



The Walden House Tattler

The Historical Society of Walden and the Wallkill Valley

Vol. 42, No. 1

Walden, New York

Spring 2022



“Wilmington is Wilemantown. Map, courtesy of the Library of Congress (LOC). *Chorographical map of the province of New York in North America: divided into counties, manors, patents and townships...*” Sauthier, cartographer, Albany, 1849 from original map engraved and published by William Fadden, Charing Cross, 1749. <https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3800.fi000145/>

Citizen Herald Jan 30, 1936

“During the latter part of the Revolution a large amount of supplies were moved inland for more security and stored about a mile north of Walden on the Henry Wileman Farm. A detachment of Virginia Dragoons and other troops were quartered there during that winter season to guard these supplies. A dragoon’s saber and several military buttons were found on this spot long after the Revolution. Henry Wileman had received a grant for this land as early as 1709... Being a Free Mason, he erected a building for the use as the Lodge upon his land at the mouth of the Ten Brouck (or Tin Brook) and this early settlement was called Wileman Town. Tradition tells us that General George Washington, along with members of his staff, once inspected this supply depot on the old Wileman farm

and during their trip out this way, were entertained at the Kidd Tavern which stood in the center of Bank Street, near the Savings Bank in Walden.”
(Excerpt Charles Bodine article) Well deserving of more research!

CALENDAR 2022

Dining to Donate at Franco’s Pizzeria & Italian Restaurant continues on the **LAST Tuesday of every month**. Coupons are available on Facebook, our website & the Josephine-Louise Public Library. Thank You to FRANCO’s for their generosity of donating 20% of the proceeds from participating guests’ meal cost to our Historical Society. Programs are held at the Walden House unless noted otherwise. Calendar on Page 2.

~ Calendar of Events ~ May-Dec 2022

- May 5 - Trustees meet 7PM
- May 14- Yard Cleanup, 9-12
- May 18- General Meeting, 7:30PM, Ray Kelley
guests, Trolleys, at the Municipal Building
- May 31- Franco's, Dining to Donate, 5-9
- Jun 9 - Trustees meet, 7PM
- Jun 1 - General Meeting, 7:30 PM, Bruce Bergman
"Sunrise to Sunset, a trip to Lake Mohonk"
- Jun 18 - Flag Day Program, Historic Flags
& displays.
- Jun 28 - Franco's, Dining to Donate, 5-9
- Jul 7 - Trustees meet, 7PM
- Jul 20 - Picnic on the Porch-General
Meeting, 6:30 PM
- Jul 26 - Franco's Dining to Donate, 5-9
- Jul 31 - Afternoon Thank you to our
Fundraiser donors
- Aug 4 - Trustees meet, 7PM
- Aug 30 - Franco's, Dining to Donate, 5-9
- Sept 1 - Trustees meet, 7PM
- Sept 17 - Paranormal Investigator, Lisa Morrison
guests at the Walden House, 6PM
limited to 30 guests; \$50 per person
- Sept 21 - General Meeting, 7:30 PM, Speaker
- Sept 27 - Franco's, Dining to Donate, 5-9
- Oct 1 - Yard Sale, Historic Walden House
- Oct 6 - Trustees meet, 7PM
- Oct 19 - General Meeting, 7:30PM, Speaker
- Oct 25 - Franco's, Dining to Donate, 5-9
- Nov 3 - Trustees meet, 7PM
- Nov 16 - General Meeting, 7:30PM
- Nov 29 - Franco's, Dining to Donate, 5-9
- Dec 1 - Trustees Meet, 7PM
- Dec 4 - Christmas Tea Open House, 1-4
- Dec 27 - Franco's, Dining to Donate 5-9

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***Thank You to the Walden Savings Bank for a donation to our Fundraiser for Repairs at the Jacob T. Walden House.***



*The Board of Trustees of the Historical Society of Walden and the Wallkill Valley are so delighted with all the donations coming in for our fundraiser. In February the Walden Savings Bank donated \$1500 to use toward Jacob Walden House repairs. Thank you CEO Derrik Wynkoop, Susan Wareka, bank manager and Shannon Waizenegger, assistant manager who presented this check to Barbara Imbasciani, president of the Society, and Trustees, Lisa Melville-McIver and Sandy Vandermark Magill. We appreciate each of you for your donations and help. Permit obtained, the repairs are being scheduled to begin soon.*

