) that Dave has constructed next to his home on Coffee Hill road. Dave is pleased to give you a tour by appointment or you can sign up with West Sparta Historical Society for tours all afternoon on Sunday, June 30, 2013.

At Dave Palmer's Antique Tools you will be able to visualize in your minds eye how settlers created sustainable farms from a forest full of trees. For instance we know early settlers made shingles for themselves and to sell for cash. First they fabricated a shingle making bench out of a few pieces of wood. In the tool museum you can sit right down on one of these simple wooden benches, place your foot on a wooden lever that clamps your shingle stock (a small slab of wood you had split off a log of the correct length). You take a simple draw shaver in both hands and begin to draw it against that slab of wood until you have tapered and smoothed it into a shingle shape. Voila! One shingle. Now you have a visceral understanding of the process of roofing a cabin so your family can move out of its tent and into a cabin.

In the tool museum you see how a few simply made tools and a little power made so much possible. Faced with a forest of trees where you wanted to build buildings or plant crops you needed not only an ax to fell them, and a saw to cut lengths, and a wedge or fro to split them into usable boards. You also needed a way to remove the stumps from the ground, a notoriously difficult thing to do which you know if you've ever tried it at home. Dave has a collection of the tools used in conjunction with oxen or manpower that popped huge stumps right out of the ground. To make it even clearer how this was done Dave has created models of several types of stump pullers to show how they worked. This includes the type of stump pullers designed to clear the land during the canal building

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## A Light On The Past

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Continued from pg 3

era that followed early settlement.

The tool collecting that was the genesis of this wonderful facility started over 50 years ago. Dave grew up in Tuscarora. The use of simple tools in farming and construction was learned naturally as he grew up on his parent's farm. He became a builder at an early age and made, repaired or expanded many buildings for his area friends and neighbors as time permitted over the years, but his full time job was in Noyes Memorial Hospital's maintenance department until his retirement in 1995.

Dave Palmer married local girl Shirley White in 1957. They spent a few months in a rented apartment while Dave built a "live in" garage on land he had acquired in West Sparta. Much of the garage lumber came from a partially burned barn on Ray White's farm. Ray wanted it taken down and Dave was glad to accommodate him in return for salvaging the planks. These planks were unusual in that they were not evenly cut but were wider and one end than the other. By alternating the direction of the boards the walls, and ceiling could be fitted together and lay secure without nails. After two months the Palmers moved into the garage equipped with the basic facilities for cooking and living.

Dave immediately commenced to build a basement foundation for their new home. Their next move was into that basement for the winter. By late spring of the next year the house was built and they moved up stairs. There Dave and Shirley resided happily until a fire destroyed the upstairs portion of the house in 1997. Fortunately, due to the tight construction of the below ground level of the house, everything there was safe. This included David's ever expanding tool collection that now filled the garage and basement.

After purchasing a modular home and having it installed on the original basement foundation, Shirley and David were able to move from their borrowed accommodations into their own home in 1998.

Shortly before the fire David had built the first of his

three buildings constructed especially to house his collection. He was permitted to salvage a portion of the dilapidated Bradner Stagecoach Hotel built in 1810 that once stood at the corner of Woodville Road and Coffee Hill Road. He salvaged the useable lumber and many examples of pioneer building features for his collection. The lumber went into the new display building and he was able to move the items stored in his basement and create a workshop for his many projects. That still left the garage full.

The next building was constructed a few years later from planks salvaged from the original Petri house on Scipio Road in Tuscarora. The planks were very old, cut with a "sash" or up and down type saw in a water powered mill. This fine building allowed him to empty part of the garage. Finally a few more years later Dave built the third shed from salvage from the Baron Brothers barn in Bisbee Town on the Nunda-Dansville Road. Finally there was display space for at least one of each type of item he had collected.

