

HISTORIC PITTSFORD

fall, 2011

NEWSLETTER

MAJOR HARVEY E. LIGHT

by Vicki Profitt

A visit to Major Harvey E. Light's grave always draws a captive audience when Audrey Johnson and I give our annual Pittsford Cemetery tour in May. However, this year we managed to elicit gasps from the crowd when it was announced that a descendant of Major Light was in our midst. Doug Light, Harvey's great-great grandson, had traveled from his home in Texas to attend the tour. This was Doug's first trip to Pittsford, where he had come to pay tribute to the man so many admired.

Harvey E. Light's story began in 1834, when he was born at Fishkill-on-the-Hudson, the first child of blacksmith James Light and his wife, Maria Devine. The family moved to Fairport when Harvey was an infant. At a young age, Harvey left school to help support the family by working on the farm of Jesse Whitney, currently the location of the Fairport Baptist Home. He also worked on the Webster farm in Pittsford. Harvey may have met his future wife, Mary Helen Shepard, during this time. Mary Helen's father, Sylvester Shepard, was an early settler to Pittsford with his brother, William Shepard.

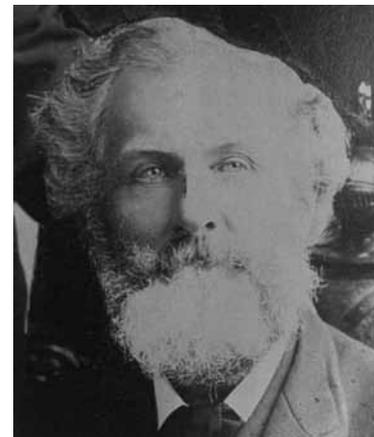
In 1852, James sold his land in Fairport to Daniel B. DeLand and moved the family, now consisting of nine children, to Greenville, Michigan. Harvey followed the family to Michigan in the mid-1850s where he worked as a nurseryman. Eventually, he bought his own farm and expanded his nursery business to include 300 acres of pine trees. Harvey returned to New York in 1861 to wed Mary Helen Shepard at the First Presbyterian Church in Pittsford. Together, they traveled to Michigan where Harvey was elected Sheriff of Montcalm County.

Soon after the birth of his first child in July 1863, Harvey was given permission to raise a company to join in the war effort. He hired a bugler, a snare drummer and a bass drummer to help "drum up" interest in the war enlistment meetings which were held throughout the area. Company E, 10th Michigan Cavalry went off to war with the newly commissioned Captain Harvey E. Light at its helm.

Much of Harvey's time with the 10th Michigan Cavalry was spent in the Knoxville, Tennessee, area. After a time, Harvey was sent back to Michigan to recruit more men. He must have been quite persuasive, for he managed to enlist his brother Dewitt to join Co. E. Younger brothers Edward and George served in the 8th Michigan Infantry. Amazingly, all four Light boys survived the war. Harvey E. Light was promoted to Major before mustering out on November 11, 1865.

Four more sons and a daughter were born to the Lights in the years following the Civil War. The family moved to Massachusetts in 1873, where Harvey had purchased a foundry, but returned to Pittsford several years later. They lived on the Shepard family homestead on East Avenue, which has since been razed. Harvey was very active in the community, serving throughout the years as an active member of the First Presbyterian church, a census taker, Grange member and Commander of the G.A.R. EJ Tyler Post #288, an organization composed of Civil War veterans.

Harvey continued to live on his farm after the death of his wife in 1902. It was there that Major Harvey E. Light died on September 17, 1921. He was buried at Pittsford Cemetery on his 87th birthday. A newspaper article announcing Major Harvey E. Light's death stated that "...in his character were to be found, in a large degree, the attributes of the gentlemen of the old school – courtesy, politeness, thoughtfulness for the welfare and successfulness of others, combined with sterling integrity...the example to be found in his life is one that might well be emulated by the young men of this generation."



Major Harvey E. Light



Doug Light, great, great grandson of Harvey Light

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Edited by Karen Hultz

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

As Summer fades and the days get short, I can't help but review the great seasons we have; real, and each one very different. Summer starts with our spectacular Memorial Day parade, followed by the Canal Days with all the boat activities,; the crew races, the visitors at the Port of Pittsford and the concert series on Friday evenings. Fall brings gorgeous colors, cool clear air, Positively Pittsford, busy activity in the Village. Winter brings Holiday cheers, Candle Light Night, and camaraderie. Doesn't a snow storm bring people together? I must admit, the snow and slush can be a bit much, but I still downhill ski and look forward to new powder. Then comes Spring, glorious new life, warmth again and days growing longer quickly.

We live here for the variety without the extremes, the beauty of the Village and Town is magnified by the seasonal changes. We're proud of our Town and our heritage which is constantly being watched and protected by "your" Historic Pittsford.

Our Issues Committee, ever diligent, is reporting to the Board any and all activity around Town for review and our Programs Committee is presenting new and interesting ideas for our members and the interested public. We constantly promote education of the history that influences our daily activity.

Together we can support and preserve our unique heritage. Thanks.

Sincerely,
Rusty Likly, **President**
Historic Pittsford

HAAS BEQUEST

by Peter Webster, Treasurer

Historic Pittsford is pleased to announce the receipt of a bequest from the Beryl Haas estate. Mrs. Haas was a very active preservationist. She was a Historic Pittsford Board member, a strong Universalist Church supporter, and an active member of the Cobblestone Society of Western New York. Mrs. Haas died in 2008, one year short of her one hundredth birthday.

Mr. Haas, who preceded Beryl Haas in death, was also a Historic Pittsford Board member and the Pittsford Planning Board Chairman for many years under Supervisor Paul Spiegel. Mr. Haas was an avid antique clock restorer and collector, a successful engineer at Eastman Kodak Co, and gardener on their five acre estate.

