



HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE TOWN OF WARWICK
PROMOTING OUR COMMUNITY'S HERITAGE SINCE 1906

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2009

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 25: Annual meeting and cocktail party at Warwick Grove. Meeting at 5 pm; party begins at 6:30. Members are invited to both. \$35.00 for the evening.

June 7: Annual wine and cheese 4-6 pm at Lewis Park. Music. \$35.00

July 25: George Washington Day

July 22-24, July 27-29: History Camp
9-12 each day ; ages 9-11

August 22: Under the Tent Fundraiser
Lewis Park - 6 -9 \$50.00

September 26: Yard sale - Lewis Park
Rent a table 9-12

December 6: Wassail Party 4-6
Baird's Tavern, \$25.00

the door 50/50



Concerts a Success!

With the generous loan by the Newhards of the baby grand piano, we have had a wonderful series of concerts in Baird's Tavern. They have been like the Paris salons—limited, intimate seating—musicians getting together with the audience during intermission, refreshments served. It has been a perfect way of heating the Tavern for the winter. Our method of payment to the musicians is to split

Gift Shop

A wealth of small treasures, ranging from old postcards, wine-glasses, and pottery mugs to Meissen ware, brass candlesticks and Minton china, can be found nestled into the tiny space in Baird's Tavern allotted to the Society's gift shop.

Open on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10 am to 2 pm, the shop is noted not only for its variety but for its bargain prices. Candy Ahrenholz, shop manager, explains that the great prices are possible because a majority of the merchandise has been donated by members and the community. "Clothing is not accepted but we're always happy to take small items—new, antique or in between, that are too good to be thrown away."

Merchandise is constantly changing. The latest attractions include a shelf full of cooking and food-related books, many of them brand new. An antique secretary, which is not for sale, houses an eclectic collection of jewelry, while a trunk in the corner is filled with handmade toys.

Clerical help is provided by volunteers Justine Spaulding, Dolores Simon, and Johanna McCarter. All proceeds go toward maintenance of the Society's buildings.

Wed. & Sat. 10—2

TRUNK SHOW

The Orange County Historian's Office has given us a grant for our highly successful "Traveling Trunks" program. High School History Club members take a trunk filled with eighteenth and nineteenth century common instruments used in the home, farm, artisan's shop or even doctor's office to seventh graders in the public schools. Everyone benefits from this exercise.

HELP!

In this difficult economic time, the Warwick Historical Society is struggling to make ends meet.

If anyone knows of grant programs, matching fund programs or has any other thoughts on raising funds, contact Jo in the office 986-3236 or whs@warwick.net.

CURATORIAL INFORMATION

Society curator Michael Bertolini and assistant curator Judy Harney have been working on histories of our individual properties and their contents with descriptions.

Here are some brief excerpts:

Baird's Tavern was built in 1766. Francis Baird had been a book dealer in New York City and apparently had books illustrating English architecture available to him. The foursquare building is built out of cut stone in the early Georgian side-hall style. It has two windows across the front on the ground floor in addition to the front door. Two roof crossbeams are missing in the middle of the attic. Legend has it they were removed during the Revolution because the militia trained during the winter months in the attic, and the Brown Bass muskets were too long at five feet for easy maneuvers.

The 1810 House on Main Street is an example of late Georgian (18th century) architecture in the medieval-yeoman's style. What we see is a house with its saltbox roof, six over six windows and its modified door surround, clapboard sides and shutters. Oral history tells us that the original staircase was enclosed and rose from the rear of the hallway. The replacement staircase and cherry rail were installed in the 1950's. The fireplace in the Frank Forester room is not original but taken from the Wawayanda House, a hotel in the mid-19th century, that stood on what was then called Hudson Street, now Colonial Avenue approximately across from Forester Avenue. The original doorway of the Wawayanda House, owned by Tom Ward, is on a white clapboard building where the hotel once stood.

The Hoyt parlor in the 1810 House is a good example of a middle-class interior in 1800. The mantel goes back to a mid-Georgian design with a broken column and a bolection molding. In that room we also have a fine example of a New York State Empire sofa with winged lion's feet and carved cornucopia arms that are filled with fruit.

