

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT - 2009



WHO President
Susan McGibbon Tobias

As I write this report we've had a second snowstorm in three days in northern New York! It's hard to think about spring and summer but I know it has to be out there somewhere.

The past year at the WHO has been one of growth and friendships. We had a wonderful July Christmas picnic. Myron Brady took charge of the barbecue grill and the best cooks

around filled a table with salads, baked beans and desserts. The history center was full and a good time was had by all. It seemed good to be able to plan a Christmas party and not worry about the weather. We collected three large boxes of food items for the local food shelf.

Late last year the town opted to allow us to house the microfilm machine and microfilm records that had been at the town hall. We have certain late -1800s and early- to mid-1900s births, deaths and marriages. We also have tax assessments. These tax assessments are the same ones we have in the original books but much easier to handle.

The WHO sincerely appreciates the trust of the town in placing these research resources at our disposal.

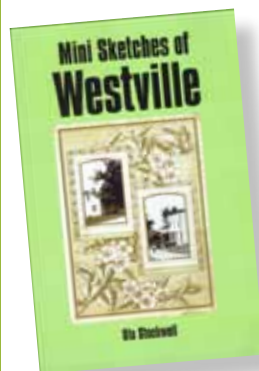
Our open house last year was a wonderful timeline of the town from incorporation in 1829 to 2009, celebrating 180 years of businesses, churches, schools and families. We appreciated the cooperation of so many members who loaned us pictures, artifacts and genealogy information. Former town residents and visitors came from as far away as Arizona to spend the day with us.

Our theme for this year will be Westville's churches, with Richard Avery as coordinator. Anyone with information, pictures or artifacts on the Free Church Society located at Westville Corners, across

the road from Riverside Cemetery, circa 1840, is asked to share with us as we have almost nothing on that congregation. Although Richard has been gathering a great deal of information on the Methodist Episcopal Church, that stood in Westville Center, and the Presbyterian Church in Westville Corners, we are asking anyone with photos, artifacts and/or information to please contact us. The Catholic community didn't build in Westville until 1958 and we have very little information or pictures, only what former town historian Ola Stockwell included in her book, "Mini Sketches of Westville." We would much appreciate hearing from parishioners if they have memories, photos and information about the church. We look forward to celebrating the hard work of so many who gathered so long ago to set a tone of worship in Westville.

As always, we look forward again this year to finding those little gems of history that have been lost that are just one more piece of the puzzle we call Westville. Along with the times of fellowship and laughter, we endeavor to honor the memory and promising future of this wonderful little community tucked against the border in northern New York!

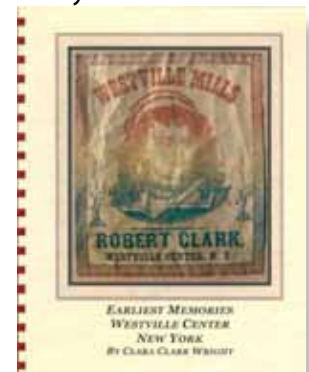
BOOKS FOR SALE



We have for sale copies of the reproduction of "Mini Sketches of Westville" by former Town Historian Ola Stockwell. In an 8-½ by 5-½ format it is full of pictures, has nearly 150 pages, with some new information discovered after Ola passed away. It sells for \$12.95, \$13.99 with tax or \$16 for postage if mailed.

plus tax \$20.46, if mailed, \$23.50. It is 8-½ by 11, with over 60 pages of memories, photographs and maps of business locations in Westville Center. Both publications make great gifts for birthdays, anniversaries, Mothers' Day or Father's Day, Christmas or to share family genealogy with the younger generation. Mail requests to our Constable address.

We also have "Earliest Memories" by Clara Clark Wright, a look at daily life in Westville Center in the late 1800s. It sells for \$18.95,



SEARCHING FOR OUR ROOTS

Any information appreciated on Elisha Freeman who has family buried at Riverside Cemetery 1838, aged 92 years; Andrew Learmont, John Learmont (1870 census, 58 y.o.) and Horace B. Jewett family who lived on the Jewett Road, Town of Westville near the North Bangor line, and Harry W. Ellsworth, died 1874, aged 70, whose name is on a cemetery stone with Henry Ellsworth at Riverside Cemetery. Contact Jean Goddard with information at lgoddard@twcnny.rr.com or 518-358-2374 or 19 County Route 20, Constable, N.Y. 12926.



WHAT'S IT?