As soon as he had finished his first tool building, David started guiding through anyone who asked to visit. For about six years school groups visited for field trips. That has been stopped due to budget cuts but each year the Dansville Schools invite him to Civil War Day where Dave also reenacts soldiering during the War. David has duplicates of many of his items kept in a basement room where he assembles traveling exhibits for programs which he has been doing for many years for groups on request such as schools, senior living centers, skilled nursing facilities, historical societies and church and community groups. When he isn't giving tours or doing a program or looking for things to add to the collection you might find Dave at his roll-top desk preparing lists and a script for his next program, or manufacturing one of many replica canons he has constructed.

David's collection started with items from his parent's farm that he came to treasure and appreciate for their simple elegance in achieving their purpose. He continued to collect unique items attending garage sales, estate sales, and examining old buildings that he was allowed to pick from, pulling out an old hay lifter here and an old corn husk chopper there. Not unusually people who had heard about his collecting sought him out to give him an item they wanted to see preserved. Usually David tried to find out as much as he could about the origin and purpose of

an item he collected. He developed a special fondness for items about to disappear from the American vocabulary because there was no longer a need for them, such as a set of blocks that every early automobile owner had to put his car on during the winter to keep the wheels off the ground. Many of his most interesting items literally came from people's trash piles, such as a functional wooden wagon jack. He even rescued two outhouses from local farms, repaired them and set them up in his "tool museum village".

Though this is a long article I feel like I have only scratched the surface of all the talents David Palmer has, all the service he has rendered as West Sparta Historian and all the things he has made over fifty years. David is well known all around Livingston County and surrounding towns, but few West Spartans seem to truly appreciate the asset Palmers Antique Tools is to the community. Few are really aware of the museum and very few have taken the opportunity to tour.

On behalf of David and Shirley Palmer and West Sparta Historical Society, I invite you to take a guided tour of Palmers Antique Tools on June 30, 2013.

***Tours will be conducted at 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. by advanced reservation. If you are interested in joining one of these tours call Sarah Booher at 335 5094 to make a reservation.***



Above: A sample of some of the many tools that will be on display at Palmers Antique Tools . How many do you recognize?

Left: Dave Palmer with an 'Apprentice Wheel' in one of the buildings on his property that will be open for tours on June 30.

## Food Hasn't Tasted the Same Since We Changed Everything

On April 7, at the West Sparta Town Hall, WSHS hosted a presentation by historical researcher, Jane Oakes of Mount Morris (Jane's Pantry). Jane spoke on the topic of "From Lug Poles to Microwaves" where she described how early cooking was done in heavy kettles suspended from an adjustable metal device fixed in the open hearth fire place and the other devices and utensils of that era. She had examples of all these including a Dutch oven, various spiders (skillets with feet), baking pans, and the long handled utensils to move and manipulate hot items. Jane used slides to show the progression of cooking and how new inventions drastically changed the way people cooked, changed the rhythm of their days, and changed the way kitchens are designed to the point that now we design kitchens around the microwave. However, she also pointed out that most food tasted better cooked the old way and that some restaurants and kitchen designers are now bringing back some of the old techniques such as wood fired brick ovens. There was a lively discussion with guests who are now using some of the old ways to do some of their own cooking on a regular basis.

The event was well attended including guests from York, Perry and Nunda. Many thanks to Margie Cansdale for organizing the refreshments and then taking over setting up and managing the event when Sarah Booher was called away. Thanks to other WSHS members that attended and helped out.



## Membership Application/ Renewal Form

Membership at any level entitles you to a subscription to West Sparta Historical Society's newsletter, "A Light on the Past" and other Society communications. Contributing Members give \$25.00 or more to support the work of West Sparta Historical Society. The names of all members are listed in the newsletter by level of support. Membership is for a calendar year.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Choose one membership level:

\_\_\_ Individual \$10.00

\_\_\_ Family \$15.00

\_\_\_ Supporter \$25

\_\_\_ Sustainer \$50

\_\_\_ Patron \$75

\_\_\_ Angel \$100

\_\_\_ Lifetime one-time gift of over \$499.

Please enclose this form and a check payable to West Sparta Historical Society and mail to West Sparta Historical Society, c/o Sarah Booher, 8253 Green Road, Dansville, NY 14437. For More Information call: 585 335 5094 or email: [gefbooher@stny.rr.com](mailto:gefbooher@stny.rr.com).

