

HISTORIC PITTSFORD

Fall 2018 NEWSLETTER

THE HISTORY OF LONG MEADOW

from an article written by Jean Ferris and John Parker in 2005



Long Meadow

Many people drive past the entrance to Long Meadow as they head toward the village of Pittsford without realizing the history that lies in that area between French Road and the canal bridge. In the early 1900's, the "Avenue" was a two-lane dirt road shaded by an occasional tree with a scattering of houses along the way. The trolley system, which ran adjacent to the avenue, brought people from metropolitan downtown Rochester to the village of Pittsford and beyond. It wasn't long before people were attracted to the area: the first subdivision laid out in Monroe County.

Long Meadow is a unique area because of its large lots and the many architectural styles of homes that are represented in the neighborhood. Among the varied styles are bungalows, cottage-style and colonial revival, such as the brick home at 191 Long Meadow Circle. Located at 212 Westbrook Road is an art deco house built completely of Portland cement, including the beams that support this international-style house. A Sears Roebuck prefab California bungalow type house can be found at 4 Westbrook Road.

In 1969, Mrs. Conner, a long-time resident of 200 East Brook Road, gathered material to be presented at a Long Meadow Club meeting. Her noteworthy documentation on some of the early history of Long Meadow is well worth repeating.

Mr. Calkins built one of the first houses in the tract for himself at 80 Long Meadow Circle. Another house, known as Twin Gables, was built by Mr. Pratt at 3577 Monroe Avenue. The Duryea house at 189 East Brook Road was built in 1911, but caught fire when the family was leaving for church one Sunday morning. Many neighbors formed a bucket brigade in an unsuccessful effort to save the house. Mr. Pierce Rylott rebuilt this house that was later purchased by Mr. Arthur Rochow. Mr. Rochow was the inventor of the Swirl Mixer as well as other gadgets that still bear his name.

Mr. Pratt seems to have been the builder of Long Meadow, which was advertised as "Long Meadow Bungalow Sites". An example of his elaborate style can be seen at the corner of Monroe Avenue and East Brook Road that he built in order to sell. In addition to this house, he built a house for himself just on the other side of the first one, at 255 East Brook Road. Mr. Pratt dug the pond and built an icehouse where he stored ice that was cut from the pond. Until recently, the pond served as an ice skating rink and was enjoyed by many generations of skaters and hockey players, including former Town Supervisor, Bill Carpenter. Mr. Pratt later sold his home to Clarence Smith, the former Monroe County Supervisor in the late '30's and early 40's.

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



Mr. Pratt also built a home for Mr. Edward C. Mills at 180 Long Meadow Circle. Mr. Mills developed a system of handwriting that was used in the elementary schools throughout the county, known as the Mills System of Business Writing.

A large brick house was erected on Crofts Road. It is the only house on this short road. The Ned Croft family lived there for many years and numerous Long Meadow Club meetings, parties and annual dinners were held on the second floor ballroom of their home. Entertainment, such as plays, minstrel shows and dances, were often included in these gatherings. The indoor swimming pool, located under the long front porch, was also an attraction.

The house at 3536 Monroe Avenue was built for Mr. Irving Crump and his family of seven children. First, the children burned down the barn and the following year, the house burned. Gus White's house at 3593 Monroe Avenue was built in 1914. One of the owners, the Lowenguth family, maintained a wonderful imported apple orchard and stabled a pony, much to the delight of the neighborhood children.

Ed and Beryl Haas purchased the house located at 3685 Monroe Avenue that was built in 1922. A double and single tourist cabin were also located on this property which rented for 75 cents a night per person. Just across the street was the Teute residence and greenhouses. This is the property where the Pittsford Garden Apartments now stand. Near the Teutes was the Kassel home, where former Public Works Commissioner Al Kassel helped his father erect a barn. The barn and home were both demolished to build Carriage Court.

The Connor home, at 200 East Brook Road, was built in 1930. The builders referred to this site as "Frog Puddle" because the property was in a low-lying area.

The early roads into Pittsford were dusty or muddy depending upon the weather. Early Long Meadow commuters put on their boots and trudged through the snow and mud to take the trolley into the city. The trolley shelter was located directly across the entrance to Long Meadow. People would leave their boots there in the morning and put them back on when they returned to Pittsford for the walk back to their homes. A photo of the area, taken around 1910, shows the lanes, scattered houses, the space and the lack of trees...after all, this was a *Long Meadow*.

