



A Light On The Past

The West Sparta Historical Society Newsletter

Volume 2 Issue 1

HOW LONG IS OUR HISTORY?

- The purpose of the West Sparta Historical Society is to collect, preserve, interpret, and make accessible to the public the history of the town and the people of West Sparta

Inside this issue:

List of members	2
A Geological Romance	2
Antique Chairs for sale	3
Upcoming Events	3
Membership application	4
Annual Dinner Reservation form	5
Nomination form	6

Though West Sparta became a Town in 1846 the land and human occupation of the land go back much further than 161 years. West Sparta Historical Society has been exploring these earlier parts of our history.

In this issue read "Waterfalls, A Geological Romance" about the September 2007 program and how it was put together. The program featured dramatic pictures of West Sparta's hidden gullies and waterfalls taken by Rich Newcastle and Ginny Roby. Even the "old timers" among the audience were amazed as Rich and Ginny led us from the land we farm today through the age of the glaciers to bedrock from 400,000 million years ago

simply by photographing their local hikes.

In October's Program, Tom Cook, a local historian and Teacher at Keshequa High School, traced the history of human habitation of the West Sparta environs from the mysterious "Ancient Ones" of 10,000 years ago, to the Seneca People's of the Iroquois Nation whose occupation overlaps ours today. We were gratified by a follow-up article written by Jeff Miller and published in the Genesee Country Express on October 27.

Concurrently Town Historian David Palmer has been updating the written history of West Sparta beginning with occupation of the first white settlers. Through efforts such as

these our Town's Story is being extended and gaps are being filled in. Many of these things we hope to make available to the public in 2008 in printed booklets and DVD's that will be available for purchase at reasonable prices.

As of December 2007 West Sparta Historical Society is one year old. We will celebrate and review our accomplishments at the history making first Annual Dinner and Meeting, Feb. 19 (see the reservation form included in this issue). There we must hold elections. Please find and return the **NOMINATION OF OFFICERS** form by January 15, 2008 to place a candidate into consideration for President, Vice President or Secretary.

Sarah Booher

WE NEED HELP - Technologically savvy volunteer(s) needed. Tell us how to set up a website; also someone to manage a mailing list on Excel. Do you know how to sell stuff on the internet? Do you have a **Craig's List account or Ebay account?** We need advice. Give as much or as little time as you wish. Call Sarah at 335 5094.

PLAN TO ATTEND: January 22, 2008, 7 p.m., West Sparta Town Hall. A member meeting focused on planning for 2008 and beyond. These meetings are fun too!

A Light On The Past

2007 MEMBERS

Individual Members

Alice Burdick

Marjorie Cansdale

Evelyn F. Kemp

Barbara Kurtz

Doris G. McMaster

Family Members

Doug & Sandy Morgan

David & Barbara Nagle

Jim & Judy Brown

Howard & Pamela Perry

Jane Schryver

& Paul Hoffman

Kenneth & Marjorie

Rounsville

Jeff Swanson

William & Ruth Slaight

Dick & Bettie Whitenack

Supporters

Cinda M. Beckwith

Jeanie & Robert Hallock

Austin & Elsie Hartmann

David & Shirley Palmer

Carol & Rebecca Weitzel

Sustainers

Susan Erdle & Marvin
Yamonaco, Sr.

Gregory & Patricia Kysor

Heidi Keller

Kim & Charles Swink

Patrons

Angels

Robert & Sarah Booher

Betty & Robert Minemier

Carmen & Scott Vegder with
a matching gift from

**Ameriprise Financial
Services Inc.**

Honorary Members

Harold Hartman

John Rowe * *Deceased

WATERFALLS, A GEOLOGICAL ROMANCE IN WEST SPARTA

by Sarah Booher

It all started with a "first date" between Rich Nicastle, a photographer from New Jersey, and Ginny Roby a long time resident, to hike and photograph a waterfall they learned of on the Internet. Rich and Ginny were so excited about what they saw that they set a goal to photograph as many of West Sparta's waterfalls as they could. Over the summer of hiking and photographing Rich found he couldn't resist the charms of West Sparta and decided to become a permanent resident.

Learning of the endeavor, the West Sparta Historical Society (WSHS) encouraged Rich and Ginny to prepare a program showing the photographs of **The Waterfalls of West Sparta** that was presented Sept. 18 at the WS Town Hall. With invaluable technical assistance from WSHS member Doug Morgan of Honeoye Falls the results were fash-

ioned into a visually stunning 45 minute Power Point Program.

During the spring and summer of 2007 Rich and Ginny's waterfalls project involved many hikes, searches for old maps, digging for stream or gully names (which have changed many times), visits with a SUNY Geneseo geologist, conversations with long time residents, internet searches for topographical information, and a lot of ingenuity.

