



# WANAKENA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2019

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

<i>WHA Financials</i>	2
<i>Cranberry Lake, did you know?</i>	3
<i>Thumper Press, a Wanakena Business</i>	4
<i>New Stop on the Walking Tour</i>	4
<i>J Otto Hamele</i>	6
<i>Remembering Polly Hamele</i>	6
<i>Message from the WHA President</i>	7
<i>Membership Form</i>	8

## WHA Receives Award & Gift! from the Ranger School Alumni

On August 4<sup>th</sup> 2018 the Wanakena Historical Association was honored by the Ranger School Alumni as the 2018 recipient of the **Kermit E Remele Award of Meritorious Service**, which recognizes groups of people who have combined efforts beyond the norm to have a positive lasting influence on the Ranger School. Previous recipients have been: The Ranger School Centennial Committee (2012); The Clifton-Fine Hospital (2016); and The Star Lake Fire Department (2017). Allen Ditch accepted the award on behalf of the WHA, with most of the Trustees in attendance.



WHA Trustees, volunteers and donors who attended the RS Alumni ceremony

In addition to receiving this prestigious award, the Ranger School unexpectedly gifted the WHA with an **E. Ingam Company** wooden pendulum-driven clock, that long ago graced a mantle of the Old Wanakena Hotel. This fine piece of Wanakena history was given to the Ranger School by the Knickerbocker family to honor their father, a Ranger School graduate. The Award and historic clock have been on display at Otto's Abode in 'downtown' Wanakena since September 2018 for the community to view and appreciate. Thank-you to Nolan & Hannah for displaying these items for the WHA!

## WHA Supporters Partnering To Create a Wanakena History Center

The WHA will soon have a permanent location to display the historic wood clock and Kermit E Remele Award of Meritous Service bestowed by the Ranger School Alumni. Currently the WHA's collection of historic objects, photographs, and documents can be viewed by appointment only and is primarily located on the third floor of the home of Trustee & past-President, Bill Gleason. Additional items are stored by other Trustees/members. Further, the WHA is aware of historic objects that may be donated or loaned once there is a physical location for display and centralized storage.

WHA Officers

- President  
Allen Ditch
- Secretary  
Susan Smeby
- Treasurer  
Ronald Capone

WHA Trustees

- Wayne Allen
- Genero Cibelli
- Sara Cibelli
- Paul Flynn
- William Gleason
- Judy Hastings-Keith
- Primrose McVay
- Virginia Peters
- Gail Simmons
- Marsha Smith
- Elaine Stathopoulos



21 Second Street, circa 1907



21 Second Street, 2018

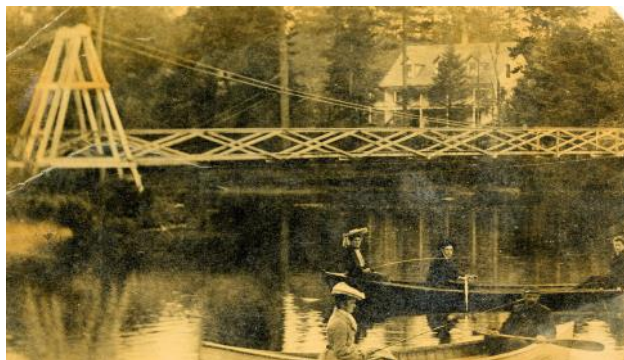
How & Why it's Happening; Five equal partners (made up of groups of families and friends) have formed an LLC (Limited Liability Corporation), each pledging \$25,000 for a total of \$125,000 to own, renovate and restore one of the original Rich Lumber Company houses at 21 Second Street to its original facade. Their dream and intent is to provide a location for a Wanakena History Center, where the WHA can continue its mission to encourage greater knowledge of Wanakena history and to display and make available for study: artifacts, relics, books, manuscripts, papers, photographs, and other records and materials relating to the history of Wanakena, the Ranger School and the surrounding area. The plan is for the WHA to sign a long-term commitment to occupy the property and agree to pay for utilities, maintenance, liability insurance, and any taxes on the property. Memorials or donations can be made by mail (PO Box 73, Wanakena 13695) or through our Paypal account, [www.wanakena.com/donate](http://www.wanakena.com/donate).

