

The Homespun Tossage

The Newsletter of The Portville Historical and Preservation Society
Vol. 21 Issue 2

The purposes and objectives of the Portville Historical and Preservation Society are the discovery, preservation and dissemination of knowledge about the history of the Portville area in the State of New York.

Heritage Day 2007

Come join the **Friends of the Portville Library** for a fun filled day as they once again hold their annual Heritage Day event on Saturday, July 14, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Portville Free Library.

There will be a book sale, live entertainment by the Barber-shop Quartet, The Minus Mike Band and the Irish Dancers and many vendors selling a variety of arts and crafts. There will also be a Hot Air Balloon onsite and a juggling demonstration. A Dell Laptop Computer will be raffled off. Refreshments will be available. Proceeds will help cover the cost of a new lift for the library. **Senator Cathy Young** will be dedicating the lift at 1 p.m.

Other organizations participating are as follows: **Eastern Star** pancake breakfast; **United Methodist Women** selling strawberry shortcake and baked goods; free popcorn by the **Presbyterian Church**; and homemade pies by the **Bethel Lutheran Church**. A Sunday Mass in the Park at 12:30 p.m. will be held by the **Sacred Heart Church** with a Parish Picnic to follow.

PHPS Booth

The Portville Historical and Preservation Society will have a booth at the library during Heritage Day. A pictorial display of the history of the Bedford Corners Schoolhouse will be shown. Also free maps for a self guided tour of historic Portville will be available. We will be selling books on the history of Portville, farming in Portville and World War II. There will be a computer slide show of historic Portville scenes. Also there will be several raffles of items to benefit the restoration of the Bedford Schoolhouse, plus a sale of baked goods and preserves.

"PORTVILLE FOR YOUTH" CARNIVAL IN THE PARK

On Heritage Day from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. there will be carnival rides, children's games, arts and crafts, entertainment and a chicken barbecue in Pioneer Park.

*The Homespun
Tossage*

June-July 2007

Special points of interest inside

Our Early Portville Village Schools



School Memories

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Cattaraugus County Bicentennial

2008

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Our Early Portville Village Schools

Historical records state that as early as 1822 children were being schooled in Portville. We know that the teacher's name was Anna Carpenter but do not know the location of the school.

In 1830 a small schoolhouse with a large fireplace was constructed by a creek that empties into the Allegheny River near Burnt Hill. As you travel west to Olean, it's where the valley narrows and the river is visible on the left with the railroad tracks on the right. Because there is no bridge today, it's hard to visualize that a creek was once there. The water now flows through a sluice pipe under the road. It was in this school that fifteen year old Samuel Dexter Morris, the son of Portville's first settler, taught children from the Town of Portville.



In 1854 a schoolhouse was built on Temple Street and during the next several decades, nine other one-room schoolhouses were being built throughout the Town of Portville to serve the educational needs of the children living in the farming communities.

The wooden structure to the left is from a 1900 photo of the Union Free school house that was built in 1875 at 27 North Main Street.

This building was located near the vestiges of the Genesee Valley Canal that run along the edge of the athletic fields behind the Portville Manor. The photo shows the building during one of the many floods that occurred in Portville prior to the building of the dike system.

In the years 1903-04 The Portville Union High School was erected in front of the old wooden school building. Pictured on the left, it was a three story high brick structure heated by three furnaces. The water fountains were supplied by spring water from the village system. A Bell Telephone line ran into the principal's office. A large athletic field was later added.



School Memories

Classes will gather at the Old Library Restaurant on July 13 for the 108th Annual Alumni Banquet. We have picked out a few photos and documents from our archives. We have a collection of school photos starting with the class of 1874. We are always anxious to add photos and documents regarding the Portville school classes. If you don't want to donate your photo, stop in on a Thursday this summer and let us scan it so that we may have a copy. Any Portville photos, old store receipts, postcards, made in Portville items, are wanted.