Warren Mounts looks ready to do some yarn spinning -- but that gadget's not a spinning wheel!

Who could have guessed that little doodad was used as an early computing device.

Have something to measure? Borrow Warren's wheel.

MEMORY PLAQUES

We have filled the first large memory plaque and have ordered a second. The plates are \$50 engraved. The smaller plates are also available on a separate plaque for \$25. These are a lasting memory of a person or family who was born or lived in Westville, or who was a member of the WHO. Make checks payable to the Westville Historical Organization and mail to P.O. Box 157, Constable, N.Y. 12926. Be sure to include (print, please) exactly how the plate should read.

In Memory

of Members Who Passed From Our Midst in 2009

Esther Avery
Nora Avery
Watson Fleury
Gordon McCarthy
Emma Parker
Richard Travers

REMINDER ABOUT ANNUAL DUES

Please mail individual memberships of \$5 to Carolyn Faubert, 3843 SR 11, Malone, N.Y. 12953. Make your check payable to "W.H.O." We depend on your membership dues to keep us afloat. Thanks for your support! Questions? Call Carolyn at 518-483-5983.

2010 OFFICERS

Elections were held at the annual meeting in November. Those serving are:

President: Susan Tobias
Vice President: Sandy Fleury
Secretary: Dorothy Campbell
Treasurer: Judy Stark

Also on the board are Jean Goddard, Rosanna Clark, Myron Brady, Rod Dustin, and Richard Avery.

MEMORY BOOK

Our Christmas Memory Tree was a great success this year. We appreciate Myron Brady and Rod Dustin for putting up such a pretty tree on our front porch. Names of those being remembered will be entered into the Memory Book and be on display permanently at the History Center. Thank you to all who participated.

WHO WEBSITE UNDER CONSTRUCTION

We're proud to announce the inception of our own website. WHO Treasurer and Board Member Judy Cushman Stark has been working on it and although we haven't reached the birth stage yet, we hope you'll check periodically to see if it's finished. Google all the following words: [Westville Historical Organization Franklin County NY](#).

WANTED: VETERANS INFORMATION

Photographs, military records and/or biographical information on veterans from Westville. We are building our archives to reflect the bravery and dedication of the men and women who have served our country in all military engagements. Please contact Jean Goddard at lgoddard@twcnny.rr.com or 518-358-2374 or 19 County Route 20, Constable, N.Y. 12926 with information.

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AUGUST 2009 OPEN HOUSE



Our new sign in front of the history museum.



Displays at the Open House in August covered Business and Farming, Church and School, and Home and Family from 1829, when the town incorporated, to 2009. Below are displays of pictures and implements.



WHO President Susan McGibbon Tobias, standing, with her mother, Town Historian Jean McGibbon Goddard (right) and former Westville resident Millie McGibbon, who lives in Arizona.



A display of 1950s kitchen equipment that was part of the August Open House, "Westville: 180 Years of Incorporation - 1829 to 2009"



WHO Secretary Dorothy Campbell displays a book of genealogy research on her ancestors who lived in Westville

GRANDMA'S QUILT

BY BERNICE V. ROBERTS

My grandma has a crazy quilt, but it's a story quilt to me,
For every piece that's in it has its history.

She starts up in the corner and she goes from left to right,
She tells me each one's story when I stay with her at night.

A fuzzy piece of cashmere she wore to her first ball,
That's where she met my grandpa, so proud, erect and tall.

That shiny square of satin was her own wedding dress,
The floral print beside it belonged to sister Bess.

The silky striped material was a piece of grandpa's tie,
The one just to the right of it belonged to Uncle Sy.

There is one she calls her party dress, she said was trimmed with lace,
And it brings happy memories and smiles to Grandma's face.

A pale pink piece of taffeta with blue forget-me-nots,
Belonged to my own mother when she was just a tot.

These funny little pieces that look so strange to me,
All mean love and friendship in Grandma's memories.

Some are dresses of her friends who are gone, she knows not where,
Some bring a smile and some a tear as she tells each story there.

She tells me of the pretty things her mother used to wear,
Of tiny waists and full, hooped skirts and ribbons in their hair.

Her faded eyes grow wistful, an arm slips round my waist,
And as she draws me to her, a tear rolls down her face.

And then it's time to go to bed; I help her climb the stairs,
She tucks me in the story quilt and hears my bedtime prayers.

I hope some day, when I grow old, this quilt belongs to me,
And I'll unfold it proudly and tell its history.