



HURLEY HERITAGE SOCIETY

Prologue

"The past is prologue"

April 2019

Glenford

Old Hurley Founded 1662

West Hurley

*The Hurley Heritage Society
invites you to*

Opening Day at the Museum

52 Main St., Hurley

Sunday, May 5 • 1–4 p.m.

Premier showing of the new 2019 EXHIBIT:

Winslow Homer's Hurley: *An Artist's View*



Snap the Whip, Winslow Homer, 1872, oil on canvas, Metropolitan Museum of Art.

See New Exhibit article on page 3 for more information.



Greetings from Main Street!

Welcome to the 2019 Hurley Heritage Society museum season! The museum opens on Sunday, May 5, with a new exhibit, *Winslow Homer's Hurley: An Artist's View*. The exhibit has once again been curated by Gail Whistance and her committee, which includes SUNY New Paltz intern Julia Morini, Judy Howard, Iris Oseas, Viola Opdahl, Bruce Whistance, and Lorraine Waitman. The famous American artist painted in Hurley during the summers in the 1870s. All of the paintings and engravings you will see are of Hurley scenes, some of which you may recognize. An opening reception with refreshments will be held from 1:00-4:00 p.m. on the 5th. Come find out where Homer painted and slept in Hurley and be surprised!

A list of our events for 2019 is included in this newsletter. Please save it to remind yourself of everything going on at the museum. A rack card with this listing is also available at Town Hall and the museum. We have made a commitment to open the museum, free of charge, on Saturdays and Sundays from 1:00-4:00 p.m. from May through October. In order to do this, docents are needed to show visitors through the museum and answer questions. It's a pleasant way to spend three hours on a weekend greeting and meeting people and learning more about Hurley's history. Docent training will be scheduled for late April. Please consider volunteering to help out! You can reach me at 845-331-4852 with any questions and to let me know you're interested.

Joan Castka, President

Save the Date! Hurley Heritage Day • Oct. 6
See page 11 for more information about this great community event!

NEW EXHIBIT

Winslow Homer's Hurley: *An Artist's View*

When visiting the new Hurley Library on Main Street, patrons are greeted by a colorful mural of children playing in front of a one-room school house. This is the 1872 masterwork *Snap the Whip* (Metropolitan Museum of Art) by Winslow Homer which is extolled as “America’s Mona Lisa.” It is an oft-told story around town that the setting for this picture is the field east of where Eagle’s Nest Road drops down to meet Hurley Mountain Road. In his 2017 book *Winslow Homer From Poetry to Fiction — the Engraved Works*, author and art historian Reilly Rhodes confirms this story with a convincing array of period and modern photographs and supporting documents.

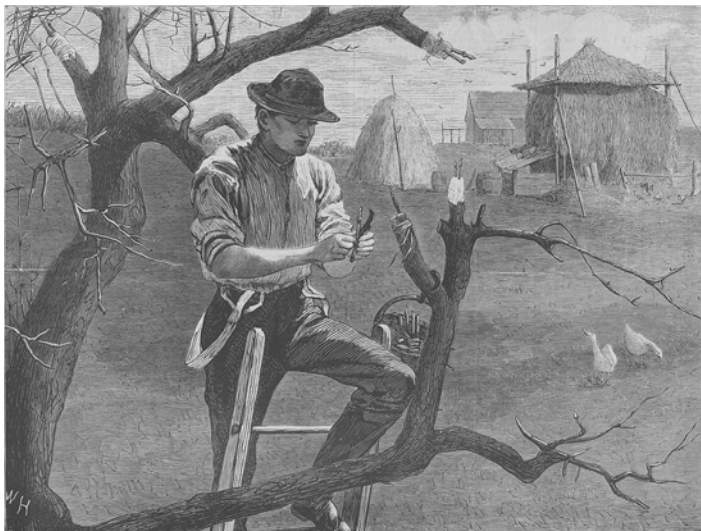
But Rhodes’ research on Hurley did not stop with one famous image by this well-loved American artist. He tied many other Homer works from the early 1870s to the landscape, people, and culture of Hurley. Homer drew inspiration from the rural countryside we can still see and enjoy today. His subjects — the one-room schoolhouse, domestic scenes,



Girl Reading on a Stone Porch, Winslow Homer, 1872, oil on panel, private collection.

and farm activities — depict the daily activities of ordinary people. His uplifting and nostalgic view of a Hudson Valley village represent hope for a re-born nation after the turmoil of the Civil War. It is truly remarkable how many of Homer’s images Mr. Rhodes has been able to trace back to Hurley.

