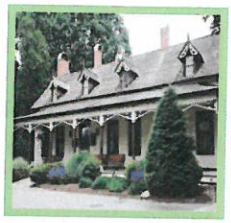
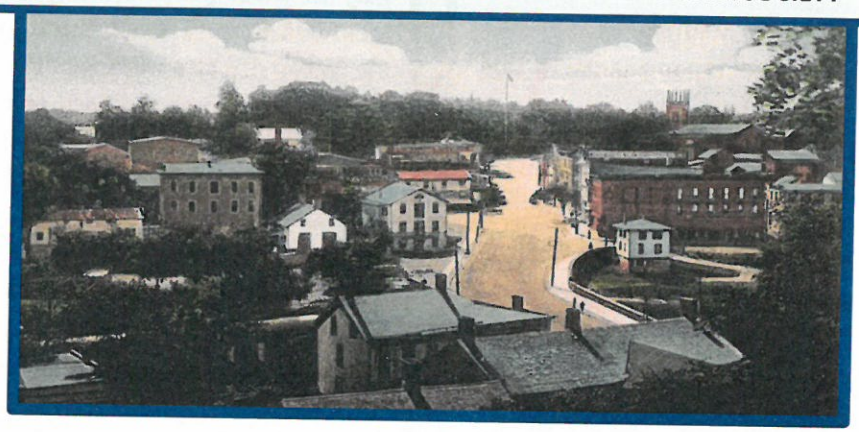
THE HOMESTEAD CHRONICLE

VOL.1 NO.1 A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE WAPPINGERS HISTORICAL SOCIETY APRIL 2015



The Mesier Homestead

Please donate to the Homestead Preservation Fund.
Make checks payable to the Wappingers Historical Society



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President's Message

Welcome Spring! We have survived a long and snowy winter and we are happy to see it come to an end. Our season is about to begin and the members of the Wappingers Historical Society have prepared the homestead for our opening on April 12, 2015. We hope that you will visit us and take a guided tour; our docents are ready to welcome you to the Jewel of the Village.

We are very happy to bring you our first newsletter; it is filled with great information, recipes and event notifications. There is great excitement for our upcoming events, the first, our Annual Tea Party is sure to sell out quickly.

In the last few years you may have seen workers at the homestead repairing and painting the outside, but we have also made many improvements on the inside and everything looks beautiful. The improvements would not have been possible without the efforts of our Society fundraisers, gracious donations and memberships. I want to especially thank everyone that has given of their time and helped us accomplish so much; I will forever be grateful.

I hope you have visited our website. If not be prepared to be there a while when you do. Maybe you can help identify some of the photos in our collection.

We will be posting our events on Facebook and in the Southern Dutchess News. We hope you will attend.

Wishing that the magic of the homestead brings you back in time, and hope that it will continue to do so for many generations to come.

Sandra Vacchio, President
Wappingers Historical Society

Wappingers Historical Society
Upcoming Events & Dates to Remember

April 9, 2015: WHS Monthly Meeting/ History of Zion Episcopal Church Presentation 7:00pm @ Zion Episcopal Church Parish Hall.

April 12, 2015: Tours at the Homestead 1-4pm

April 26, 2015: Tom Lake Presentation: "The Prehistoric Occupation by Native Americans of Clinton Point", 2pm, First Presbyterian Church, Wappingers Falls, NY.

May 3, 2015: Wappingers Historical Society's 7th Annual Victorian Tea at the Mesier Homestead, 2-4pm. Advanced ticket sales only: $20.00. Call: 845-430-9520

May 14, 2015: WHS Monthly Meeting 7pm @ the Homestead. A short meeting is planned. At 7:30 author Rena Corey will give a presentation entitled **"Historical Society Special Collections: Shelves that Speak" followed by a book signing by the author. Ms. Corey's book "The Red Diary of 1916" will be available for purchase.**

May 17, 2015: Tours at the Homestead 1-4pm

June 11, 2015: WHS Monthly Meeting 7pm @ the Homestead. At 7:30 intern, Danielle Sweetser will present more research on the Mesier family.

June 14, 2015: Tours at the Homestead 1-4pm

Village Events

May 17, 2015: Village Yard Sale, 9am-3pm. Register by calling 297-8773 ex. 7
May 30, 2015: Cultural Diversity Day @ Mesier Park
June 26, 2015: Movie Nights begin at Veterans' Park. 7:30pm. Bring a blanket.
June 29, 2015: Summer Camp begins @ Veterans' Park. Registration at the Village Hall.
For more Village information visit the village website: www.wappingersfallny.gov. For information regarding recreational events call 297-8773 ex. 7 or email: dcalabrese@wappingersfallny.gov

For Town of Wappinger Recreation Events:

http://www.townofwappinger.us/recpages/recreation.html

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Joining the Wappingers Historical Society is a great way to meet people and get involved with your local community. In addition to monthly meetings the WHS offers a number of social events such as our annual June picnic and Christmas party. Throughout the year WHS also holds various fundraising events including the annual fall Craft Fair and springtime Victorian Tea. These events give members the opportunity to get creative and involved in some fun activities. Additionally, WHS sponsors book signings, and guest speaker presentations that are open to the public. Our Research Library and Archives Room is available to our membership and is a wonderful resource for researchers, genealogists or anyone interested in local history. Our members come from all walks of life and a broad age spectrum. The extent of one's involvement is left up to each member.

