



HURLEY HERITAGE SOCIETY

Prologue

"The past is prologue"

June 2022

Glenford

Old Hurley Founded 1662

West Hurley

Opening Weekend May 7–8

Our museum opened its door for visitors and supporters on Mother's Day weekend for the 2022 season. The weather was beautiful, and our Spring Lady Wilomena, created by Cathy Dumond, with the assistance of Pat Findholt, Flo Brandt, and Barbara Zell, silently welcomed our visitors. A free raffle for the gorgeous wreath designed by Barbara Schufeldt was won by Carol Slutsky, a first-time visitor. Sunday's reception with Sangria punch and homemade sweets was a pleasant and relaxing way to end the event.

Our current Winslow Homer exhibit includes copies of five additional paintings and wood engravings, related to Homer's visits to Hurley during the 1870s. The new pictures portray the daily lives of Black Hurley residents on or near Eagle's Nest and Hurley Mountain Road, including the young boy who appears in so many of Homer's works of this period. Gail Whistance, our curator, has added detailed explanations to each new painting or print.

The third season of our exhibit, "Winslow Homer's Hurley: An Artist's View," is right in step with "Winslow Homer: Crosscurrents," the major exhibition that just opened at The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, which focuses on his representation of race and gender during and after the Civil War.

Homer's unequalled talent travels in unpredictable directions and clearly, Hurley is one of them. Thank you, Gail Whistance, for making Hurley's Museum a place to visit and expand our knowledge of this remarkable artist.



Top: Entry hall and permanent Dutch exhibit room



Left: Wreath designed by Barbara Schufeldt



Below: Winslow Homer exhibit, Eagle's Nest section

Greetings, Members & Friends!

It is June, and I am reminded of the quote by James Russell Lowell c 1885, "What is so rare; as a day in June." Yes, we should be grateful for so many things, including our resilience to all the happenings over the past two years. Our museum has survived, thanks to our dedicated board and supporters. We have continued to think of the future and are planning events throughout the coming season. As these events occur, we will notify you on our Facebook page, our website (www.hurleyheritagesociety.org), and Constant Contact (email).

Primary on my agenda is the Board update and the elections that have been on hold since the Covid outbreak.

Our 2022 slate of officers is as follows: Dale Bohan, President; Raleigh Green, Vice President; Bill Ryan, Treasurer; Ellen Young, Recording Sectary; and Flo Brandt, Corresponding Secretary.

Trustees are Virginia Starke, Amy del Aguila, Pat Findholt, Judy Howard, Barbara Zell, Kathy McMahan, Mike Rice, and we welcome Diane Blakely. Joan Castka, Past President, also serves on the Board.

Normally, we vote on acceptance of the proposed slate of officers at an open meeting in November. Unfortunately, this was not possible in 2021.

We will be sending an online message via Constant Contact to our membership. Please take a minute to respond by checking the response box with your vote.

We cordially invite you to visit our museum, to browse, learn, take pictures, and enjoy.

My best,

Dale S. Bohan

President, Hurley Heritage Society

Dale7228@aol.com



WE NEED YOUR HELP — Volunteers Wanted!

There are many ways you can help the HHS and Museum, have some fun, and meet great people. And you can take pleasure in helping to maintain a cherished local treasure. You can join a committee, a task force, or just come and help one weekend afternoon! Opportunities to volunteer include building and grounds, events, museum shop, photography, exhibits, greeters, docents, membership, lectures, publications, and more!

If interested, contact us and let us know what you are interested by visiting hurleyheritagesociety.org/volunteer or calling us at 845-338-1661.



**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!**

Children's Story Time & Tea Party

Saturday, July 16 • 1:00–2:30 p.m.

**Sponsored by Hurley Heritage Society
and Hurley Library**

Bring your children and grandchildren to this fun event! Story time will start at 1 p.m. on the Library lawn, and a tea party will follow on the HHS Museum's lawn! Our tea party will include drinks and refreshments.

Registration is encouraged, but not required. Sign up at the library. No charge; donations accepted. If you have any questions, please contact Amy del Aguila at 301-606-5775.

Membership

This year we tried a new approach to paying yearly membership dues. We didn't send an actual letter; we included the membership form in the *Prologue*. If you missed it, you could still pay your dues either using the form in this month's *Prologue* or going online to HHS website. You can also drop off your membership at the gift shop on weekends. Thank you!

Your membership dues help us to offer programs and keep the museum running. If you aren't sure if you paid, please contact Barbara Zell at 845-338-7686 or Bzell1950@aol.com

The Eagle's Nesters: Beyond the Myths

Eagle's Nest is an area about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile from the village of Hurley, removed from the mainstream of life in the town. Eagle's Nest was inhabited by Indians during the time that Hurley was settled and many of them remained after most of the others had migrated West in the 1700s. The area was a haven for run-away slaves and those slaves that were spared by the Indians when they raided a farm. In addition, whites that were dissatisfied with town life settled there, as did, in later years, some quarry workers and canal men.

This account of the origins of the mixed-race community on Eagle's Nest Road from Olive Clearwater and John Hoffer in *Hurley in the Days of Slavery* (1986) is familiar to many people in Hurley. Unfortunately, these historians didn't include their sources. The story about enslaved people escaping bondage and forging alliances with dispossessed Esopus Munsee is a compelling myth—but is any of it true?

The Rosendale Theatre is attempting to answer this question in a project funded by the National Writing Project with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities called "The Eagle's Nesters: Beyond the Myths." The project has several components:

1. A website designed by Susan Stessin-Cohn, author of *In Defiance*, that will exhibit historical documents, photographs, and information relevant to the history of Eagle's Nest Road, as well as the mixed-race community from Lapala Road in Marletown
2. A blog where members of the project team, including Lorna Smedman, lead researcher, will post about old questions and new discoveries, and where members of the community can share stories and fill in gaps in the historical record



Sampson Snyder (1857-1916) on Eagle's Nest Road, approx. 1900. Photo courtesy of the Elmendorf Family archive.

3. A curriculum for local schools facilitated by Donna Dabney-Jeffress, a retired middle-school teacher who can trace her ancestry back to Lapala and Eagle's Nest Road
4. A theater production at the Rosendale Theatre in March 2023 written and directed by David Gonzalez based on the information gathered, including oral histories

The producer is Wendy Saul, who is a board member at the Theatre.

This grant makes possible a wonderful opportunity for the local community—including descendants, longtime Hurley residents, history buffs, and obsessive collectors of old documents and photographs—to take an active part in creating a more complete picture of a part of Hurley's history that has been shrouded in conjecture and mystery. Keep an eye out for the upcoming website and blog and don't hesitate to contact Wendy Saul (wendy@rosendaletheatre.org) or Lorna Smedman (ljsmedman@mindspring.com) if you have anything to share or want to participate.

— Lorna Smedman

Hurley Heritage Society
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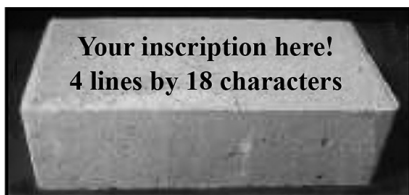
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OR CURRENT RESIDENT

HHS Heritage Walk

Make a donation of \$125 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 _____

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.

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