

# WHO

Westville Historical Organization, P.O. Box 157, Constable, N.Y. 12926

# Chronicle

February 2009

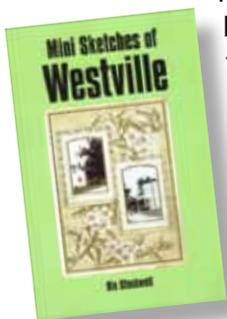
## PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT - 2008



WHO President  
Susan McGibbon Tobias

At this writing we are in the second month of a new year. As I look back at the year 2008, it was one of mixed emotions.

Our open house was a dream come true for many when we unveiled the republication of the late Town Historian Ola Stockwell's "Mini Sketches of Westville," originally printed in 1977 (147 pages). Thanks to the generosity of Richard H. Avery, Ola's executor and heir, we were able to have the original photographs shot on a computerized system, a new cover designed and make a few corrections that bypassed the first proofreaders. We also dedicated the open house to the Stockwell family who settled in Westville in the early 1800s, along with many other pioneer families. Over 80 visitors stopped by to view our exhibits, sample our desserts and nearly 50 bought the book that day. Vincent and Louise Boyea also opened the Briggs Street one-room schoolhouse for the last time. Their farm, where the schoolhouse is located, has been sold and they will be moving soon.



For those who haven't seen the book, here is the brief description included on the cover: *"Just over 30 years ago Town Historian Ola M. Stockwell accepted the challenge of chronicling Westville's history, not only with historical facts, but with the names, dates, activities and pictures of people who lived in her community, past and present. This project, the first ever in Westville, was part of the nation's Bicentennial celebration. As a witness to the town's history for 92 years, and a teacher, I am sure Ola would be happy that her published work has also reached into the future to educate researchers in the 21st Century and beyond."*

We have had nothing but good reports about the new and improved edition. Also available is our first publication, "Earliest Memories" by Clara Clark Wright (64 pages). It is an eye-witness account of daily life at Westville Center at the end of the 1800s into the early 1900s and includes

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Betty Mount shares her collars and cuffs box during the "What's It?" portion of the monthly meeting. In years gone by, men's collars and cuffs were separate from their shirts and were attached with "buttons." After being starched, they were kept in a box.



Richard Avery, holding a copy of the newest edition of *Mini Sketches of Westville* by Ola Stockwell, poses here in front of a display of several Stockwell family antiques.

## JULY CHRISTMAS PICNIC

July 28, 2009 - 5 p.m.

Westville History Center, Route 37

Bring a dish to share and a food item for the local food shelf. The WHO will supply the hot dogs, hamburgers, rolls and beverages.

The regular July monthly meeting will follow.  
Call 518-358-9222 or 518-358-2374 for information.

## YOUR NEW OFFICERS FOR 2009

President:	Susan McGibbon Tobias
Vice President:	Sandra Fleury Premo
Secretary:	Dorothy Gale Campbell
Treasurer:	Judy Cushman Stark

## REMEMBER ANCESTORS ON MEMORIAL PLAQUES

At the Westville History Center, the WHO has two "Honors and Memorials" plaques for anyone wanting a lasting memento of their family's presence in Westville. The two plaques hold plates that come in two sizes, small and large, for \$25 and \$50, respectively. Depending on the wording, two lines can be engraved on the small, gold plates, and three or four on the larger plates.

Send information exactly as you want to see it on the plate (a family name or individual's name, for example) along with the donor's name and your check to Westville Historical Organization, P.O. Box 157, Constable, N.Y. 12966. Your donation will be acknowledged promptly.

2 hand drawn maps of 19th century Westville. Both books have wonderful photographs of early Westville. "Mini Sketches" is available for \$14 (plus \$3 shipping). "Earliest Memories" (right) sells for \$20.45 (plus \$3.50 shipping). To order, call (518) 358-9222 or (518) 358-2374, or send your check to W.H.O., P.O. Box 157, Constable, NY 12926.



