

WALLENPAUPACK HISTORICAL SOCIETY SEPTEMBER ,2011 NEWSLETTER

ANNUAL PRESERVATION AWARDS DINNER FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH– EHRHARDT'S

*SOCIAL HOUR AT 6 PM DINNER AT 7 PM
AWARDS AND ENTERTAINMENT TO FOLLOW
PRICE PER PERSON- \$50.00 SEND RESERVATIONS TO
NANCY GUMBLE, PO BOX 303, TAFTON, PA 18464*

Local members, and friends, and the public are invited to attend this dinner which is the culmination of the Society's work for the year. It is an important event since it focuses on local preservation efforts. It is also our only major fund-raiser. There has been a major effort to involve local businesses to support our mission and now it's your turn.

If you do not live locally and cannot attend, please send a sponsorship, of any amount, to contribute to the work of the Society. Send your check to WHS, PO Box 345, Paupack, PA 18451. Write SPONSOR on your envelope. A Sponsor form was included in the August Newsletter.

Entertainment for the evening will be provided by **The Young Geezers**, who play a combination of blue grass music and familiar melodies. These gentlemen donate their time and talents to non-profit groups and we are delighted to have them at this event.

Two Preservation Awards will be given that evening. The first will go to **Peter Becker, Managing Editor of the News-Eagle**, in appreciation of his historic articles featured in the paper. His research and old photographs have renewed an interest in Hawley's rich heritage. Peter and the News-Eagle have been very supportive of our activities.

The second award will be given to **Grant Genzlinger and others** who are instrumental in restoring the **Hawley Silk Mill and surrounding structures** and by so doing, have revitalized the community and brought new interest to the area.

DON'T MISS THE EVENING!

PURDYTOWN WORK CONTINUES

Bob Ammon and his committee have been working hard, removing stubborn roots from among the gravestones. These hardy souls meet Tuesday mornings at 8:00. If that type of work is too strenuous for you, you might be able to straighten gravestones.

If you see Bob Ammon, Dick Briden, or Rolf Moeller, admire their new slim shapes and muscular bi-ceps. It's never too late!

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS:

Peter Becker of White Mills
Mr. and Mrs. Coulby Dunn of Greentown
Doug La Pasta of Hawley
Steven and Frances Microulis of Pawtucket, RI
Barbara and Clifford Nelson of Paupack/Yardley
Jacob Richter of Paupack, Florida
Marion Savage of Canadensis
Dominick and Donna Stuccio of Lakeville
and new Corporate Members
Roy A. Finney, The Boat Shop, Tafton
Wallenpaupack Bowling Center of Hawley
Highhouse Oil, Inc of Honesdale
Paupack Fuel Oil, Inc. of Hawley

Membership dues will be collected in October.

Our new members listed here will not paying dues until October, 2012



MANY THANKS TO VOLUNTEERS THIS SUMMER.

Although the quilt raffle has a few more weeks to go, the Antique Show and the Wally Fest that survived were successful events. They required many volunteers. Many of our publications were purchased. We appreciate the efforts of those who helped.

RAY LA TOURNOUS VIDEO

A Honesdale video group is producing a video of Ray— his life and his glass. The Dunn cousins visited WHS to show their video of their grandmother's life, if you recall.

You may go to the website and see what they are planning to do.

<http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1292724592/a-legacy-of-glass>

AUGUST MEETING-DELICIOUS

The August meeting was held at the Williams House in Paupack on a beautiful summer day. Barbara Gropper, DAR State Flag Chairperson, spoke to us about the significance of the flag in our country, the history of its origin, and a sampling of the flags that were used in our Revolutionary War.

Following Barbara's talk, we toured the downstairs of the Williams House where the Civil War Exhibits are displayed. Ann Wiedenman and Beatrice Martin explained the various exhibits.

