



# Warwick Roots

The Newsletter of the Historical Society of the Town of Warwick  
Margaret Rampe-Park, Editor

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Vol. 25 No.1 May 2005

## Dear Members...

Henry L. Nielsen, our retiring president, wanted me to extend to all his thanks for the opportunity to be of service to the Society for the last number of years and to thank the Society, its members and its trustees for making his tenure as president pleasant and progressive.

**Our Society is poised to address the 21st century** as a modern historical society. As keeper of the Community's past and as the communicator of our history and ideals to the future. We have reflected upon our Society's role in the future and promise that we intend to be the educational and cultural institution in our Community most suited to instilling in our long term residents and newcomers alike an appreciation of our unique past.

**We need money.** Don't be fooled by our healthy balance sheets. We find ourselves in the property management business. We manage five large buildings, two smaller ones, a host of outbuilding structures, a park, a cemetery and a caboose. As a result, we must maintain a large reserve for contingencies. As any homeowner knows, unexpected contingencies can be very expensive. Thus, regardless of our reserve we always need additional monies to keep up our programs, manage our collections, etc.

**We need volunteers.** We especially need publicity experts – people who know how to deal with the media. We need grant writers. We need everyone.

**This is your Society.** We need you no matter what your expertise is, no matter how little or how much time, we have something for you. We have big and small roles available for whatever talents people wish to contribute to the Society.

Sincerely,  
*Donald R. Lomax*  
President, Board of Directors



Some Executive Board Members: Tom Frangos, Gary Randall, Sheila Warner, Sue Gardner, Don Lomax, Abigail Opper, Mary Neal McFarland, Sandy Glazman, Nell Rothschild, Harold Wilson, Betty Hurd.

## Keep the Date

**Fridays in June  
Docent Training Days**  
2:00 - 4:30 PM

**Saturday, June 25th  
Ketchum House & Garden**  
Twilight Tour  
6:00 - 8:00 PM

**July - September  
Museum Buildings Open**  
July & August  
Tuesday & Saturday  
2:00 - 4:30 PM  
September Saturdays Only  
2:00 - 4:30 PM

**Saturday, July 23  
Washington Day Picnic**  
A day of special events followed  
by an old fashioned picnic and  
evening lecture.  
Lewis Park

**Saturday, August 27th  
Under the Tent Party**  
6:00 - 9:00 PM  
Lewis Park

**Sunday, August 28th**  
Attic Appraisals  
Lewis Park

**Saturday & Sunday  
November 19 & 20th**  
**Harvet to Holly**  
**Walking Tour**  
9:00AM - 5:00 PM

Visit us on the web at  
[www.warwickhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.warwickhistoricalsociety.org)  
for calendar information,  
photo gallery of our build-  
ings, an online form for  
research questions, contacts,  
and more!

## 2005 Officers

### **President**

Donald R. Lomax

### **First Vice President**

Tom Frangos

### **Second Vice President**

Michael Newhard

### **Third Vice President**

Gary Randall

### **Corresponding Secretary**

Mary W. Bradner

### **Recording Secretary**

Sheila Warner

### **Treasurer**

Jeffrey Alario

### **Assistant Treasurer**

Abigail Opper

### **Publicity**

Salvina Michel

### **Trustees**

Marina Alario

Michael Bertolini

Mary Bradner

Mary Neal McFarland

Sue Gardner

Sanford Glazman

Elizabeth Hurd

Debbie Iurato

Nell Rothschild

Harold Wilson

### **Trustees Emeritus**

Joan Frangos

Richard Hull

Alfred Lewis

Tryntje Stephen

Anna Wilson

### **Society Curator**

Michael Bertolini

### **Assistant Curator**

Marina Alario

### **Society Historian**

Florence Tate

### **Deputy Historian**

Richard Hull

### **Archivist**

Sue Gardner

### **Assistant Archivist**

Patricia McConnell

## In Memorium

Joan Pratt

## Join Us for Docent Training Days!

Come and learn about our history at in-depth workshops! Choose the one that interests you most, or come to them all!!