During 2008 we were very sad to say a final goodbye, many times unexpectedly, to members and close friends. Each left behind family and friends who hopefully, eventually, will have good memories to help them heal from their loss. **Members who died are:** Linda Brady, Joy Wilson, John McCabe, Betty Patton and Elizabeth Wright. **Members who lost loved ones are:** Gerald and Eileen Snyder whose daughter died from cancer, and whose son died very unexpectedly a few months later; Darrel Hoadley, his brother Robert; Sharon Avery Dustin, her father Orien "PeeWee" Avery; Ronnie Anderson, his sister Shirley Willis; Vincent Boyea, his sister Marilyn and brother Hugh; Ida Wilson, her husband Robert; and Gyneth Armstrong, her son John. **We also report,** with heavy heart, that our secretary, Nora Avery, who had fought her cancer valiantly throughout 2008, succumbed to the disease on January 12, 2009. Our WHO board and officers are at a great loss with her death. The WHO board and members extend our sympathies to all who have lost loved ones. If we have overlooked anyone, please notify us so we may acknowledge the loss.

So where do we go from here? Some things will stay the same and some things will change for the better. 2009 is the year we hope to receive our permanent charter from New York State. The head of chartering visited the history center in May and met with the board of trustees. He was greatly impressed with what we have accomplished in 5 years since the inception of our conditional charter. He inferred that we would have no problem gaining the permanent charter.

We now have a new computer system that will soon be outfitted with a museum program named "Past Perfect." We have applied for a grant to buy the nearly \$800 program. It is the all-in-one, easiest application to keep track of everything from genealogies to volunteer hours.

Because the weather in northern New York is so unpredictable from October to May, the board has decided to make some changes regarding the WHO Christmas party. Instead of trying to beat the snow in December, we will combine our July picnic, our July meeting and our Christmas party into one celebration. We will come up with some inventive ideas to make the event memorable.

So on the fourth Tuesday in July, plan to wear your red and green, practice singing Jingle Bells, and come enjoy.

I thank you, our members, for the trust you have put in me to fill the President's office for this year. I also thank our board of trustees for their willingness to serve and their families for the support. Since our founding year we have uncovered some pretty interesting historical facts about Westville and its pioneers and community settlers. There are a lot of hidden treasures yet to dig up and with everybody's help we can honor our town's history and the brave settlers who came before us.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

At December 30, 2008, board meeting, balance of all accounts: \$3819.03\* (Includes board-mandated \$2,000 set aside for yearly utilities.)

### LOOKING FOR INFO

- Caroline Helen SINCLAIR of Fort Covington, b. 1849 and James C. MCCAFFREY of Westville, b. 1831 in Ireland, 2 years before the family settled in Westville. Could have been married ca. 1870; the John Alden Society has no record, only that they were married. — Frank McCaffrey, 38 Swift Street, Burlington, VT 05403, frankmac@juno.com.

### REQUEST FOR VETERANS' SERVICE RECORDS

Kevin Armstrong is heading up the Vet's project at the WHO, trying to capture as much info as possible on Westville's vets for posterity. If you know a living WWII vet or are the next of kin of a WWII vet, request their military service record by filling in an online form at [www.archives.gov/veterans/evetrecs/index.html](http://www.archives.gov/veterans/evetrecs/index.html), or follow instructions to mail or fax your request to the National Personnel Records Center. Then forward the records to Kevin via e-mail at [kevinarmstrong54@frontiernet.net](mailto:kevinarmstrong54@frontiernet.net) or snail mail to 5753 State Route 21, Naples, NY 14512. No computer or Internet access? Handwritten military records may be submitted to Kevin at his Naples, NY address.



**REMINDER FROM OUR TREASURER**  
Membership dues are paid for a calendar year (January-December). They should be mailed to Westville Historical Organization, P.O. Box 157, Constable, NY 12926. Make your check payable to "W.H.O."

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