The new exhibit in the Hurley Museum this season features a collection of Hurley-connected Homer images in the form of vivid color reproductions of paintings and several original 19th century wood engravings. Much of Homer’s work prior to 1875 was for the pictorial press where his drawings and paintings were published as wood engravings in the large-format magazines of the time, such as *Harper’s Weekly*. Some of the works are familiar scenes. Some are in private collections and have rarely been viewed in public. All are evocative of the Hurley we know and love. The exhibit includes vintage and modern photographs of the locations depicted in some of the artworks along with an 1875 map of Hurley to show the layout of the village and countryside in Homer’s



Spring Farm Work — Grafting, from a drawing by Winslow Homer, wood engraving, *Harper’s Weekly*, Vol. XIV, April 30, 1870.

(Continued on page 9)



Old Time Radio: A History of AM Broadcasting

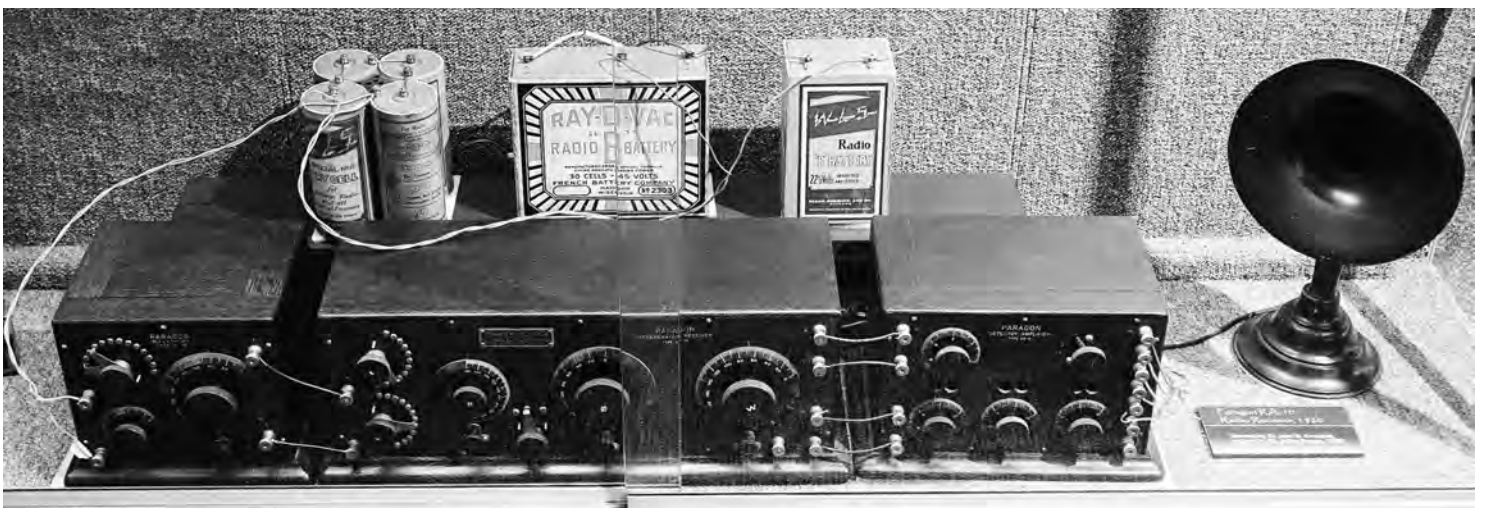
A presentation on the history of AM broadcast band radio in the United States and the nearly forgotten hobby of listening to distant broadcast band radio stations

Presented by Bruce Whistance

During the early days of commercial radio stations, this was a pervasive popular pastime. This talk explores the relationship of the American people to the then new phenomenon of radio. It traces the development of radio technology and the trends in broadcast band listening. This talk is intended for all levels of technical understanding. Concepts of radio technology are explained in simple terms that require no technical background. Vintage radios and related items will be on display and demonstrations will be included.

Bruce Whistance is a lifelong radio enthusiast and collector of antique radios. He is a former radio technician, and developer of numerically intensive computing equipment and engineering design systems. Bruce earned a Master of Science Degree in Computer Science from Union College. Although he is an amateur radio operator and volunteer examiner, this talk will focus entirely on AM commercial broadcast band history, not amateur radio.

Lecture • April 25 • 7 p.m. • Hurley Reformed Church Hall, 11 Main St., Hurley



1923 Adams-Morgan Paragon radio. Price was \$240 (\$3,500+ in 2019 equivalent purchasing power).

Old Time Radio

(Continued from page 4)

Top, page 4: A typical evening in a 1930s family home gathered around the radio.