THE LITTLE HOUSE NEEDS A LITTLE HELP



At the annual meeting in July, Historic Pittsford officially launched its campaign to raise \$25,000 for restoration, repair and maintenance of HP's headquarters called the "Little House".

Built in 1819, the Little House will be celebrating its 200th birthday in 2019. While it has aged well under the care and stewardship of Historic Pittsford, it is now in need of significant work requiring professional assistance.

Our target of \$25,000 will go toward the restoration of original columns on the front porch, restoration of an original window and window sash, painting of the exterior, acquisition of ten

HOLIDAY SHOPPING AT THE LITTLE HOUSE

Historic Pittsford's Little House is a great place to shop for the holidays. We sell a special edition Pittsford sweatshirt, numerous books on local history, limited edition puzzles of the Pittsford area and note cards. We also sell a beautiful poster of the historic barns in Pittsford. Stop by Wednesdays or Saturdays from 9 to noon, give us a call at 381-2941 or visit us on Candlelight night on Tuesday, December 4 from 5:30-8pm.

SHOP AT AMAZON, SUPPORT HISTORIC PITTSFORD

Historic Pittsford is now registered with Amazon Smile. Log onto <https://smile.amazon.com>, choose Historic Pittsford as your charitable organization and shop! 5% of the price of your eligible purchases will be donated to Historic Pittsford. Remember us as you do all of your holiday shopping!

vintage shutters, interior repairs and improvements and repair and re-staining of the wood shingle roof.

We hope you can give us a little help. Donations can be mailed to: Historic Pittsford, Restoration Campaign, 18 Monroe Ave., Pittsford, NY 14534. If you prefer to make an electronic contribution with a credit card, you may do so on our website at www.historicpittsford.com.

Historic Pittsford appreciates your help!

(Campaign update: as of Sept.30, we have raised \$1,068.00 of our \$25,000 goal).

PRESIDENT'S CORNER - PRESERVATION MATTERS

As Fall 2018 sets in, the Historic Pittsford (HP) Board of Directors has begun implementing an ambitious agenda for 2018-2019. Next year will be an extra special one because the HP headquarters will be 200 years old! Thus, the coming year will be the Year of the Little House and the theme will be "The Little House Needs a Little Help". First mentioned at the HP Annual Meeting in July, the \$25,000 Capital Campaign, The Little House Needs a Little Help, has been developed to fund a complete 'facelift' and restoration. Updates and progress reports will be issued as to the funding goals as well as the Little House restoration.

Deferred for too long, during the first week in October, the exterior of the building will be prepped and painted in colors appropriate for the age of the building, similar to the present palette. As you may know, over the past year, the one original window on the East side of the Little House was beautifully and completely restored by Steve Jordan. Two of the original solid wood columns have been restored by expert Jim Turner; with two more to go. As you might expect, this work is not inexpensive; but the result is exceptional and fitting.

Throughout the coming year, the HP Board will be providing some great programming. This Fall there will be at least two programs referenced elsewhere in this newsletter: the history of the Cobblestone School (October 29) and a presentation on the local Wells Barns (November 4). And the first Tuesday evening in December will be the annual Candlelight Night in the Village when hundreds of children and parents come through the Little House to see Mrs. Claus! The Board is also contemplating another Speakers Series for the Winter months. Stay tuned...

Fulfilling our mission of advocacy for historic preservation, HP board and members are ever-present at various municipal board meetings across Pittsford, speaking on preservation issues and offering comment at public hearings and taking positions in writing. Projects and initiatives drawing current attention are the following:

- The Masonic Lodge sold the Cobblestone School on Church Street in the Village to a developer who intends to convert it to a residence for re-sale. He will be going before the Village PZBA and APRB in early October. Historic Pittsford has been asked to comment.
- Demolition in the Town: At the recommendation of the Town's Design Review and Historic Preservation Board (DRHPB) and with the support of Historic Pittsford, the Town Board has authorized the crafting of a demolition code to avert the loss of historic properties not 'on the radar' as historic. In addition, the code would require that a replacement structure be approved by the DRHPB before demolition of any property would be accomplished.
- Town Comprehensive Plan Update: Members of the HP board serve on the Steering Committee that is drafting the document. Unlike the previous plan, historic preservation and protection of remaining agricultural land are themes emphasized in this draft. There will be a public input session this Fall to help develop final plans for future land use, which you are encouraged to attend and participate.
- Village Comprehensive Plan Update: As with the Town plan update, HP Board members serve on the Village Comp Plan Update Steering Committee. The Village Board is updating the Historic Preservation Code to track with the State's model code. Simultaneously, the Steering Committee has identified "historic preservation" as a central theme throughout its deliberations, as the entire village is a local historic district; and most of the village is a District on the National Register of Historic Places. This Fall there will be a public workshop addressing, among other areas, the Erie Canal / Waterfront throughout the Village. Village residents will be notified of time and place...
- 75 Monroe Avenue: After having "mass and scale" issues lingering in the Court of Justice Ark for over 18 months, recently the judge issued a ruling against the Architectural Preservation and Review Board (APRB). Among other decisions, Ark ruled "the APRB shall immediately issue a Certificate of Approval". In light of this possibly precedent-setting decision and unresolved questions, to date the APRB has not determined a next course of action...

