



HURLEY HERITAGE SOCIETY

Prologue

"The past is prologue"

November 2019

Glenford

Old Hurley Founded 1662

West Hurley

Notice of Annual Meeting

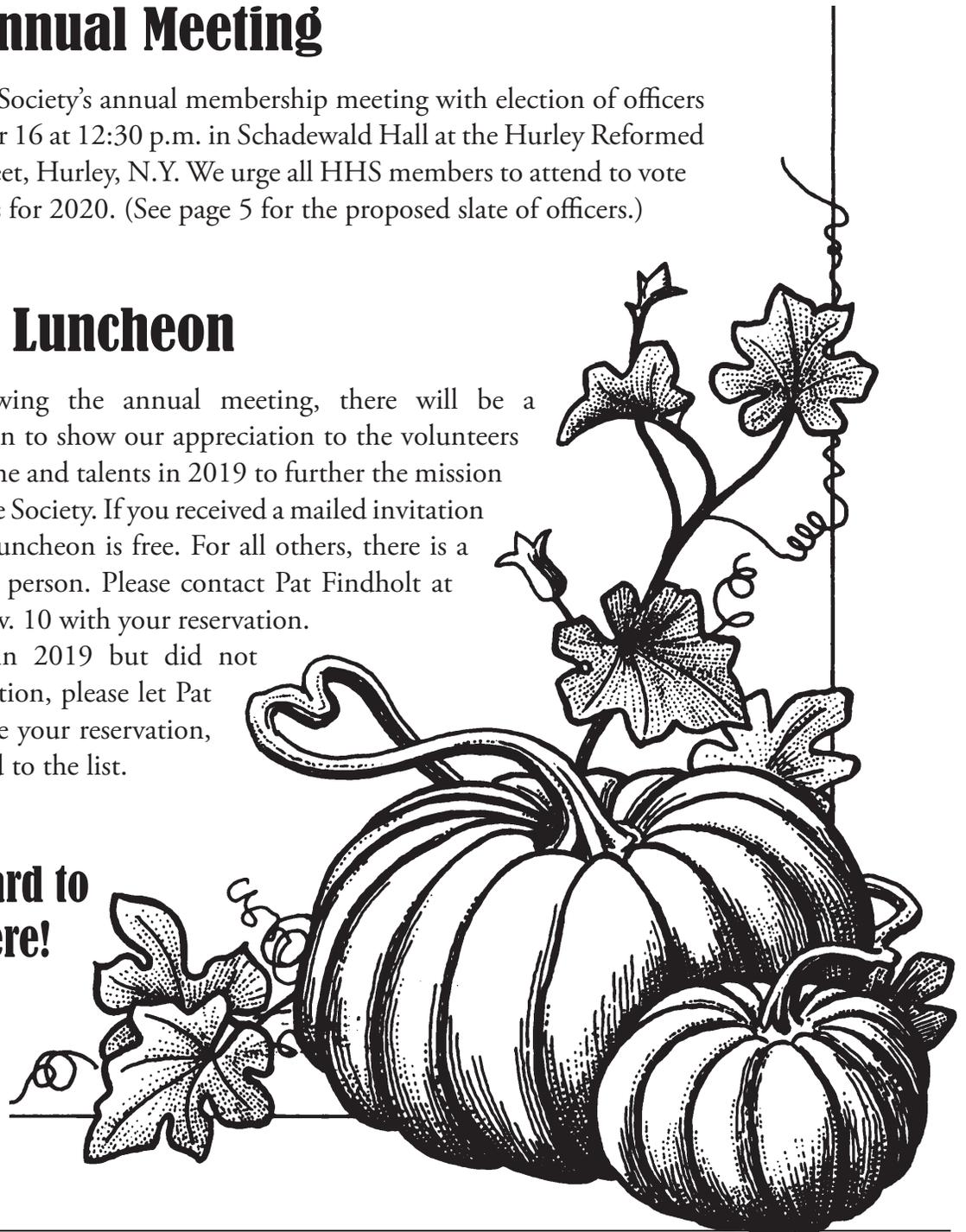
The Hurley Heritage Society's annual membership meeting with election of officers will be held November 16 at 12:30 p.m. in Schadewald Hall at the Hurley Reformed Church, 11 Main Street, Hurley, N.Y. We urge all HHS members to attend to vote on the slate of officers for 2020. (See page 5 for the proposed slate of officers.)