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***Projects completed in the last 3 (Covid) years***

- \* Book Room - contents removed, sorted, archived or sent to appropriate locations or offered for sale - completely renovated, mold remediated, painted and shelves installed (shelving donated by Goshen Library)
- \* Archives room - organized, filing of loose papers, contents categorized, photos scanned into Past Perfect Museum archive computer system software
- \* New displays on Main floor - Bands in Walden, Col. Bradley, Knife factories in Walden
- \* Walden Elementary History Club visited the House for tour and scavenger hunt
- \* Program initiated to bring History into the Walden Elementary school - target date Spring 2023
- \* Repairs to water meter system
- \* Christmas Tea re-instated with Walden House decorated
- \* General meetings- live with guest speakers re-instated
- \* Fundraising campaign initiated - letters to community,
- \* Robert Score donated 100 copies of an original new print to be sold
- \* Lisa Morrison - psychic/medium program

**Local area artist and author...**

**Robert Score** has generously created this lovely new drawing of the Walden High Falls at the power plant. Prints are being offered as part of our fundraising for needed repairs of the Walden House this year. Prints are being offered at \$25 plus shipping each. Prints are 11 x 14" unframed. Contact Sandy Magill at 845-401-2795 or Barbara Imbasciani at 845-220-6606.



\* \* \* ~ Available now!

**Walt Roosa Writes...**

In 1940 when I was in Natalie Whigham's sixth grade we put on a medieval type play. John Jackson and I were both in love with the fair maiden (Natalie McBride). John sang her a song and I played a melody on my Fitch Horn. Then Natalie threw a rose down from her tower. John and I had used toy swords at other rehearsals but this time he had brought rusty World War I swords from home. We both had them strapped to our legs. As we both bent to pick up the rose John's sword went through my leg. Miss Whigham had Art Traphagen and Ralph Decker cross hands for a seat, and carried me from the old building to the new and up to the nurse's office on the second floor. The nurse bandaged it and sent me home in a taxi. When my father came home for lunch he took me to Dr. Burnerd. The Dr. cut off the top of the bandage and put in a few stitches. When he removed the rest of the bandage he said, "That sucker went all the way through." He put in a drain and gave me a tetanus shot.

I was in the play two days later and then out for two weeks from the shot. Natalie Whigham never got into trouble and there was no lawsuit.

Fifty four years later, I went out to Rt. 17K to visit Ms. Whigham and her sister, Eleanor, and told them that my wife and I had bought a place in Florida and were leaving for the winter. (Ms. Whigham passed away that winter.)

Eleanor had been a teacher in Newburgh and was just as interested in the kids in my class as her sister and even asked about many by name. Ms. Whigham--the best teacher I ever had, and for both 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grades.

~Walt Roosa, Jan 7, 2022

*Walt was the former owner of Roosa's Jewelers in Walden, now run by son, Paul Roosa.*

\* \* \*

**Special Presentation is Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Bradley Assembly Room at 7:30PM.**

**Lisa Melville-McIver** will give a talk on the process of submitting documentation and ultimately awarded a marker for their home, the former LaTourette Farm on Berea Road, Walden. Lisa, husband Jim and daughter, Adeline, have been restoring their lovely home. This is our General Meeting for April and everyone is welcome.

The daytime ceremony and installation of the marker at the LaTourette farm will be later this month, Date and time to be announced. Congratulations

\* \* \*



***New Volunteers mean everything!***

Meet Maddie Becker, a tenth grader at Wallkill High School, pictured during Volunteer hours in our Archives. New Volunteer, Damian Pascal, Jr., a Valley Central student, volunteered recently too. Damian volunteers with the Walden Elementary School History Club. Thank you, Maddie! Thank you, Damian!

