



HISTORIC PITTSFORD

Winter 2014 NEWSLETTER

THE SUTHERLAND FAMILY OF PITTSFORD

by Audrey Maxfield Johnson

Almost all of those who live in Pittsford, either the town or village, even long or short time residents, have heard the name Sutherland, and know the street or the school. Perhaps you have wondered about the name and how it came that a family was represented by naming a street after them. I would suggest you consult pages 19 & 20 in the recently published book – “Images of America – PITTSFORD.”

On page 19, you will find a likeness of Ebenezer Sutherland who was born in Columbia County, 1793, just shortly after our community was organized as the town of Northfield in 1789. He and his bride, Gertrude Husted and 2 small sons boarded a packet boat on the Erie Canal in 1824 headed



Isaac Sutherland

to the farthest western point – Rochester. The Sutherland and Husted parents had provided money to purchase a large amount of land in the town of Pittsford that had been owned by Glover Perrin and extended from French Road east to Washington Avenue in the village.

The two small boys, Isaac and Jay Lewis, were joined by five more children. Jay died as a young adult, but Isaac grew and thrived in his community. He entered the political circle and was Pittsford’s Justice of the Peace and Town Assessor for over 30 years, as well as being appointed Sheriff of Monroe County and holding other offices in Pittsford and the County of Monroe.

Isaac married Gulielma Wilber in 1851. The marriage was held in the parlor of 42 Monroe Avenue. The couple had eight children together, which included six daughters, one son and a stillborn infant. The family lived in that home for many years and remodeled it into a grand home. The son, Charles W., married Sarah Ardella Ladd who had family connections in Greece, New York, so that is where

they chose to live. However, Charles loved his childhood home and visited it as often as possible.

The girls – Cora, Mary, Susan, Jane (Jennie), Anna and Sarah (Sadie) - were very sports minded. They organized a tennis club and played vigorously on a grass court located about where the Messner carpet building today.

But my favorite picture of the Sutherland family is that of Jennie and



Sadie on page 20 of the book. There we see the two sisters engaged in deep conversation. Do you suppose they were discussing who had the better chore of the day – that of gathering vegetables or sweeping the front stoop? Or could it be that Jennie, on a trip around the village, had just heard some amazing gossip? Were their voices raised in disagreement or were they whispering choice bits of news? They are standing very near the front door of their home at 42 Monroe Avenue and so in plain view of anyone who might be passing by. Many mothers would appear on that scene admonishing her daughters to stop the arguing and do it in the back yard!

I am afraid we may never know but it is a charming picture depicting the fashions of the time and the exterior of the home of a well-to-do family.

We may choose some other of our favorite pictures in that book – so stay tuned!



42 Monroe Avenue

Photographs courtesy of Charles Lenhart

SPOTLIGHT - SUZANNE SHAW

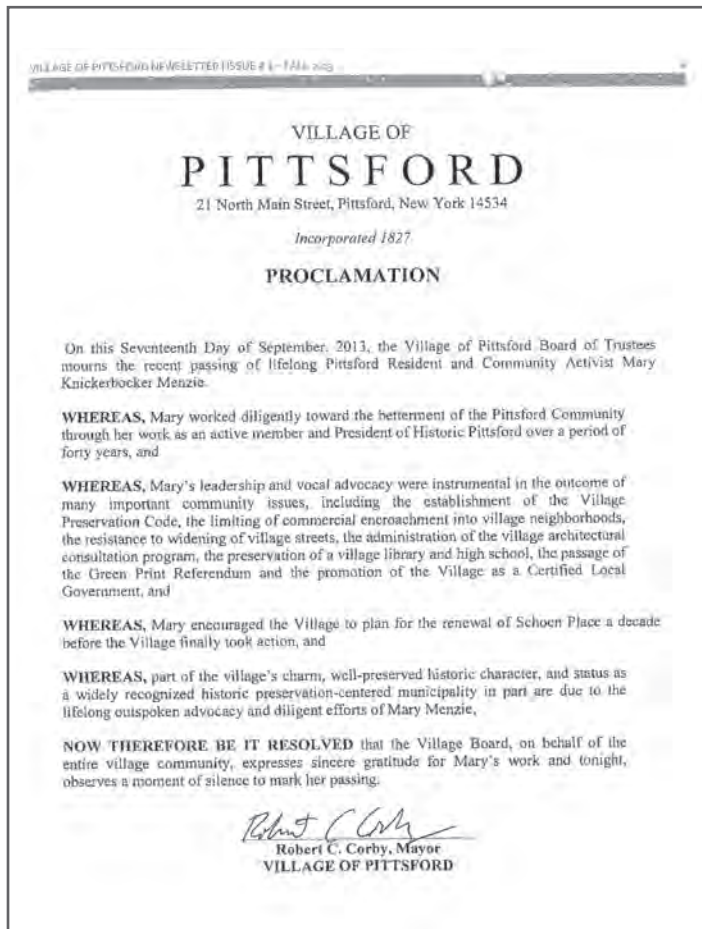
Suzanne Wondergem Shaw is a native of Pittsford and graduated from Pittsford High School. Her father, Howard Wondergem, was the Deputy Sheriff of Pittsford when Suzanne was a young child. She married and raised her family in West Webster before moving back to Pittsford in 1996. In her spare time, Suzanne volunteers for hospice through Lifetime Care, takes tap dancing lessons and meditation classes. Suzanne recently retired from Strong Memorial Hospital, where she worked in the operating room specializing in ophthalmology. Retirement has given Suzanne a chance to do many interesting things, and she looks forward to serving on the Board of Historic Pittsford.

