



HURLEY HERITAGE SOCIETY

# Prologue

"The past is prologue"

September 2017

Glenford

Old Hurley Founded 1662

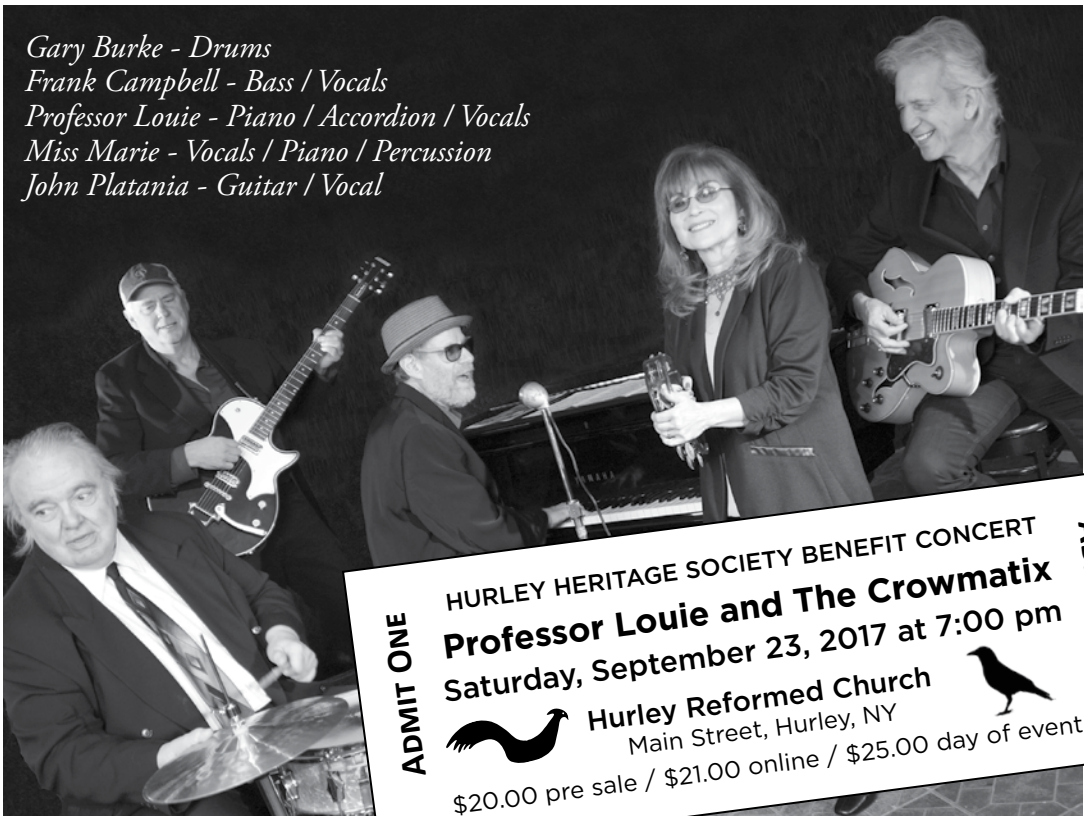
West Hurley

## PROFESSOR LOUIE AND THE CROWMATIX

In Concert on September 23, 7PM,  
In the Hurley Reformed Church Hall

Full story on page 6

*Gary Burke - Drums*  
*Frank Campbell - Bass / Vocals*  
*Professor Louie - Piano / Accordion / Vocals*  
*Miss Marie - Vocals / Piano / Percussion*  
*John Platania - Guitar / Vocal*



ADMIT ONE

HURLEY HERITAGE SOCIETY BENEFIT CONCERT  
**Professor Louie and The Crowmatix**  
Saturday, September 23, 2017 at 7:00 pm



Hurley Reformed Church  
Main Street, Hurley, NY



\$20.00 pre sale / \$21.00 online / \$25.00 day of event

ADMIT ONE

FROM THE DESK OF THE

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**PRESIDENT**

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*September* is synonymous with crisper air, fall color, spectacular sunsets and renewed energy. Take the time to make your weekends meaningful. It's the perfect time to spend the afternoon visiting the Museum. We've had so many different activities during our season that I hope you have visited and are planning to return.