Above: A famous incident when an adaptation of an 1898 novel was broadcast on Halloween 1938.

Top left: Listening to old time radio on the beach in the 1940s.

Left: Early radio sound improvements.



THE EAR PHONE AGE—The marvel of “wireless” music via crystal sets startles the world. All listeners must have ear phones. First RCA laboratory was established at Riverhead, L. I., in 1919.



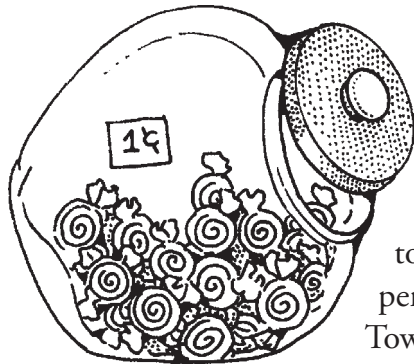
THE TIN HORN AGE—The loudspeaker and one dial tuning appear—a miracle, but an inexact one. The tone was often strident. Higher and low notes were missed.



THE DYNAMIC SPEAKER was big forward step toward greater range of notes and volume without squawking. Picture above shows early example of this famed invention.



VOICE IMPROVES—RCA research discovers more facts about acoustics of cabinets with built-in speakers. This construction produced better looking sets which approached studio tone.



A Sweet Part of Hurley History

Doris Alden and her family have donated a lovely display case with Hurley roots to the museum. When Doris was a youngster growing up in Hurley, she rode her bike to Lockwood’s store on Hurley Avenue to buy candy that was in the case. The store also sold groceries and dispensed gas from the pump out front. When Ethel Lockwood became the Town Clerk, the store became the Town Clerk’s office and Ethel gave the candy case to Doris to display her son’s train collection.

Thank you, Doris, for your generous and meaningful donation. With Tony Sinagra’s help, the case was moved to the museum’s upstairs hall, ready to be filled with Hurley artifacts. We’re so glad this piece of sweet Hurley history is here to stay!

Joan Castka



EVENTS CALENDAR 2019

Museum: Colonel Jonathan Elmendorf House, 52 Main St., Hurley

Mailing address: PO Box 1661, Hurley, NY 12443

www.hurleyheritagesociety.org ♦ facebook.com/HurleyHeritageSociety

APRIL

- ❖ **April 25 — Lecture** at the Hurley Reformed Church Hall, 11 Main St., 7 p.m. Topic: “Old-Time Radio: A History of AM Broadcasting” by Bruce Whistance. Working models on display. Free admission. Refreshments served. For information, call 845-331-4852.

- ❖ **May 26 — Guided Walking Tour of Main Street** starting at the Hurley Heritage Society Museum, 52 Main St., at 2 p.m., rain or shine. View the exteriors of stone homes 230-330 years old in this National Historic Landmark district and learn their unique stories. Admission: adults, \$5; children under twelve are free. For information, call 845-331-4852.

MAY

- ❖ **May 5 — Opening Day** for the 2019 Museum season, New exhibit: “Winslow Homer’s Hurley: An Artist’s View,” 1–4 p.m., 52 Main St., Hurley. Refreshments will be served. The museum will be open Saturdays and Sundays, May–October, 1–4 p.m. Free admission. Museum shop on premises. For information, call 845-331-4852.
- ❖ **May 18 — Plant Sale**, Hurley Heritage Society Museum grounds, 52 Main St., 9 a.m.–2 p.m. Perennials, annuals, shrubs, planters, hanging baskets, herbs, garden-related items, and vegetables. For information or pre-ordering questions, call 845-331-8767 or 845-338-3137. For the best selection, pre-order using the form inserted in this newsletter or on our website.

JUNE

- ❖ **June 9 — Talk and Book-signing** at the Museum, 52 Main St., 2 p.m. Book: *Raining Delusions: A Catskills Novel* by Michael Gold. Free admission. Refreshments will be served. For information, call 845-331-4852.
- ❖ **June 23 — Guided Walking Tour of Main St.** For full description, see May 26.
- ❖ **June 27 — Lecture** at the Hurley Library, 48 Main St., Hurley, 7 p.m. Topic: “19th Century Artists: Thomas Cole, Frederick Church, and Winslow Homer” by Valerie Balint. Free admission. Refreshments served. For information, call 845-336-5267.

EVENTS CALENDAR 2019

Continued

JULY

- ❖ **July 13 — Stone House Day, Art and Antique Sale** on the Museum grounds, 52 Main St., 10 a.m.–4 p.m. For information, call 845-331-7228.
- ❖ **July 21 — Exploring Our Dutch Heritage** talk at the Museum, 52 Main St., 1 p.m., led by Netherlands natives Nita Steketee and Yonah Schurink. Free admission. Refreshments served. For information, call 845-331-4852.