FINALLY, THE OLD UAME CHURCH IS GOING TO BE FINISHED!

The Historical Society is hoping to complete the renovation of the old UAME church this summer. We are applying for a grant and are also looking into applying for a loan from a bank. It is our desire to make this beautiful little church a museum for the African American heritage in our community. We believe it will be the only one in the Hudson Valley. The hope is to also use the church for concerts, art shows, a meeting hall, and other creative answers for a growing community and an important way of generating income for the maintenance of our buildings. At the moment we are interviewing general contractors.

The Forester Avenue complex, when finished, will be a very important historical group as it has an Early American house, a barn which holds farm implements, the caboos from our railroad days and the early 20th century church.

The Society is holding a contest to name the complex of buildings—something significant, catchy, easy to remember and which explains the group. Anyone who has an idea, please contact the Society at whs@warwick.net. We hope to have a name by the end of May 2009. Winner will have his or her (or group) name on a plaque.

JOIN OUR COMMUNITY ~ SHARE OUR COMMITMENT

Become a member ~ volunteer

WEDDINGS IN THE OSBMH



Old School Baptist Meeting House is non-denominational.

The Old School Baptist Meeting House is a special place for a wedding. Year after year, people tell us how wonderful it was to be married in a unique setting. It is no longer a Baptist consecrated building so anyone may be married there. Catholics, Protestants, any religious or civil ceremony may be performed.

It holds approximately 150 persons, and is available only during the summer months. The Historical Society is looking into installing a heating system so that we may have events there year round. Those who have attended the Christmas Eve sing-a-long know just how cold it can be —bone chilling!

We charge \$500 for an event. Karen Emmerich is in charge of the rentals and would be happy to share the particulars. Her e-mail address is KHE@warwick.net.

We also offer a list of event providers—ask Karen or call the office : 986-3236.

The Lewis Park alongside the OSBMH is available for receptions.

ARCHIVAL UPDATE

The archival collection continues to grow with donations and acquisitions by society members and the public. Sue Gardner, professional librarian and professional archivist, has been training and coordinating the volunteers in the correct manner of cataloguing the information. Pat McConnell, Femi Roecker, Ivy Tulin, Victor Robinson, Jeff Page and Shirley Mayewski are the volunteers who meet every Tuesday from 9 - 12 at the 1810 House. You may make an appointment with them at: 986-5987

Last fall, the Webster family graciously donated the collection that had been amassed by the renowned archaeologist Jack Webster. The Board of the Historical Society was pleased to accept this collection as it is too valuable to Warwick to be lost. The collection is being managed by Patricia McConnell, board member and assistant archivist. The collection includes thirteen volumes, dated in the 1800's, from the New York State Museum plus another large collection of scientific books, a fine microscope and many arrowheads. The books pertinent to this area are housed in the 1810 House on Main Street and are available to the public by appointment. This collection will be used for educational purposes with displays in our local libraries and schools. The plan is to have all of the collection documented, catalogued and on display by the fall.

COOKBOOK!

Over the next several months, the Society's editors will be gathering recipes from members and friends to produce a Warwick Historical Society cookbook. We hope to have it out by 2010. Please send us your favorite recipes — anything old or new — and remarks about them. If they are borrowed from a published book or magazine, let us know so we can provide the appropriate attribution.

This promises to be a fun project and we look forward to putting it together and helping the Society's finances!

E-mail the recipes to: whs@warwick.net. fax to: 845-986-8932 or mail to : PO Box 353, Warwick, NY 10990.

Recipes will become the property of the Warwick Historical Society

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW

Student	\$10.00	Name _____
Individual	\$50.00	
Household/dual	\$100.00	Address _____
Teacher	\$35.00	
Senior (62 +)	\$35.00	
Senior Dual	\$50.00	City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Business/Contributor	\$150.00	
Donor	\$200.00	E-dress _____
Patron	\$500.00	
Benefactor	\$1,000.00	Amount enclosed _____

If you would like to pay by card, call Jo at the office: 845-986-3236

New members will be our guests at the Wine and Cheese June 7.

Historical Society of the Town of Warwick

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