June 3--	2:00-3:00	History of Warwick with <i>Richard Hull in the OSBMH</i>
	3:30-4:00	Sources: Researching Warwick with <i>Sue Gardner in the Baird Tavern</i>
	4:00-4:30	Garden Tea/Lecture with <i>Helen Lee in the 1810 Garden</i>
June 10--	2:00-3:30	Architecture/furnishings with <i>Michael Bertolini in the OSBMH</i>
	3:30-4:00	All Aboard! Procedures & Safety with <i>Raey Webster in the OSBMH</i>
	4:00-4:30	Garden Tea at the Ketchum House
June 17--	2:00-4:00	Guided walking tour of WHS buildings discussing their historic and architectural significance.

## Celebrating 100 years

### *Society Centennial Preparations Begin*

Our Society was first formed in April of 1906. We are one of the oldest historical societies in New York State. Our board and volunteers are busy making preparations for our 100<sup>th</sup> birthday next year:

**A major capital campaign to raise an endowment fund for preservation of the Old School Baptist Church will commence later this year.** Many people do not realize there is an immense cost for keeping this wonderful building, so cherished by our citizens, in good repair. Even just washing those beautiful high antique glass windows with their hundreds of panes—which must be carefully hand washed as power sprayers will crack the glass—costs several thousand dollars! Our goal is to reach an amount that will provide enough interest income to assure that basic regular repairs and maintenance will be funded in perpetuity. If you wish to volunteer to help with the campaign, contact Don Lomax. The church is used for community events, weddings, and is a symbol of our civic pride. *Please help us assure the future of this community treasure!*

**We will publish a centennial history of our society, and we will compile a book of historic photographs** of the Town of Warwick, which will be published by Moo Press. The scheduled release date is next spring, with advance orders taken this fall's holiday shopping season.

## *Wanted*

### **Historical Society and local historic photos needed!**

Do you have old photos of Historical Society activities, or of something in the town that will help others learn about and appreciate our history? We would love to make an appointment with you to make a high quality copy for our two upcoming centennial year books! Leave message for Sue Gardner or email [sgardner@rcls.org](mailto:sgardner@rcls.org)... and thanks for sharing!

# Young Historians

*Involving our Youth in Preserving History*

## History Club Expands Its Activities

By Joe Bartolotta  
President, Warwick High School History Club

The Warwick Valley High School History Club has continued to grow and has undertaken new activities since September 2004. It has worked in conjunction with the Historical Society on projects and has endeavored to develop its own pursuits.

One of the greatest examples of the History Club and Historical Society members joining together was during the Harvest to Holly Tour. Twenty-five high school students participated in this event and volunteered as ushers, ticket takers, refreshment servers and photographers. Some club members have also worked on the collections assessment, which is taking place at the Baird's Tavern.

The History Club members have also sought out more knowledge of history. In the beginning of the school year, Mr. Bertolini spoke with the club about teenage life in the Warwick Valley during the 1700s. In late May, the club will be organizing an assembly at the high school for history students. The speakers at this event will include Dr. Hamburger, who will discuss the Hudson River and its role in the American Revolution, and Dr. Hull who will be speaking about teenage life in Africa now. The History Club has taken a field trip to FDR's house in Hyde Park and will be visiting the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island later on in the school year.

Lastly, I would like to express the great enjoyment and satisfaction that I have received working as president during the first two years of the History Club. Along with the other club members, I would also like to convey our great appreciation for Mr. Nelson, our advisor, and Mrs. Hurd, our liaison to the Historical Society, both of whom have helped with success of the club. I am sad to leave the club but I am sure it will continue to do wonderful work for local history.