At the presentation everyone, including lifetime residents of West Sparta were surprised at the number and beauty of our Town's cascades and waterfalls. Ginny and Rich's photos show 20, 45, 60 and 85 foot waterfalls, swimming holes of ice cold water, a large heart-shaped rock, a huge, smoothed and rounded erratic (not native to this area) boulder dropped into a gully about 27,000 years

ago by the last glacier to plow its way across our landscape, stream beds dating back about 400 million years to the Devonian era of the Pleistocene Epoch, and clifflike gully walls that stand like geological layer cake slices or core samples of what lies beneath West Sparta's farms and forests.

While the photographs were proof enough of the scenic beauty that exists, 2007 has been very dry. Ginny and Rich expect to return to some locations next spring when more water is present and to search out some additional "gulls" (as the old locals called them) that have not yet been photographed. If we are lucky there will be an updated presentation in our future. Thank you Ginny, Rich and Doug Morgan for opening our eyes to the historic beauty hidden in wooded areas of West Sparta.

DONATING OLD STUFF IS ECO-FRIENDLY

The collection of West Sparta artifacts continues to grow as valuable documents, photos and maps are given or loaned to us by generous folks. Harold Hartman donated several items including a wonderful 1914 map of Livingston County. Greg Kysor loaned a photo of the original Kysor Homestead. Fire Chief Gerad Levey gave us things from the old Grange Building attic including wooden chairs (see Chairs for Sale) and several boxes of Grange materials. Thank you to the WSHS volunteers who helped sort the attic.

Always keep WSHS in mind when you are cleaning out or reducing your possessions. Don't toss documents or photos pertaining to the past life of your community, organizations, businesses, farms or families. If you don't want to take the time we will help you sort it. Give us a call.

ANTIQUe WOODEN CHAIRS FOR SALE

The West Sparta Historical Society has about 100 circa early to mid 20th century sturdy, wooden, hardwood chairs of two types. We have about 50 ladder back type school or dining hall chairs of adult size, with contour seat made of solid hardwood, could be cherry, oak or maple. Secondly we have about 50 spindle backed chairs, also American hardwoods with turned spindles on back, legs and cross bars, and contoured seat. Similar to Windsor Chair but less decorative.

We are unable to keep these useful chairs and they must be removed from their present location as soon as possible. They are well used but are in good shape and have been in dry storage area. Accepting any offer over \$1.00.

Call Sarah Booher 335 5094 or email gefbooher@stny.rr.com.



The Personal Advisors of
Ameriprise
Financial

<p>Scott T. Vegder, CFP®, CLU® Associate Financial Advisor with the practice of Thomas F. Ward, CFP®</p> <p style="font-size: small;">An Ameriprise associated franchise</p>	<p>Ward, Wyand & Associates A financial advisory practice of Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc. 106 Clara Barton St, Logan's Inn Dansville, NY 14437 Tel: 585.335.8298 Ext. 31 Toll Free: 800.724.8828 Ext. 31 scott.t.vegder@ampf.com CA Insurance #0E36617</p>
---	---

This issue made possible by funding from Ameriprise Financial

STONER HILL FARM

Sue Erdle and Marvin Yamonaco's 'Stoner Hill Farm' on Stoner Hill Road is believed to be the first home-stead on Stoner Hill Road. The Stoner family came from Pennsylvania in 1805. The original part of the house was a one room structure with a stone cellar and a loft reached by a set of wooden stairs. This one room house is now the kitchen of the farmhouse. The main part of the house is a five bay Federal style, post and beam structure, built sometime between 1830 and 1840. Much of the interior woodwork is original and the original Norfolk style latches remain on some of the interior doors. A back porch was added in 1954, at which time a garage and barn were constructed. A new 'old' front porch was built this year by Dick Creason who followed a set of plans from a carpenters handbook published in the 1830's. The farm was originally 160 acres, but was divided once in 1855 between two brothers, and again in the 1900's.

Upcoming Events and Meetings

Watch the Pennysaver, Shopper and local bulletin boards for locations of upcoming events as schedule may change.

All our meetings and programs are open to the public.

Donations appreciated.

January 22, 2008(Tues)
Working Meeting
7:00 p.m WS Town Hall

February 19 2008 5:30 pm
Special Program At West Sparta Methodist Church
WSHS FIRST ANNUAL DINNER AND MEETING See the reservation form in this issue.
The program features an original pictorial review "**West Sparta Then and Now**".

