



HURLEY HERITAGE SOCIETY

Prologue

"The past is prologue"

September 2021

Glenford

Old Hurley Founded 1662

West Hurley

Greetings from Main Street

Thank you, friends and members, for showing your support on our museum's re-opening. The weather cooperated, and we had visitors throughout the day. Several members donated interesting items for the Art and Antiques Sale which proved to be a successful way to share "finds and deals" with neighbors and new friends.

Our current exhibit, *Homer's Hurley Revisited*, never disappoints. Gail Whistance and her exhibit committee have added new and noteworthy paintings and engravings, all with explanations and researched documentation. The exhibit is rich in history and perfectly coordinates with Hurley sites, stone houses, mountain vistas, and vast meadows.

Recently, a Homer biographer, William Cross and his wife, Ellen, visited the Museum; spent time at the exhibit, then toured Hurley by car with Bruce and Gail Whistance. Last stop was Viola Opdahl's home on Wynkoop Road. In Gail's words, "there transpired a remarkable conversation among Bill, Ellen, Viola, Lorna Smedman, Bruce and I about Hurley, Eagles Nest, Homer and other 19th century artists who came to the Wynkoop homestead." Mr. Cross's biography, titled *Winslow Homer: American Passage*, will be released April 12, 2022. Gail is confident that all this new exposure is a bonus for the Heritage Society and Hurley. Thank you, Gail.

Our 2021 season, although late to begin, promises some exciting prospects for the end of the summer and early fall. This *Prologue* will highlight new happenings and special events. Be sure to mark your calendars and include the Museum when you make your weekend plans.

It is not too late to volunteer your time and talent. We are always happy to hear your suggestions or questions.

My sincerest thanks and well wishes for the days to come.

Dale S. Bohan

President, Hurley Heritage Society

Dale7228@aol.com





Herbal Wreath Making Workshop

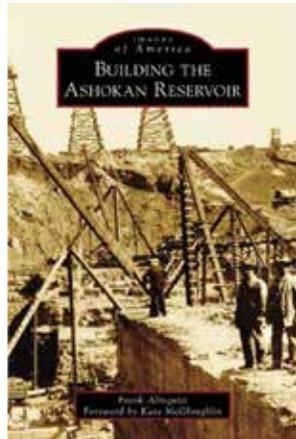
This popular workshop will once again be taught by floral designer Ellen Richards. On Sunday, September 12 at 2 p.m, Ellen will demonstrate and lead us in making our own wreath. All materials will be provided but you are encouraged to bring your own hand clippers. The fee is \$10. You can reserve your space by registering on our website and paying in advance. This class will be of limited size and fills up quickly. Don't miss out on bringing home a beautiful long lasting, fragrant herbal wreath!

Book Signing by Frank Almquist

Come and hear local historian and author Frank Almquist give a back porch talk on building the Ashokan Reservoir and sign his new book of the same title on Saturday, October 9, at 2 p.m.

The author describes how this massive dam, miles of dikes and water controls came together into a system that provides New York City residents 500 million gallons of water daily. Frank's collection of local photo postcards will provide us with a better understanding of how the Reservoir was built.

This talk is free. Refreshments will be provided.



Black Cultural History of Ulster County

A Multimedia Zoom Presentation
September 23 at 7 p.m. • Online/Zoom

Join us on Thursday, September 23, at 7 p.m. online and learn about this lesser-known and certainly under-acknowledged cultural history conveyed in a historical context through a wide range of rare photographs, video clips, and original short films about the arts, music, photography, visual arts, dance, and more. The evening is presented by historian and filmmaker Stephen Blauweiss, who has had a deep connection and interest in Black culture throughout his life with a particular focus on New York City, Harlem, jazz, and, of course, film.

Topics will include: The Harlem Renaissance; Augusta Savage, Ben Wigfall, Romare Beardon, and Martin Puryear; Father Divine; Peg Leg Bates; musicians Odetta, Jimi Hendrix, Charles Mingus, Jack DeJohnette, Richie Havens, Sonny Rollins ... and much, much more!

There will be time for discussion and Q&A throughout.

This event is FREE and open to the public, but you **must RSVP** in advance to attend this meeting at: <https://www.hudsonvalleyhistoryandart.com/phototalks>). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email with the Zoom link.