# A Light On The Past

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## WEST SPARTA WALL OF HONOR

West Sparta Historical Society is starting to develop a "West Sparta Wall of Honor". The honorees should be people in West Sparta's history who are worthy of honor for their accomplishments. The purpose of nominating a few names, perhaps as many as four each year, would be to learn more about the people who built or cared for our community or who brought honor to our community..

Requirements: Persons named must be of good character and must have been deceased more than 50 years prior to their nomination. A nominee must be a person who spent part of their life in West Sparta. Each nominee should have contributed significantly to the community or have brought honor to West Sparta by their accomplishments outside the community.

A committee will be meeting in the fall to consider nominees to be announced at the 2014 Annual Meeting. If you are willing to serve on the committee, please let us know.

**Everyone is invited to suggest names for the Wall of Honor. Please fill in the form to suggest someone. If you wish to suggest multiple people, please copy the form. Send names to Sarah Booher, 8253 Green Road, Dansville, NY 14437.**

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominees Name: \_\_\_\_\_ When did they die? \_\_\_\_\_

Explain why this person should be considered for the Wall of Honor:

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### Redemptions for History

**West Sparta Historical Society now has an account at the Dansville Redemption Center on Ossian Street.**

**Take your bags of clean returnable cans and bottles to this center and tell them to credit the West Sparta Historical Society account. Every little bit helps to fund the work of gathering, preserving and sharing the history of West Sparta.**

### Upcoming Events

**June 30, Sunday 10 a.m. to 3 p. m.**  
**Palmer's Antique Tools Guided Tours at 10 to**  
**2 p.m. by Reservation Only**

**\*July 27, Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**  
**West Sparta Old-Fashioned Day \***  
**The Park at West Sparta Town Hall**  
**Live Music, Historical Reenactments, Vendors,**  
**Displays and Education Program**

**October 22, Tuesday 7 p.m. Town Hall**  
**Musical History of World War II Sing-along**  
**Program led by Pianist, Geoffrey Clough**

**November 19, Tuesday 7 p.m. Town Hall**  
**"Veterans Reminiscences"**  
**A Gathering of Local Veterans**

\*This project is made possible with funds from the Decentralization Program, a regrant program of the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the NYS Council on the Arts.

### *Be More Than An Onlooker*

Is there an educational program that you would like to have us do? Let us know.

May we host your presentation? Do you or someone you know have something to share: a talk, artifacts, or collection that would be of historical interest for others?

Can you write? Do you have a family story or experience of historical interest we could publish in our newsletter?

#### Can you give support?

- provide refreshments (Cookies and punch or the like) for a program.

- Be a greeter at the June 30 Tours of Palmer's Antique Tools.

- Serve on one of these committees, one to three meetings a year: Audit, Nominations, Collections, Wall of Honor, Programs, Cemeteries.

### Meeting Schedule

#### Trustees 2013-14

June 18

August 20

October 15

December 17

January 21

**February 18, 2014 Annual Meeting**

#### Committee Meetings

**Nominations - January**

**Audit - January or February**

**Program - November, January**

**Collections - TBD**

**Wall of Honor - Fall**

### **MANY THANKS**

Thank you to Gerad Levey and Peter Kruchten for assistance in moving heavy items. Gerad & Pete moved the large antique safe donated to West Sparta Historical Society by Ruth Slaight in 2011 to the refurbished West Sparta Court Room. Gerad placed it onto a square of wood just slightly larger in footprint than the safe to protect the newly finished floor. The safe is quite attractive and adds another note of West Sparta history to the building.

Gerad and Pete also removed an antique sleigh and a fanning mill from storage in David Palmer's barn. These items are now safe at the Fire Department Training Center (formerly the Grange Hall). We will consider how we can use these in the future such as in a display or at Old-Fashioned Day.