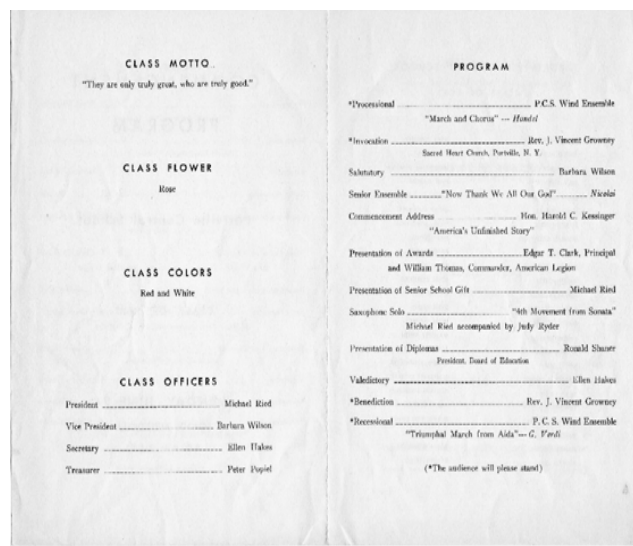
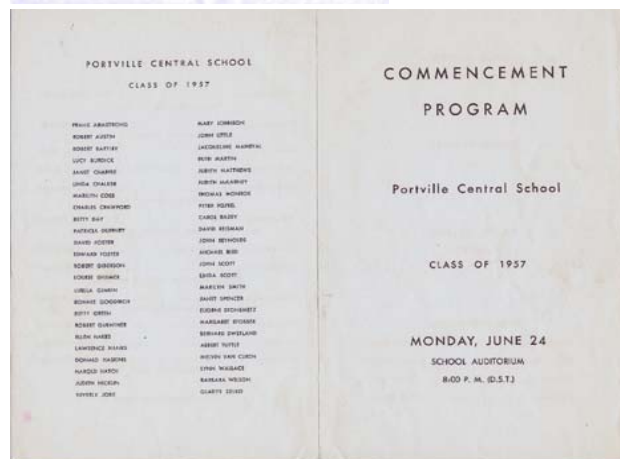


1931 Portville Union High School Men's Basketball Team

Back row (left to right) George Collins, Hank Smith, Coach Norman Saint Claire, Fred Blakeslee, Donald Smith. Front Row (Left to Right): Carl J.C. Anderson, William Husband, Acel Scott, Hugh West, Rupert Chaffee.



Portville Union High School Graduating Class of 1930





It has been 65 years since the class of 1942 was graduated from Portville High School. During their junior year in 1941 members of the class and other classes presented the play "Jane Eyre". According to the Olean Times Herald article the play is "called the greatest love story of the century." The play was performed in the Portville Opera House on a Thursday evening.

Members of the cast, in photo above and the part they played are: front row from left: Lee Wallace, Dr. Carter; June Wilson, Mary Ingram; Jacqueline Shaner, Jane Eyre; Robert Burroughs, Edward Rochester; Jean Whitmore, Bessie Leaven; Clark Hayes, Mason. Standing from left; Miss Genevieve Growney, director; Rupert Hawley, Rev. Rivers; Rita Hewitt, Zita; Katherine Lewis, Blanche Ingram; Mauren Eastman, Mrs. Fairfax; Fay Morris, Adele Varens; Glenna Archibald, Lady Ingram; Frances Brundage, Nora; Dorothea Wiggins; Louis Hitchcock, Sir Lynn.

Graduation Day 1942

The class processed into the Portville Theater to the strains of "Marche Des Flambeaux". The invocation was given by Rev. Melin with the Address by Rev. Hardin, his topic being "The Top of the Ridge". The salutatory was given by Miss June Wilson and the valedictory by Mr. Charles Eshelman. Awards were presented by the Principal D.H. Wing, diplomas presented by Miss Helen Johnson.

Other members of the class not mentioned above are: Louis Anderson, Dorothy Baker, Frances Beckwith, Charles Boutelle, Marion Buckles, Dorothy Burdick, Charles E. Chandler, Jane Dailey, Frances Eshelman, John Hartwig, Betty Hauck, Donald Hollamby, Perry Lamberton, Edgar Lathan, Elizabeth Merrick, Daphne M. Phillips, James A. Roulo, Douglas Santee, Thelma Scot, Marie Sikes, Emily Smith, Carrie Thomas, Evelyn Trenkle, Victor Wilbur, James Wiles.