Our new exhibit: *The O & W Railway in Ulster County: Stations Along the Way* has been so well received that you might want to pass through again. Gail and Bruce Whistance, our curators, are often on site for questions.

September through December is brimming over with some fantastic events that you won't want to miss. Refer to our event calendar for the correct date and time.

We are busy planning upgrades to our Museum property; it will just keep getting better and better. Please consider joining and volunteering if you have not done so. It's not too late. We'd love to meet you. Have suggestions: call me, 845-331-7228 or email: [dale7228@aol.com](mailto:dale7228@aol.com).

Hurley is a special place. Help us keep it that way.

Sincerely,

*Dale S. Bohan*

President, Hurley Heritage Society



## SEPTEMBER LECTURE IN WEST HURLEY: STORIES OF BLUESTONE

**Speaker:** Robert Donaldson

**Date:** Thursday, September 28, 2017

**Time:** 7:00 PM

**Place:** West Hurley Firehouse,  
24 Wall St., West Hurley, NY

Take a stroll through one of the old neighborhoods of Kingston, and you are likely to find yourself walking on slabs of a bluish-gray, fine-grained sandstone, none other than the storied Ulster County bluestone. Visit the Hurley Museum or the new Hurley Library, and you walk past displays of old road stones with deep grooves worn into them by heavy wagons coming from the bluestone quarries. Stop by the Reservoir Inn in West Hurley (formerly the Bluestone Inn) and marvel at the huge bluestone slab gracing their entrance. Ulster County was once the largest supplier of bluestone in the nation, so it is not surprising to see so much of it still in use here. Our September lecture focuses on the local bluestone industry and the hard-working people that made it happen.

Between the years 1840 – 1900, bluestone, drawn from quarries along old Route 28 northwest of the City of Kingston, had a major impact on the construction of buildings, sidewalks, bridges and monuments in cities and towns along the Atlantic coast of this nation. It was an industry that made a number of pioneer investors fabulously wealthy and



*Bluestone quarry, Ulster County, likely Jockey Hill, c.1900. (photo courtesy Town of Kingston archives)*

at the same time, employed thousands of Irish immigrants fleeing a land of famine in desperate need of work.

Drawing from his historical anthology, *Chronicles of Ulster, Volumes I & II*, Rhinebeck author Robert Donaldson will present stories of the Ulster County bluestone trade, its origin, commercial progress, effect on the growth of cities, and eventual decline. He will discuss the impact on those who benefited from the trade as well as those who labored in the quarries. Throughout his presentation Mr. Donaldson will present stories from news articles taken from the *Kingston Daily Freeman* and other newspapers around the state. He will also display pictures of the bluestone trade found during his research.

**About the speaker:** Robert Donaldson is a graduate of Marist College and the SUNY at New Paltz. He is retired from Rhinebeck High School where he taught law and European History. At Dutchess Community College, he was an adjunct instructor in law and legal research in the paralegal program. He currently serves on the Town of Rhinebeck Conservation Advisory Board and volunteers at the Dutchess County Office of the Public Defender. He lives with his wife in the Town of Rhinebeck.

A special **Thank You!** to Robert Donaldson for donating a copy of his 2-volume work to the Hurley Heritage Society. We are delighted to add this valuable reference to our collection. Full title is: *Chronicles of Ulster, Volumes I & II: A Topical and Chronological Anthology of the BlueStone Trade in Ulster County, New York and the History of the Town of Kingston from Newspapers and Periodicals of the Times.*

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## PLEASE HELP US PROMOTE AND PRESERVE HISTORIC HURLEY!



