

ALMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

May/June/July 2011 Editor—Donna Ryan Asst. Editor—Lindsay Palmer Est. 1965

UPCOMING EVENTS

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL
MONDAY JUNE 20, 2011

5 P.M. TIL ???

HAGADORN HOUSE LAWN

NEEDED: CLEAN
COOL WHIP CONTAINERS
AND WORKERS:

CALL: HAZEL BRACKEN
607-276-2673
TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS

NEXT MEETING:
SUNDAY, SEPT. 18, 2011

OPEN HOUSE 2-5 P.M.

PROGRAM 3 P.M.

“LABOR OF LOVE:
ENTERING A PET
SITTER’S WORLD”

CHRYSTAL DODGE,
ALFRED STATION

WELCOME TO OUR NEW LIFE MEMBERS:

DENNIS AND ELLEN GEORGE

BRAD HAGER,
HAGER ENGINEERING

ANNA MORFORD

SHARON DRAKE ORCUTT

LYLE BARRON

DON AND SANDY WASHBURN

TED FENNER: SINGING IN THE WILDERNESS

COMPILED BY DONNA B. RYAN

Ed note: This past spring, we were contacted by Mary-Ann Cateforis of Potsdam, New York, a friend of the late Ted Fenner (1919-2000), son of Grace Coleman Fenner Houck (1878-1959), who was a descendant of Joseph Coleman, one of Almond’s original settlers. After visiting on the phone with Mary-Ann, she agreed to send copies of Ted’s writings for the AHS archives, namely “Singing in the Wilderness” and “Tour From Tinnian” (Ted’s experiences during WW II). When the package arrived, it also contained copies of Grace’s diaries from 1917, 1927, 1928, 1930 and 1944. She noted that she had sent the original(s) to a relative, Bruce Coleman.

Mary-Ann was a longtime friend of Ted and his wife, Lee. Shortly after Lee’s passing, Mary-Ann came to Alfred with her husband, who was attending a conference. She planned a trip to visit the Sand Hill (Fairview) Cemetery, where the couple was buried. Her letter, written at the time, reads, in part: “Almond (population 458), a few miles east of Alfred, is Ted’s hometown. His mother, Grace Coleman, spent most of her life here. The village as I drove through felt quiet and rural. A couple of miles east of Almond on Karr Valley Road, I easily found Fairview Cemetery.

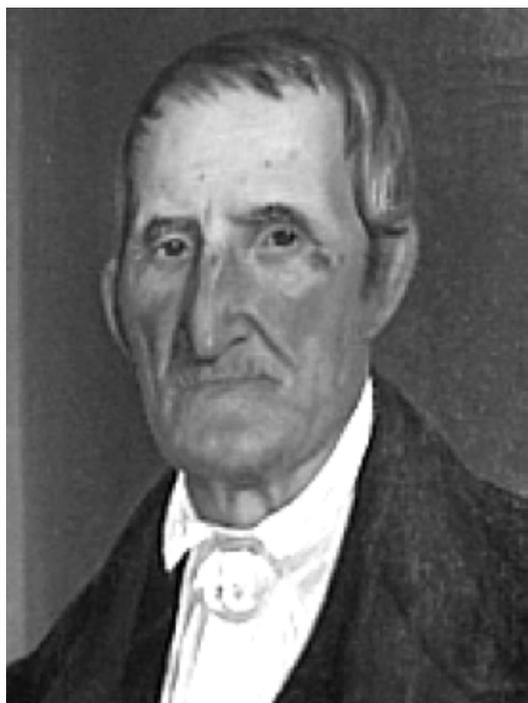
“As I stood there on Sand Hill, a lone rooster crowed somewhere off across the valley. The tall white monument in the left background of the horizontal photo bears the names of Ted’s grandparents and his mother, Grace. Grace’s grave is just five or six feet from Ted and Lee’s. From all I’ve heard about her, Grace was a good woman, much loved. Lee was very fond of her. Another tall white Coleman monument is in the right foreground. So this burial place is where Ted’s ashes should be, surrounded by the bones of his ancestors.”

EXCERPTS FROM TED FENNER’S “SINGING IN THE WILDERNESS”

In the spring of 1797, several families living in Wyoming Valley, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, bade farewell to friends and relatives, boarded their flat-bottomed boats, and headed upstream on the Susquehanna River. Their destination lay in the wilderness of what was then known as the Genesee country of New York State.

TED FENNER: SINGING IN THE WILDERNESS CONT...

The migrants already had some knowledge of that destination. The preceding year, four of them – Andrew Gray, Moses Van Campen (see AHS newsletters Oct/Nov/Dec 2006, Jan/Feb/Mar 2007, Spring/Summer 2007), Joseph A. Rathbun, and Matthew McHenry – had made a preliminary survey of the adjoining valleys where they and others were to make their homesteads. Each had selected his own plot, cut some timber, and sowed winter wheat for harvest the following spring.