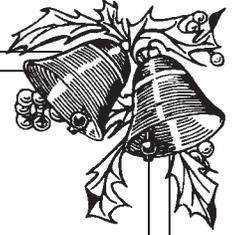
Thank You Luncheon

At 1:00 p.m. following the annual meeting, there will be a "Thank You" luncheon to show our appreciation to the volunteers who donated their time and talents in 2019 to further the mission of the Hurley Heritage Society. If you received a mailed invitation as a volunteer, your luncheon is free. For all others, there is a charge of \$10.00 per person. Please contact Pat Findholt at 845-338-3137 by Nov. 10 with your reservation.

If you volunteered in 2019 but did not receive a lunch invitation, please let Pat know when you make your reservation, and you will be added to the list.

**We look forward to
seeing you there!**





Greetings from Main Street!

Another museum season has passed, and with the exception of our Holiday Sale on December 1, the museum is officially closed for 2019. The annual meeting with election of officers and volunteer luncheon will be held at the Hurley Reformed Church on Saturday, November 16, at 12:30 p.m. While the meeting is primarily for members, guests of members are welcome, and volunteers will be honored at the luncheon. Volunteers' lunches are paid for by the Society; other members and their guests are encouraged to come and have lunch at a nominal fee. (See details on the front cover.) The Ulster County Archivist Taylor Bruck will give a short historical presentation. A slide show of our past year's events will run throughout the luncheon.

We have accomplished a great deal this year. Our exhibit *Winslow Homer's Hurley: An Artist's View* has brought more visitors to the museum than ever before and has been written up in magazines, newspapers, and social media. It will be expanded and continued in 2020. A new event, Hurley Heritage Day, held on October 6, showcased Hurley's history with special exhibits and featured local craft and food vendors as well as great live music. Attendance was good despite the misty weather, and we intend to hold this event again in 2020.

Much needed repairs were made to the museum basement. The Society purchased the panels from the "old Post Office" in the Spy House and has stored them for future viewing, saving a part of Hurley's history for future generations. This is the goal of the Society — to protect and tell the story of Hurley's history.

I wish you and yours a happy holiday season and thank you for being a part of our efforts. By being a member of the Hurley Heritage Society you have shown that you understand and appreciate what a wonderful town we have and how important it is to preserve it.

Joan Castka, President



Hurley Heritage Day 2019

Discussions and planning began back in the spring. With the Corn and Craft Festival a thing of the past, we wanted something to bring the community together — our Hurley community, but well beyond also. We clearly wanted to celebrate our town's rich history and heritage. We wanted it to be a wonderful party for all ages with food, music, and activities. And, to support our museum and ongoing lectures and programs, we needed it to be an effective fundraiser. Hurley Heritage Day was born. On paper anyway.

The next several months were spent by a small group of very dedicated people creating a plan for our big day, reaching out to local businesses, navigating a maze of logistics, arranging food and activities, booking entertainment, and so much more. We worked feverishly to promote our inaugural event, and the community, Hurley and beyond, rallied behind us more than we could've imagined.



OCTOBER 6, 2019

When the big day came the weather could've been better, but the drizzle couldn't dampen the spirits of our robust neighbors. People came out in encouraging numbers to see Jay Ungar and Molly Mason perform along with our other musical acts. They enjoyed our

homemade Hurley Corn Chowder and the wonderful selections from our food trucks. We had vendors and exhibitors on hand to suit every taste. In addition to our regular history exhibits, there was a special display of Hurley Post Office history prepared for the event. The raffle prizes were exciting and diverse. We sold plants and produce from our Hurley Harvest Booth, and our Children's Activity Tent kept kids delighted all day!

There isn't enough space on these pages to thank all the individuals, performers, and businesses that helped make our First Annual Hurley Heritage Day so successful. Work will begin soon on next year's event, so don't hesitate to get in touch if you'd like to be a part of it!



by Bruce Whistance

The special one-day exhibit *Town of Hurley Post Office History* had a steady stream of visitors during the recent Hurley Heritage Day. On display were vintage photographs, items of postal history, and historical documents from all post offices in the Town of Hurley. The post offices and their dates of establishment are: Hurley (1837), West Hurley (1843), Ashton (1886), Old Glenford (1887), Glenford (1913), and Spillway (1915).

Nearly everyone was surprised to learn that the current Hurley NY Post Office is in its seventh location. The fact that the Town of Hurley once included a post office named Spillway NY was also unexpected. Several visitors were delighted to find an ancestor's name among the early postmasters listed for each post office.

The year 1959 was designated New York's Year of History as part of the nation's 350th Hudson-Champlain anniversary celebration. Along with Hurley's first Corn Festival that year was a postage stamp exhibit presented by the Ulster County Stamp Club. Harkening back to that heritage, the Hurley Heritage Day exhibit included beautiful facsimiles and some actual postage stamps. On display were general issue postage stamps that would have been used at each of the seven post office locations in old Hurley.