Cattaraugus County to Celebrate Bicentennial

In 2008 our county will be 200 years old. Plans are now being made for a year long celebration beginning March '08. All towns and villages, as well as organizations are encouraged to plan activities with the history of Cattaraugus County as a theme and to highlight their own community's contribution to the making of Cattaraugus County.

There will be walking tours of local places of interest, hikes of the Old Chautauqua Trail (1808-1814) that passes through the county, veterans' events, and student essay projects.

The County Bicentennial Committee will also partner with the Olean Area Chamber of Commerce to add to the traditional Santa Claus parade on Friday, November 21, 2008. There will be more fireworks and prizes for parade participants.





Update on the Bedford Corners Schoolhouse

Construction work has begun on the woodshed that is attached to the schoolhouse. The concrete and block foundation is complete. The next step will be the interior floor and inside walls of the woodshed

A small equipment room will house the heating system to enable us to use the building in the colder months.

We would like to especially thank **Will Do Construction** for working on the foundation. **Dave Anderson** of **Anderson Pattern Works** is doing an excellent job on our bell tower, which we expect will be finished this summer. Thanks Dave!



Women Workers

Not all Portville women stayed home in the early 20th Century. As you can see from the above photo, over half of the employees of the Portville Basket Factory were women. This factory was located on Anderson Road, near the tannery that was discussed in our last newsletter. Grape baskets of varying sizes were made from sheets of veneer that had been cut from hardwood. Logs were cut into lengths, steamed in vats and put through a lathe. Cut into different lengths and thickness, they were dried in the sun. Then they were nailed together to make the baskets.

The Portville Historical And Preservation Society

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

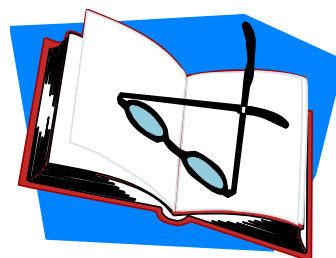
William Anderson	Jane Miller
Thomas Chaffee	Ronda Pollock
Anne Dusenbury	David Pupo
Bruce R. Holcomb	Philip Smith
Robert Johnstone	

Trustees Emeritus

Charles Eshelman
Earl Parish

OFFICERS

Cindy Keeley	President
David Pupo	Vice President
Robert Fairbanks	Treasurer
Ronda Pollock	Secretary
Terri Batt	Curator
Jane Miller	Historian



PUBLICATIONS For Sale on Heritage Day

Also available for sale Thursdays May-Sept. at the P.H.P.S. Office, year round at The Portville Free Library and by mail from P.H.P.S. PO Box 59, Portville, NY 14770-0059.

**PLEASE ADD \$5.00 FOR PRIORITY
POSTAGE AND HANDLING**

A History of Farming In The Portville Area, \$10.00 A 71 page book of photos and information on the farms, dairies, and associated businesses of the area with a special section on Portville milk bottles and poems and anecdotes on farming. (Mailed \$15.00)

PORTVILLE GOES TO WAR, The Contributions of the Community of Portville, NY to World War II, \$15.00 A 182 page book of photos and information about the Portville men and women who served in the war with a special section on the Home Front. (Mailed-\$20.00)

The History of the Town of Portville, 1805-1920 \$13.00 A 178 page book of photos and text including information about Portville people, industries, merchants, government, etc. (Mailed \$18.00)

Portville's Architectural Heritage \$3.00 Sketches of 18 houses, churches and public buildings with information about history and style. (Mailed \$8.00)

MEMBERSHIP FORM

I wish to support the goals
of The Portville Historical and
Preservation Society

Name_____

Address_____

City_____

State & Zip Code_____

I would like to become a member.
June is renewal month for members.

**Thank you to many of our
members who remembered
that June is the month to re-
new your dues.**

My dues are enclosed.

_____ \$3.00 Senior

_____ \$3.00 Student

_____ \$4.00 Individual

_____ \$6.00 Family

_____ \$25.00 Supporting

_____ \$50.00 and above

PATRON-ANGEL

Please detach and mail to:

P.H.P.S.