The group was fortunate to include Van Campen (pictured left), 37, woodsman, Indian fighter, and surveyor. He had already penetrated deeply into Iroquois country when he accompanied General Sullivan's punitive expedition against the Senecas in 1779. Then in 1782, while fighting renegade Indians, he was captured and taken to the Indian village of Caneadea in Western New York, kept prisoner for a time, and finally turned over to the British, who brought him to Montreal and later released him in an exchange of prisoners. Margaret McClure, his wife, now accompanied him.

The leader of the settlers, however, was Gray, 37, a veteran of several campaigns of the Revolution and minister of the Dutch Reformed Church. In fact, the group would not have migrated without him. He was accompanied on this trip by his brother, William. The group also included Joseph Coleman, 26, a carpenter, whose experience must have been invaluable to the settlers, and Judge Christopher Hurlburt, another veteran of the Revolution.

Other passengers were Rathbun, a schoolteacher, who brought along his wife, Priscilla, his daughter, Martha, and his sons, John and Lazarus. Matthew McHenry was now

accompanied by his elder brother, Henry, who may have been accompanied by his wife, Mary Rathbun. Matthew, at 22, was the youngest of the settlers. But he left his wife, Anna, and children at home in Wyoming Valley until the following year. In addition to Priscilla and Martha Rathbun, the indefatigable "Grandma" Margaret Karr, midwife, completed the group.

The party slowly made its way upstream. At least two boats – perhaps three or four – were necessary for this number. The Durham boats were in common use on the Susquehanna since about 1750: eight feet wide, 16 feet long, and very shallow, with pointed bow and stern. They had to be rowed or polled against the current, which must have been a slow and grueling task. Aboard were parcels of clothing, tools, utensils, crates of live fowls, and enough food staples to last several months. Along the banks were driven oxen, cows (usually one each to a family), pigs, and perhaps horses.

Though Wyoming Valley lies fifty miles south of the New York border, the winding Susquehanna nearly doubles that distance. Though broad, the river is full of shoals and difficult to navigate. As the group reached the former Indian stronghold of Tioga Point (near present-day Athens), Van Campen pointed out where he was once taken prisoner as a scout for Sullivan. A few miles further up, in New York State, they turned into the Chemung, a western tributary. Many miles to the west they passed the small settlement of Newtown (near present-day Elmira), where Van Campen had also participated in a battle.

At a point near the former Indian village of Painted Post, they passed the mouth of the Conhocton (now Cohocton) River, which led northwest toward Bath (now the seat of Steuben County), where settlement had begun in 1789. They continued west on the Tioga for a few miles, then turned northwest on the Canisteo. Up to that point there were very few settlers along the rivers.

Finally, near the former Delaware village of Canisteo, they reached the end of their trip by water and were welcomed by settlers who had come in 1789. Transferring their worldly belongings to ox sleds,

TED FENNER: SINGING IN THE WILDERNESS CONT...

they proceeded north along the Canisteo. At a point where the Canacadea Creek flows from the west to join the Canisteo at present-day Hornell, they met other settlers, some of whom also came to “Upper Canisteo” in 1789. Among them was George Hornell, who had arrived in 1794. He was building a sawmill and gristmill and welcomed the arrival of Joseph Coleman, who built more mills for him. West of that point stretched the wilderness, although one Nathaniel Dyke had passed through that country the previous year as far as the present site of Wellsville, to become the first settler in Allegany County.

Hurlburt continued on up the Canisteo to the area of present-day Arkport, where he established his homestead. (NYS historic marker is located in front of his home on Main Street, Arkport) The others proceeded west for five miles along an old Indian path that followed the Canacadea. Near the site of the present-day village of Almond, they skirted a swamp and continued west, passing over a glacial moraine into two adjoining valleys, later named “Karr” and “McHenry”. There they staked their claims.



DURHAM BOAT ILLUSTRATION

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In the summer of 1796, Joseph Coleman established his claim in Karr Valley, made a clearing, sowed wheat, and returned to Luzerne County. The following spring, he returned with his wife, Mary Doderer, and on July 10th of that year, she gave birth to her first child, Sarah, in Canisteo, on the very boat on which she made the journey. Her courage in attempting this journey during late months of pregnancy speaks for itself.

She probably had the assistance of another remarkable woman, Margaret Karr, 58, who was also on that trip. As a midwife, she acquired local fame in later years for her willingness to undertake long and dangerous trips through the region to assist women in labor. (See AHS newsletters Apr/May/June 2009 – “The Secrets of the Scrapbook”)

She was accompanied by her three sons : Walter, Joseph and Samuel, as well as by her daughter, Elizabeth. The latter made the journey in company of her husband, Stephen Major, 30, and two children. (One, Thomas, nearly drowned but was saved by his uncle, Walter.) The Majors and Margaret settled in their new log cabin in Karr Valley. After staking their claims, the three Karr brothers returned to Wyoming Valley to bring back their families in 1798.

Other members of the second contingent included George Lockhart, who married Mary, eldest daughter of Moses Van Campen; Benjamin Van Campen, Moses’ younger brother, and their mother, Winifred; Matthew McHenry, with his family; and several other settlers.