Professor Louie and the Crowmatix will perform a benefit concert for the Hurley Heritage Society on September 23 at 7:00 at the Hurley Reformed Church Hall. We are seeking your support by contributing either at the donor level for \$25 or the sponsor level for \$50. Your name will be listed in the concert's Playbill. For \$100 the Playbill's rear outside cover is available for an ad (half page for \$50). Please call 845-336-5267 to inquire. Please make checks payable to the Hurley Heritage Society and mail to Christine Beesmer, 17 Birch St., West Hurley, NY 12491 or you can contribute using Pay Pal on our website, [www.hurleyheritagesociety.org](http://www.hurleyheritagesociety.org). The deadline for Playbill donations is September 9.

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**Please clip and return with your payment.**

Checks payable to the **Hurley Heritage Society.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information (email or phone) \_\_\_\_\_

Check one: Donor \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor \$50 \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to:** Christine Beesmer, 17 Birch St., West Hurley, NY 12491

## RAMBLE THROUGH HURLEY'S HISTORIC BURIAL GROUNDS, SEPT. 17, 2017 2 P.M.

*By: Nancy Chando*

Hurley Heritage Society is participating in the 18th annual Hudson River Valley Ramble. Join us for a walking tour of Hurley's Old Burial Ground, located in the National Historic Landmark village founded in 1662. Hear tales of some of Hurley's earliest residents who lived and died many years ago. Listen to stories of some haunted happenings, and view ancient memorials, some written in Dutch.

**Admission:** \$5 for adults, children under 12 are free.

**Date and Time:** Sept. 17, 2017, 2 p.m., at Hurley Heritage Museum, 52 Main St., Hurley, N.Y. 12443, (845-416-1937). Please note: there will be uneven terrain, please wear appropriate footwear.

For further information on the Hudson River Valley Ramble activities, please check their website: [www.hudsonrivervalleyramble.com](http://www.hudsonrivervalleyramble.com).



*At 2015 Ramble, guides Nancy Chando, left, and Deana Decker, right, introduce visitors to some long-time Hurley residents.*



*Ramble participants starting their tour, Guides Deana Decker, left and Nancy Chando, right.*

## MUSIC FOR HURLEY FROM THE MOUNTAIN

By: *Gail Whistance*

On Saturday, September 23, at 7 PM, Hurley Heritage Society is proud to be hosting Professor Louie and The Crowmatix, an internationally known band, for their first concert in Hurley, to be held at the Hurley Reformed Church.

Unbeknownst to most Hurley residents, Louie Hurwitz, the bandleader, has been recording and producing music albums in a studio in Hurley for more than 30 years. World famous recording musicians have come and gone from the modest building tucked under the shoulder of Hurley Mountain Road, largely unnoticed by the locals. These visitors included members of The Band, the legendary Woodstock group with whom Louie worked for many years, and who anointed him with the nickname Professor Louie. Inside, the walls of the studio are papered with colorful posters and photos from the many projects and people that have made the place come alive. It is now the home base for Louie's group which includes Marie Spinosa, Gary Burke, Frank Campbell, and John Platania.

Situated on the farm of John and Anna Kaufman, the studio looks out over the fields that inspired the band's 2016 album, *Music from Hurley Mountain*. John himself played a part on one track, *John's Tractor*, that was laid down while his John Deere rumbled past the open window. Many of the visiting musicians were from rural areas and would go outside and engage John in conversations about farming while taking a break from recording. John had no idea he was talking to famous musicians. Be it Buckwheat Zydeco or Levon Helm, he could talk to anyone. Later, John would come into the studio and tell Louie and Marie, "Now, he was some character!"

The *Hurley Mountain* album is dedicated to the memory of John and Anna. The concert will feature songs from this album as well as others from the band's repertoire which draws from rhythm and blues, American roots, and rock traditions. One of the songs written by Louie and Marie titled *Four Farmers* is named for the Hurley farming families they have come to know over the years: Kaufman, Paul, Gill, and Davenport. The song *Ulster Outcry* recalls the history of the Burning of Kingston and how that event caused people to flee to Hurley. *Ashton* honors the hamlet that was lost during the construction of the Ashokan Reservoir but not relocated as were others. *Angel Band*, a traditional song from the late 1800s, was a favorite of John's. After he passed away, his typewriter was found with a piece of paper still in it. Typed there were the lyrics to *Angel Band*.