Also included were interesting items of postal history, for example, letters postmarked Hurley NY back to as early as 1869. Especially notable was a report mailed from Hurley exactly one hundred years to the day before Hurley Heritage Day. On October



▲ (Old) Glenford NY Post Office during Ward Mathews' time as Postmaster 1906-1908. This building was demolished for the Ashokan Reservoir construction. From an undated photograph courtesy of Eleanor Arold.



◀ Hurley NY Post Office from 1893-1923 in Charlie Dumond's Store. This was situated in front of the building that is now the Hurley Heritage Society Museum at 52 Main Street. From a 1917 photograph courtesy of James Decker, Town of Hurley Historian.

6, 1919, a truck driver mailed a card from Charlie Dumond’s post office and store which stood in the front yard of today’s Hurley Museum. The driver reported hauling ten tons of stone and one ton of men to Hurley that day.

On loan from James Decker were items from Peter Elmendorf’s (1923-1942) post office including the original wooden post office sign, steel-die handstamp with the Hurley NY postmark, and postal scale. From HHS’s collection was an array of post office boxes surviving from the “Spy House” post office era.

This exhibit was based in part on United States Post Office records stored on rolls of microfilm at the National Archives. Until recently a request for records required two weeks just for a response. Then after paying a considerable fee, the microfilm arrived in the mail about two months later. Recently, modern technology has vastly improved this process. I was delighted to learn that these documents are now available online without a fee. No microfilm viewer is required, and researchers have access any time of the day or night. However, the exhibit could not have been produced solely by sitting at a computer viewing online records. Many local residents were generous with their time and information. Blending fascinating vintage images with facts from all sources resulted in a compendious illumination of the subject.



▲ Hurley NY Post Office from 1923-1942 in the building known as the Half Moon Tavern at 53 Main Street. From an undated photograph courtesy of James Decker, Town of Hurley Historian.

❄️ HHS MUSEUM SHOP ❄️ ❄️ Holiday Sale ❄️

Sun., Dec. 1 • 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Start your holiday shopping in our Museum Shop for Hurley-themed treasures and collections. We offer customized caps, t-shirts, sweatshirts, totes, and mugs. Also featured are a large assortment of Delft, regional books, postcards, jewelry and Paperwhite bulbs. We have spent the season gathering a large cache of vintage and pre-owned Holiday items; all selling at great prices. (We welcome donations of Christmas items for the Holiday Sale! Call 845-331-7228 for more information.)

Our exhibit, *Winslow Homer’s Hurley: An Artist’s View* is still on site, so spend some time learning about Hurley’s history, visit with friends and take home some wonderful bargains.

As always, HHS members receive 10% off on merchandise. Refreshments will be served.



Annual Meeting and Volunteer Luncheon

The HHS Annual Meeting with election of officers will be held on November 16 at 12:30 p.m. in Schadewald Hall at the Hurley Reformed Church, 11 Main St., Hurley, followed by our Volunteer Luncheon. The slate of officers and trustees up for election are as follows:

- Presidentopen..... 2 yr
- Treasureropen
- TrusteeKathy McMahon 1 yr. term
- TrusteeBarbara Zell 3 yr. term
- TrusteeAmy Del Aguila 1 yr. term
- TrusteeKierstin Tschinkel 3 yr. term
- TrusteeGail Whistance 3 yr. term

To view the current roster of officers and trustees during 2019, please see www.hurleyheritagesociety.org under “Contact Us.”

IN MEMORIAM

Remembering A Hurley Treasure

You are reading this in the *Prologue*, the Society's newsletter. Don Kent suggested "Prologue." Across the street from our museum is the Spy House. Public relations professional Don Kent thought that sounded more enticing than "Guard House," the label on the house's historic marker, and Spy House it became. That marker refers to "Lieutenant David Taylor," although his name was Daniel. Don Kent, when asked as a teenager by the marker people, guessed the lieutenant's name was David, so that's what's on the plaque. In the Reformed Church's hall is

a lift without which some people would be unable to get to where the action is. Don Kent pushed hard for that lift, although he may never have used it. If you've met someone from Hurley, England, wandering our streets, it's because Don Kent thought we should reconnect with our roots and began an informal exchange program.

Don was born in Ponckhockie, in Kingston. When he was in high school, his family moved into the Spy House, and his father, George, became Hurley's most notorious postmaster. From Kingston High, Don attended Maryville College in Tennessee and was drafted in the spring of 1941, first wooing and winning Mary Wintermute, with whom he shared a love affair that ran for seven decades.