Within the next year or two, still others joined the new settlement: Silas Ferry, his wife, Jerusha Goss, and his brother, John; Obadiah Ayers and his family; Benjamin Vandermark; and Philip Doderer, who was probably Mary Coleman’s brother. Ferry arrived by ox-cart, indicating that passable roads were quickly broken through, at least in the southern route. Most of these settlers also came from Wyoming Valley. By 1802, the best land in the valleys had been claimed, and further immigrants coming through that area were bound further west.

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Three factors were held in common by the settlers: they came from Wyoming Valley in Luzerne County, they were all Protestants (basically Presbyterians) and, except for the Dutch members, they manifested links with Northern Ireland. Most had emigrated to America following widespread famine in 1727, 1740, and 1770, and the Presbyterians were allowed to practice their religion only by “sufferance of the Government,” according to Fenner. Many purchased land offered by the Susquehanna Company, on

TED FENNER: SINGING IN THE WILDERNESS CONT...

a stretch of land three miles wide and 21 miles long, centering the present site of Wilkes-Barre. But the land rights were the result of a treaty signed between the Susquehanna Company and the Iroquois at Albany in 1754, and the Delawares refused to recognize the deal and resisted claims to the valley.

A series of skirmishes, known as the “Yankee Pennamite War” (The Pennamite-Yankee War or Yankee-Pennamite War (or Wars) is the name given to fighting which occurred between 1769 and 1799 between settlers from Connecticut who claimed the land along the North Branch of the Susquehanna River in the present Wyoming Valley, and settlers from Pennsylvania who laid claim to the same territory) wreaked havoc among the group who later settled Almond.

Further bloodshed lay ahead. As the Revolution developed, it became apparent that the Wyoming settlement stood in great danger, situated, as it was, on the frontier and vulnerable to hostile Iroquois mounting an attack down the Susquehanna. On July 3 and 4, 1778, a force, led by Captain John Butler, of about 400 British provincials and Rangers was joined by about 700 Indians – mainly Senecas from Western New York, quietly moved into the valley and quickly routed the meager defending forces led by Zebulon Butler and Lazarus Stewart, killing Stewart and his son. The invaders then turned upon the defenseless mothers and children barricaded in their cabins and began a terrible slaughter and scalping: over three hundred were killed. The survivors, estimated at 150 widows and several hundred children, fled across the mountains to the protection of Fort Penn at the Delaware Water Gap. Still, in spite of all that bloodshed, the settlers returned that fall.

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The families of the Almond group suffered heavily. George Lockhart lost at least one brother; Silas Ferry lost two brothers; Joseph Carey, who settled in Arkport in 1804, lost three brothers. The Karrs were more fortunate: Margaret’s husband was working in the woods during the attack. When the Indians came to her cabin, she greeted them fearlessly with upraised hand and invoked the protection of God. Although the Indians grasped her children by the hair and went through scalping motions, their lives were spared. The cabin was destroyed and the livestock driven off. Her son, Walter, was taken prisoner, but was released unharmed after the war.

Even after the Massacre and Sullivan’s punitive expedition the following year, Indian depredations in the valley continued sporadically until 1782. Neither the new blockhouses nor the sentries prevented an Indian attack in 1780. Moses Van Campen, a younger brother (not Benjamin), his father, Cornelius, a cousin, and a neighbor, Peter Pence, were working on their Nanticoke farm near Fishing Creek. . Cornelius was immediately killed by a spear thrust, and the young brother was slain. (Moses’ uncle had already been killed on an adjoining farm.) Moses, Pence, and the cousin were captured and taken upriver, where they were joined by still another prisoner name Pike. The second night out, while their captors slept, Moses, bound as he was, managed to secure a knife that had been carelessly dropped nearby. He cut his bonds and those of the other prisoners and in a surprise attack, they were able to slay several of the sleeping Indians. The rest fled, and the party of four hastily returned to the valley.

The second Yankee-Pennamite War was fought over the issue of ownership of the Wyoming land, and in 1784 Philadelphia forces again roused the settlers, burned over 150 homes, and established Pennsylvanians in the remaining homesteads. Under great duress and suffering, 500 Wyoming families made their way in midwinter across the mountains to Delaware; their plight aroused widespread sympathy. But the indomitable band fought its way back to the valley once more.

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It is probable that much planning, dreaming, and prayer went into the decision of this courageous band of families to leave their homes in Wyoming Valley and move their families to the unknown wilderness later named Almond. Charles Minor, historian of the Wyoming Valley, declared that “a more brave, hardy, and enterprising set of men never encountered danger in the field, or gave their stalwart arms to the settlement of a wilderness.” This is the stuff of which Almond’s pioneers were made. Those of you who trace your ancestry back to this indomitable group should be very proud of your heritage. Part II, Singing in the Wilderness, will be printed in the July/Aug/Sept 2011 AHS newsletter.

