

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LITTLE NINE PARTNERS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

January 2023

Dear Friends,

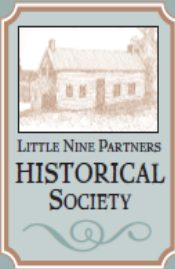
There is plenty to feel good about as we look back on 2022. It was a banner year for the historical society. Our three most significant accomplishments were the second-floor work done on the Graham-Brush House, the grant we received from Dutchess County, and an agriculture documentary (not in that order). Let me tell you more about them.

As you probably know, shortly after we acquired the GB House, vandals broke in and started a fire which gutted the northeast second-floor room. It took quite a while for the historical society to move forward on fixing the damage because we could not decide how we should proceed. After having professionals come and talk to us, and many hours of deliberation, it was finally decided that we should preserve and protect, not restore. It was a decision which, with a few exceptions, is being applied to the entire house. According to one definition, building preservation is, “the art and science of retaining and sustaining a building's historic fabric”. What preservation means for the room damaged by the fire is that, since the fire is now a part of the house’s history, we would not remove and replace the burnt flooring but instead overlay it with new flooring. The burnt floorboards would then be visible from the first floor below, and the room would be usable again. We also had to decide on the material to use for the new flooring: ultimately, we chose plywood, the most cost-effective option. Thank you to Board member Bob Hedges for his time and craftsmanship on the floor, the new banister, and other work upstairs, and to David Anderson whose generous donation made this possible.

We applied for and received Dutchess County’s 2022 Historic Sites & Museums Infrastructure Grant for \$13,000. Our project will include the following: removal of a large, diseased tree on the GB House property which could damage the house if it fell; installation of a vapor barrier on the house's basement dirt floor to stop vapor transmission from the soil that is making the conditions conducive for pest and microbial issues, as well as the installation of an air system to reduce humidity; installation of a permanent ADA-compliant wheelchair ramp for access to the house; installation of a large interpretive sign on the house lawn; and the purchase of audio-visual equipment, including laptop, projector, and printer, with other accessory items.

Last spring, the historical society was contacted by L. Parker Stevenson, who had a vision. In light of the area’s agricultural history, she wanted to recognize some of our local farmers, so she contacted the historical society to help bring her vision to fruition. The end result is a documentary film by Murphy Birdsall and Keith Reamer, “Our Farmers, Our Farms”, which will have its debut showing on March 4 at 4 pm at The Stissing Center with a follow-on panel discussion. This will be the kick-off event for the town’s bicentennial. Tickets will go on sale soon on Eventbrite.

Thank you,
Dyan Wapnick
President LNPHS



MAINTAIN

RESTORE

PRESERVE

ENTRUST

SUBSCRIBE

CONTRIBUTE

Board Members: Leah Cadwallader; Scott Chase (Vice President); David Guernsey; Robert Hedges; Betty Isler; Gail Kelly; Lois Lenehan (Treasurer); Mike Manning; Ann Simmons (Secretary); Dyan Wapnick (President).

LNPHS 2022 REVIEW

Additional Accomplishments and Programs

- Dyan continues to represent Pine Plains as a VP with the Dutchess County Historical Society.
- LNPHS continues to function in the capacity of town historian for Pine Plains.
- many hours have been devoted to answering genealogical and house research requests.
- several donations have been received, including a pair of sconces by David Anderson which are copies of items in the American Wing of the Metropolitan Museum of Art dated 1750.
- additional work on the GB House by Bob: plastering the front walls in the east downstairs room. Wow, what a difference it makes to the ambiance (and acoustics) of the room!
- programs this year included an author talk by Sarah Hermans on the 1903 Jackson Corners Signature Quilt, and a round table discussion, “Schaghticoke Mahican roots in Shekomeko as revealed through primary documents of the 1700s” presented by Sachem Hawk Storm and Valerie LaRobardier.
- we had three Open Houses: Lewis Graham Day (May 30, with a tag sale), Community Day, and Town Decorating Day (the Saturday after Thanksgiving). On Community Day, we also helped with the Stissing House tours and Thayer Durrel (as Isaac Hunting) performed a skit on the hamlet’s history in the town park with a script written by Dyan.
- Cemetery Gravestone Cleaning -- the historical society continues to clean the old headstones in the Rowe cemeteries in Bethel. We held our summer monthly board meetings there accompanied by cheap champagne and pizza. Fun times!
- Evergreen Cemetery Lantern Tours -- As you know, this is a collaborative effort of the Little Nine Partners Historical Society and the Pine Plains Free Library. Our best year yet was 2022 and we are looking forward to 2023.
- Annual School Scholarship -- essay entitled, “How agriculture has influenced my life growing up in a rural town” -- \$200 awarded to Annette Prezzano; runner up award of \$100 went to Ben Prentice.
- digitization by the County history department has been completed of the earliest town record book in our possession (1772-1858), held for safe keeping at the Bank of Millbrook.
- Neil Murray visited the GB House in October with his high school student reenactors.
- **Bicentennial Committee:** the Society is helping to plan the town’s bicentennial in 2023.

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?

- Inventory and Preservation of Old Buildings
- Programs and Fundraisers
- Collections
- Membership
- Genealogy and Research

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.