Don Kent

He served throughout the war, then returned to Hurley where he operated a store and founded the *Hurley Guardian*, a newspaper of which he was editor, publisher, sales manager, and most of the reporters. Besides school and social news, it carried editorials on such topics as civil rights (for) and dwindling church attendance (against). He rejoined the service, retiring as an Air Force major and returning to Ulster County and the Spy House. He was active in community organizations and events, and made sure that the Spy House continued its un-

broken practice of opening for every Stone House Day. (He would also give a house tour to anyone who stopped and peered in the window, or didn't.)

On September 8, 2019, Don Kent died at the age of 101.704, making sure that he voted in 2018, as he had for eight decades as an Ulster County resident. To his dismay he had to change his registration to Dutchess County, since he had moved there and in April had sold his beloved Spy House.

He was delighted with the new owners, Katie Greaves and Alex Perfect. Katie was raised in Hurley; she had always wanted to live in that house. They have promised to keep up its traditions—and right on schedule, the Spy House opened for business on Stone House Day 2019. Thanks for everything, Don.

IN MEMORIAM

The past few months have seen the passing of some members who were instrumental in our Society. We treasure their memory and contributions.

- **Don Kent**, the “Mayor” of Main Street and guardian of the Spy House, passed away at age 101. He was an active member of HHS and named our newsletter *Prologue*. A member of our board for many years, he had also served as the Hurley Reformed Church’s chairman of Stone House Day. He truly loved Hurley.
- **Lore Schneller** set up the museum’s gift shop when the house was purchased in 2000. She filled it with Dutch and local items and carefully maintained the shop. We are grateful to her for her contribution.
- **Ted Macenka** participated in many Corn Festivals. An avid gardener, he donated the rosebushes that bloom in Ribbon Park and the Rose of Sharon at the museum.
- **Joan Vogt** and **Mary Anne Sippel** of Hurley Heights volunteered at our events and were museum docents. They were knowledgeable, dependable and gracious hostesses who greeted guests with a smile that we miss.

The Hurley Heritage Society thanks these residents for their contributions to the community. Their positive deeds which benefited Hurley will keep their memories alive long into the future.

Thank You to our 2019 Volunteers

Anderson, Lois	Kent, David
Aspromonte, Karen	Kent, Jim
Bender, Barbara	Kent, Ruth
Beesmer, Chris	Kuhn, Karen
Blakely, Diane	LaClair, Matt & Monica
Boenig, Merriam	Lambert, Charlie
Bohan, Dale	Lindhurst, Jeanine
Boy Scouts	Lapp, Cindy Gill
Brancato, Carolyn	MacIsaac, Deb
Brant, Flo	Mahdavian, Angie
Britton, Amy	Martino, Eileen & Frank
Brundage, Rob & Jane	Masters, Rebecca
Burns, Shirley	Mayhon, Judy
Campbell, Kristan	McMahon, Gary
Castka, Joan	McMahon, Kathy
Cattabiani, Richard	Monder, Joan & Harvey
Chando, Nancy	Morino, Julia
Cohen, Patty	Nicoletti, Diane
Constant, Frieda & Doug	O’Connor, Joy
Cook, Linda & Wally	Oliver, Pat
Cooper, Dan & Beth	Opdahl, Viola
The Creepy Uncles Band	Oseas, Iris & Jon
Darling, Marion	Reynolds, Mary
Decker, Deana	Rice, Mike
Decker, Jim	Richards, Ellen
Del Aguila, Amy	Ryan, Arlene
Dini, Elissa	Sartorius, Barbara
Donnaruma, Joanne	Schreiber, Mary & Edward
Dumond, Cathy	Shults, Pete & Mary
Dumville, Tonya & Alan	Stanzione, John
Dumas, Bonnie & Alan	Starke, Virginia
Evans, Mary	Stevens, Marion & John
Findholt, Pat	Sweeney, Nancy
Foster, Amanda	Tschinkel, Kiersten
Foster, Deb	Tweedale, Linda
Green, Raleigh	Waters, Kayce
Gillette, Rich	Watson, Jessica
Howard, Judy	Whistance, Bruce & Gail
Howe, Sonnie	Williams, Michelle
Hurley Lions Club	Young, Ellen & Jack
Husta, Jennifer, Scott & Ryan	Zalewski, Dan
Katt, Linda	Zell, Chris & Barbara
Kelly, Christine	

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

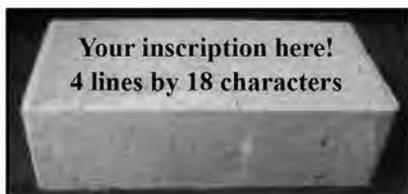
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ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT No. 44303
KINGSTON, NY
12401

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