

Newsletter

Historical Society of Shawangunk & Gardiner

Volume 11, Number 2

Spring 2014

STEWART ADDISON CROWELL (1941-2014): A community remembers

In this special edition, we pay tribute to long-time Board Trustee and Past Co-President, Stewart Crowell, who died on February 3, 2014. If the measure of a man is not by what he accomplishes for personal gain, but what he does to help others, Stewart was a great and good man. The words of the community speak best for him.



Stewart Addison Crowell

Stewart was the protector of the DuBois House. He was always concerned with the historic presentation aspect of any and all changes we discussed for restoration. He was always there to do the hard labor and kept the grounds of our property looking great. His knowledge and building expertise will be missed as we continue his vision. His enjoyment of history and its connection to what makes our community special was infectious.

Bob Mooney, Trustee, Historical Society of Shawangunk & Gardiner

On a snowy evening in February, the hamlet of Wallkill lost one of its most respected and beloved members, Stewart Addison Crowell. For the Wallkill

Public Library, we lost one of our greatest champions – a dedicated trustee who worked tirelessly to support our organization for over 40 years. He carried on this legacy from his grandfather, J. Addison Crowell, one of the original trustees in the 1930s.

Stewart was a great friend, a kindred spirit, a huge presence of a man, and a true gentleman. He was a simple, generous and infinitely kind person who loved his community, cherished his lovely wife Carolyn, his children Lynne and Brian, his son and daughter-in-law, and his five grandchildren, of whom he was tremendously proud. Stewart was a kind and compassionate man. He was a dreamer – but also a doer – that rare combination that creates community and expands peoples' minds beyond what they thought possible – because to him – nothing was impossible and every moment the right moment to get started.

What an honor to have known Stewart, and to have worked diligently by his side. The world needs more people like him. We could all stand to be more like him, to set aside petty grievances and strive to see what is right and possible and good in all things and in all people and to live up to his favorite saying, "Carpe diem!". Make the most of every moment.

Mary Lou Carolan, Director, Wallkill Public Library

Stewart, with his wife Carolyn, was an active member of Meals on Wheels in Wallkill for over 10 years. If something about the program was not treating a senior right, he would work to correct any injustice. He had a passion to help.

John Schneider, Director, Meals on Wheels

Stewart Crowell was a Churchman. It is not a term often used today. It describes a person who has developed their gift of faith to be of use to God and humanity. Stewart created opportunities to help those in need...to make sure no child in the Wallkill School District should go to bed hungry.(continued, p.2).

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Letter from the President

Dear Members and Friends,

We have dedicated this issue of the Historical Society newsletter to the memory of Stewart Crowell, our friend and fellow Board Member. We felt that the best way to express our loss was to share with you with words of those in the community who worked closest with him and knew the measure of the man. We will miss him terribly. There are some people who are irreplaceable in this world, and Stew was one of them. Our sincere love and friendship goes out to Carolyn, his wife and helpmate in all his community endeavors, and fellow Board member.

We hope you will mark your calendar for Wednesday, June 4 and join us for our annual picnic, this year scheduled on the lawn of the historic Terwilliger House in Gardiner (see, page 3). It is always fun to share food and companionship outdoors, enhanced by the beauty of an historic house. Please be among our numbers!

This year we are adding several fun workshops to our programs. If you want to spruce up your garden or invite more birds to your backyard, check out the June 21 workshops we have planned.

Debra Wolff

(continued from p. 1) He donated land, time, his truck, hands and feet to get the Community Garden and Farm Market started. He travelled to Goshen to pick up fresh vegetables and flowers to sell on Saturday at the corner of Park and Main Streets. The proceeds and left over vegetables were given to the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry. Stewart helped with the Snacking Kid's Backpack program also. Stewart did so **gladly and without fanfare or the need for recognition.**

Rev. Toni L. Macon, Pastor, Wallkill Reformed Church

Stewart Crowell was an active and valued member of the Board of Directors of Wallkill Valley Savings and Loan since 1989. Stewart was very proud of the Savings and Loan and its work to help the community he loved so dearly. He was a constant champion of both the employees and our customers and always saw the good in the work of the Association. **He was highly respect by his peers** and his influence and prudent stewardship will be missed and difficult to replace.

Michael Horodyski, President & CEO, Wallkill Valley Savings & Loan Bank

You may make a donation to the Historical Society of Shawangunk & Gardiner to honor the memory of Stewart Crowell.