**Next Meeting  
June 15th —9:30 am**

## TREASURER'S REPORT: 2018

WHA FUNDS; as reported by the treasurer:

Balance Sept 9, 2017	\$ 15,366
Balance June 10 2018	\$ 21,658
<b>Balance Sept 22, 2018</b>	<b>\$ 21,747</b>



Ladies fishing at the footbridge with the Conroy Hotel in the background. Circa 1906

## SUMMARY BRIDGE FUND: 2018

WHA FUNDS; as reported by the treasurer & DANC

Funds Raised by WHA	\$ 188,197.76
Grants Received	\$ 259,895.67
<b>TOTAL TO REBUILD</b>	<b>\$ \$448,093.43</b>



July 4, 2018 Duck Races. after the parade. Finish-line is the beautiful Wanakena Footbridge. Photo by: Dan Donovan

## History and legends of the Adirondacks—On Facebook A Great Resource By John Sasso

Over two and a half years ago, I created the "*History and Legends of the Adirondacks*" group on Facebook to provide an outlet for discussing, sharing, and inquiring about topics related to Adirondack history and folklore. When the group was first conceived, the idea was to use social media in a positive fashion to disseminate information to the Facebook community on matters related to the people, places, things, and events within the Blue Line from many decades to centuries ago. Today, the group is home to over 13,800 members (and growing), ranging from people with no knowledge of Adirondack history but want to learn more, to experts in the field (authors, historians, et al). The other vision for the group was to allow town and county historians, historical organizations, and museums to connect with those on social media who may not be aware of them, and advertise events (such as talks, exhibits, tours, fund-raisers) that the public can attend and enjoy. With the support from my co-administrators, Spencer Morrissey and Joe Ryan, the group keeps to its vision and continues to provide an essential service in the world of social media of expanding the knowledge on Adirondack history and lore!

The wonderful thing about the "History and Legends of the Adirondacks" group is the incredibly wide variety of topics which get posted or inquired about: surveyors and surveying, guides, logging and mining industries, Native Americans, machinery, camps, local stores, old roads, politicians, celebrities, and more! There seems to be no end to the wide variety of old photos, sketches, maps, links to online books, and written tales on one's ancestors from the Adirondacks long ago. What is more amazing are the number of members who are related to famous Adirondack figures, such as Verplanck Colvin, Mitchell Sabattis, and Orson "Old Mountain" Phelps. For example, a member whose great, great grandfather was a guide or proprietor of a hotel would post photos and letters which originally belonged to them. The group welcomes inquiries, no matter how odd or seemingly impossible to find the answer for; many members are happy to jump in, provide the detective work and provide an answer - or at least point people in the right direction. In short, I know the group is serving its purpose when I see a response such as "I've wondered about this for 65 years..Thanks!"

## Donate to the WHA Each Time You Use AMAZON SMILE

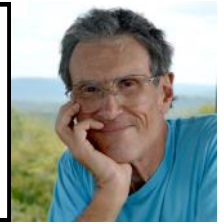
Did you know that you can initiate a donation to the WHA each time you make a purchase from Amazon?

Each time you shop on AmazonSmile ([smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)), instead of Amazon.com, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organizations selected by customers.

**To add WHA as your charitable Amazon organization:** Sign in to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) on your desktop or mobile phone browser and go to your account from the navigation at the top of any page, and then select the option to Change your Charity. Select Wanakena Historical Association as the charitable organization you support. According to Amazon Smile, they have donated \$128.50 to the WHA since we registered .

# How Big is Cranberry Lake?

## Curiosity Based Research By: Jack Williams



Cranberry Lake is one of the largest and most remote lakes in the Adirondack park. Its shoreline is about 75% forested and protected by the park authority. As a result, reports about its size are widely varied. The historical literature reports a shoreline between 40 and 165 miles in length, even after the current dam was built. Surprisingly, even the NY Department of Environmental Conservation's online websites document Cranberry's shoreline at 55 miles on one site and 71 miles on another. So naturally, as an obsessive, scientifically trained, research oriented geek and veteran US Navy destroyer officer who grew up in small boats and has paddled the entire shoreline of Cranberry, the question is critically important. So, I decided to clarify the issue.