SPOTLIGHT - MARK GREENE

Mark Greene, the great-great-great grandson of Colonel Caleb Hopkins, grew up in Egypt, New York. As a teenager, he spent much of his time on the Hopkins farm. After graduating from Paul Smith's College with a degree in Forestry, he went on to receive a Bachelor's Degree in Crop Science and a Master's Degree in Agronomy from the University of Wyoming. In 1977, Mark returned to his roots and has since become the owner and operator of the 357-acre Hopkins farm located on Clover Street. Mark previously served on the Town of Pittsford Planning Board and on the Environmental Board. He is currently a member of the Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation and Monroe County Farmland Protection boards.



Little House Office and Museum
18 Monroe Ave., Pittsford, NY 14534 / 381-2941
Open: Wednesday and Saturday 9am-12noon
www.HistoricPittsford.com
Dorothy Meusburger, Secretary



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Historic Pittsford Achievement Awards

Historic Pittsford annually recognizes individuals and/or organizations who have made an outstanding contribution to the preservation of the history and character of the village and/or Town of Pittsford. Eligible candidates include individuals, groups, organizations, businesses, students, scouts, government bodies, etc. Nomination forms are available on our website at www.historicpittsford.com and should be sent to the Little House, 18 Monroe Avenue, Pittsford 14534 by April 1. Individuals may make multiple submissions.

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE AWARD

The Barker-Knickerbocker Farm on Mendon Center Road in Pittsford was recently honored by the Landmark Society of Western New York with the Historic Landscape Award. This award “recognizes and encourages the preservation, restoration and stewardship of historically significant landscapes”. The Barker-Knickerbocker farm has remained in the same family for over 150 years. Mary Knickerbocker Menzie was the fifth generation of the family to reside there, devotedly and lovingly maintaining the property until she passed away in September, 2013. The farmstead complex features two distinctive residences as well as historic horse, dairy and grain barns, a wood silo, a weigh station, smoke house and pond. In 1994, it was designated a local historic landmark by the Town of Pittsford. In 1999, the farmland was forever protected for agriculture with the Town’s purchase of the development rights. Photos of the farm and a description of the award are available on the Landmark Society website at <http://landmarksociety.org/>

ARCHITECTURAL CONSULTATION PROGRAM

For almost 30 years, Historic Pittsford has sponsored an award-winning program, in partnership with Bero Architecture, which provides free architectural consultation to homeowners. The consultation most often involves exterior architectural changes and projects which should be addressed in the early stages. Basic structural problems such as water damage, roof leaks, and chimney and gutter issues can also be addressed. The program includes an on-site consultation and follow up written report and does not obligate homeowners for future services. This program is available to owners of any property in the Village of Pittsford regardless of age, properties in the Town of Pittsford designated as landmarks or inventoried and eligible for designation as landmarks, and any property in the Town of Pittsford built prior to 1902. For additional information or to request an architectural consultation, please contact Bonnie Salem, Historic Pittsford Board Member, at 586-2764.

PRESIDENT’S CORNER - Preservation Matters

2013 has drawn to a close, but I wish to provide an update on Historic Pittsford’s preservation efforts over the last few months. The Board of Trustees and its committees continue to further an agenda that emphasizes the irreplaceable nature of our historic architecture, landscapes and resources.