### Young Historian Spotlight

#### *Krispy Kreme Doughnut Sale*

The History Club has been working on raising funds for a plaque to commemorate Warwick's veterans of the Revolutionary War, which will be placed in the town hall. They have sponsored a Krispy Kreme Doughnut sale to raise funds for the plaque as well as manned a table at Spring Fest on Main Street in the village of Warwick to raise awareness for the project.

## Porches Painted by Teen Volunteers

Members of the history club and the FFA worked diligently in chilly April weather to scrape and paint the porches on Baird Tavern, the 1810 House, the Shingle House, and the Old School Baptist Church. Materials were supplied with a grant from the Orange County Historian's office.

## Future Farmers Pitch In

The Future Farmers of America club at the High School recently offered to help on a continuing basis with maintenance of our Old School Baptist cemetery at the corner of Galloway and Forester. The club will visit in Spring and in Fall to clear leaves and debris and spruce up the property. Many thanks to the members of the club and their advisor, Nancy Colgan!

### *Recent Grants and Gifts*

\$600-- Orange County Historian's Office  
*for materials for porch repainting for our buildings*

\$800--IBM Corporation

# One Step At A Time

*News & Notes of Society Happenings*

## Welcome... Sybil Skinner

The Society has a brand new administrative coordinator and 'chairperson of loose ends'! Sybil Skinner has been helping our officers and volunteers in a myriad of ways for the past six months, and we are so grateful to have her aboard! Sybil shares, *"I was the program coordinator for the Living History Farm at Roper Mountain Science Center for the Greenville County School System. I worked with the development and execution of programs for school children enhancing the state social study curriculum standards. We used hands on activities with local, national and world historical facts to create and enhance classroom understanding. Our mission statement here at the Historical Society is very bold. It is our goal to educate and preserve. My belief is that we have to educate ourselves in order preserve our legacy. Docent training is very important and so is the title of our organization—The Town of Warwick Historical Society. To this end our training will be social as well as educational."*

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## Welcome....New Trustees

Incoming new officers Sanford Glazman, Debbie Iurato, and Sheila Warner bring with them a wealth of expertise and skills. Welcome! and thank you for stepping forward to help us grow!

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## Henry Nielsen Receives *Lewis Award*

Our Annual Dinner celebrated outgoing President Henry L. Nielsen, Jr. with the first presentation of the **Elizabeth Sanford Lewis & Madison Lewis Honorary Award**. Henry has been a pillar of our society and has supported preservation of the historical heritage of our community in a myriad of ways for many years. He will be dearly missed, and we wish him 'fun in the sun'!

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## What We Have Accomplished....*Together*

This past year was a great success!! And the next year will be even better!!!! Here are some of what we accomplished:

We reached out to the Warwick Valley High School History Club (and they to us), to our local gardening societies and various history oriented interest groups such as the Sewing Club and this will continue.

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Countless weddings and other events take place at Old School Baptist Church for a low charge.

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We have made our meeting facilities available to other community organizations, like our neighbor the library, for the benefit of all.

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We have displayed our extensive dress collection (unique for a society of our small size).



## *Thank You , Anna!!*

Anna Wilson, our treasurer since 1982, was the recipient of a formal resolution at our annual meeting thanking her for her 23 years of faithful service in keeping our financial records with professionalism and accuracy. Ann is retiring from her treasurer's position, but has promised to continue helping out with many of the events and activities she has volunteered her time for over the years.

We have expanded and improved existing events and crafted some new ones.

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We now have an official mission statement long range plan.

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Our office is now staffed several days a week.

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We are starting to actively partner with local business to raise funds.

# Strategic Plan Completed

This past fall, officers and representatives of the general membership completed our first five year strategic plan for the Society. It includes a revised mission statement and goals for the next 5 years. The entire plan is on our website.