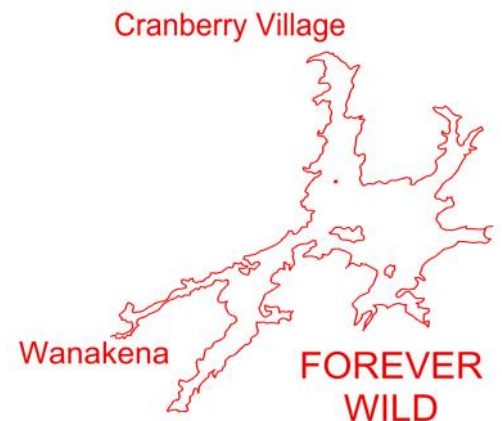
My first idea was to repeat my earlier circum-navigation of Cranberry with the GPS turned on to measure my progress. However, when I experimented, I remembered that it's hard to get closer than 20 feet from the Cranberry shoreline without risking ruining the bottom of the boat - as any Cranberry boater knows. So instead of sinking, I used the excellent Google satellite maps and an Android measurement program called "Measurer."

I tested the accuracy of the method by paddling varied virtual GPS tracks to see if my actual GPS distance matched Measurer's virtual measurements. Overall, the method produced only a 1 % error, entirely due to my inability to follow a virtual straight line in my canoe.

I then spent a very boring four days expanding Google satellite maps and measuring the "shoreline"- defined as the point along the shore at which canoeing is no longer possible. I won't go into details, but my Navy experience using radar for ship navigation and my earlier canoe trips into every Cranberry nook and cranny came in handy.

Enough talk; the photo shows the details. Here are the results: Cranberry Lake has 71 miles of shoreline, not including islands. This closely matches one of the DEC measurements of 71.4 miles. Its forty-nine islands add 11.2 miles for a total shoreline of 82.2 miles. A paddle up the Oswegatchie to Wanakena Rock following the river middle is 2.92 miles. Following instead the North or South shore is 4.38 and 3.34 miles respectively.

According to the DEC, Cranberry's area is 6,995 acres. Two lakes are larger: Lake George (81 shoreline miles, 28,451 acres) and Raquette Lake (99 miles, 5,935 acres), though I don't quite understand the DEC criterion. Stillwater is 800 acres smaller than Cranberry. Tupper Lake has just 3,853 acres and 21 miles of shoreline; Lowes Lake has 2,845 acres and 30.4 miles of shoreline. Paddling Cranberry's shoreline without circling the islands is the equivalent of paddling from Wanakena to Massena, NY, while paddling around each island would get you to Cornwall, Ontario. Want to try it? We generally paddle a little above a fast walking speed. Walk to Cornwall and let me know how it goes.



## Some Interesting Factoids about Cranberry Lake and Wanakena

- Cranberry Lake is 1500 feet above sea level in the heart of the Adirondacks in St Lawrence county. The most beautiful spot in all the mountains
- 1865-1867 Cranberry Lake Dam was constructed that doubled the lake's surface and killed thousands of trees. The dam was built to control flow of water to the mills and communities downstream
- The wooden crib dam raised the level of the lake by about 11 feet
- 1901 Rich Lumber Co. purchased 16,000 acres of land around Cranberry Lake and planned the town
- Initially the plan was to build the town of Wanakena at the Narrows on the South shore and Mills on the North Shore; but creeks came together at what is now the hamlet of Wanakena and it was easier to connect the railroad from Benson Mines
- The naming of Wanakena was somewhat dictated by the US Post Office that rejected a proposal by Rich Lumber to name the hamlet, Cranberry. Per J Otto Hamele, the name Wanakena was subsequently proposed, and accepted by the US Post Office after Mr. Rich saw the name on a streetcar near Buffalo NY.
- 1916-1917 the new/current cement dam was built. The crest of the new cement dam was built to an elevation 9 inches below that of the old dam, with provisions made for flashboards to flood the entire flow area when desirable.