We are looking forward to this special concert featuring music inspired by our own Hurley landscape and history. It promises to be an exciting evening for our small town. Tickets are now available through our website [www.hurleyheritagesociety.org](http://www.hurleyheritagesociety.org) or at the museum on weekends from 1 to 4 PM. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 on the day of the show. If ordering via the website, the price is \$21. All proceeds go towards supporting the mission of the Hurley Heritage Society.

## NEW WINSLOW HOMER BOOK EXPLORES HIS HURLEY CONNECTIONS

By: Gail Whistance

A newly released book and an associated traveling exhibition, *Winslow Homer: From Poetry to Fiction: The Engraved Works*, by author and curator Reilly Rhodes, feature 231 wood engravings by the renowned American artist Winslow Homer (1836-1910). The monochromatic engravings were produced by Homer for the pictorial press,

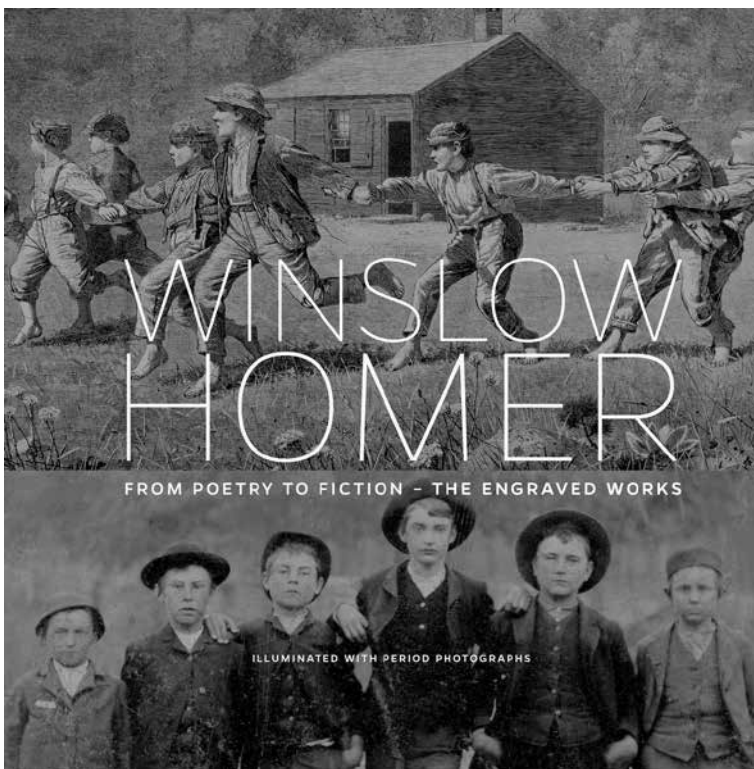
most notably *Harper's Weekly* between 1860 and 1875. Mr. Rhodes has been a scholar of Winslow Homer for over 20 years and believes that these engravings are an "often overlooked and underrated body of work." Homer spent many of his summers in Hurley, from 1869 to 1877. Rhodes believes that the influence of the Hurley

landscape and people on Homer's art during this productive period has not been sufficiently explored. His big, beautiful book, released in June of this year and representing years of research, has filled the gaps admirably well.