## A Light On The Past

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### West Sparta Historical Society Board of Trustees and Officers

March 20 2013

#### OFFICERS:

**Sarah L. Booher**, President, resides at 8253 Green Road, Dansville, NY, 14437 .

Term Ends Feb. 2014. Tel:: 585 335 5094 Email: [gefbooher@stny.rr.com](mailto:gefbooher@stny.rr.com)

**Gregory Kysor**, Vice President, resides at 4048 Rock Spring Hill Road, Dansville, NY 14437

Term ends Feb. 2014 Telephone: Work 335 8797, Home 335 9026

**Marjorie Cansdale**, Secretary, resides at 4324 Redmond Road, Dansville, NY 14437

Term ends Feb. 2014 Telephone 335 – 2334 Email: [Cansdale@bluefrog.com](mailto:Cansdale@bluefrog.com)

**Linda Johnson**, Treasurer, resides 3590 Redmond Road, Dansville, NY 14437,

Term ends Feb. 2016. Tel:585 335 6870.

**Sue Erdle** – Appointed 4/16/13 Assistant to Treasurer for Old-Fashioned Day Account

4815 Stoner Hill Road, Dansville, NY 14437 Tel: 585 335 3473 email: [stonerhill@juno.com](mailto:stonerhill@juno.com)+

#### TRUSTEES:

**Fred Bundschuh**, Trustee, resides at 8913 Hartman Road, Nunda, NY 14517

Term ends Feb. 2015 Tel: 585 747 7806.

**Elsie Hartmann**, Trustee, resides at 7586 Presbyterian Road, Dansville, NY 14437,

Term ends Feb. 2015 Telephone 335 3296

**Deanna Mastin**, Trustee, resides at 11 Hessler Court, Dansville, NY 14437

Tel: 585 335 8470 Email: [deestan@frontiernet.net](mailto:deestan@frontiernet.net) Term ends Feb. 2014

**Sue Noragong**, Trustee, resides 4449 Stoner Hill Road, Nunda, NY 14517

Tel: 585 335 4727. Term ends Feb. 2016

**Shirley Palmer**, Trustee, resides 5093 Coffee Hill Road, Dansville, NY 14437,

Tel: 585 335 6305. Term ends Feb. 2016

**Howard Perry**, Trustee, resides 8308 Rock Spring Hill Road, Dansville, NY, 14437

Tel: 585 335 6590 Email: [perryhp@gmail.com](mailto:perryhp@gmail.com) Term Ends Feb. 2016.

**Rick Pfaff**, Trustee, resides 9218 Coffee Hill Road, Dansville, NY 14437

Tel: 585 335 3368. Term ends Feb. 2016.

## West Sparta Spaghetti Dinner & Pie Auction Raises \$1864 for Old Fashioned Day 2013

West Sparta's third community Spaghetti Dinner and Pie Auction to raise funds for West Sparta's Old-Fashioned Day served almost 200 meals on March 9, 2013 at the West Sparta Methodist Church. People arrived to find the church hall made over into an Italian Bistro with red and white checked table clothes and candles in wine bottles to lend the appropriate atmosphere. The kitchen bustled with folks cooking and serving generous portions of steaming hot spaghetti and sauce, large hand-rolled meatballs, tossed salad, parmesan cheese, Italian bread and homemade brownies for only \$7.00. Many family groups arrived right at noon in anticipation of the delicious pies waiting to be sold. Servers provided plates and forks to those who purchased pies to top off their meals right there and then. Many folks stayed for hours to eat and visit over endless refills of coffee, while about the half the dinners went for take-out orders and most of the pies were taken home.

The Pie Auction held for the second time along with the spaghetti dinner was even more successful this year. Pies made the old-fashioned way are hard to come by in this day and age so people are putting this event on their calendars. Prices for the thirty-two pies and one large carrot cake ranged widely, driven by availability and demand for certain flavors. The lowest price was \$11 but the only, highly prized elderberry pie sold for \$92.00 with average price being about \$28. Most everyone interested found a pie to their liking they could afford. Volunteer Glen Piper won the designation of top pie purchaser. There was some friendly competition, amazing generosity and many laughs as professional auctioneer Jeff Tracy skillfully managed the bidding in the lively crowd.