Part of the mission of the Wappingers Historical Society is to maintain and preserve the Mesier Homestead and make it available to the public. Increased membership would provide an ample number of volunteers who could assist us in offering additional educational programs, tours and fundraising events to support this effort. If you know of individuals who have a love of history; more specifically the history of the Village of Wappingers Falls and the Town of Wappinger, please encourage them to join the Wappingers Historical Society. Better still, consider purchasing a WHS membership as a gift for your friends and relatives! Membership information and form can be accessed on our website:

http://www.wappingershistoricalsociety.org/join.shtml

Many thanks to our current members for your support! There is much to be done. If you would like to get more involved please join us the second Thursday of each month at 7:00pm at the Mesier Homestead for our monthly meeting and find out how you can help.

THE MESIER PROJECT

SUNY New Paltz history student and intern for WHS, Danielle Sweetser gave a short presentation at our March meeting describing her findings thus far about the history of the Mesier family and Pieter Jansen Mesier, great-grandfather to Peter Mesier who came to Wappingers Falls. Danielle expounded on her investigative journey describing some baffling challenges and "eureka" moments in her research. Consultations with author and New Netherlands expert, Dr. Jaap Jacobs; Hudson Valley artist, Len Tantillo and Mesier descendent, Dr. Andrew Hendricks aided Danielle in her research. Danielle was able to discover Pieter Jansen Mesier arrived in the New Netherlands around 1659 at the age of 18 or 19. He may have been a soldier with the West India Company. In 1685 Mesier erected a mill near Cortland and Wall Street. The street was appropriately named Windmill Lane. The windmill stood on the west side in the area of the present day World Trade Center. The huge sails of the windmill could be seen from great distances offering ships a useful landmark when navigating the waters near the tip of Manhattan. Danielle's presentation was enhanced by several visual displays including a representation of the Mesier family tree, a copy of a map of Manhattan c.1695 depicting the location of the Mesier mill (donated to WHS by Len Tantillo) and a copy of an original painting titled *Mesier Mill,c.1695* by Len Tantillo (purchased by WHS and now on display). Danielle will present more research findings at the WHS June meeting. If you would like to read more about Danielle's research please visit her blog: mesierproject.wordpress.com

Wappingers Historical Society
7th Annual Victorian Tea
at the
Mesier Homestead
Sunday, May 3, 2015
2-4pm
Tickets: $20.00

Contact Trish: 845-297-0800

ADVANCED TICKET SALES ONLY/ LIMITED SEATING
Please help support the Homestead.

Proceeds go to the repair and restoration of the Homestead.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE A SPONSOR PLEASE CONTACT TRISH BEFORE APRIL 10TH/ 845-297-0800

Sponsor Levels:
Gold: $150.00 Silver: $100.00 Bronze: $50.00
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

GIFTS FROM THE HOMESTEAD
Did you know the WHS has a gift shop?
Our inventory includes a collection of local history books, postcards, shadow boxes, Christmas ornaments, and Victorian style giftware including handmade tea mats, wall hangings and table runners crafted from vintage patterned textiles. Come and browse before or after our monthly meetings or on the second Sunday of each month. All proceeds go to the support of the Wappingers Historical Society.

Birds Eye View Map of the Village of Wappingers Falls, 1889 for sale at the WHS gift shop. $5.00

COLLECTIONS AND ARCHIVES

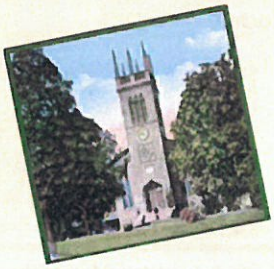
The purpose of the Collections and Archives Committees is to acquire, preserve and present items of historical value that pertain to the Village of Wappingers Falls and surrounding communities. Our repository includes a research library, archives and museum artifacts. The historical society is also curator of one of the largest collections of Native American artifacts on the east coast.

Some of the materials in our Research Library and Archives include the John R. Ferris Civil War Library Collection, historical books pertaining to the growth and development of the village and town, photographs, directories, newspapers, maps, scrapbooks and archival records such as billheads, letters and documents.