Many Hurleyites are well aware that the famous Winslow Homer painting *Snap the Whip*, 1872 (Metropolitan Museum of Art, NYC) was set on the Hurley Flats and features the one-room schoolhouse that served the children living on Eagles Nest Road. In fact, when you enter the new Hurley Library, you see a mural of

*Snap the Whip* in which the steeple of the Hurley Church is visible in the distance. Mr. Rhodes' book goes into great detail to confirm that the location of this painting is without question the fields of Hurley. But he did not stop there. He was determined to find Hurley connections beyond *Snap*

*the Whip* and has had a startling degree of success. There are 14 vintage photographs of Hurley appearing in this book which the author has connected to Homer's art. For example, the Hurley fields and mountain are likely the



inspiration for the painting, *Crossing the Pasture*, 1872 (Fort Worth Museum of American Art, TX). A mature chestnut tree at the Ten Eyck Bouwerie (the former Paul Farm) is believed to be the model for the engraving, *Chestnutting*, 1870. A four-sided Dutch-style hay barrack appears in the engraving *Spring Farm Work – Grafting*, 1870, a clear reference to the Dutch colonial region of New York and, in particular, an apple growing area. A Dutch barn, like one Homer would have seen in Hurley or possibly Saugerties, is beautifully rendered in the painting, *A Temperance Meeting*, 1874 (Philadelphia Museum of Art).

The most exciting find was irrefutable proof that Homer spent time at the Wynkoop house in Hurley now occupied by Viola Opdahl. According to Rhodes, “Without a doubt, one of the great stories that came out of this study is the relationship of Homer’s wood engraving *The Family Record*, 1875, and the two paintings by the Dutch colonial painter Pieter Vanderlyn that are discussed in the Postscript. Not only do these paintings provide a connection to Homer’s art, Homer’s engraving reveals the exact place and location where he made his sketch – in the Wynkoop family parlor or living room where the ceiling beams are exposed and the portrait of Cornelius D. Wynkoop hangs in the background.” This find was the happy result of the oral history project that was carried out by HHS member Bruce Whistance and Town Historian Doreen Lyke last year. When Viola was being interviewed, she brought out a set of c.1890 interior photographs that had been given to her by the Wynkoop family after she and her



*Pieter Vanderlyn (1687-1778), Portrait of Cornelius D. Wynkoop c.1743. at age 8. Oil on panel, 43 x 25 in. The Huntington Library, San Marino CA. Photo courtesy of Contemporary and Modern Print Exhibitions. This portrait is hanging on the wall in The Family Record engraving and in the Wynkoop interior photograph.*

husband Bob had moved into the old homestead on Wynkoop Road. Bruce scanned them and passed the images along to Mr. Rhodes. One of those pictures had the Vanderlyn portrait of Cornelius D. Wynkoop c. 1743 (Huntington Library, CA) hanging on the wall next to a ladder back chair. Both the portrait and the chair appear in the Homer engraving. Mr. Rhodes says this is the only known example of a photograph that relates so concretely to a Winslow Homer

work. He considers the photograph a “national treasure.”

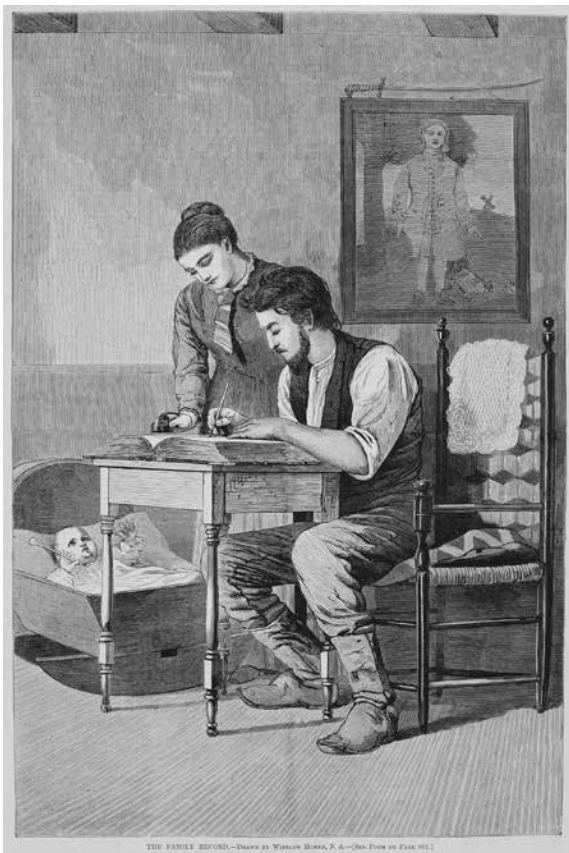
The accolades for Mr. Rhodes’ masterwork are starting to come in. Ed Ames, who is an art collector as well as a singer and actor, wrote the author that “this is an amazing undertaking of provocative thinking and research on the early work of Homer.”