Several new projects have held our attention, with two being especially impactful for different reasons. In both projects, the respective planning boards have approved preliminary site plans despite what we believe to be unresolved issues:

- Development of the former Monoco Oil site at 75 Monroe Avenue for a 167-unit apartment complex on 8 acres at the edge of Pittsford Village, itself an historic district. Historic Pittsford has expressed concern regarding numerous process issues and the ‘environmental’ impact of the proposed development on the historic district and canal location.
- Development of 18 acres behind the former Francis Mitchell home on 55 Mitchell Road for a residential subdivision on a cul-de-sac, the first subdivision to be approved under the Town of Pittsford’s new RN zoning, where the context of existing neighborhoods and resources must be considered by developers. Historic Pittsford has taken a position that the Francis Mitchell farmstead and surrounding neighborhoods are not being adequately considered under the new zoning code.

Several of our board and members of Historic Pittsford spoke before the town planning board, including former HP president Mary Knickerbocker Menzie.

Mary’s public speaking in June and preparing doggedly for the annual meeting in July were her last efforts on behalf of Historic Pittsford before she passed away in September after an incredibly courageous battle with cancer. That happened to be the evening of my first HP board meeting as President... We missed her presence that night and will into the foreseeable future. I have learned so much from Mary and others who have been vigilantly committed to historic preservation. She is one of those individuals who has truly made a difference for our community.

As we welcome 2014, Historic Pittsford will continue to advocate for historic preservation issues, and we will also be announcing new programs and initiatives currently being developed by the HP Board of Directors. Our theme for 2014 programs and exhibits will be FAMILY throughout the eras of Pittsford’s existence. As always, we look for your suggestions and participation in advocacy and education.

In the mean time, we wish for you, your family and our community, a healthy, prosperous year to come.

Best,
Margaret Caraberis Brizee, President Historic Pittsford

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, February 26th at 7:00 p m. at the United Church of Pittsford

Lawyer Lincoln's Last Trial

In this first ever commercial presentation of the movie "Go Down, Moses", Historic Pittsford board member David Minor portrays President Abraham Lincoln. The late Otis Young wrote and produced the film featuring an imaginary courtroom drama in which Abraham Lincoln went on trial to defend his historical image as the Great Emancipator. The movie was filmed in the 1990s in a courtroom of the Ontario County Courthouse with a completely amateur cast.

Young asked David to play the Lincoln role while he himself played the judge.

Your donation of canned goods for the Food Cupboard will be gratefully accepted at the door. The United Church of Pittsford is located at 123 South Main Street at the corner of Sunset Blvd.

Sunday, April 27th at 2:00 p m.;

Tentatively scheduled at the Pittsford Community Library

"Peppermint Summer Author Appearance"

Historic Pittsford is pleased to welcome author Pat Gorthy, who will be on hand to discuss and sign copies of her children's book, *Peppermint Summer*. The book tells the story of ten-year-old Emily Taylor who travels on the Erie Canal from Rochester to Lyons in 1860 to help her grandparents on their peppermint farm. The paperback book will be available for \$10.80, with cash or checks accepted.



Saturday, June 14th

Positively Pittsford

Look for Historic Pittsford's booth at Positively Pittsford! We'll have fun projects for kids to create.

Sunday, July 13th; location and time to be determined

HP's Annual Meeting and Picnic

We are eyeing a special venue for this year's picnic. Stay tuned for more information about this annual event, which is open to members of Historic Pittsford.

Wednesday, October 22nd at 7:00 p m; location to be determined

"Murder and Mayhem in Mendon and Honeoye Falls:

"Murderville" in Victorian New York"

Presented by Diane Ham and Lynne Menz

Join us for an evening of intrigue as Mendon Town Historian Diane Ham and Honeoye Falls Village Historian Lynne Menz discuss and sign copies of their book, *Murder and Mayhem in Mendon and Honeoye Falls: "Murderville" in Victorian New York*.

Tuesday, December 2nd from 5:30-8:30 p m. at Historic Pittsford's Little House

Candlelight Night

Our own Little House, located at 18 Monroe Avenue, will once again be aglow with Christmas lights and smiling faces as we welcome visitors in for treats, history and a special visit by Mrs. Claus.

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18 MONROE AVENUE
PITTSFORD, NY 14534