All in all the Spaghetti Dinner, netted a commendable excess of \$918, while the Pie Auction raised \$947. The funds go into the bank to help pay for West Sparta Old-Fashioned Day 2013, a one-day, multifaceted event which will be held for the public free of charge on July 27, 2013.

Gerad Levey, dinner coordinator said: "We want to thank Barilla Pasta Facility of Avon, New York for the contribution of Barilla spaghetti and pasta sauce for the dinner, Jeff Tracy for auction services, and Genesee Valley Penny Saver for design services for tickets and advertising. But the lion's share of credit for this successful event goes to the West Sparta Methodist Church, West Sparta Fire Department, West Sparta Historical Society, and their incredible volunteers for their generosity and hard work."

Planning was done at the Joint Task Force for Old-Fashioned Day meetings by dinner chairman, Gerad Levey, and pie auction chairman, Pam Perry. Volunteer groups included ticket sellers, pie makers, meatball makers and the event volunteers. There were lots of people who did multiple tasks and a few who did everything; sold tickets, made pies, made meatballs and worked all day at the event. Special thanks go to Pat Levey as chief cook and Wixee McMaster as kitchen coordinator.

Most of the tickets for the dinner were presold and included some creative ticket selling by Sue Erdle who sold eight dinners to Agway manager Ed Gunn for his employees by promising to deliver the hot take-out dinners to the store with a pie from the auction. Ed said he'll do it again next year. Sue said "we'll deliver to other local businesses next year who will order at least one pie and eight or more dinners. Just mark the second Saturday, March 8, 2014 on your calendars now. It is for a good cause."

Many thanks to the forty-nine people who helped with this event and showed the power of teamwork. Our thanks go to: Robert Booher, Sarah Booher, Becky Bridge, Fred Bundschuh, Marjorie Cansdale, Sue Erdle, Ann Forbes, Judy Foster, Steve Foster, Cathy Giles, Renee Green, Carol Haight, Millie Haight, Elsie Hartmann, Janet Hartman, Jerry Hartman, Teresa Hoyt, Evelyn Kemp, Gregory Kysor, Buck (Milan) Kysor, Pete Kruchten, Barbara Kurtz, Pat Levey, Gerad Levey, Jennifer Levey, Dawn Love, Don Love, Beth Malone, Edyth Martin, Deanna Mastin, Wixee McMaster, Diana Moffat, Deb Mott, Fred Mott, Alice Muchler, Barbara Nagle, Shirley Nickerson, Sue Noragong, Shirley Palmer, Lori Pearson, Howard Perry, Pam Perry, Veronica Petracchi, Glen Piper, Alicia Pitre, Paul Pitre, Jan Roth, Jane Schryver, Jeff Tracy, and Marvin Yamonaco, Sr.

The West Sparta Old-Fashioned Day has a multitude of activities. The musical and educational portion of the project is made possible with funds from the Decentralization Program, a regrant program of the New York Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Council on the Arts.



**For information about Old-Fashioned Day or next year's Spaghetti Dinner & Pie Auction contact Sarah Booher, at 585 335 5094.**

## 2013 Membership List

**Thank You Contributing Members** who give extra support to the activity of the West Sparta Historical Society. Your names are listed in the membership list as **Supporters** (\$25 - \$49), **Sustainers** (\$50 to 99), **Angels** \$100 – 499 and **Lifetime**. Names in **bold** are 2013 members. Others are due to renew. Members who have recently increased their support have a \*. We welcome our recently joined members who are marked with a #.