PO BOX 59

PORTVILLE, NY 14770-0059

Welcome To Our New Members!

**Lenore Beetar
R.W. Lewis
Fred Powell
Mary Mohr
Stuart & Lenore Reeves
Ronald & Gail Whitney**

22nd Annual Reunion of Descendants of the 154th New York Vol. Inf.

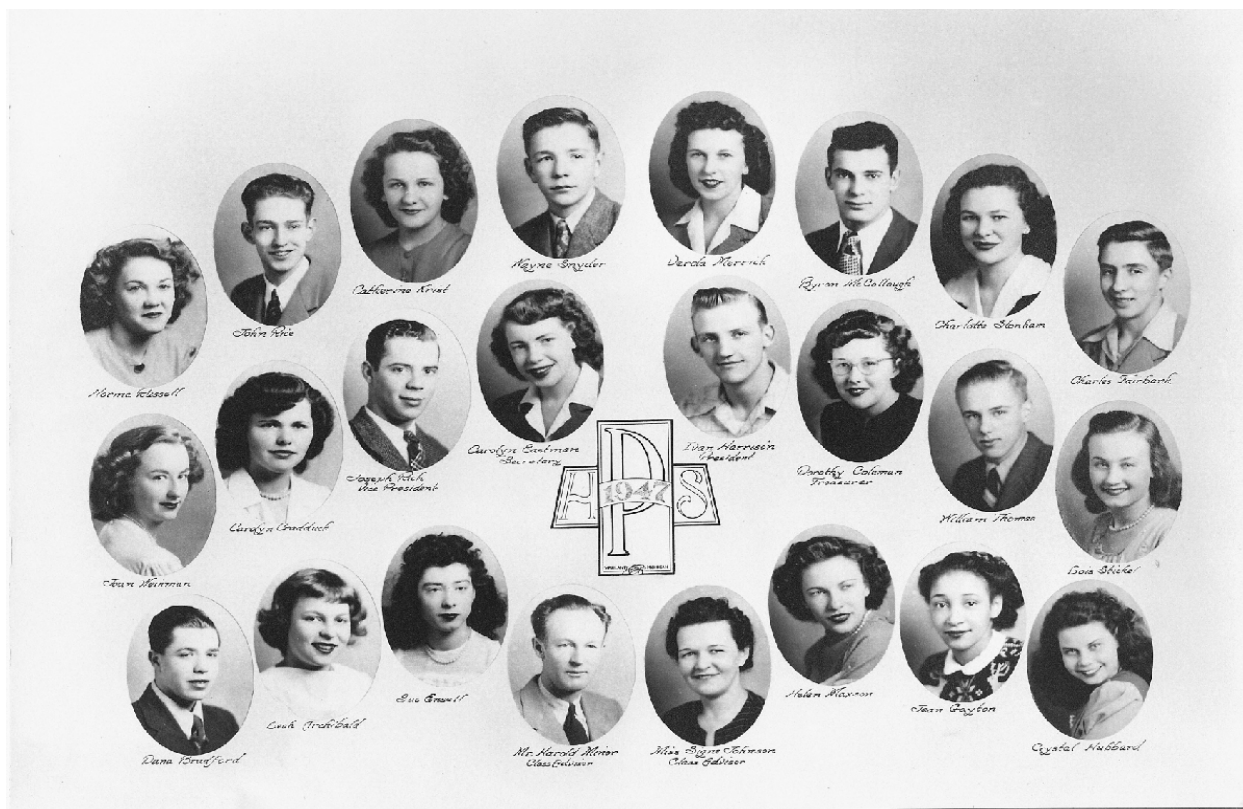
July 14, 2007
1 to 5 p.m.
Lakeside Park Pavilion
Mayville, NY

P.H.P.S
17 Maple Ave.
P.O. Box 59
Portville, NY 14770
phpsemail@yahoo.com

Thank you for remembering
to renew your dues for 2007



<http://www.portvillehistory.org>



Sixty Years Ago
The Portville High School Class of 1947