# Thumper Press, by Doris MacDonnell

## Daughter of Donald Rushmore, owner of Thumper Press



**THUMPER PRESS**

Don Rushmore Wanakena, New York Telephone - 515-848-2540

Thumper press was started by my Father, Donald Rushmore before we moved to Wanakena. At that time, it was his hobby with one letter press machine. Because Thumper is a rabbit and rabbits thump and reproduce, he named it Thumper Press. The art work was done by a local artist, Glenn Giltz of AuSable Forks.

When we moved to Wanakena my Father had only one small printing press. Originally, he set up shop in the North side of the old General Store & Post Office on the right side of the building. One evening he went back over to the shop and discovered that the man in the large part of the building had left hot coals on the floor and could have burned down the entire building (it didn't). He decided to move out. He moved the business into the corner house [Wanakena's original Post Office], which by that time he had purchased from Keith and Polly Hamele. It was a 'job' printing business, i.e. no newspaper, but did print anything else that people might need, such as school and church programs, small calendars, business cards, etc.

After he retired from The Newton Falls paper mill, he devoted all his time to the shop, expanding to linotype which he had shipped in by bus from Watertown. When he wanted to expand the business to include a large printing press, he had the addition put on the house, but first had to reinforce the entire foundation with hard fill and cement. Everyone in town donated large rocks and anything else to fill it in. This made for a firm foundation for the large printing press. It withstood both the weight and vibrations.

When my Mother retired from the mill and they wanted to move south, he sold the business to a small printing business in Gouverneur. After he sold all the equipment and the business, he had the west entrance side built into the garage. Until then we parked outside on the east side next to Mrs. Apples' house. This would be in the 60's; I'm not sure of the date as I had moved on and no longer lived there. [photo above is from 1956]

**Some additional personal Wanakena memories:**

I grew up in Wanakena and in 1972 was given Herb Keith's book, "Man of the Woods" that was inscribed to me. I donated this to the Wanakena Historical Association in 2015 to help raise money to rebuild the footbridge.

*Note: This edition was donated back to the Historical Association and is part of the WHA archives.*

I remember when two little girls (my cousins) were visiting us fell through the ice on a Sunday morning walking back from Church. The ice had gone out during the night, so the river was full of huge ice chunks. They stopped to look at them and fell in. Their heavy coats were very quickly taking them out into the current. Their father had tried to rescue them, but as he had had polio he was immediately paralyzed by the cold water. A local boy pulled them out. The girls were taken to Margaret Vickers, who was a retired Doctor. Both girls lived in California, the younger developed a heart murmur from it but other than that they were fine.

There is a newspaper article from 1983 about the re-opening of the bridge after some major repairs, and in it, Bill Vickers recounts the story about when the 2 James' girls fell through the ice, these girls were my cousins; children of my Aunt & Uncle, Charles & Louise James. Bill's account is basically true.

=====

*These stories were collected through multiple emails with Allen Ditch, through the Wanakena Historical Association email account.*

## New Station Added to the Walking Tour

The J Otto Hamele Historic Walking Tour is now 17 years old! It is hard to believe that it has been that long since the WHA unveiled this innovative way to walk through history. Last summer another stop was added to the walking tour that displays one of the old channel markers prior to the installation of the floating buoys that are now in place to navigate the tricky obstacles in the Oswegatchie heading to Cranberry Lake. These channel markers were set into some of the dangerous tree stumps that are the remnants of the trees that were drowned when the Cranberry Lake dam was built over 150 years ago.

The historic channel marker is located just across from the Wanakena beach and was donated to the WHA by long-time resident, **Paul Peacock** shortly before he passed away. Paul Peacock's channel marker is displayed permanently in cement. The stand for the marker plus the weather-resistant historic description (with historic detail provided by the Dept Environmental Conservation) and concrete cost \$917 total. A portion of the cost was donated by the **Cranberry Lake Boat Club**. Thanks to Paul Peacock, the Cranberry Lake Boat Club, Bill Gleason and Gerry Cibelli for their kind support and volunteer time to add this very interesting piece of Wanakena history to the walking tour.