BLAUWEISS MEDIA Black Cultural History of Ulster County
ONLINE MULTIMEDIA PRESENTATION

FILM • ART
MUSIC • DANCE
RARE VIDEO &
PHOTOGRAPHS
& MUCH MORE!

September 23 at 7pm
RSVP for Zoom Link

HudsonValleyHistoryAndArt.com



Spooky Events in October

We will once again be having our **Scarecrow Contest** on the front lawn of the Museum. On the Friday night before Halloween, weather permitting we will be having **two new events**.* This will be in place of our Ghost Walk.

More information will be available on our website beginning October 1: www.hurleyheritagesociety.org

* **Stories and S'mores**

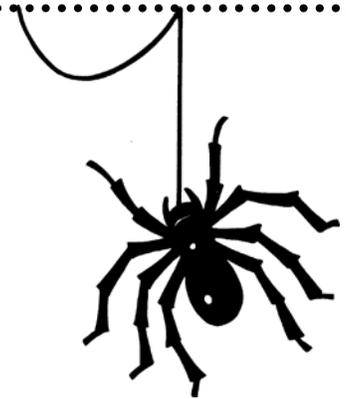
Limit 40 people

Date: **October 29** at the Museum

Time: Stories for families around a fire pit: **7:00 p.m.**
Storyteller Karen Pillsworth will tell stories for about 40 minutes to an hour. Light refreshments to follow: S'mores, cupcakes, and apple juice.

Cost **\$5.00** per person

Save the Date!
Fri., Oct. 29



* **Adult Ghost Tales of Hurley**

Limit 25 people per group

Under the direction of Richard Cattabiani

Date: **October 29** at the museum

Time: Group 1 — 8:30–9:15 p.m.

Group 2 — 9:30–10:15 p.m.

Refreshments to be served: warm cider and donuts

Cost: **\$5.00** per person

Save the Date!
Fri., Oct. 29

Be sure to check our website October 1 for more information and to register: www.hurleyheritagesociety.org

Seeing Triple: A Wynkoop Mystery

by Viola Opdahl

Look again! Paintings by not one artist but by three — plus a current photograph! The painting by William Henry Snyder, *The Wynkoop House* (Fig. 2) hung in the Hurley Wynkoop house on Wynkoop Road from 1859 until about 1969. After the house was sold in 1971, the painting went to the Wynkoop heirs until about 2005. We do not know its current location. Recently, two other paintings were brought to our attention — one by Platt Powell Ryder (Fig. 3), the other by Henry Ossawa Tanner (Fig. 4) — that may seem at a first quick glance to be carbon copies of Snyder's work. They definitely are not.

The most recent Wynkoop genealogy (1904) mentions in the entry for George Wynkoop (1814–1881) that Snyder, Ryder, and “other artists” had painted pictures of the Wynkoop House. The last of the Wynkoops to live at the Hurley homestead were George and his son James Davis Wynkoop (1843–1904) (Fig. 1). Both men's apparent interest in art extended to other family members. Found in the attic in 1971 is an art auction catalog for a collection of seventy modern paintings from the estate of a distant cousin Dr. Gerardus Hilles Wynkoop (1844–1909). Pencil in, probably by James Wynkoop, is the price of each painting that was auctioned at the Fifth Avenue Art Galleries on March 13, 1890. It comes as no surprise then that George and James invited artists to their summer home in Hurley.

William Henry Snyder's 1859 painting was the earliest of the three paintings which all por-

tray the south side of the Wynkoop homestead in Hurley. Snyder (1829–1910) was the least known of the three artists on a national and international level but still an accomplished artist. Born in Brooklyn, he studied in Paris, managed a Brooklyn art school, and exhibited regularly at two prestigious venues: the National Academy of Design and the Brooklyn Art Association. He

identified Brooklyn as his home and died there in 1910. He was known as a landscape painter particularly of the Hudson Valley region and of mountain areas such as the White Mountains in New Hampshire. He also became familiar with New York City art schools and artists and visited Paris and other sites of interest in western Europe.

At some point Snyder met George Wynkoop of Hurley. What prompted the artist to choose the south side as the most interesting part of the house? Well, even today, the south side presents the most imaginative

“face.” The painting tells us that the old addition to the rear of the stone part was still there in 1859. James Wynkoop was only sixteen at the time so it must have been James' father George who made arrangements for Snyder to paint the picture. Was Snyder invited to stay there? Did George Wynkoop buy the picture? Or was it a gift? Who knows? But we do know the picture was hanging in this house until about 1969 when the house was put up for sale.