SECRETS OF THE CHAIR

BY DONNA B. RYAN

Who would think that an old chair – bought at an estate sale – would “speak” to us about happenings fifty-five years ago?

When **Helena Aldrich**, wife of the late **Simon Aldrich**, began restoring a chair which she bought recently, she found two Alfred Suns, dated May 31 and June 7, 1956, stuffed under the seat. The newspapers were apparently used as padding under the leatherette pressed seat by Simon’s grandfather, **Harry Austin**, the Sun subscriber. “The first face I saw was a picture of **Betsey Burdett** in an article announcing her engagement,” Helena said. Removing the newspapers, she found more Almond news:

Local Poppy Poster Contest winners, sponsored by the

American

Legion

Auxiliary:

Class II (4,5

and 6th

grades) 1st

prize: **Sue**

Montgomery

Class III

(senior high)

1st prize,

Patricia

Washburn,

2nd prize,

Joseph

Doorley, 3rd

prize, **Jeanne**

Thomas.

Almond

businesses, long ago closed, and advertising in the Sun were: Almond Hardware “Under New Management Fay Torrence & Sons”, Ray Hanks and Sons, Plumbing and Heating, Excavating and Bulldozing; Almond Mills (under new management) Bernard Taggerty; F&M Automotive Service, lawnmower-power mowers-tractors, Almond Road; Mason’s Typewriters; and Almond Beauty Center. Other popular businesses advertising included Leland T. Peck Appliance, The Big Elms – “The Finest in Foods,” Tracy & Jones, Crandall and Crandall Funeral Service, E. W. Crandall Jewelers, and Glidden Galleries.

A quarter page ad featuring L. W. Hooker, Hornell-Arkport Road, is entitled “HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN? since you were able to buy a full-sized, new automobile

equipped and delivered in Hornell for only \$1745. (\$43. a month buys a new 56 Studebaker Champion Sedan, only \$1745) Other examples of “Today’s Best Buys”: 55 Chevrolet Bel Air Tudor, \$1495; 1951 Studebaker VS Sedan, \$595; 52 Hudson Hornet-Hydromatic, \$595. Jacox Food Mart advertised frozen haddock fillets, 29 cents/pound; Swift Shortening, 3# can 79 cents; and Shurfine Salad Dressings, 49 cents quart. Glover’s ad featured Maxwell house Coffee, 99 cents a pound; assorted cold cuts, 59 cents a pound; and Texas cantaloupe, large size, 39 cents.

Mrs. E. V. (“Lizzie”) Greene’s “personal” column is always fun to read, reporting on neighbors and families “calling on” one another, kids having birthday parties, and other social events in the community. She reported that “invitations are out for the weddings” of **Jackie Paine** to **Jerry Walker**, June 24; and **Doris Bird** and **Raymond Martin** to



MASON’S TYPEWRITER PHOTO ca. 1950s

“The congenial staff at Mason’s stop for a minute in the morning. By noon the sales and service cars will be as far as 250 miles apart. Left to right: Leon Lemen, sales; Walter Davis, sales; J. Leland Kernan, sales; Guy Washburn, general service manager; Jean Schlick, office manager; James Reid, adding machine service manager and Edward Mason, owner and manager.”

take place June 16. Other news: Mr. and Mrs. **Leo Alsworth** attended the 7th annual reunion of the combat engineer battalion Mr. Alsworth served with in WWII in Buffalo . . . **Erwin Dexter** is quite ill at Bethesda Hospital . . . **William Snyder** has purchased the Ebner house on Angelica Street . . . **Alan Knight, Robert Torrey, Francis Grimes** and **Clinton Gillette** spent last week fishing in northern Quebec . . . Mr. and Mrs. **Duane Dennison** have moved into their new home recently purchased from **Norman Olson**. . . Mr. and Mrs. **Irving Mullen** received a letter from their son, **Roger**, stating he had arrived in Iceland . . . **Clifford Clark**, son of Mr. and Mrs. **Milford Clark**, serving with the Seabees, is leaving for North Africa, where he will be stationed for the next eighteen months...

SECRETS OF THE CHAIR CONT...

Carroll Witter is one of 15 Clarkson College of Technology students who have been named as candidates for the designation of Distinguished Military Students . . . **Miss Florence Lincoln**, who has been a patient at Bethesda Hospital for the past two weeks, has returned home . . . **Fred Makeley, Howard Fritz and Mr. and Mrs. Allen Witter** were in Perry Center Sunday to attend the funeral of Mrs. Makeley's brother, **Forest Stewart**. Mr. Stewart was a former Almond resident who operated a grocery store where the business of Alan Knight is now located . . . **Mrs. Ralph Burrow** and baby are spending the week with her parents while Ralph is at camp with CO. D of Hornell.