# J. Otto Hamele: Historic Documents Added to the WHA Archives

By Allen Ditch

In September and November 2018 the Hamele family donated several containers of records that were being stored at the Hamele home in Wanakena. The historic items are a treasure trove of information that was preserved by J Otto Hamele, a community leader starting in the earliest days of Wanakena, and possibly the single-most reason Wanakena still exists today as a community of enthusiastic, community minded residents (both seasonal and year-round).



J Otto Hamele (center) with HL Hanley (L) and Herbert C Rich (R)

J Otto moved with Rich Lumber Company from Granere PA in 1901 playing an important role in building the village, constructing the mills (he was Millwright at the sawmill), and instrumental in finalizing the donation and transfer of the 1,800 acre tract of company land that makes up the ESF Ranger School at Wanakena. When all the trees had been cut and Rich Lumber and the mills were being dismantled as Rich Lumber was moving all operations to cut new forested land in Vermont, J Otto along with a number of his colleagues, wanted to remain in Wanakena. J Otto became the local representative for the Wanakena Company to oversee the liquidation of Rich Lumber assets in Wanakena, such as the hotel, cut-over lands, and other village property which included the river lots. For nearly twenty years he assisted his wife, Ada Keith-Hamele, as proprietors of the village store. J Otto tirelessly worked to promote Wanakena as a destination for fishermen, hunters and vacationers. The small

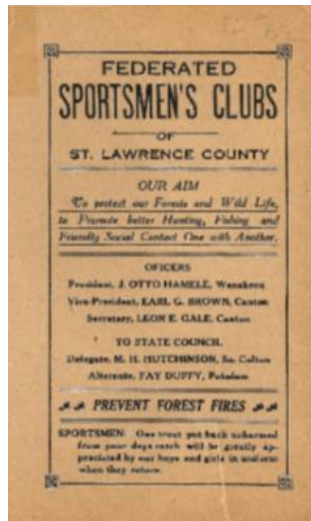


5 shares of stock in the Wanakena Light & Power Corporation

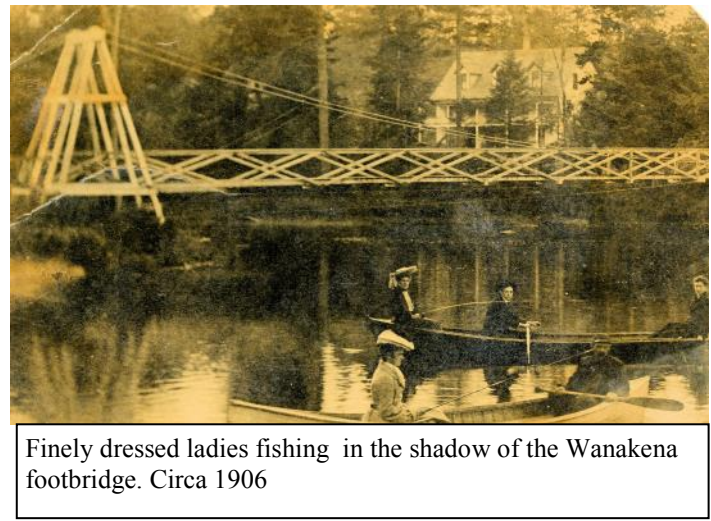
community was never incorporated and the Hamele's continually stepped forward to donate their time an energy to any affairs that were in the interest of promoting the community and residents. Over the years J Otto served in a long list of supporting roles in the community, including: maintaining the public water system for the community, starting and maintaining the Wanakena Light & Power Corp., Justice of the Peace for the Town of Fine, Elder and superintendent of the church Sunday school, (as well as maintenance man & janitor), chair of the Wanakena Improvement League (a fish & game club), School Trustee, Supervisor of the Town of Fine (1939-1943), a member of the St. Lawrence County Board of Supervisors, Chairman of the county's Reforestation Committee, the first St. Lawrence County Historian (1944), President of the first Clifton-Fine Hospital Board with duties to design, administer and raise the money to complete the building of the new hospital (J Otto died before this important project was completed).

