



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LITTLE NINE PARTNERS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

November 2019

Dear Friends,

At our January board meeting, Ann Simmons announced that she was stepping down as our president, and I was voted to succeed her as president. I want to take this opportunity to thank Ann for her work on behalf of the Society, especially with regard to the Graham-Brush House, where she was instrumental in obtaining grants, led us through years of infrastructure projects, and most recently supported our dendrochronology study to help date the house. I am grateful that she will continue to serve on the Board and provide us with her insights and expertise.

This is my second stint as president of the Society (the last one being 25-30 years ago), and with your support I hope I am up to the challenges that we face. It has been a year of moving forward on some long-awaited goals for the Society, but also a year where, unfortunately, we could not offer much in the way of programs. Educational and entertaining programming is a large part of what we are and how we keep this organization relevant in our community. However, our active membership is small and growing older, and if we had to choose, I felt putting our energy and focus into some much-needed projects was more important for the Society at this time. More on that in a bit.

We will not be hosting our annual Open House this year, which we have traditionally held on Town Decorating Day, the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Earlier this spring we had to remove our collection from the storage facility where it had been housed for many years, and so all of these items, from large furniture to boxes of unlabeled photographs, are now being stored in the Graham-Brush House, waiting to be organized. We have begun the process of sorting through it, but the Board did not feel that the Graham-Brush House was in a presentable state for public viewing right now. We regret having to make this decision because this is another opportunity for the Society to engage with the community, and we enjoy doing it. How and where we store our collection, and indeed, what our collection should be, are important topics that we will be addressing in the months to come.

Thank you,
Dyan Wapnick
President LNPHS

Board Members:

Scott Chase; David Guernsey; Burt Hanback; Robert Hedges; Betty Isler; Gail Kelly; Lois Lenehan; Patricia Mara; James Mara; Ann Simmons.

MAINTAIN

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LNPHS 2019 PROGRAMS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **PROGRAMS** : Dyan gave a slide show presentation entitled “How Trees Defined Pine Plains” for the first Pine Plains Pine Day on April 20. The Society took part in a class hosted by the Dutchess County Genealogy Society on April 27 and sold our booklets at a May 4 Library history program on Hudson River State Hospital. The Society again was a major contributor to the Pine Plains Free Library’s annual Evergreen Cemetery Lantern Tours in October, researching the characters, writing scripts, and writing the program; we receive a portion of the proceeds from this event.
- The Society responded to many genealogy and historical information requests, requiring hours of research.
- **DONATIONS** : We received donations of photographs and other documents, including the Duxbury family collection from Beth Potter (who was given them by Jack Duxbury), and the Carman family collection from Lynda Lemay.
- Chris Losee photographed local high school history teacher and reenactor Neil Murray in the uniform of a NY Irish Brigade officer from the mid-1800s inside the GB House. Neil Murray made his annual visit to the house on Oct. 24 with his high school class of Revolutionary War reenactors.
- Our annual high school graduation scholarship for \$200 was awarded to Evan Proper.
- **TOWN DEMOLITION LAW** : The Society is concerned about the demolition of historic structures in the town. While we can’t save every structure, we would like an opportunity to at least document them before they are gone. We wrote a letter to the Town Board voicing our concerns and the Town is now working on a comprehensive demolition law for Pine Plains. The Society will be included in the ongoing process.
- **DEED** : One of our most valuable possessions is a 1749 Little Nine Partners deed. We noticed lately that the document appeared to be fading. With the help of a grant from the Society of Colonial Wars New York and expected donations from local businesses and organizations, we have hired the services of a professional conservation specialist, Jean Baldwin of Roxbury, CT, and Gilded Moon Framing in Millerton, to restore the deed and house it in new, modern framing. See the attached brochure for more information and how you can donate.
- **GB HOUSE MAINTENANCE** : We hired an exterminator to deal with a powder post beetle infestation. We installed a sink in the kitchen area of our meeting room, and a new vanity and toilet in the bathroom. A beautiful new sign for the GB House was made by Anthony Silvia and strategically placed to be seen by more people. Bob and Scott worked on our OPEN HOUSE sandwich board signs to make them more portable.
- Dyan has attended many local events to increase the Society’s exposure, and she continues to represent Pine Plains as a VP with the Dutchess County Historical Society and attends their quarterly meetings.
- One of the things that has come out of the above is the opportunity to share resources. Our Society has been stuck for some time on how to preserve and use the GB House. While in agreement that the house needs to be in a safe and presentable condition, and should be open to the public on a regular basis, questions remained: whether it can or should be used to store some of our collection (and if we should install climate control for this purpose), if we should have the house reflect a particular historical period, and how historically exacting we need to be. Therefore, we have had several consultants look at the house, recommended to us by other historical societies and by Will Tatum, Dutchess County Historian: Emily Majer, a preservation carpenter and historical research consultant, Cynthia Koch from Clinton Historical Society, and architect Jill Gotthelf. Although they were not in complete agreement on how we might proceed, it was still a very helpful exercise and may have been sufficient to get us moving forward. As you can imagine, this has been a very time-consuming process and one of the reasons our programming took a hit this year.
- As part of this preservation work, we will be repairing the floor in the east upstairs room (gutted in the fire) in a historically sensitive manner, and we have received 2 bids. We will be asking for corporate donations to help provide financial backing for this project. Bob Hedges will also be holding a plastering workshop in the spring, repairing the front inside walls (south facing) with plaster and lathe.
- **WEBSITE** : we are hard at work on a new website. Right now, it is at lnphs.org. This is intended as just a temporary domain, but you can check it out there! The plan is to migrate it to a permanent home at pineplainshistory.org.
- **BICENTENNIAL** : we have offered to help the Town plan for the Bicentennial in 2023. **If you are interested in being a part of the planning for this celebration, please let us know!**

OUR TOWN. OUR HERITAGE. OUR RESPONSIBILITY. JOIN US...

Please provide contact information so we can keep you informed about special events, new projects, meetings and other ways to get involved in LNPBS preservation efforts.

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

1. BECOME A LNPBS MEMBER :

RENEWAL NEW MEMBER

I would like to join at the following level:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Individual | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Patron |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$40 Family | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Benefactor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Sponsor | <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Student/Senior |

Won't you help at this level or higher?

2. VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES :

Are you interested in helping us with any of the following?
Would you like to apply to serve on our Board of Trustees?

- Programs and Fundraisers
- Collection
- Membership
- Genealogy and Research
- I would like to be considered for the Board of Trustees

3. TOTAL PAYMENT : \$ _____

I have enclosed a check made payable to :
Little Nine Partners Historical Society, PO Box 243, Pine Plains, NY 12567

I wish to charge my credit card:
 Master Card Visa Discover

Credit Card Number _____ Exp. ____/____ Security Code _____

Authorized Signature: _____

All donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. Memberships are active for one year.