A separate article reported the reception and dinner honoring **Jessie Ostrander**, who "has served as organist in the Union of Churches for more than forty years.." Many out-of-town guests were listed, including **Mr. and Mrs. James Young** of Angelica, whose grandfather gave the pipe organ to the church in memory of his son in 1893.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

BY DONNA B. RYAN

Do you remember **Vasco Free**, the barber, whose shop was located between Ma's (Bernice Quay's restaurant Kant U Kume Inn) and Witter's store? **Bud Gillette** remembered: "I used to get my hair cut there. Dad would say, 'Go down to Vasco's and get your hair cut and I'll pay for it.' He was there before **Smitty** came to town. It was a long narrow store with a window in front and door in back."

In answer to **Sharon Barron's** question re Finnegan's Restaurant (AHS newsletter Jan Feb Mar 2011), **Dave Fenner** writes from Huber Hts, OH: "I remember the Finnegan family. They came up from NYC (ca. 1950s) to open a soda fountain/ice cream parlor in the storefront that was at the far end of Al Palmer's building. There were two sons, **Lester** being the younger, who hung out with a few of the other Almond boys and me. He was so citified that he thought that all cows with horns were bulls... ☺ and he didn't want to cross a pasture on Newcomb Hill when we were hiking one time because he was afraid of the pasture full of 'bulls.' His older brother was **John**, I believe. I don't think they did very well in the ice cream parlor and moved away after a couple of years."

Bob Decker, Fairfield Glade, TN, commented regarding the picture of his dad's gas station, Deck's Friendly Service, in the "Do You Remember" section of the AHS Jan/Feb/March 2011. He wrote: "Brings back many memories. I believe that I was on the other side of the Pacific when the picture was taken (Thanks, **David Fenner** for sending the picture) I still remember when Dad (**Henry Decker**) and **Guy Swan**

(**Dale Lorow's** grandfather) were building the station. They were amazingly multi-talented people who accomplished many tasks outside their regular 'occupations'. Carpenter, form builder, brick layer, plumber, electrician and more. During the construction, Dad let me climb all of the way to the roof and look around. That was a high level in those days! Snow removal was done the old fashioned way.....a shovel and a strong back. Many a showy morning, Dad and I would be shoveling as the school busses rolled by. I really didn't feel put upon missing a school day!"

Bob goes on: "On another note, I do remember a soda fountain in the **Al Palmer** block. It would have been in the middle to late 1940's and was located on the end opposite the pool hall. Later it became an auto parts store which was consumed later by a fire."

Lyle Barron made additional comments about Captain Rose (referred to in the Jan Feb Mar 2011 newsletter "Do You Remember" Witter's Store) in which reference was made to Captain William Rose's jewelry and nick-nack store (see photo on right hand page). He noted that the house owned by Ed and Marge Mason on Maple Ridge (now owned by Dan and Pam Washburn) was the home of Capt. Rose. Ed and Marge found things of Capt Rose's in the attic when they moved there shortly after they were married in the late 1920s.

Do you remember the grocery store that **Regina Martin** owned in the Al Palmer block? Ron Coleman remembers buying candy there when he was a kid, when he lived across the street. "My dad, **Paul Coleman**, was fire chief then, and one of the perks was living in the apartment over the Fire Hall. Regina was a good friend

DO YOU REMEMBER CONT...

of my mother's. I also remember a red barn that sat next to the road – now Crescent Street – that had a horse pictured on the door and 'Martin' written underneath it."

Phil Lockwood sent an e-mail from his home in West Boylston, MA, sending more history of the popular rock band, **The Rogues**. (AHS newsletter Jan/Feb/Mar 2011: Do You Remember?) "I finally found

what I was looking for amongst the 'stuff' that I've accumulated over the years. It's an article from the Hornell paper that speaks to the longevity of the 'Rogues' and more particularly talks about Greg ("Tiny") Dunham. The date line on the article is unfortunately cut-off, but I think it was 1990. By my recollection, the Rogues started in 1965 - the 25th anniversary would put the date at 1990. Three members of the band graduated from Alfred



DIXON BLOCK

University in 1969, and we were all heading in different directions. The Rogues were reconfigured with another band from Wellsville (I think it was called 'Peter and

the Wolves'). For me, concentration on my graduate studies at AU was the priority and I 'retired' from music at that time - I sold all my equipment at the time to help finance grad school. In retrospect that was a good thing because I was drafted in the fall

of 1969. I ultimately enlisted in the Army and was able to defer going in until the summer of 1970. In the meantime, Rochelle ("Rocky") and I were married in February 1970 (wow - it will be 41 years on the 21st)." And that's the rest of the story . . .

As always, we are looking for your comments and your memories! Call us – email us!

lee_donna@frontiernet.net or 607 276 6760

WE HEAR FROM OUR READERS

Ed. note: So many of you expressed your appreciation for the newsletter and the hard working AHS board when you sent in your dues. Below are a few comments received. Thank you one and all!

Jean Carpenter Brown, Lakeland FL and Almond, NY: Opening each AHS newsletter is like opening a treasure box that is filled with the "jewels" of Almond history and the "gems" of shared memories of past and present residents. We cherish each publication and appreciate the time and effort that goes into it.