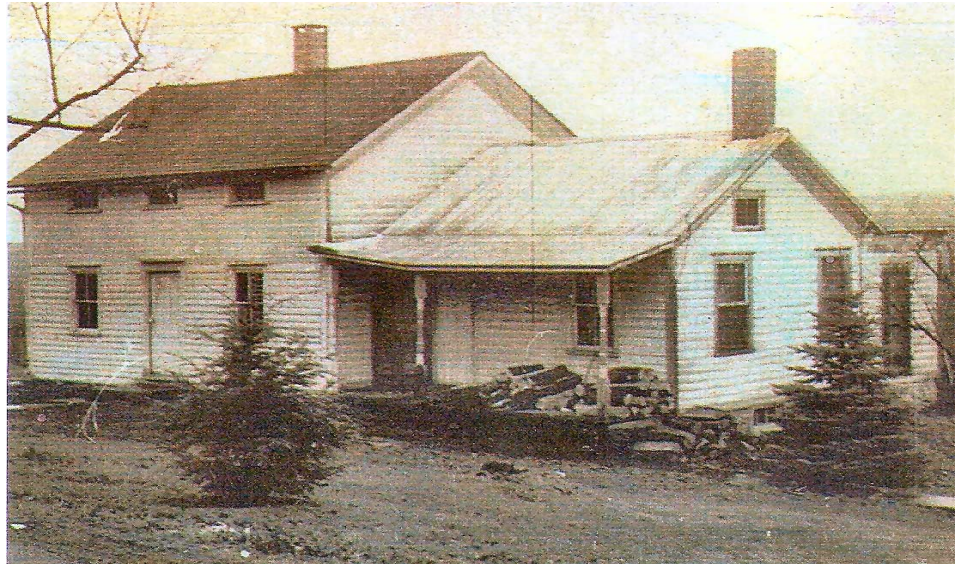
Coutts' Blueberry Ice Cream was served as the refreshments of the afternoon— a great treat!

HISTORIC HOME IN PAUPACK- THE FRANCIS SINGER HOMESTEAD

Note: This is an excerpt from *Historic Homes of Palmyra Township*, a WHS publication currently on sale

Francis Singer emigrated from Urnegarten, Baden, Germany and purchased land, in partnership with Jacob Seaman in 1850. It is believed that he acted as a land agent, encouraging newly-arrived immigrants from Germany to homestead on land in the Wallenpaupacak Manor. It is possible that he also convinced the Gumble brothers two years later to leave Astoria, NY, and to purchase land near his property.

Francis was familiar with the area, having purchased land in Greene Twp in 1848. Seaman and Singer built their houses across the road from each other. In 1855 at the age of thirty-seven, Francis married Auguste Berthe Frank of Blooming Grove. Auguste was fifteen years old when



she married; their first child, Lewis, was born the following year. Fifteen children were born to the couple in their marriage.

Singer hand-dug a cellar and used plentiful local stones as a foundation. Hand-adzed beams and half trees, with the bark remaining, supported a small, double-planked common room with a back kitchen. He then added a one and one-half story. The dirt cellar still contains several wooden bins for vegetable storage. The stairway to the kitchen remains as well as the door to the rest of the house. The house, built on a downward slope, had a beautiful vista of the river valley and beyond. Cool breezes cleared the air in the summer months and brought cold blasts that blew through the house in the winter. The chicken coop, the orchard, and the barn were located below the house, which was situated quite close to the dirt road.

Singer planted fruit trees which still stand today. His grape vines were a source of pride for he was well-known for his wines. For the 1870 tax report, Francis Singer declared 2 milch cows, 1 other cattle, 1 swine, 10 bushels of rye, 20 bushels of Indian corn, 20 bushels of buckwheat, 40 bushels of orchard products, and 4 tons of hay. Much of the ground was hilly and rocky; the upper fields were suitable for some crops, such as grains and potatoes. Like his neighbors, Singer was a subsistence farmer, selling or bartering surplus crops.

The farm remained in the family until 1938 when it was purchased by Earl and Bertha Darby. Descendents of the Darby family inhabit the house at the present time.