\* \* \*



*Nancy & Dave Ohlmer*

## **2022 Happenings**

The Society bid a fond farewell to Nancy Ohlmer, Society Trustee, husband Dave (former Trustee) and family as they start a new chapter in their lives in sunny Florida. Nancy was very involved in many events at the Walden House - fundraising, maintenance and Archives. Spending time in the archives and unraveling the mysteries of history was a passion for Nancy. She spent many years researching the history of her own house - the John Hays House on Maple Street, Walden. She acquired the distinguished award of having her house named to the National Register of Historic Places and most recently a Historic marker awarded by the William F. Pomeroy Foundation was placed outside the home. We wish Nancy and her family the best and hope they visit us often.

In an effort to be creative with our fundraising the Society reached out to Lisa Morrison, medium/psychic for an interesting night of conversations with loved ones no longer with us. Lisa participated in 2 different events at the Walden House and many event guests had a conversation with loved ones who had passed.

We are scheduling her for an evening of Paranormal Investigation of the Walden House. Many people have speculated on the question of the Walden House being haunted - we may have an answer this fall!

Two trustees, Barbara Imbasciani and Mary Slater, had the privilege of touring the site of the Milk Factory, located on the site of the ruins of the Borden Condensory. This is an exciting project that will re-use many parts of the structure to create a multi use facility that will include a museum, restaurant and hotel suites. It was exciting to see the ruins from inside the structure - the brick work is fascinating and it is nice to know that as much as possible will be included in the renovations and rebuilding. If you would like more information about this project, check out their website - [milkfactory.co](http://milkfactory.co) (".co" is correct).

\* \* \*

## ***Congratulations Trustees Lisa Melville-McIver and Nancy Ohlmer on Pomeroy Markers***

Blue Historic Markers -- William F. Pomeroy Foundation has placed a marker at the John R. Hays House, 45 Maple Street Walden, NY and another marker due at the home of the LaTourette Farm on Berea next month, thanks to the hard work of Trustees, Nancy Ohlmer and Lisa Melville-McIver, current residents, respectively. Long time Trustee and present Recording Secretary, Nancy, her husband, Dave, and daughter Jordan, moved this month and will be sadly missed. Their lovely home on Maple Street has been on the National Register of Historic Places for some time. We thank the William F. Pomeroy Foundation for the approval of these markers and the 100% funding they provide to create and have them installed.

The Ohlmer family has lived in the John R. Hays home on Maple Street for the past 31 years. Nancy has been a Trustee with the Society most, if not all, of that time and Dave Ohlmer was a Trustee and active volunteer for a number of years too. The sign was installed at a ceremony on their former front lawn last month.

\* \* \*

**FUNDRAISING 2022** started with a terrific new idea of an American Flag with brighter and brighter colors depicting donations as they arrive. The name of every donor and a star is added to the outer border for each donation. Thank you! Our special thanks to Helen Tighe for her artistic talent in designing this unique means of showing our fundraising progress and painting in frequent updates.

**To date almost \$9,000 has been raised.** All donations, unless otherwise specified will be part of the Walden House Repair Fund. Specific first repairs are being addressed with porch repairs to begin this month. Rotted column supports, gutter, replacement columns outside... and a floorboard in the meeting room inside are just the beginning.



*Helen Tighe volunteered time and skill to design this unique handmade American Flag Chart of Donations. Pictured here, she keeps the flag up-to-date, marking progress by making the colors of the flag brighter and brighter as donations arrive. In addition, each donation is noted with a star and name of the contributor on the outer border. Thank you, Helen! Nico Imbasciani, grandson of Society President, Barbara Imbasciani, was on hand to help. Thanks for your help, too, Nico!*

## Letter from the President

A big THANK YOU to the supporters of the Historical Society of Walden and the Wallkill Valley--the members, the businesses and the community. We could not do what we do or be where we are with you.

The fundraising campaign is doing really well. To date we have raised almost \$9000.00 dollars. Our most immediate project is the repair of the front porch --6 new pillars, replacement of the bottom fascia board, repair of north corner base stone support and a new wide gutter. We have an active bid and will beginning in the next few weeks. Of course, everything is much more expensive than last year but we will continue to fundraise to meet the needs of the building.