Ralph and Geraldine Smith Hills, Wellsville, NY: It might make an interesting "story" if my wife and I could be interviewed as to our separate family's ties to Almond as well as our own ties later by marriage, linking both families. Talk about a full circle of ancestories!

Maureen Costello VanCura, Webster, NY: I enjoy reading this letter. I especially enjoyed the coverage of the feed store coming down. I remember when my dad had that done. He stored his "old" cars in there.

Lauren Oliver, Canaseraga, NY: I would like to see more about North Almond.

Patricia A. Zirkelbach Lyke Dye, Largo, FL: Enjoy getting the news from the Almond Historical Society, knowing I'm part of the history of Almond. You folks do a great job!

Helen McKnight, Almond, NY: I look forward to receiving the newsletter and learning about the history of the area and about people who have made contributions to the area.

Arlene Barron McMahan, Almond, NY: I love the newsletter and keep them to re-read. That's why I want paper copies. Great job!

Anne McIntosh Hardy-Holley, San Antonio, TX: As always, I enjoy hearing about past, present and future events from the town where I grew up. I appreciate your dedication to AHS.

THE OFFICE AND ARCHIVES ROOM PROJECT

As reported in the Jan/Feb/Mar 2011 AHS newsletter, our board of directors decided to move the upstairs office/archives room to a ground level facility, considering a 20 x 40 foot addition to the Hagadorn House.

Since that time, President Lee A. Ryan has appointed a building committee: **Kim Costello, chairman; Helen Spencer, Lee Ryan, Mike Baker, Doris Montgomery and Teresa Johnson.** One of our members, **Brad Hager of Hager Engineering,** offered the services of his firm to draw up plans. After examining the Hagadorn House and meeting with the building committee, the firm suggested that a separate building, placed next to the meeting room, would be more economical and feasible than trying to tie in an addition onto the present structure. Another factor in the decision was the enhanced security and safety of the irreplaceable records and documents when stored in a detached structure.



Already we have received generous donations from some of you, our members, for this project. Thank you! We appreciate your support for this project. The family of **Norma Reynolds Clark** recently designated the Almond Historical Society as the memorial for Norma, and to date more than \$2200 has been contributed in memory of Norma and her siblings, **Ben Reynolds** and **John Reynolds.** We are a 501 (c) 3 corporation, and your donations are tax deductible. Your contributions will help us build a facility that will safely store the irreplaceable records and memorabilia which document the history of Almond.

Steve and Becky Metzger in Albany, OR, chose to honor AACS '55 grad **Karl Grantier,** who for the

past eight years has headed up a project which recognizes AACS alumni who have served in the military. During that time, we have gathered information on about 420 AACS alum/veterans, whose names have been engraved on brass plates and placed on eight wooden plaques, arranged according to their class year. These are located in the new Alumni Hall at AACS – the corridor which connects the swimming pool/gymnasium complex with the original school building. We are very proud of this display of honor for our servicemen and women. It is a project that would not have been completed without Karl's commitment and dedication. Steve and Becky wrote: "Enclosed is a check for \$300 to honor Karl Grantier's generous donation of his time and talents in recognizing the veterans of Alfred-Almond. Please apply the money toward the 20 x 40 addition which will house the office and archives room at the Hagadorn House. Thanks for all you do for the AHS."

Another example of how important the archives room is occurred recently, when **Robert and Leslie Bowen** came to Hagadorn House from their home in Rochester. Robert is writing an extensive genealogy of the Bowen family, and was anxious to see what information was tucked away in the Bowen family file. He was not disappointed: After they returned home, he wrote: "Thank you so much for welcoming my wife and me to Hagadorn House on Friday!! We found a wealth of valuable information in the archives. I spent time today reading the copies you so kindly made for me."

The newspaper clippings contain many valuable details that could not be found elsewhere. I read that my father, Ward Bowen, was President of his senior class at Almond High School and I read about my Aunt Dorothy's engagement to my Uncle Fred Bayless. The death notices will help with my Bowen genealogy project. The hard work of all the volunteers has been very helpful and I really appreciate it. It is so important to remember those who were part of our families and who contributed to community life in the past. I plan to return in the near future to go through the files for the Ward and Armstrong families. I forgot to look at Uncle Doctor's medical bag! I'll see it next time. It might have been the bag he carried when he delivered my father! Thanks again for maintaining the Hagadorn House museum and archive filled with precious memories. I have attached some photos."

So you see – your investment in the Hagadorn House

THE OFFICE AND ARCHIVERS ROOM PROJECT CONT...

archives room/office project is very important. Thank you, Robert, for your generous donation. And thank you, members and friends, for your continued support!