March 18, 2008 (Tues)
Working Meeting
7:00 p.m WS Town Hall

April 28, 2008 (Monday)
Board of Trustees meeting
7:00 PM 8253 Green Road

May 13, 2008 (Tues)
Historic Houses of West Sparta presented by Cynthia Howk, Landmark Society of Rochester
7:00 PM
WS Methodist Church

West Sparta Historical Society

C/O Sarah L. Booher

8253 Green Road, Dansville, NY 14437

Telephone: 585 335 5094 email: gefbooher@stny.rr.com

FEEL LIKE YOU'RE MISSING OUT?

Get a jump on 2008. Send in your West Sparta Historical Society membership. Now is the time to avoid missing out on programs and meetings that start in January 2008. We'll be sure to let you know what is happening and send you our newsletter by email or regular mail. If you have a working email system please include your email address as that is how we do most of our communication. Here is how to renew or become a new member:

Fill in and return this form with your payment made out to: West Sparta Historical Society.

Mail to West Sparta Historical Society c/o Sarah Booher, President, 8253 Green Road, Dansville, NY 14437.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Tel: Home _____ Work _____ Cell _____

Email Address: _____

I prefer to be contacted by: Regular Mail _____ Email _____ Other _____

Comments: _____

Chose from one category below. You may chose either an **Annual Membership** or a **Contributing Membership**. We welcome Contributing Members who give support over and above annual dues. Membership runs from January 1 to December 31st each year.

Annual Membership Categories:

Individual \$10.00 _____ Family \$15.00 _____ Business or Organization: \$20.00 _____

Contributing Membership Categories:

Supporter \$25.00 _____ Sustainer \$50.00 _____ Patron \$75.00 _____ Angel \$100.00 _____

Lifetime Membership \$500.00 _____

Dues and special support are not tax deductible as a charitable contribution at this time and until WSHS receives a ruling letter approving WSHS' tax exempt status under section 501(c) 3 of the Internal Revenue Code.



First Annual Dinner Meeting

February 19, 2008

5:30 p.m at West Sparta Methodist Church

Followed By A New Pictorial Program

“West Sparta Then and Now”

Members: Bring A Dish To Share - Coffee and Tea Provided

Contact: Sarah Booher 335 5094 for more information.

Tear Off and Return Your Reservation by February 5, 2008

Mail to – WSHS, 8253 Green Rd. Dansville, NY 14437.

Names of Member/Spouse Attending: _____

Names of Non-Member Guests Attending: _____

Contact Person’s Telephone Number: _____

Total No. Attending: _____ Amount Paid _____ (Please include payment of \$7.00 for each guest or bring an additional dish to pass for guests).

So that we may plan please check the type of dish or dishes you will bring to share:

- Main Dish (casserole, pasta, meat dish or the like)**
- Salad or cold dish**
- Dessert**
- Other please describe _____.**

West Sparta Historical Society Nominations Form

2007 Trustees and Officers - All serving the first year of their first term:

Cinda Beckwith – Trustee

Sarah Booher – President and Trustee

Alice Burdick - Trustee

Sue Erdle – Treasurer and Trustee

Bob Hallock - Trustee

Jean Hallock – Secretary and Trustee

Barbara Nagle – Vice President and Trustee

Procedures: Nominations may be made by any trustee or member prior to balloting at the Annual Meeting (Feb. 19, 2008). All candidates for election must be active members. Thirty days before the Annual Meeting the Nominations Committee will deliberate on the nominations received to date to create a slate of candidates. Any nomination made after the deliberation of the committee on nominations shall be added to the slate of candidates upon affirmative vote of a majority of members present at the annual meeting. All officers and trustees shall be elected by a plurality of votes cast by secret ballot at the annual meeting.

Nomination Form for Nomination of Officers for one-year term starting Feb. 19, 2008:

PLEASE READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY: Detach this form and write in your nomination for each position. Place your nomination form into an envelope, affix a stamp, seal the envelope and sign your name across the sealed flap on the reverse of the envelope. Mail to West Sparta Historical Society 8253 Green Road, Dansville, NY 14437

Nominations must be received by January 15th, 2008 after which time the Nominations Committee will select a slate of candidates to recommend for election at the February 19th Annual Meeting.

President: _____

Vice President _____

Secretary _____

West Sparta Historical Society Founded December 2006 in West Sparta, New York

**Sarah Booher - President; Barbara Nagle – Vice President; Jean Hallock -Secretary;
Sue Erdle – Treasurer; Alice Burdick, Cinda Beckwith and
Robert Hallock – Trustees;**

David Palmer, West Sparta Historian – Advisor

Web Address: **Click on West Sparta Historical Society Links** on the **Town of West Sparta Web-site:** <http://www.frontiernet.net/~ebdoug/wsparta.html> for meeting and program information