This Fall promises to be a very busy three months. Members and friends of Historic Pittsford are of course invited to participate with the HP Board and its various committees, especially: Little House / Technology; Programs / Education; and Membership. Board meetings are the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm at Village Hall.

The Little House Needs a Little Help is truly not just about the Capital Campaign, but about the needs of Historic Pittsford in fulfilling its mission. It is hoped that, through the campaign, Historic Pittsford will achieve a higher profile, positively clarify its advocacy mission to the general public, and attract new members committed to preservation. Founded over 50 years ago, Historic Pittsford remains attentive to its mission and sincerely grateful for the support of its members.

Best,

Peggy Caraberis Brizee
President, Historic Pittsford
historicpittsford@gmail.com

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Visit us at: www.historicpittsford.com

HP's ANNUAL MEETING

Historic Pittsford's annual meeting was held on Sunday, July 22 in the "vintage rooms" at Monroe's restaurant. These rooms are located in the original part of the building that owner Kathy Mott has painstakingly restored.

After appetizers, a cash bar and buffet supper, the business meeting took place. Highlights of the meeting included the following:

-President Peggy Brizee announced that HP is launching a campaign to raise \$25,000 to restore windows and columns on the Little House as well as paint the exterior. Artist Doug Potter has made a replica of the Little House to be raffled off at a later date. Funds from the raffle will go toward this campaign.

-The family of Bill Remley, organizer of the Walnut Hill Farm Carriage Expo, donated a number of copies of the book that Bill wrote and published about the Walnut Hill event. Attendees at the annual meeting each received a copy of this book

-Treasurer Suzanne Shaw gave her report. Total expenses for the fiscal year of 2017-18 were \$13,270.74 and income was \$6,971.51. The transfer of \$7,000 from the Vanguard fund was necessary to meet expenses.

-Audrey Johnson reported that HP has received a generous donation from Dr. & Mrs. Klonek in memory of John Parker and Jean Ferris.

-JoAnne Shannon presented the nominating committee report. Many thanks went to Lanie Bittner for all of her work with HP as she goes off the board. Tom Cummings will be joining the board and the remaining officers and members at large will remain the same.

-Audrey Johnson presented the \$500 Jean France scholarship to Jon Beldner. HP's preservation award was not given out this year.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Monday, October 29: 7-8pm at Pittsford Library Pittsford's Cobblestone Academy

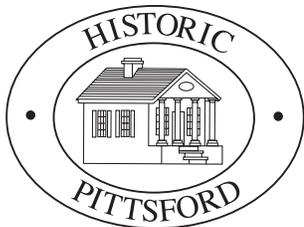
The history of Pittsford's Cobblestone Academy and its creator, Samuel Lee Crump, highlights the region's unique architectural legacy as well as the life of one of the village's early residents. Presented by Joni Mack Monroe, the great great granddaughter of Samuel Crump. No registration is required.

Sunday, November 4: 2-3:30pm at Pittsford Library Barn building legacy of J.T. Wells & Sons

With no formal training as an architect, John Talcott Wells, Sr., a native of Wheatland NY, patented an innovative arched truss system in 1889. Freed of the obstacles previously presented by post and beam construction, farmers could roll their hay wagons directly inside a Wells barn, drastically improving their efficiency. Today, fewer than 50 Wells Barns exist. Learn about the Wells Barn Legacy Project, whose aim is to document and preserve the remaining Wells barns. Presented by Katie Andres, Barbara Chapman and Dick Thomas. No registration is required.

Tuesday, December 4: 5:30-8pm - Candlelight Night

Be sure to stop by the Little House, 18 Monroe Ave, on candlelight night to grab a treat and visit with Mrs. Claus.



18 MONROE AVENUE
PITTSFORD, NY 14534

2018/2019

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