



The Walden House Tattler

The Historical Society of Walden and the Wallkill Valley

Vol. 42, No. 2

Walden, New York

Fall 2022

CALENDAR 2022

All meetings are at the Walden House
unless noted otherwise.

- Oct 15 - Cemetery Stone Cleaning, Wallkill
Valley Cemetery, 1-3
Oct 19 - General Meeting, 7PM, Speaker
Lisa Melville-McIver on her book,
The Grace Murder.
Oct 25 - Franco's, Dining to Donate, 5-9
Nov 3 - Trustees meet, 7PM
Nov 16 - General Meeting, 7PM -
A.J. Schenkman guests on his new
book, *Unexpected Bravery*. Purchase
copies online at Amazon.com
Nov 29- Franco's, Dining to Donate, 5-9
Dec 1 - Trustees Meet, 7PM
Dec 4 - Christmas Tea Open House, 1-4
Dec 27 - Franco's, Dining to Donate 5-9

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Lifetime Member

Marcus H. (Mickey) Millspaugh, Jr.
1926-2022

Rest in Peace, Dear Friend

Life Member, Marcus "Mickey" Millspaugh passed away on June 1, 2022. He was a member of the Board of Trustees, Chairman of the Archives Committee, and past President of the Society. He loved local history and was a collector of arrowheads, Schrade knives, coins and clocks. He was a wealth of knowledge regarding Walden history and our surrounding area. We will miss his knowledge, his engineering brain and his input regarding Society matters. To date over \$1200 has been donated to the Society, a real tribute to his memory.

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New Signs for the Historical Society at the Jacob T. Walden House and Shafer House!

Two new signs were purchased from Cliff Burgess Signs. One replaces the hanging sign in front of the Walden House on North Montgomery Street, and the other has been installed in front of the Shafer House on Wait Street indicating that it is a Museum. Thank you to Mike Imbasciani for hanging the new signs and installing a new post in front of the Shafer House.

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Historical Society Awarded funds for Historical Marker for the Wooster Building in Walden at Elm and Hill thanks to the hard work of Village Historian, Mary Ellen Matise and Society President, Barbara Imbasciani, the Society has been awarded a Grant of \$1550 by the William G. Pomeroy Foundation for an Historical Marker at Elm and Hill in Walden. Their award letter says..."Congratulations! We look forward to seeing photos once the historical marker is installed and thanked the Society for their commitment to providing cultural education and preserving local history. The letter was from Carrie Berse, Executive Director of the Foundation.

* * *

Our Special 'Thank you to our Donors Day' was held at the end of July. We have a new ongoing flag display of flags from many past years at the Shafer House Museum. A new flag & flagpole were Dedicated outside the Shafer House donated by Mrs. Anita Vandermark in the memory of her husband, Doug Vandermark. Daughter, Sandy Magill and Anita Vandermark are long time Trustees.



Thank you Michael Imbasciani for setting up the outside display of many older flags from our Archives on Thank You Day. They were displayed on each side of the ramp to the Shafer House. Many holes were dug that day!

* * *

The Historical Society would like to Thank... Keith Hunter, Mayor Jon Ramos and Brian Sebring...

...for the renovation of our storage shed. The project included weed whacking and cleaning the area around the shed, replacement of a lot of the siding, new plywood and shingles on the roof, a new floor in the shed and a paint job. The shed looks great and will last us many years. We really do appreciate all the many, many hours of time they donated. Unfortunately, we think there were one or two whopping cases of poison ivy as well!!

* * *

Member Walt Roosa writes...

Back on the first or second Monday of May in 1946, Doug Schoonmaker and I drove out to Kimball's farm in Montgomery. I don't know why we went there or what we did, but I decided to go out the back way, which would take us to Corbett road. Big mistake. I had never gone that way and didn't know anyone else that went that way, but it turned out to be an overgrown cow path, that held a lot of unseen water.

I got stuck, big time. Well, Doug and I walked out to Corbett Road, found a house where we could make a phone call, and Doug's brother Stewart, came out for us.

That night at supper, I told of my troubles, and that I had to go to chorus practice at the hill church at 7:00 as we were only a week or two away from our spring concert. That was with Hubert Hendrie and Louise Didsbury, the first of many Wallkill Valley community concerts. That was when I met the (three Bob's) Bob Liebold, Bob Bernhart, and Bob Laurence, all of whom became very good friends. After practice we would go to Wallkill, buy ice cream, and go up in a peach orchard, eat our ice cream, and sing our heads off: no one could hear us.

Well, when I came out of the church, there sat my muddy old '32 Chevy right in front of the church. There was never a challenge that would stop my brother and Leo Orndorff. Bob Liebold, and Bob Bernhart were ushers at my wedding.