Several Hurley people helped Mr. Rhodes track down clues while he was researching his book. He first contacted Doreen Lyke in 2015. As he developed the Hurley story, he also received help

from Gail and Bruce Whistance, Viola Opdahl, Michael Paul, and Ellen McCoy Messick (who has Hurley ancestors). To acknowledge his appreciation of the help he received, Mr. Rhodes generously donated to the Hurley Heritage Society a framed, original print of *The Family Record* engraving which now hangs in our rear hallway, and a copy of his gorgeous book containing hundreds of illustrations which is now in the museum library. The Hurley Library was also presented with a copy of the book for its reference section. Thank you, Reilly!



*Cornelius Wynkoop House, Living Room Interior, c. 1880-1890. Courtesy of Viola Opdahl. Note the Vanderlyn portrait on the wall and the ladder back chair, both of which appear in The Family Record engraving.*



*Winslow Homer (1836-1910), The Family Record, published in Harper's Bazaar, August 28, 2017. Wood engraving on newsprint, 13-1/2 x 9-1/4 in. Young couple entering the birth of their baby in the family Bible. Courtesy of Contemporary and Modern Print Exhibitions.*

The exhibition accompanying Rhodes' book began its nationwide tour at the Butler Institute of American Art in Youngstown, Ohio in January 2017. It includes 240 wood engravings, letters and photographs. Rhodes explains, "What I have tried to do with this exhibition is to 'tell stories,' not just one story, and in doing so, teach people how to look at works of art with fresh

information – not to repeat what they already know. Exhibits should invite participation, inspire, or provoke." The full tour begins in 2018 and extends through 2022. Rhodes is attempting to schedule the exhibit as close to Hurley, as he can, either in Connecticut or New York.

The book, *Winslow Homer: From Poetry to Fiction: The Engraved Works*, by Reilly Rhodes, 415 pages, lavishly illustrated, is available for purchase in the museum gift shop. The price is \$125 plus tax; HHS member price is \$105 plus tax.



*Winslow Homer (1836-1910), Chestnutting, pub. by Every Saturday, Oct. 29, 1870. Wood engraving on newsprint, 11-3/4 x 8-3/4 in. Chestnut tree sketched from one at Ten Eyck Bouwerie, Hurley Mt. Road.*

## HIGHLIGHTS OF HURLEY'S CELEBRATION OF NEW YORK STATE YEAR OF HISTORY IN 1959

*By: Doreen Lyke*

As a child, my year began and ended with the start of a new grade at school. For me, New York's Year of History began in 6th grade on December 6th, 1958 with the opening of a library in Hurley. The library was housed in the Hurley Town Hall where it remained until recently. I was member number 3. That is still the most exciting and memorable day in all of my Hurley life.



This photo is much older than 1959 but this is what our first library looked like with the World War II memorial in the foreground.



This was the library in 2008, 50 years later. Now Hurley

has a new library, located in the building which was the former bank next door.

The actual year of history began with a reenactment of a visit from General George Washington on February 22, 1959, sponsored by the Hurley Lions Club.

Approximately 800 people watched Mr. Vernon Goetchius, dressed as George Washington, as he rode to the four corners in Hurley to the old Houghtaling house. He was greeted by women and children dressed in Dutch costumes and serenaded by fife and drum music. Three boys, one James Tweedy, with recorders, hidden in dried corn stalks, tooted Yankee



*James Tweedy*

Doodle Dandy to General Washington.



George Washington came to Hurley one more time.



General Washington was accompanied by two aides, played by Egbert V. Maxwell and Lester Kiersted.