DAILY PASSENGER LIST		WANAKENA TRANSIT COMPANY	
J OTTO HAMELE, MGR.			
FARE-			
Benson Mines to Lonesome Pond	15 cents		
Benson Mines to Lake Neka	25 cents		
Benson Mines to Wanakena	50 cents		
Wanakena to Lake Neka	25 cents		
Wanakena to Lonesome Pond	35 cents		
EXCURSIONS—Round Trip rate is the regular fare one-way.			
CAR NUMBER			
DAILY EXCEPT SUNDAY			
TO	FROM	FARE	REMARKS
1	2		
3	4		
5	6		
7	8		
9	10		
11	12		
13	14		
15	16		
17	18		
19	20		
21	22		
23	24		
25	26		
27	28		
29	30		
31	32		
33	34		
35	36		
37	38		
39	40		
41	42		
43	44		
45	46		
47	48		
49	50		
51	52		
53	54		
55	56		
57	58		
59	60		
61	62		
63	64		
65	66		
67	68		
69	70		
71	72		
73	74		
75	76		
77	78		
79	80		
81	82		
83	84		
85	86		
87	88		
89	90		
91	92		
93	94		
95	96		
97	98		
99	100		

Daily passenger list showing Otto Hamele Manager of the Wanakena Transit Co. 1912



Sportsmen's Club, J Otto Hamele President. Circa 1917



Finely dressed ladies fishing in the shadow of the Wanakena footbridge. Circa 1906

A snap-shot of some of the incredible new information related to the history of Wanakena and the Rich Lumber Company include:

- The Rich's logged in Clermont, PA in 1884-1885. (J. Otto spells it "Clearmont.") There is only one vague reference to Clermont in the previous historic. Clermont was a mining town whose site has recently been destroyed by fracking.
- The Rich's moved the village of Gardeau to Granere, PA. There is no other record of this fact known. And since the lumber from the Granere houses was used to build Wanakena, lumber for many of some of the original Wanakena houses are at least 130 years old!
- Herbert Rich knew Mr. Goodyear and had a lumbering relationship with him, substantiated by the fact that Mr. Goodyear gave him the first option to buy the land where Wanakena is now located.
- The original plan in 1901 was to build Wanakena at the Narrows, with the Town on the South shore and the mills on the North shore, But was changed to it's present location because the creeks came together and it was easier to build the railroad connection from Benson Mines.

# Remembering Polly Hamele

In December 2018 Wanakena lost a lady who many considered the matriarch of the town, Polly Hamele. Pauline (McBroom) Hamele was 95 and is greatly missed by permanent and seasonal residents of Wanakena as well as the many friends in the other communities of Clifton & Fine.

Polly's long-term relationship with Wanakena began around 1941 when she married Keith E Hamele, the only son of J Otto and Ada Hamele. Her survivors include her son and daughter-in-law Dick & Jeanne Hamele, three grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Polly was predeceased by her husband, Keith, a daughter Sandy Conklin, a son Donald Hamele, and her brother Robert.

Polly and her entire family were, and continue to be, instrumental in helping to document the history of Wanakena. Without her guidance and help, the Wanakena Historical Association might never have been formed or possess the historical documents, pictures and stories that are so much a part of what Wanakena was and has become.

Polly was one of the key members of the group of ladies who worked to get the footbridge added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1969. She was a founding member of the WHA in 2000 and was its treasurer for many years. Polly and Sandy never missed a WHA meeting when they were in residence. The love that Polly & Keith Hamele freely and proudly shared about Wanakena was one of the driving factors that influenced Bill Gleason to found the WHA.

In addition to taking care of her family, Polly worked as the postmistress at the Wanakena Post Office for many years and assisted running the old general store with her mother-in-law, Ada Hamele. She relayed how she became the driver for J Otto Hamele after he started to lose his eye-sight, by driving him to his many meetings in Canton for the St Lawrence Historical Society as well as the many other organizations that continued to utilize his knowledge and skills.