Both Platt Powell Ryder (1821–1896) and

(Continued on page 6)



Fig. 1: Portrait of James Davis Wynkoop (1843–1904). c. 1890. Viola Opdahl collection.



Fig. 2: William H. Snyder (1829–1910), *The Wynkoop House*, 1859, oil painting, unlocated, presumed in private collection.

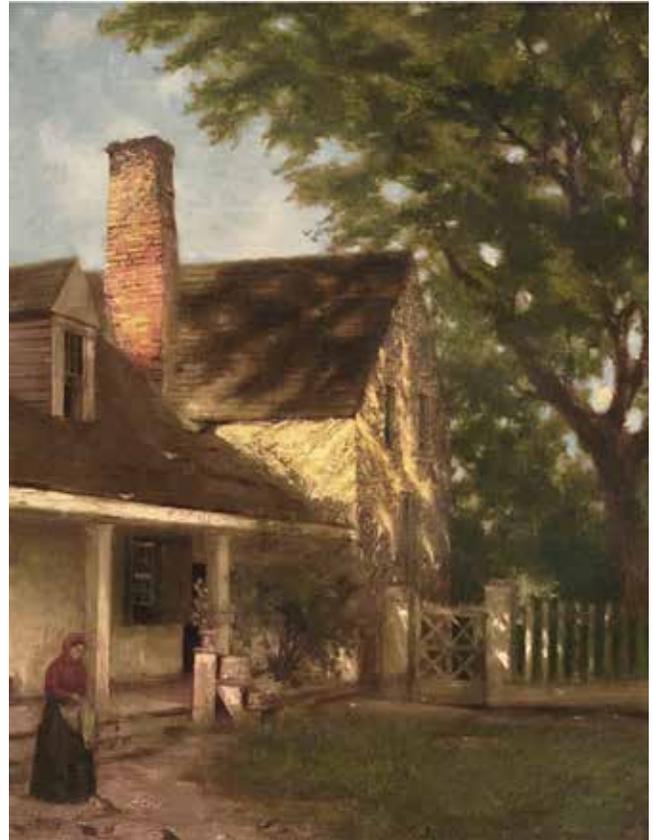


Fig. 3: Platt Powell Ryder (1821–1896), *Feeding the Birds*, c.1875, oil on panel, private collection.



Fig. 4: Henry Ossawa Tanner (1859–1937), *Wynkoop House, Old Haarlem*, 1888, oil on canvas, New Britain Museum of American Art, Connecticut.



Fig. 5: Present-day view of the James D. Wynkoop House. Photograph by Bruce Whistance, 2021.

Wynkoop Mystery (Continued from page 4)

Henry Ossawa Tanner (1859–1937) must have seen Snyder's painting of the south side of the Wynkoop House. For whatever reason, they both zeroed in on the same vantage point as Snyder. We assume that they went to the Wynkoop home independently of each other — c. 1875 for Ryder and 1888 for Tanner. In those years, the old rear wing of the house was still intact. The present two-story frame addition shown in the photograph (Fig. 5) was built between 1888 and 1894. Ryder put a human figure in the foreground while Tanner painted no figure at all and kept the landscape uncluttered. Some art historians have speculated that Tanner's painting was the house of abolitionist Judge Henry Wynkoop (1738–1816) near Newtown, Penn., because of Tanner's origins in nearby Philadelphia. The charming farmhouse in his picture, however, bears no resemblance to the judge's large, stately home. On the other hand, when the Tanner painting is seen next to the other two paintings of the Hurley Wynkoop house, it becomes clear that all three depict the same subject.

Ryder alternated good stretches of time between New York and Paris. Tanner was even more rooted in France, where he moved in 1891 to study and where he remained for most of the remaining 46 years of his life. He became particularly renowned for his Biblical scenes and is recognized today as a very important American painter. He was the first Black American painter to win significant acclaim nationally and internationally. For most of his life, however, American prejudice led him to prefer Paris where his talents opened doors for him, and he was socially more accepted. Tanner was elected an Associate Academician at the National Academy of Design in 1909, as Ryder had been in 1868. But in 1927, Tanner was elected a full Academician, as was another famous painter of Hurley scenes, Winslow Homer. According to the *New York*

Evening Post, Ryder came to Hurley in 1875 with Homer and their mutual friend Enoch Wood Perry (1831–1915), a fellow member with Homer of New York's Century Association. Perry was a painter, too, who in 1891 proposed Ryder for the Century.