Second Event, Guided Walking Tour of Main St., 2 p.m. See May 26 for details.

AUGUST

- ❖ **August 4 — Pickles 101: Demo and Tasting.** Learn how to make your own pickles the easy way! Led by Joan Castka and Flo Brandt at the Museum, 52 Main St., 2 p.m. For information, call 845-331-4852.
- ❖ **August 18 — Tea with Iris**, Hurley Heritage Society Museum, 52 Main St., Hurley, 2 p.m. Iris Oseas will reminisce about growing up in Kingston and Hurley history. Free admission. Refreshments served. For information, call 845-331-8767.
- ❖ **August 25 — Guided Walking Tour of Main St.** See May 26 for details.

SEPTEMBER

- ❖ **September 8 — Herbal Wreath-making Demo**, on the Museum porch, 52 Main St., 2 p.m. with Ellen Richards. Take home a finished wreath! Admission: adults, \$5. Includes all materials. Children under 12 admitted free. For information, call 845-336-5267.

- ❖ **September 22 — NYS Hudson River Valley Ramble event: Hurley Haunted History Guided Tour of the Old Burial Grounds** (circa 1715). Leaving from the Hurley Heritage Society Museum at 2 p.m., rain or shine. Admission: adults, \$5; children under 12, free. For information, call 845-416-1937.
- ❖ **September 26 — Lecture and Book-signing** at the West Hurley Firehouse, 24 Wall St., West Hurley, NY, 7 p.m. Topic: “Prohibition in the Hudson Valley” by Eleanor Charwak. Free admission. Refreshments served. For information, call 845-331-4852.

OCTOBER

- ❖ **October 6 — Hurley Heritage Day**, 11 a.m.–4 p.m., on the Hurley Heritage Society Museum grounds. A benefit celebration of the Town of Hurley’s 357-year history, its culture, and its people. Live music, exhibits, raffles, auctions, children’s games and crafts, food — including the famous Hurley corn chowder — and much more! Free admission. For information, call 845-334-9848.
- ❖ **October 25 — Ghost Walk of Main St. Hurley and the Old Burial Ground.** Tours start at 6 p.m. from the Hurley Reformed Church, 11 Main St. Admission: adults, \$15, students, \$10. Not recommended for children under 12. Reservations required. Limited spaces. For information or to reserve, call 845-338-7686.
- ❖ **October 27 — Guided Walking Tour of Main St.** See May 26 for details.

DECEMBER

- ❖ **December 1 — Holiday Open House and Museum Shop Sale** at the Hurley Heritage Society Museum, 52 Main St., 11 a.m.–4 p.m. Special demos, merchandise, and discounts. For information, call 845-331-7228.



Photo by Arlene Ryan

Photo by
Barbara Zell

Annual Plant Sale – May 18

Flowers, Flowers, Everywhere!

The Hurley Heritage Society's annual plant sale will take place on the Museum grounds, 52 Main Street, Hurley, on May 18, 9 a.m.–2 p.m. We will not only have flowers, but potted perennials, annuals, hanging baskets, vegetables, herbs, houseplants, shrubs, and container gardens. A number of garden-related items will also be on sale. Feel free to bring your questions, as we will have master gardeners on hand as well. Flats, pots, and hanging baskets of beautiful flowers grown by Saunderskill Farms, Accord, can be pre-ordered using the enclosed form.

Forward the completed form and mail it together **with payment** to **Flo Brandt**, 132 Woodland Drive, Hurley, NY 12443. The form must be returned to Flo by May 6. Pick up for the pre-orders will be at the Museum grounds, May 17, between 4 and 5 p.m. or the next day during the sale. Some of the plants will be on sale, May 18, but to get the selection you want, at the best price, please use the enclosed form.

Early spring is the best time to divide and thin out your perennials. Perennials are one of our most popular items. We depend on your donations for perennials, small shrubs, houseplants, garden items, and your time. The plants should be dug up at least two weeks before the sale. Please contact **Pat Findholt** at 845-338-3137 (patfindholt@gmail.com) to donate or if you need help digging them up. We can also provide pots if you need them. Items for sale can be dropped off on the Museum porch by May 17 or by calling Pat at 845-338-3137 or Flo at 845-331-8767.

Proceeds from the sale will be used for the maintenance of the gardens and grounds of the museum. Please feel free to call if you have questions or need additional forms.