A memorial service is planned for June 29, 2019 at the Wanakena Presbyterian Church with burial to follow at the Wanakena Cemetery. Donations in Polly's memory may be made to the Western Adirondack Presbyterian Church (WAPC), PO Box 186, Star Lake NY 13690; the Wanakena Cemetery Association, PO Box 54, Wanakena NY 13695; or the Wanakena Historical Association, PO Box 73, Wanakena NY 13695.



Polly (L) helping to design the layout on one of the panels for the J Otto Hamele historic walking tour, with other WHA founding members, 2001.



Polly Hamele  
July 1, 1923 — December 5, 2018  
Smiling at 'Bridge Day'  
August 15, 2015



Ground-breaking ceremony to rebuild the footbridge, June 2016. (L) Sue Westbrook, Polly Hamele, Sandy Conklin, Lucille Adams and Shirley Northrup.

## Winners of the 2019 WHA Why We Love Winter Photo Contest

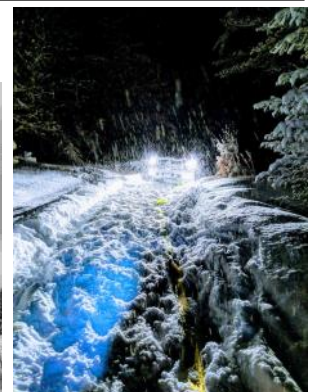
A total of twenty-five photographers (67 photos) entered the "Why We Love Winter" photo contest this year. All were beautiful, creative images depicting why we love winter in the North Country. The winning photos can be viewed on the WHA web site at [wanakena.com/events](http://wanakena.com/events)



Beauty: Joe Valenza  
Silencing Bliss



Youth: Natalie Vaverchak  
Winter River



Fun: Greg Vaverchak  
Stuck!

A huge thank-you to Kristin Rehder who every year donates to cover the minimum \$50 1st prizes!

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

# A TALE OF NEWSLETTER DELAYS

ALLEN DITCH



Many thanks again to members and friends for another amazing year of support in 2018! It has been too long since the last newsletter and I apologize. The reasons for delaying the newsletter were that significant new issues kept appearing that I wanted to include, once all details were finalized. So the newsletter was delayed multiple times. Here is the “Tale of Delays”.

1. In fall/winter 2017, I postponed issuing a newsletter because there was still a significant balance (\$90,000+) owed on the footbridge and there was only about \$2,500 left in the bridge fund. Thankfully, the Town of Fine had taken out a loan to pay the contractors. The outstanding funds were because two of the approved grants had not been received and interest on the loan was starting to quickly accrue, which could significantly affect how much we ended up owing the Town of Fine. In addition, we were keenly aware of the possibility that the state could deny reimbursing invoiced costs, if they determined that any of the costs incurred were out of the scope detailed in the approved grant application. There was a possibility we would need another BIG fund raiser; very disheartening news that I did not want to share. But then good news, the Town of Fine paid off the loan and held the balance so that the WHA would not have to do any fund raising just to pay interest! The grants were finally received in-full in May. But, the WHA still owed the Town of Fine over \$2,000 more. More good news, WHA members, Bernie & Valerie Carr, heard of the dilemma and generously offered to donate the remaining money to pay off the town. Oh Happy Days!!! Time for a newsletter?
2. In May 2018, prior to the June 2018 WHA Spring meeting, I was approached by the two couples who purchased 21 Second Street who proposed that it be used as a museum for the WHA, if the WHA would pay the utilities, taxes, and maintenance. The proposal also envisioned that the WHA would raise significant funds needed to renovate & repair the building, above what the owners planned to donate. Funds would also be needed to display the collection (cabinets, lighting, printing, etc.). At the June meeting the Trustees proposed a committee be formed to evaluate all options for moving forward on any museum/history center. I again delayed issuing a newsletter until it was known if and how the WHA might move forward with having a public place to display Wanakena’s history. The History Center Committee met several times, reviewed a contractor’s proposal of the costs to renovate the building, visited several local museums and talked with historical groups about start-up and annual costs. We did our due-diligence! The committee prepared their summary and a recommendation was to be presented at the annual meeting in mid-September. Then I would issue a newsletter.
3. At the September WHA meeting, the consensus was to move forward with the house on 21 Second Street .... IF the current owners found additional partners who would each invest \$25,000 and form an LLC to own and lease the building. The committee was aware that one new partner had already stepped forward. Two more investors were needed. \$50,000 is a significant amount of money. Trustees and members started a focused campaign to identify VERY kind and generous supporters who were passionate about promoting Wanakena history. Miraculously additional partners stepped up. There was now \$125,000 available to renovate and restore the property to its original facade. But, before the LLC was to be formed, the ‘partners’ needed to be assured that \$125,000 would cover the renovation of the building. After contacting multiple contractors and insisting on a detailed proposal, one was received in late October that fit the budget and the contractor was notified in November. Time for a newsletter? I decided it best to wait until after the holidays to issue this newsletter.