## *Summary of Strategic Plan*

### *Our Mission Statement*

The mission of the Society is to celebrate and preserve the history of the Town of Warwick and its people and to assure that this legacy is passed on to future generations. Towards this end we will: educate and engage a diverse public through a variety of programs; maintain our museum buildings, properties, and collections; research and publish historic records; identify and encourage preservation of significant places and structures throughout the town; and manage the society openly, ethically, and professionally.

### *Goals*

1. **Community:** To educate, enrich and engage a diverse community about Warwick history through a variety of exhibits, relevant programs, and publications.
2. **Buildings and Properties:** To preserve, maintain and restore our historic properties.
3. **Collections:** To care for and enhance our collections and to provide appropriate access to them.
4. **Finances:** To provide sound fiscal management through financial planning and oversight, and to develop and enhance our financial support base by reaching out to our members, our current and potential financial contributors, supporters, and the community at large.
5. **Governance, Membership and Human Resources:** To refine and implement a governing and organizational structure which provides for stability, the growth of an active membership that supports the Society financially and attracts participation of volunteers, and sufficient human resources to insure our long-term ability to meet our mission.

## Counting our Treasures:

### *Cataloging of Artifacts at Baird Tavern Complete!*

By: Raey Webster

The initial cataloging of the artifacts in the Baird Tavern is done! Our two year project to describe, mark, measure, photograph, and enter the objects' information into our Past Perfect museum was finally accomplished this spring. **For just the Tavern alone, we have entered 431 objects.** The cataloging is now moving to the Country Doctor's Office and the 1810 House. The costume collection group is also cataloging their items. It will be several years before we even have a full accounting of all our artifacts, which are estimated to be as high as 2,000 items.

**If you have a knowledge or skill that relates to antiques and collectibles,** your expertise would be very helpful. Some of the areas where we could use some expanded knowledge cover coins, glass bottles, saddles and tools. Another area we need help with is cleaning and maintaining the artifacts. Many of our display items are dirty and need attention.

## *With a little help from our friends !!*

**Do you have a few hours a month or a skill to share?**

We're looking for someone who.....

**Loves antiques:** Could help us with entering information about our antiques collection into the catalog, or cleaning some of the artifacts (training provided): if so, leave a message for Raey Webster or email [raeyw@warwick.net](mailto:raeyw@warwick.net)

**Can help us learn** more about our antique bottles, old saddles, or old tools: Leave message for Raey Webster.

**Could help out a few hours a month** in the office doing filing, envelope stuffing, etc.: Leave message for Sybil Skinner or email [sybilluna@aol.com](mailto:sybilluna@aol.com)

**Likes to help teach** children, to help out when we have children's' events or class visits: Contact Sybil Skinner.

*Remember...*

*working together we can  
accomplish our goals!!*

*Thanks to All!!! We could not have done it without you!!!*

# Understanding Our Seal

Sometimes our members ask us to explain the images on our seal. We think that this emblem is still a perfect embodiment of the values and goals of our society:

The old double arch bridge that crossed the Wawayanda Creek on Wisner Rd. signifies our mission to connect Warwick's past to its future. The chain forged at Sterling Furnace during the Revolutionary War kept the British from advancing up the Hudson; it is the symbol of the strength of a community that is connected to its history. It is by working together that we can preserve our heritage. In the background Mts. Adam and Eve represent the goals to which we aspire.



**Warwick Historical Society**  
**Post Office Box 353**  
**Warwick, New York 10990**

## Membership Form Historical Society of the Town of Warwick

*If this is a gift, please give us YOUR name  
and address on the reverse*

Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

Town/City/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

*Annual Dues:(fiscal year May 1-April 31)*

- New! Student.....\$10.00
- Individual.....\$25.00
- Family.....\$30.00
- Associate(business).....\$40.00
- Friend.....\$100.00
- Sustaining.....\$200.00
- Patron.....\$500.00
- Benefactor (lifetime)....\$5,000.00

*Payable To:*

*Historical Society of the Town of Warwick  
P.O. Box 353  
Warwick, New York 10990*