Currently access to the Research Library and Archives is available to members by appointment. Eileen is happy to assist you in your research. If you would like to visit the Research Library Room or if you have an item you would like to donate that fits with our mission please contact Jackie: jaqhammond@gmail.com.

A recent addition to the historical society collection is a copy of an original painting by Hudson Valley artist, Len Tantillo entitled, *Mesier Mill, c. 1695.* The copy is on display in the entry hall of the Mesier Homestead. The original painting was commissioned by Dr. Andrew Hendricks, a descendent of the Mesier family. The painting was recently part of an exhibit at the Fenimore Art Museum in Cooperstown, NY. For more information about the artist please visit Mr. Tantillo's website: **http://www.lftantillo.com/shop/index.php**

Please join us APRIL 9, 2015, 7:00PM
for
"HISTORY OF ZION AT ZION"
Presented by Barbara Griffiths
at the Zion Episcopal Parish Hall



This is a free event offered to the public by the Wappingers Historical Society & Zion Church.

SAVE THE DATE: MAY 14, 2015
7:30pm at the Homestead
WHS member & author of Red Star Diary of 1916, Rena Corey will offer a presentation:

"HISTORICAL SOCIETY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS: SHELVES THAT SPEAK."

A book signing will follow the presentation. Copies of Red Star Diary of 1916 will be available for purchase.

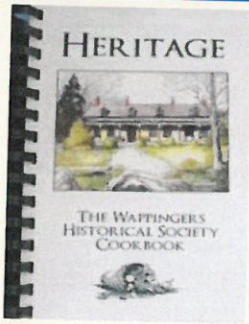
This event is free to the public. Please bring a friend!

MYSTERY PHOTO: THE COLONIAL HOTEL. DO YOU KNOW WHERE IT WAS LOCATED?

The answer is on the last page of the newsletter

DOCENTS & GREETERS NEEDED

Currently the Homestead is only open to the public the second Sunday of each month. We would like to make the home more accessible to the public. We are seeking volunteers to serve as docents and greeters. **For more information please contact Patty:** dem3tompkins@aol.com



HERITAGE RECIPE

FEATURED RECIPE:

FAMOUS HORTON HOUSE SCONES

(p327) Contributed by John & Cynthia Vergilii, owners of the historic Joseph Horton House also known as "Old Hundred".

Each issue we will feature a recipe from the WHS Heritage Cookbook, a collection of favorite recipes from local residents. Interspersed are fascinating tidbits of local historical information and charming pen & ink drawings of local landmarks by Elizabeth Scardepane. The laminated stock cover features a color rendering of the historic Mesier Homestead by local artist Theresa Morgan. The **book measures 8.5" x 5.5", 500 pages.** Available at the Homestead Gift Shop, $20.00

INGREDIENTS:

1 ¾ C. sifted all-purpose flour
2 ¼ tsp. baking powder
¼ C. salted butter, softened
2 extra-large eggs
¼ C. heavy cream
⅓ C. dried cranberries
⅓ C. white chocolate chips
⅓ C. sweetened flaked coconut

DIRECTIONS:

Preheat oven to 400°. Mix all ingredients in a large bowl. Make "loosely packed", round mounds about 2" in size. Place onto greased cookie sheet and bake on middle rack about 10-15 minutes or until lightly browned on top. Makes 12 scones. Serve with clotted cream and jam. These scones freeze very well and will keep up to 3 weeks.

CYNTHIA & JOHN VERGILII ARE A TALENTED SINGING DUO AVAILABLE FOR SINGING ENGAGEMENTS. PLEASE CALL: 845-849-1512 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

"The Prehistoric Occupation by Native Americans of Clinton Point"
Sunday, April 26, 2015 2:00 pm
First Presbyterian Church, 2568 South Ave, Wappingers Falls, N.Y.

DCC Professor Tom Lake will discuss four discreet multi-component archaeological sites: Stoneco, Camelot, Grinnell and Barnegat. Each site contains evidence from several thousand artifacts of the major northeast prehistoric cultures from about 9,000 years ago to the arrival of Europeans.
Please register in advance to guarantee entrance:
wappingershistoricalsociety@gmail.com or by calling 845-632-1281
A donation of five dollars per person would be appreciated. All donations are used to support future programs and the restoration of the Mesier Homestead.

SEE YOU AT OUR NEXT GATHERING: THURSDAY, APRIL 9TH AT THE ZION CHURCH PARISH HALL, 7PM. A BRIEF MEETING WILL FOLLOW THE PRESENTATION.

ANSWER TO THE MYSTERY PHOTO:
According to the 1915 census the Colonial Hotel was located on Fulton Street. The proprietor was John W. Mullen. If you have more information about the Colonial Hotel please contact WHS.