The really good news is that renovations should begin in late April / early May. By mid summer the construction will hopefully be finished. This Spring and Summer WHA will be reviewing our collection and coming up with plans for how and what to display from our collection and history. The not so good news, is that we will need to ask the public and our members for donations to purchase display cases, lighting, and other necessities to furnish the Wanakena History Center.

In addition, I ask that you look through your camp, attic, basement, closet, or garage to find any old artifacts, pictures or historic items that can become part of the **WHA Collection**. We’ve come a long way since Bill Gleason called that first meeting to order in 2000, thanks to you and many supporters. With the space that we will have to work with, I am hoping that our History Center will also include artifacts and detailed history of the Paper Mill and Benson Mines, both of which are significant in the history of Wanakena and the whole Clifton-Fine community. Ranger School history will definitely be part of the permanent displays. We will be discussing the scope of areas to be displayed at the WHA meeting on June 15<sup>th</sup>.

Hope to see you at the July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade & Duck Race in 2019! And there just might be a chance there will be some creative and fun activities to help raise money for the new Wanakena History Center. **And save the Date**, add July 4<sup>th</sup> 2020 to your calendar for a memorable celebration and dedication of the enter.

*At first dreams seem impossible, then improbable, then inevitable.*

—Christopher Reeve



Wanakena Historical Association  
 PO Box 73  
 Wanakena, NY 13695

Non-profit  
 US Postage  
**PAID**  
 Syracuse, NY  
 Permit No 1362

- To disseminate and encourage a greater knowledge of the history of Wanakena, the Ranger School, and related history of the nearby communities in the towns of Clifton & Fine;
- To gather, preserve, display and make available for education: artifacts, relics, books, diaries, manuscripts, papers, photographs, and other records and materials relating to the history of Wanakena, the Ranger School and linked history of the surrounding area;
- To encourage the suitable marking of places of historic interest;
- To acquire by purchase, gift, or otherwise the title to or the custody and control of historic sites and structures, and preserve and maintain such sites and structures; and
- To promote and encourage original historical research.



# JOIN, RENEW MEMBERSHIP, OR CONTRIBUTE

**JOIN OR RENEW TODAY**

**WHA MEMBERSHIP:**

Your current membership status should be indicated on the mailing label. If your membership is expired or you have never formally joined, please complete the form below and send form and payment to: **Wanakena Historical Association, PO Box 73,**

NAME:		Date:	
Address:		City:	
State:		Zip:	
Phone:		E-Mail:	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>GIFT MEMBERSHIP for:</b>			
NAME:		Date:	
Address:		City:	
State:		Zip:	
Phone:		E-mail:	
Prefer to receive correspondence by: <input type="checkbox"/> E-Mail <input type="checkbox"/> US Mail			
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Annual Membership:</b> Individual Membership: <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year \$10 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 years \$25 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year \$25 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 years \$60 <input type="checkbox"/> Family Membership: <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year \$50 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 years \$100 <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing Member: <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Membership: <input type="checkbox"/> \$100			
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>New or Renewal</b>			

*All GIFTS are tax-deductible*

*Gift recipient will be notified by mail*