~Walt

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Welcome Two New Trustees!

The Society Welcomes **Brian Kidd** and **Mary Ellen Matisse** as our two newest Board Members. Thank you both for volunteering your service and we look forward to working with you.



Thank you Montgomery Scout Troup 31 for your participation and attendance. It was very moving to see a nice long line of Scouts Saluting the new flag.

Did you know you can visit the Walden House when convenient for you?

When you have family visiting, a reunion or other special events—just give us a call and we will do our best to give you the best time to see the many new displays and exhibits. We are open during meetings and special events—or just give Barbara Imbasciani a call--845-220-6606.

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A very successful Cemetery Stone Cleaning was held on October 15th at the Wallkill Valley Cemetery

Thank you to Lisa Melville-McIver for heading up this workshop. Impressive results! For information about the Approved way to clean a cemetery stone, please see our website... www.thewaldenhouse.org

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A selection from C.E. "String" Cooper's OLD WALDEN deserves further investigation!

He states that Frederick Douglass visited Walden at some point and gave a talk. During that visit, Frederick Douglass was the guest of the Levi Gowdy family on Oak Street.

At this time flourishing night schools were held during the winter months in Scofield Hall (Silver's Department Store) and tuition was paid for by the attending scholars... Many prominent men spoke. Among them were, Henry Ward Beecher, E. H. Chapin, Frederick Douglass, Horace Greely, and Francis Vinton. ~ Old Walden

We would like to locate the date of Frederick Douglass' visit. We know that Mr. Douglass gave an address on August 7, 1869 in Newburgh at Washington's Headquarters on the occasion of the 15th Amendment Jubilee. Possibly his visit to Walden was during the same trip, but further research is required!

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RAFFLE—Three great items!

First prize is \$75 worth of Scratch-offs / second is a Daisy Rock 6- string guitar with built-in acoustics and tuner. Third prize is a limited edition Bob Score framed print of the High Falls near the historic NY Knife Factory. For Raffle Tickets contact Barbara Imbasciani (845) 220-6606 or Sandy Magill (845)401-2795. The drawing will be on December 14th, 2022.



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Our New Gift Shoppe is Open

during any event at the Jacob T. Walden House and by appointment. Consider a beeswax ornament in several designs, a number of Bob Score Pen & Ink prints, many great & unique items to choose from that would make great Christmas or birthday gifts.

* * *

Thank you to Sue Yeaple French

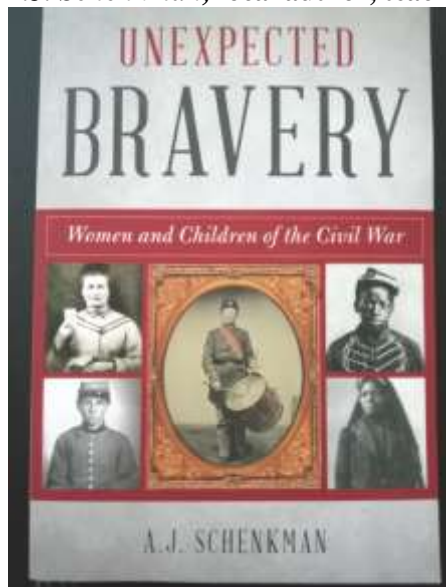
for sending us a 1926 Walden High School Annual from the year her Dad, Ken Yeaple, graduated. It has been scanned and will appear on our website as a PDF. Sue is a former Waldenite and now lives further Upstate. Thanks, Sue!

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Our Capital Campaign continues... Thank you to our Donors. Donations are always welcomed and Membership, especially for a former Walden resident who now lives elsewhere, makes a great gift.

* * *

A.J. Schenkman, local author, teacher and Town of



**Historian,
returns to
the Walden
House on
Nov. 16th at 7
PM as our
Guest Speaker
on his recent
book,
*Unexpected
Bravery –
Women and
Children of
the Civil War.***

* * *

~Trustees~

Patricia Eisley-Treasurer
Richard Hoyt
Barbara Imbasciani-President
Brian Kidd - Welcome
Mary Ellen Matisse - Welcome
Lisa Melville-McIver
Sandra Magill
Susan Millsbaugh
Howard Oldrey
Nancy Phelps
Mary Slater
Anita Vandermark-Vice President
Gail Yeaple
- Open-

Be sure to join us on Saturday night, Dec 3rd, 7-9 PM for wine, cheese & music at the Walden House.

Then on Sunday, December 4th, come back for our Annual Christmas Tea & Open House, 1-4.

Everyone is welcome—stop in to enjoy a cup of tea, warm up near the fire, enjoy music by our friend, Kevin Cronin—

The House will be decorated with Victorian greenery, decorations and Christmas treats for all.

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Historical Society of Walden and the Wallkill Valley

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