Mr. and Mrs. Haas resided at 3685 Monroe Ave. for over fifty years. Their carpenter- built house was constructed in 1922 and during those many happy years there, they purchased a double and a single tourist cabin which were located across the street and moved onto their property. The cabins are still located there to this day. These cabins, when active, rented for .75 cents a night per person.

Across the street from the Haas home was the Teute residence and greenhouses. This is the property where the Pittsford Garden Apartments now stand.

Historic Pittsford is very grateful to both Mr. and Mrs. Haas for their generous bequest. They were also very generous to other preservation groups in New York State .

Their donation will enhance our work in promoting the preservation and restoration of Pittsford's history and historic resources through community education and advocacy.

We hope that others will consider Historic Pittsford when contemplating their estate planning wishes.

NEW BOOK ABOUT PITTSFORD

Pittsford Town Historian, Audrey Johnson and Vicki Profitt are writing a book about Pittsford, but we need your help! We are looking for pre-1950's, original photos of Pittsford's people and places. Photos will be scanned in and returned. If you have photos you would like to share, please contact Vicki Profitt at 585-382-2232 or vprofitt@rochester.rr.com or stop in at the Little House.

www.historicpittsford.com

Historic Pittsford Statement of Purpose

Historic Pittsford is a not-for-profit organization chartered and incorporated under the New York State Department of Education. Committed to the preservation of Pittsford's rich heritage of nineteenth and twentieth century architecture and the special character and sense of place it has provided, Historic Pittsford also faces the complexities of today.

Visit us on Facebook!

STUART 1921-2011

by Joe Maxey

The Village just doesn't seem the same somehow. There were days when a walk to the library would result in meeting up with Stuart Bolger who was replenishing his reading stock. Or one might say "Hi" to both Nancy and Stuart at the concerts on the canal. Even if Stuart wasn't visible for weeks at a time, there was the comfort in knowing that he was somewhere in the old Steele house or at the Genesee Country Village that he loved so much. Oh, Nancy is as beloved as ever, but Stuart made a person chuckle without saying anything. When he did have something to say, he had his special way of entering a conversation sideways.

Many of us who have lived in Pittsford and who have belonged to Historic Pittsford treasured the times we would share with him. His presentations of building stone walls or stories of the early baseball teams would invariably have his audiences both better educated and humorously entertained. It seems that anyone who knew Stuart, even casually, had their own favorite stories about him.

We are so much richer for having known our friend, Stuart Bolger.

ANNUAL MEETING

Historic Pittsford's annual meeting was held Sunday, July 10 at the beautiful home of Erin and Anthony Daniele on Monroe Ave. After tours of the house and a picnic supper of hot dogs and catered salads, the business portion of the meeting began.

Peter Webster, treasurer, gave his semi-annual financial report as of 8/31/2011.

Peter reported to the membership that our primary source of income is annual dues from our 300+ members. This averages \$7400-\$8200/year. In the current year 2011, as of August 31, we are somewhat behind in dues with only \$6600 collected to date. In addition to dues we produce about \$3000/year from the sale of publications of books, brochures and the barn poster. We also average five programs a year. Our primary expenses of around \$11,000 per year are for the cost of the publications we sell, and the cost of maintaining and staffing the Little House. We currently operate at an annual loss of about \$1000/year because of current low interest rates on our CD investments. Per recent approval by the Board, we will begin in early October investing about 66% of our approximately \$45,000 of funds in the Vanguard STAR mutual fund, the rest continuing to be in short term CDs and a checking account. Please feel free to call Peter at 586-4765 with any questions.

This year's preservation Achievement Awards were presented to Danny Page, an Eagle Scout, for his restorative work on the Pittsford United Church and to Gene Cardamone for his tasteful renovation of 10 Lincoln Ave.

The slate of HP Board members was presented. Two new members were elected to the Board: Lanie Bittner and Shelly O'Brien. The Board's officers will remain the same.

Bonnie Salem gave an issues committee report, describing three major issues that are being monitored at this time: the development of 75 Monroe Ave (the old Monoco site),

the St. Louis church application to move their property line and the Town's proposal to significantly change their zoning regulations.

The meeting concluded with dessert and conversation.



Gene Cardamone accepting the HP Preservation Achievement Award

Home of Erin and Anthony Daniele



Annual Meeting Picnic

UPCOMING EVENTS

Cemetery Tour

Saturday, October 15, 2011

10 am at the Pioneer burying Ground

Hosted by Audrey Johnson and Vicki Proffitt

Day of the Dead

Sunday, October 30, 2011

6:30 pm at the Pioneer Burying Ground

We are resurrecting the Day of the Dead! Join us on Sunday, October 30th at 6:30 pm as we speak with the spirits of Stephen and Sarah Lusk, Colonel Caleb Hopkins and other fascinating citizens of early Pittsford. Elihu Doud, Pittsford's brick maker, will make an appearance, as will several other new charac-

ters. Please dress warmly and bring a flashlight. This event is open to the public.

Candlelight Night

Tuesday, December 6,
2011

4:00-9:00 pm

Village of Pittsford

**Be sure to stop by the
Little House to say
hello during your
holiday stroll through
the Village.**

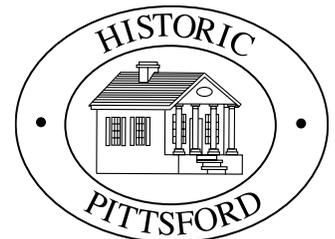


Little House Office and Museum

18 Monroe Ave., Pittsford, NY 14534 / 381-2941

Open: Wednesday and Saturday 9am-12noon

Dorothy Meusburger, Secretary



18 MONROE AVENUE
PITTSFORD, NY 14534