Picture on the right is of Robert Bowen's recent visit to the Hagadorn House, where he was assisted by volunteers. This photo features (back row l/r) Barbara Bernstein, Doris Montgomery, Robert Bowen (seated: l/r) Kitty Baker, Donna Ryan



A PROUD HERITAGE: THE KARR FAMILY

BY DONNA B. RYAN

Arlyss Karr Domagala, Webster, NY, contacted us, wanting to purchase two copies of *The Almond Story* for her granddaughters, both of whose middle names are Karr. "My brother, **W. Leo Karr**, of Arkport, died August 29, 2010. He was a direct descendant of Samuel Karr, an early settler of, and for whom Karr Valley was named." (See AHS newsletter May/Feb/Mar 2011) She went on to explain that 'Aunt Margaret' Karr had three sons: Walter, Joseph and Samuel. They were among the first pioneers who came to Almond in 1796-1797 from the Wilkes Barre, PA, area, and settled here in the valley later named Karr Valley."

Another descendant of Samuel Karr, Prattsburgh resident **Alan Coombs**, together with his wife, **Grace**, attended the April AHS meeting, and presented the archives room with a printed copy of the Margaret Karr genealogy as compiled by him through the Family Tree Maker program. This concise listing will prove to be a benefit to archives workers who are attempting to answer inquiries from Karr descendants.

We also had a delightful phone conversation with one of our longtime members, **Glenda Gleckner**, who lives in Chapel Hill, NC. Many years ago, Glenda came to Almond with her husband, the late Robert Gleckner, a professor at Duke University to begin her research on the Karr family. They became very good friends with the late Linn and Helene Phelan, who assisted them in their research. "I always tell people that I am from true pioneers," Glenda said, proudly proclaiming her lineage to Walter Karr.

"I have all the Karr family records in a notebook," Glenda went on. "We spent all of my husband's vacations travelling and doing research work on the Karr genealogy. He helped me tremendously, as he thought the Karr family was 'fascinating'. His family was from Germany, and all their records were destroyed during World War II.

"My research started in Almond at Hagadorn House, and Mrs. Phelan was a big help to me. My husband was a professional researcher, and he was accustomed to looking at records. He was very impressed with information at Hagadorn House and the way it was so well kept. That's where we found almost all our information to start my Karr genealogy project," she said. She also noted that she had photographed all the Karr graves here in Almond, and was especially pleased that access was still granted to the little family plot on Karr Valley where Walter Karr is buried.

The story of Walter Karr and his brave mother is so heartwarming, we are including an excerpt from the late John Reynolds' book, *The Almond Story*, the chapter entitled *The Angel of Mercy, Margaret Karr*, here:

Years before coming to Almond, her (Margaret Karr, also known as "Aunt Margaret") great courage was displayed during the Indian massacre at Wyoming (ca. 1778, Wyoming Valley, NE PA, Wilkes Barre area). The savages were killing, pillaging or destroying all that came in their way. They came to the Karr home, tomahawks and scalping knives dripping with the blood of their victims. With her husband away and her terrified children clinging to her for protection, the mother, erect and fearless,

A PROUD HERITAGE: THE KARR FAMILY CONT...

met the attackers at the door. With upraised hand she forbade them to enter, telling them they could go no farther than the Almighty would allow. One of the Indians apparently understood some English and he said, "Ugh! Me understand, Great Spirit up there." Although they grasped the children by the hair and went through the motions of scalping them, their lives were spared.

The Indians soon departed after ransacking the house and taking everything that caught their savage fancy. They took all the bedding, and all the clothing except that which the mother and children were wearing. They tore into strips a rich scarlet cloth, decorated themselves with it and paraded before a looking glass, much pleased with their appearance. The stock was driven away and, having killed the hogs in their pen, they quartered them and carried the meat away.

Karr was at work in the woods at the time. While ransacking the house, the Indians would go to the door and listen for the sound of his axe. They were unable to locate him and he escaped. He kept secreted until the Indians had departed, and lived to die a natural death.

Their eldest son, Walter, was playing at a neighbor's house at the time and failed to return home after the raid. The distraught mother, thinking her boy was dead, searched the woods and fields several days with a shovel on her shoulder, intending to bury her son wherever she found his body. Unknown to her, Walter had been taken prisoner.

The Indians delivered Walter to the British authorities and collected the bounty then being offered. Eventually, he was taken to Montreal where he was held until the cessation of hostilities. Luckily for one so young, he remembered his name. At close of the war, his name, along with those of other liberated prisoners, was advertised and the happy parents were eventually reunited with their son who had long since been given up for dead.

Aunt Margaret died in 1820 at the age of eighty-three. She rests in the little cemetery at the summit of Sand Hill which overlooks the picturesque valley that bears her name and through which she rode so often on errands of mercy.

OUR CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF...

Phyllis Peterson, who died at the age of 85 on February 3, 2010. A graduate of Hornell HS, class of 1945, at the age of 60, she graduated from Alfred State College in 1986. She was employed by the Green Thumb Program as an area supervisor before her retirement. She was an avid reader and enjoyed her family. She had resided in Almond since 1990.