The welcoming address was delivered by Jacobus Feye as Matthew Ten Eyck and Mrs. Annie Goetchius as his wife.

The Lions Club reception followed at Hurley School, where the attendance totaled 500. The audience listened to the Hurley Festival Chorus and various speeches, one in which George Washington was quoted, "My first wish is to see the whole world in peace, and the inhabitants of it as one band of brothers, striving to see who should contribute the most to the happiness of mankind". These words are appropriate today, even in the year 2017.

Hurley continued to celebrate New York State's Year of History. The event that I remember so very well was the reenactment of the burning of Hurley, which took place at Hurley School on Sunday, May 17, 1959. The cast of characters included the fifth, sixth, and seventh grade students of Hurley School. The story took place on a day in June, 1663, when the first 15 families of Hurley were attacked and their village burned to the ground by a local tribe of Esopus Indians. The men were in the fields tending their crops, the women were doing the washing and spinning and the children were playing

games. Three farmers were killed as they were returning from the fields. Eight women and thirty-six children were captured and taken away into the wilderness. It took more than three months for the Dutch settlers, with the help of a few soldiers, to rescue their wives and children. During the rescue, some Indians were killed, a few Indian women were captured and the rest fled the area.

Hurley School students vied for the opportunity to play a fearsome Indian or a brave Dutch settler. The play was written by Mrs. Elizabeth Askue, and directed by 5th, 6th and 7th grade teachers: Mrs. Nash, Mr. Ebelheiser, and Mr. Myer. The men of the Hurley Lions Club built the palisade, blockhouse and houses used in the play. An authentic-looking Dutch windmill, loaned by the Old Dutch Church, and an Indian teepee, loaned by the Albany Avenue Baptist Church, added to the mock village of Nieuw Dorp, which was renamed Hurley in 1669.

*Nieuw Dorp Village on the grounds of Hurley "Myer" School. (top right)*



*Close up of the teepee loaned by Albany Avenue Baptist Church. Linda Pfrommer Cook and her Aunt Agnes.*



The Indians were circling and singing a song written especially for the play in preparation for the attack and burning of Hurley.



We, Indians and Dutch, were surprised at the intensity of the fire. For a few minutes, our roles were forgotten.



However, the show must go on. The men prepare to take away the dead.



The three dead Dutch were carried away by their fellow settlers.



*Vaughan Askue, sporting a Mohawk, long before they became fashionable, and our own Linda Pfrommer Cook, celebrating the successful debut of our great event.*

The population of the Township of Hurley in 1957 was 3,414. Almost two-thirds of Hurley, or 2,000 people, were gathered at the site of Hurley School to watch the burning of Hurley. At 2:00 pm, just as the play was to begin, there came a downpouring of rain. It

lasted for about five minutes, then the sun came out and a wonderful day was had by all.

\*Most of the information has come from my memories and *The Hurley Historian*, a souvenir journal of 10 issues, published monthly as a part of Hurley's celebration of New York's Year of History. It

## Old Fashioned Ice Cream Social

August 20, 2017 - 1:00 to 4:00

On the Grounds of the Hurley Heritage Museum



Main Street, Hurley, New York

### Nominal fee includes:

One ice cream sundae  
or novelty pop\*

Music and sing-a-longs

Games and other fun  
activities



### Admission:

ages 4 & under - free

10 & under \$2.00

11 to adult \$4.00

Music: "Wild" Bill Drucker - Banjo  
and

The Creepy Uncles Band

### Come join us!

Get to know the Hurley Heritage Society and Museum.

Visit our new railroad exhibit.

