

# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LITTLE NINE PARTNERS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

November 2023

Dear Friends,

This year was all about celebrating the Bicentennial of Pine Plains. It was a busy year, and as we wind down and look back on it I think the town has reason to feel proud of what we achieved together. We educated people about the history of Pine Plains and in the process more people became aware of our little historical society. I'd like to give you a rundown of the events that the historical society organized in the order we presented them.

We kicked off the Bicentennial with a presentation of our film, "Our Farms, Our Farmers" at the Stissing Center on March 4. This film honoring our agricultural heritage went on to be shown at the Dutchess County Fair and had screenings at two film festivals, the Farm Film Festival in Chatham, NY, and the Montclair Film Festival in Montclair, NJ. We intend to put it on our website by the end of the year.

Our next program was a presentation by Dutchess County Historian Will Tatum entitled "*Redrawing the Lines in Northern Dutchess*," about the significant impact the formation of Pine Plains had on the towns of North East and Amenia, changing boundaries which had stood for sixty years.

In May we hosted a kids-oriented Native American scavenger hunt and storytelling with Sachem Hawk Storm of the Schaghticoke First Nations at the Graham-Brush House. We reprinted an activity book, "The Story of Stissing," and had Bicentennial coffee mugs made, both of which were sold at the event.

This was followed on successive May weekends by two programs in which we partnered with the Pine Plains Free Library: a history of the Pine Plains school district "1-room" schoolhouses, held at the Attlebury schoolhouse in Stanford, and a walking tour of the locations of the library in the Pine Plains hamlet over the past 225 years. In June we partnered with the library again with a slideshow presentation, "Seymour Smith and his Legacy," a history of educational reform and the Pine Plains schools.

In August, Sachem Hawk Storm returned with a roundtable presentation to honor the Native American village and Moravian Mission of Shekomeko. Town Supervisor Brian Walsh read a proclamation honoring Sachem Shabash of Shekomeko and the Moravian missionary Christian Henry Rauch and recognizing Shekomeko as the traditional territory of the Mahican Peoples. A commemorative plaque was also presented to the Town of Pine Plains and the historical society by the Schaghticoke First Nations.

For Pine Plains Community Day on September 9, we opened up the Graham-Brush House for tours with fiddle music accompanying three events: the dedication of a beautiful interpretive sign (paid for by the grant we received from Dutchess County); the burial of a time capsule (jointly with the library); and a monologue by Thayer Durell as historian Isaac Hunting on the history of the Pine Plains hamlet. County Historian Will Tatum was the guest speaker.



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In late September we welcomed Neil Murray and the Revolutionary War reenactors from his military history class back to the Graham-Brush House to do their annual encampment and drill.

We partnered with the library again on the Evergreen Cemetery Lanter Tours in October, this year featuring a tour of the ground floor of The Pines and characters representative of our history.

Lastly, on November 18, Bill Jeffway, Executive Director of the Dutchess County Historical Society, gave a presentation entitled, “*Reversal of Fortune of Enslaver and Enslaved in the Settlement of Pine Plains.*” This program explored how the American Revolution helped reverse the family fortunes of two men who settled here on the Little Nine Partners Patent: the slave Andrew Frazier and Morris Graham, of the powerful Graham family.

Thank you,

*Dyan Wapnick*  
President LNPHS

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

## LNPHS 2023 REVIEW

### Additional Accomplishments and Programs

- Dyan continues to represent Pine Plains as a VP with the Dutchess County Historical Society (DCHS) and in June contributed to a panel discussion on youth programming.
- 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, and other questions.
- Dyan gave two walking tours of the Shekomeko site (from the road) to Mahican and Moravian researchers.
- Several donations have been received.
- Annual School Scholarship – essay about a person in Pine Plains history from 1700-1940 -- \$200 award presented to John Bopp for his essay on Samuel Deuel.
- We added an Instagram account managed by Sarah Chase! [@lnp\\_historical\\_society](#).
- Dyan wrote a companion article to the film, “Our Farms, Our Farmers” for the DCHS annual yearbook, which will be published online sometime in January.
- Dyan was the keynote speaker for the Superintendent’s Conference Day at the high school on November 7. Her talk was about Pine Plains history as seen through the Bicentennial programs.
- The GB House was opened for tours on June 4 for Pine Plains’ Gay Pride Day.
- Besides the interpretive sign, two other projects have been completed with the Dutchess County grant: the removal of a diseased tree from our property and the installation of a vapor barrier and air purifier in the GB House basement to mitigate our powder post beetle infestation.
- We submitted a request and received an extension on our county grant to May 31, 2024.

# 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 : \$ \_\_\_\_\_

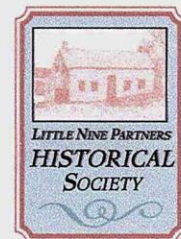
I have enclosed a check made payable to :  
Little Nine Partners Historical Society, PO Box 243, Pine Plains, NY 12567

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.



LITTLE NINE PARTNERS HISTORICAL SOCIETY | PO Box 243 | PINE PLAINS, NY | 12567

Visit our website at [lnphs.com](http://lnphs.com)