### **Angels**

Anonymous  
Sarah & Robert Booher\*  
Patricia & Gregory Kysor  
Betty & Robert Minemier  
Glen V. Piper  
Jane Schryver & Paul Hoffman

### **Sustainers**

Sue Erdle & Marvin Yamonaco, Sr  
Howard & Pamela Kemp Perry  
Joan M Schumaker

### **Supporters**

Gail Diemoz  
Kay Englund  
Elsie Hartmann  
Linda Johnson  
Barbara Kurtz  
Edyth Martin#  
David & Regina Murray  
Rick Pfaff  
Bill Pickard\*  
Jan & Gary Roth/Raging Winds Farm#  
Dick & Fran White

### **Lifetime Members**

Sarah & Robert Booher

### **Family Members**

Nancy Bostwick & Jim Card  
Cari Durbin & Gregg Carroll#  
Nancy & David Jones  
Gloria McMaster Juhn  
Twila & Leon Leach#  
Gerri & Ken Long\*  
Deanna & Stanley Mastin  
Diana & Gene Moffat  
Barbara & David Nagle  
Shirley & David Palmer  
Carol & Harold Reynolds  
Bettie & Richard Whitenack

### **Individual Members**

Fred Bundschuh  
Sharon Burr  
Marjorie Cansdale  
Barbara Gregory  
Evelyn F. Kemp  
Jane Kenney  
Wixumlee McMaster  
Douglas Morgan  
Sue Noragong  
Beatrice & Eleanor Smith  
Ralph Wolfanger

### **Those Remembered**

Harold Hartman  
Austin "Mush" Hartmann  
Marjorie Rounselle  
John Rowe  
Bill & Ruth Slaight  
Corrine Wolfanger

## Mind Your Manners

WSHS member Sue Erdle taught a class to employees of Genesee Country Museum on manners and etiquette of the 1800's to help them better portray citizens of the 19th century.

The following are some tips from the 1860's;

- When crossing a muddy street a lady should lift her skirt by gathering it into her right hand, but never higher than her ankles.
- Gentlemen should never smoke in the presence of a lady.
- Do not scratch, pick your nose, yawn, or laugh loudly in public.
- A lady should wear a traveling veil and gloves when on a journey.
- Gentlemen—when walking with a lady, keep between her and the street to protect her from the dust and dirt of traffic on the road. If she is carrying a parcel insist on carrying it for her.

### WEST SPARTA OLD-FASHIONED DAY

Saturday -- July 27, 2013 -- 10 am to 4 pm

FREE ADMISSION AND ACTIVITIES

Step Into the 1800's ---Country Fun for Everyone



- \*All Day Live Musical Performances & History Education Programs
- War 1812/Civil War Reenactments
- Life in 1800's Demonstrations
- Firemen Tug-O-War Contests
- All Day Kids Games, Fishing Pool, Gifts, Wagon & Pony Rides
- Mid-Day Veterans Ceremony
- Vendors Including Arts,

**\* THIS PROJECT**

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**WEST SPARTA**

**WHERE HISTORY GROWS**

**VENDORS WANTED**

Arts, crafts, snack and other vendors wanted. Details and form on Website:

<http://townofwestsparta.org/content/select>

LOCATION: West Sparta Town Hall, 8302 Kysorville -Eversville Road., From the North take I 190 to Exit 6. Go South on NY 36 to Kysorville Rd.(County Rd.39). Follow signs to Old-Fashioned Day. From South take Exit 5. Go North on Rte 36 Turn Left on Stoner Hill Rd. and follow the signs. Free Parking. Easy accessibility. For more info. call 585 335 5094 or email: [geibooher@stny.rr.com](mailto:geibooher@stny.rr.com)

## R. Keough Talks on Photography and Other Technologies of the Civil War

On January 27, 2013, at the Livingston Arts Center Sarah Booher attended a program given by Robert Keough, Professor Emeritus RIT in Computer Graphics, Commander of Sons of Union Veterans based in Albany, NY. Mr. Keough spoke about the technologies of the Civil War with emphasis on the impact of photography on our view of that war. He used Civil War photographs to illustrate each point.

This was the first time in history the common soldier was memorialized in enduring images. Enter the tintype, a one off negative imprint on dark metal plate that as the dark shown through the negative created a positive image. This was shellacked for preservation. Galleries followed the troops around and created these prepaid tintypes for 25 cents. The photo took time so usually soldiers were seated and braced. Soldiers from both the North and South and black and white chose how they wanted to be remembered.

*This report by Sarah Booher will be printed in its entirety in a future issue of 'A Light On The Past'*