\*additional ice cream may be purchased for \$1.00

Ice Cream donated by Rich Gillette of Gillette Creamery

## CULINARY DELIGHTS

*Article By: Joan Castka*

On a beautiful July Sunday, listeners gathered on the museum's back porch to hear Ellen Richards talk about some of the plants grown in our herb garden. As she was speaking, Linda Cook was busy preparing delicious dishes using some of these herbs....right in front of our eyes. If we didn't know it before, we know it now...Linda is a wonderful cook...definitely a play on words! We were all treated to samples of Linda's cooking....pierogies with sage butter, basil and parsley pesto, mozzarella and tomato appetizer with basil, tuna salad with dill and a gazpacho with herbs. This was the second year we've had an herbal cooking demo on the porch. It was so well attended, we hope to have it again next year. Thank you, Ellen and Linda!



*Linda Cook, Left, and Ellen Richards Right, with their savory treats, Photo by Flo Brandt*



*Dale Bohan, center, President of the Hurley Heritage Society, tends the museum herb garden with the help of volunteers Cathy DuMond, left, and Tara Highland, right. Photo by Patricia Lamers*

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## BOOK SIGNING REMINDER

*Article By: Joan Castka*

Theresa Todaro, a weekend visitor to Ulster County, will give a talk and sign her new books, “The Tin Box Trilogy”. The mystery series delves into some Ulster County history and is appropriate reading for young adults and adults alike. Come meet the author at the museum on Sunday, August 27 at 1:00 pm. Refreshments will be served. Her books are currently available for sale in the Museum Shop.





*Attendees at 2016 Ghost Walk, Photo: Dale Bohan*

Once again we will be having our Ghost Walk. We will be hearing the tales of spirits of long ago, and visiting the Old Burial Ground.

**October 27th @ 6:00**

**Reservations required.**

**Call 338-7686.**

Tours fill up very quickly, no walk-ins!!

The events depicted in our Ghost Walk are based on Hurley's historical events, primary documents, oral accounts and tales from Hurley's legends and lore. Not recommended for young children.

This is not a handicap accessible event. The ground is uneven in spots. You will also need to bring a flashlight.

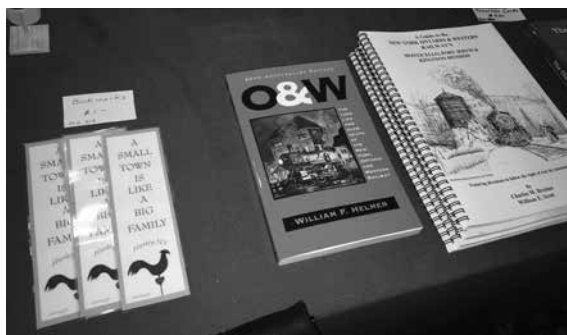
## SHOP TALK

*By: Joan Castka*

If you haven't stopped at the museum shop this year, you're missing seeing all the new items for sale. They include Hurley Rooster baseball caps, wooden rooster ornaments, books on railroads in Ulster County, The Professor Louie and The Crowmatix CD, *Music from Hurley Mountain*, vintage jewelry and collectibles. Heavyweight sweatshirts with the Main Street stone houses design are now 20% off. HHS members always get a 10% discount on most items! Stop by and shop locally!



*Angie Mahdavian with her handmade apron*

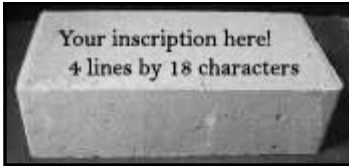


*Local history books available in the shop*

## 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 [cooker.1@earthlink.net](mailto:cooker.1@earthlink.net)



## Hurley Heritage Society Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip + 4 \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

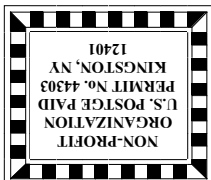
Email \_\_\_\_\_

- |   |          |
|---|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single membership  | \$20.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family membership  | \$27.00  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life membership    | \$250.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate (Annual) | \$150.00 |
| Additional donation                         | \$ _____ |

*Dues and donations are tax deductible  
Contact Harvey Monder for  
IBM matching fund forms*

**Send payment to:**  
**HURLEY HERITAGE SOCIETY**  
**P.O. Box 1661**  
**Hurley, NY 12443**

OR CURRENT RESIDENT



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