There is much more to the Historical Society than raising money. It is the story of us - how Coldenham, Montgomery, Maybrook and Walden came to be, what interesting events happened here, how we were affected by the Revolutionary War and the Civil War and what was the industry that gave our area its foundation? I think the Archives is the most interesting place to explore - we uncover interesting things every day. From those great finds we try to plan a program. Most recently, we uncovered a large collection of flags. From those flags we have created a display set for June 18th. Maps - we have a ton of maps - maybe our next big display will be maps. Who knows where the archive room will lead us!

We have had a busy Spring. Two Trustee members, Nancy Ohlmer and Lisa Melville-McIver, worked with the Pomeroy Foundation to have their houses awarded Historic Markers. The program involves the researcher to submit primary documentation to the Foundation to support the celebration and preservation of community history.

Early this Spring, we were glad to welcome Trustee, Mrs. Nancy Phelps and the Walden History Club (Elementary School) to the Walden House for a tour and scavenger hunt. Plus, we have had 2 student volunteers helping in the archives.

The General Meeting speakers and events are listed and updated on the web site..

I hope to see everyone throughout the year.

~ Barbara



*Our Fundraising Flag --colors & stars brighten with your donations! Thank you!*

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## **Stop N Shop, Newburgh...donated to the Historical Society during April**

Stop n Shop selected the Historical Society of Walden and the Wallkill Valley as their April Community Bag Program donation recipient.

When customers purchased a shopping bag for \$2.50, Stop N Shop donated \$1.00 for each bag sold during the month to our Society. Stop N Shop is located at 429 Route 300 in Newburgh. Thank You!!

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| The Acorn Grocery Stores                                              |                                    |                                                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Specials for Week Ending Sat., April 17th                             |                                    |                                                   |
| J. S. Walker<br>39 Main St.<br>PHONE-124                              | FREE<br>DELIVERY                   | J. R. Walker<br>40 S. Montgomery St.<br>PHONE-116 |
| Reliance Gelatine<br>Rasp. Straw. Lemon<br>2 pkgs. 17c                | Walter Baker's Cocoa<br>18c box    | SHRIMP<br>2 cans 27c                              |
| Toilet Tissue Paper<br>BLUE KROSS<br>(1000 Sheets)<br>3 rolls for 20c | Ginger Snaps<br>15c lb.            | Anco Peanut Butter<br>Large 12 oz. Jar<br>25c     |
| WHITE ROCK<br>Ginger Ale<br>15c bottle                                | SUCCOTASH<br>(Dutchess)<br>can 17c | Golden Bant. Corn<br>(Lily of Valley)<br>can 19c  |

*Walden Citizen Herald, April 15, 1926*

**Civil War Discharge Papers of Charles G. Hunt** of Walden recently identified in our Archives. (It's a huge process to sort and identify all that has been donated over the years. As an all Volunteer organization, we rely heavily on the time and availability of our members and Trustees.)

Private Hunt served in the 35<sup>th</sup> Regiment. Link to a larger PDF of front and back will be on our website.

Please note that this gentleman serves his country well and was either injured or ill at the time of his discharge.

Trustee, Lisa Melville-McIver has been in contact with

the Curator of Collections at the National Civil War Museum who provided the following transcription of some of the info.