Carolyn Baumet, one of our LIFE members, who died on August 17, 2010, in Lancaster, NY, at the age of 68. Carolyn and her husband, Bob, lived in the Buffalo area, but had a summer home/camp here in Almond for many years. She was a researcher in education at the University of Buffalo. The family, including her husband, Bob, who passed away in 2002, and his parents are buried in Fairview Cemetery

Two of the late **John and Blanche Reynolds'** children passed away within a week of one another:

John Reynolds, 85, who died March 6, 2011, in Durango, CO. A graduate AACS with the Class of 1943, John went right into the AF, where he served during WWII in the Pacific, flying B-25's out of Biak Island in 1944. After his discharge, John graduated from the New York State Institute of Technology in Alfred with a degree in business. He went on to work in the banking business for more than 40 years, serving as the president of several banks in New York and California. His final position, before his retirement, was president of Ojai Valley Bank in California. He spent his retirement years happily in Durango, where he was an artist, handyman and carpenter.

Norma Clark Reynolds, who died on March 14, 2011, in Canandaigua at the age of 88. Norma graduated from Almond High School in 1940 as valedictorian of her class, and in 1941, from Bryant Stratton Business School in Buffalo. She joined the U.S. Marines in 1944 and served until 1946 at Cherry Point, N.C. in the Pay Masters Office. She worked as a library assistant at Alfred-Almond Central School for 20 years. She belonged to the Twentieth Century Club in Almond, charter member of the Almond Historical Society, served on the local board of elections and was a long time member of Almond Union of Churches.

ALFRED ALMOND VETERANS HONORED

COMPILED BY DONNA B. RYAN

If you have not seen the Alumni Hall at Alfred- Almond Central School, where nine plaques hang, listing the names of more than 420 AACS alumni who have served in the military, you must take time to stop someday and take a look. The project will culminate this year with the special recognition of those veterans who have received personal awards for acts of bravery and honor at the AA Alumni Association’s annual banquet on Saturday, July 30, 2011 at Alfred State Central Dining Hall.

Karl Grantier, who graduated from AACS in 1955, has headed up the eight-year project of gathering the names of AACS alumni, their branch of service, and other pertinent data. The names were then engraved on individual brass plates and placed on eight walnut plaques, arranged according to year of AACS graduation. The plaques are hanging in the corridor connecting the original AACS building and the new swimming pool/gymnasium complex. A large wooden plaque (pictured right) with three columns of handwritten World War II veterans’ names, created in the late 1940s, also hangs on the same wall.



This spring, the AA Alumni Association board, under the leadership of President Lee A. Ryan, approached Rich Calkins, AACS Superintendent, requesting a large space in the hallway to be designated as the AA Alumni Association wall. Mr. Calkins and the Board of Education have been extremely cooperative, granting permission for a beautiful nine-foot sign which reads, “Alfred-Almond Alumni Association” in large blue and gold letters, to be affixed to the wall. A large handsome frame, encasing in glass the American flag donated by US Navy Seal Eric Crandall, will be placed under the sign. The Association’s Sports and Humanitarian Hall of Fame and other special recognition plaques will complete the display.

Across the corridor on the facing wall, a new plaque will be created and hung, listing the names of sixteen AACS veterans who have received personal medals for bravery and honor:

** Frank Lobaugh, Jr.	x43	US ARMY	Silver Star
Mark D. Lewis	1972	US AF	Airman’s Medal
Gary Kellogg	1967	US ARMY	Three Bronze Stars, Three Air medals
Jim Ninos	1969	US ARMY	Bronze Star, Purple Heart
Andrew Phelan	1961	US ARMY	Bronze Star, Purple Heart
Ron Rawleigh	1943	US ARMY	Bronze Star
Earl Briggs	1962	US ARMY	Bronze Star
James Habern	1960	US MARINES	Two Purple Hearts
John “Pat” Wasson	1960	US NAVY	Purple Heart
Richard Smith	1966	US ARMY	Purple Heart
**Ernest Woodworth	1949	US ARMY	Purple Heart
Brent Cline	2001	US ARMY	Purple Heart
Billy Price	2002	US ARMY	Purple Heart
Frank Cartledge	1980	US MARINES	Defense Meritorious Service Medal
**Dick Baker	1949	US AF	Air Medal with 3 Oak Clusters
Alan Mason	1964	US ARMY	Air Medal
** <i>Deceased</i>			

Recognizing Karl’s commitment and passion for this project, **Steve and Becky Metzger** recently donated a generous check to the Almond Historical Society to be used for the new office/archives room project.

We are proud of our veterans and their unselfish service to our country and their commitment to protecting our freedoms. We urge you to take a stroll down the AACS Alumni Hall. (Special tours are being arranged for Saturday, July 30, from 2 to 4 p.m. in connection with the AACS Alumni weekend.) You will be impressed with this honor roll listing. And please be sure to thank a veteran today!

(If you know of other AACS veterans who have earned personal medals for bravery and honor, please contact Donna B. Ryan, 607 276 6760 or email at lee_donna@frontiernet.net)

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AND MUCH MORE ABOUT EVERYONE'S FAVORITE
SMALL TOWN---ALMOND, NY

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