When Ryder painted his picture, George and James Wynkoop were both adults living in the house, but by the time Tanner painted his, George Wynkoop had died, and James was the head of household. James Wynkoop had ample opportunity to become acquainted with artists in New York City. He lived and worked in New York as a member and an official in the grain division of the Produce Exchange, spending summers and holidays on his Hurley farm. However, none of our research discloses why Ryder and Tanner both painted the same view of the house as Snyder had. Was there an element of competition? Was the southern view of the house simply the most pleasing to the eye? Was it based on some whim of James Wynkoop? Or what? Still a Wynkoop Mystery!

Acknowledgements:

- Reilly Rhodes, for identifying the Ryder and Tanner paintings as views of the Hurley Wynkoop house.
- Gail Whistance and William R. Cross, for editing and research assistance.

Ramble Through the Old Burial Grounds

As part of the NYS Ramble, HHS is sponsoring a Ramble Through the Old Burial Grounds on September 25 at 2 p.m. It will be led by Richard Cattabiani and Deana Decker. You can reserve your space by registering on our website. The fee is \$5.00 per person.



Capital to Capital 5K

The Capital to Capital 5K commemorates the human story of the Burning of Kingston, when, in October 1777, more than 2,000 Kingston refugees fled to the Town of Hurley as British soldiers burned their city to the ground. Participants run or walk the route of the original refugees.

The Rotary Club of Kingston, NY, is sponsoring its Second Capital to Capital 5K run/walk this fall to benefit the Hudson Valley National Center for Veteran Reintegration. This year’s “C2C” is a hybrid 5K, which allows participants to join either virtually or in person.

Virtual participants can walk or run a 5 km (3.1 mi) distance on a trail or park in their hometown or elsewhere, anytime between Monday, October 4 and Sunday, October 17, 2021.

In-Person participants will meet at 9 a.m. on Sunday, October 17 at the Senate House State Historic site at 296 Fair Street in Kingston and run or walk to the Van Deusen House on Main Street in Hurley.

All participants can self-register at zippyreg.com/register/capto.

Entry Fees are as follows: \$10 — race entry with no giveaway; \$15 — includes race entry and handcrafted finisher’s medallion.

To receive an official finisher’s certificate, entrants must log their time on Zippyreg.com no later than 11:59 p.m. on October 18, 2021, to qualify.

For more information, please contact: Richard Cattabiani at cattabianir@gmail.com.

HHS Mum Sale 2021

The Hurley Heritage Society will hold a Chrysanthemum Sale in September. The plants are from Boice’s Farm and promise to be outstanding as usual. The proceeds will benefit the museum and grounds.

You may order your mums by mail or through our website (<https://www.hurleyheritagesociety.org>) by September 18. Pick up will be at the museum on September 25 from 1-4 p.m. All details are explained on the enclosed order form. Further questions may be directed to Pat Findholt at 845-338-3137.



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Coming Soon!

The 2021 HHS Autumn Auction!

Held online this year, with a planned in person preview at the Museum, this year’s Autumn Auction will begin on Nov. 3 starting at 6 p.m. and end Nov. 14 at 8 p.m. Check our website in October for details about auction items.

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Museum Gift Shop News

The Museum shop now has the capability for you to charge your purchases! Come in and see our newly refurbished shop and merchandise. Many items are available online on our website, hurleyheritagesociety.org. We are featuring framed prints of many Winslow Homer paintings in our exhibit.

As always, HHS members receive a 10% discount on all purchases!

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

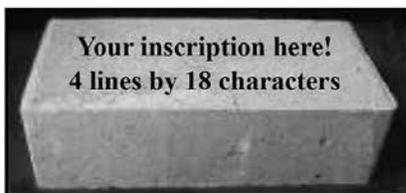
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KINGSTON, NY
12401

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 Form

Name _____

Address _____

State _____ Zip+4 _____

Phone _____

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- | | |
|---|----------|
| <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 Bill Ryan, wryan1@hvc.rr.com,
for IBM matching fund information.*

Send payment to:
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PO Box 1661
Hurley, NY 12443