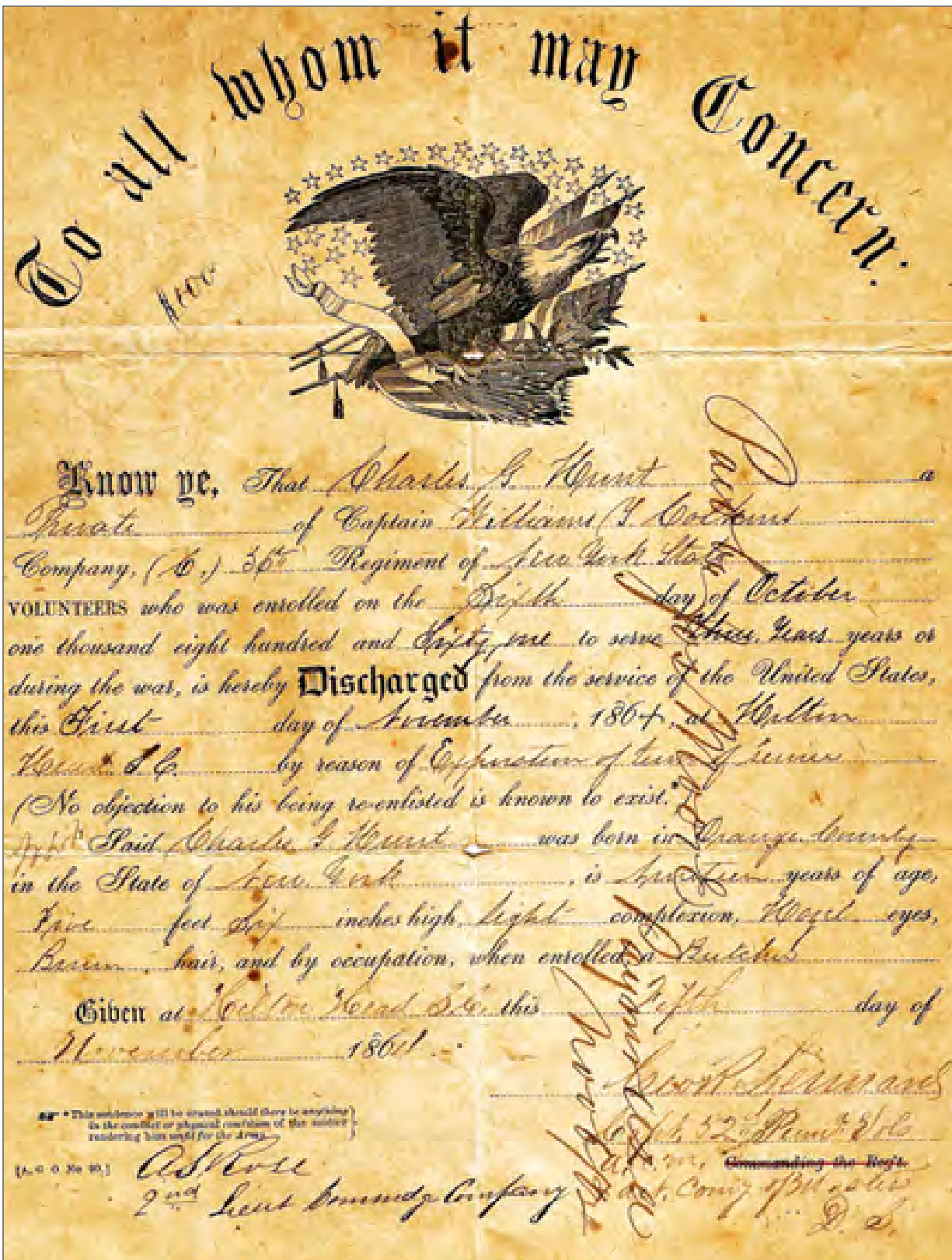
**Charles G. Hunt**  
Born: 1842.

19 years old when enlisted. Enlisted on 10/6/1861 at St. Andrews, NY as a Private. On 11/2/1861 he mustered into "C" Co. NY 56th Infantry. He was Mustered Out on 11/10/1864.

He filed for an Invalid pension on January 19th, 1891. Pension certificate no. 796721.

Died: 1923  
Buried: Wallkill Valley Cemetery, Walden, Orange County, New York.

PDFs on our website.





Membership is open to anyone interested in local history:  
\$30 Family / \$20 Single / \$7.50 Student K-12 or \$50  
Business (which includes a business card sized ad on our  
website). You must first be an active member of the  
Society to be voted in as a Trustee.

**Trustees:**

Patricia Eisley – Treasurer  
Richard Hoyt  
Barbara Imbasciani – President  
Sandra Magill  
Lisa Melville-McIver  
Marcus Millspaugh  
Susan Millspaugh  
Howard Oldrey  
Nancy Ohlmer  
Nancy Phelps  
Mary Slater – Secretary  
Anita Vandermark – VP  
Gail Yeaple

*Volunteers needed—young and old alike!*

*Pictured: Nico Imbasciani helps kick off our new 2022 fundraiser in February 2022.*

Historical Society of Walden and the Wallkill Valley  
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