Thank you,
Flo Brandt



A Grand Re-Opening of the O&W Railway Exhibit

On the morning of March 5, 2019, an enthusiastic group of Hurley and Marbletown residents gathered to celebrate the move of the O&W Railway picture panels from the Hurley Museum to the Rondout Municipal Center on Lucas Avenue. The Center is the home of Marbletown and Rosendale town offices. The Hurley Heritage Society donated to Marbletown the eleven picture panels which were the core of our two-year exhibit *O&W Railway in Ulster County: Stations Along the Way*.

The panels feature vintage pictures of the O&W stations from Spring Glen to Kingston. Attending the reception from Hurley were Gail Whistance, Joan Castka, Dan Zalewski, Angie Mahdavian, Barbara Sartorius, and Carolyn Brancato.

Carl Pezzino, chair of the Marbletown O&W Rail Trail Committee, told the story of coming to the Hurley Museum last year to get ideas for interpretive signs along the rail trail. Co-curators Bruce and



Carl Pezzino, chair of the Marbletown O&W Rail Trail Committee, and Gail Whistance. Photo by Joan Castka.

Gail Whistance showed him and his team around the exhibit, and they stayed for two hours! This visit gave them the idea to preserve the exhibit after it closed in Hurley. The Marbletown Youth and Recreation Department led the effort to move the materials. Marbletown residents Ken and Dianne Paulson donated their time and resources to frame the panels so they will last for many years to come.

When visiting the Center recently, the Whistances ran into Marbletown Supervisor Rich

Parete. He reported that the new exhibit had attracted a lot of attention. People come in every day to see it. Parents leaving their kids off for soccer browse the panels while waiting. Members of the Davenport family made a point of coming in after reading about it in the *Bluestone Press*. They enjoyed reminiscing about their family's past business dealings with the O&W. In its new home the exhibit will be seen by all who visit the Center any day of the week. Come

before 2:30 p.m., and you can grab coffee, snacks, or lunch at the Blackboard Bistro a few steps down the hall. Here is your perfect chance to see this unique and nostalgic collection of images if you missed it in Hurley.

Gail Whistance



O&W panels on display at Rondout Municipal Center. Photo by Joan Castka.

Save the Date!



Hurley Heritage Day

Sunday, October 6
11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Hurley Heritage Museum and Grounds

*A benefit celebration of the
Town of Hurley's 357-year history, its culture, and people.*

Hosted and organized by the Hurley Heritage Society, the community event includes:

- live music
- live and silent auctions
- raffles
- local art
- history exhibits
- walking tours of Old Hurley Main Street
- children's activities
- food — including the famous Hurley corn chowder
- *and more!*

www.hurleyheritagesociety.org

Sponsorship Opportunities

Our first annual Hurley Heritage Day will offer unique sponsorship opportunities for businesses looking to create or expand their inroads to the Hurley community. We have a broad array of opportunities priced at \$50, \$150, \$250, \$500, and a single presenting sponsor at \$1000. Depending on your level of sponsorship, you'll receive benefits such as a listing in our event program, a link from our website, and a table at our event.

Please email mikerice@netprophet.net for more information or to receive a sponsorship package with complete details.

Individual and family sponsors are also welcome and encouraged and will be gratefully acknowledged on our website and in our event program.

Hurley Heritage Society
PO Box 1661
Hurley, NY 12443
Tel. (845) 338-1661

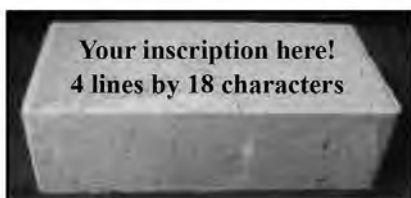
NON-PROFIT
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KINGSTON, NY
12401

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

HHS Heritage Walk

Make a donation of \$120 to the Society to show your support of the museum by creating a brick in your family's name — or to honor someone close to you. The proceeds will be used for capital repairs to the Museum and your brick will be added to the Heritage Walk.

The inscription may be composed with as many as four lines of eighteen characters. If you are interested, please contact Wally Cook at 845-338-2193 or email to wally.cook@gmail.com.



Hurley Heritage Society Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

State _____ Zip+4 _____

Phone _____

Email _____

- | | |
|---|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single membership | \$25.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family membership | \$30.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life membership | \$275.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate (Annual) | \$150.00 |
| Additional donation | \$ _____ |

*Dues and donations are tax deductible.
Contact Harvey Monder at hmonder@gmail.com
for IBM matching fund information.*

Send payment to:
Hurley Heritage Society
PO Box 1661
Hurley, NY 12443