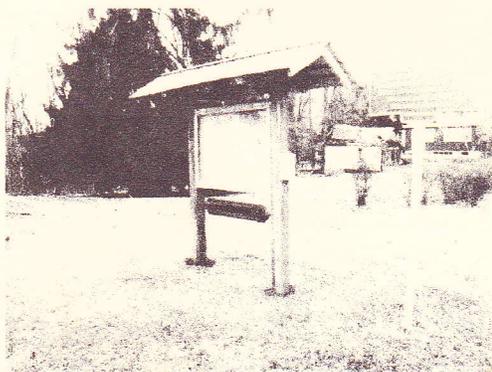
Event Highlights

There was a presentation on **March 5** at the Town Hall on **Child Labor in the Village of Walden in 1890**. It was common at that time for children to work in factories, such as the NY Knife Company. By 1913 the practice had significantly diminished. Also, at the meeting special awards were given to **World War II veterans Gil McCord and George Low**.

An **April 2nd open house** meeting of the Historical Society was held at the Andries DuBois House. Many displays were set up including the large 1883 Borden map that Wallkill was designed from, the one-room school house display, Borden memorabilia, clothing from the early 1900s, and many more items from the 1800s. Visitors toured the 1769 house built by Andries DuBois and the evening was enlivened also by a 50/50 drawing. Refreshments, wine & cheese were enjoyed by the 41 people, including several new members who joined during the open house.

Dubois House Restoration Report

Thanks to **Adam Seelig, Al White, Bob Mooney, Jim Malloy and Hal Van Aken**, the Historical Society has a new kiosk to display events and information at the Andries DuBois House. The kiosk was built in spite of the worst that nature could throw at the Hamlet of Wallkill. The handsome structure will honor the memory of Board Trustee **Stewart Crowell**.



The Restoration Committee has begun to record the volunteer hours that have steadily marked the progress towards restoration. Over the month of April 2014 alone, 58 volunteer hours were contributed to the DuBois House that included interior cleaning, stabilization of the garage, emptying of debris, and plantings. For the Knights of Pythias house, 16.5 volunteer hours went for continued painting of future

meeting rooms and offices on the ground floor. The Restoration Committee always welcomes additional volunteers on Saturday mornings from 10-12!

The Historical Society is initiating **hands-on workshop programs in June** that are likely to interest our members. You will have two choices: 1) a workshop during which you will make your own planters from easy-to-use concrete (materials provided), adding charm to your own outdoor garden spaces, and 2) a workshop to make bird-specific birdhouses (materials provided). \$30/workshop. These workshops will take place on the lawn of the Andries DeBois House on **Saturday June 21**, 10 a.m. to noon. Participation is limited, so sign up early!

On **Wednesday, June 4**, the Historical Society of Shawangunk & Gardiner will host its annual **June picnic from 6-8 p.m.** on the lawn of the **Terwilliger House in Gardiner**. The house is located at Locust Lawn, 436 South Route 32. **Bring a dish to pass and tableware**. Beverages will be provided. As an added bonus, members will be able to tour the adjacent Hasbrouck House. This house is a rare treasure filled with the furnishings, clothing and possessions of five generations of the prosperous Hasbrouck family. Please sign up to reserve your tour or email worlffd@nycap.rr.com. The tour will cost \$10.

On Monday, May 5, at 7:30 p.m., at the Gardiner Town Hall, **Frank Almquist** will present a talk on the history of the area's famous **reservoirs that service New York City**, including how they were constructed, the problem of the leaks, and what is currently being done to restore the integrity of the system.

The **Wallkill Valley Land Trust** is holding its **4th Annual Historic House Tour – House and Farms in the Wallkill River Valley: The Changing Face of Agriculture in Gardiner & Shawangunk**, on **Saturday, May 31, 2014**, 11 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Tickets are \$40 or \$35 by May 30. Buy on-line or pick up on tour day at TuthillHouse at the Mill Restaurant.

**Historical Society of
Shawangunk & Gardiner
Spring 2014 Programs**

**Monday, May 5 – 7:30 p.m. History of the
Reservoirs, presented by Frank Almquist, 7:30
p.m., Gardiner Town Hall**

**Wednesday, June 4 – 6-8 p.m. Annual June
picnic, on lawn of the Terwilliger House, Locust
Lawn, 436 South Route 32, Gardiner. Bring a
dish to share and setting. Drinks provided. For
reservations for Hasbrouck House tour, email
wolffd@nycap.rr.com, \$10.**

**Saturday, June 21, 10-12. Workshops for
making garden planters and bird-specific
birdhouses (see p.3 for details). \$30/workshop.
Contact: Freda (895-3986); Adam (315-402-8838)**

**Saturday, June 28, 10-4 p.m.
Garden Tour and Plant Sale. \$15 Tickets and
plant sale at Andries Dubois House. Contact:
Freda (895-3986)**

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**J.T. Smith, Superintendent
J. Nicotera, Instructor**

CALL FOR 2014 DUES

Individual: \$ 20 Business: \$ 50
Family: \$ 30 Patron: \$ 100
Supporting: \$ 50 Benefactor \$ 250

**Our programs depend on your support.
Please take a moment to pay your dues.
Checks payable: Historical Society of
Shawangunk & Gardiner. P.O. Box
570, Wallkill, NY 12589**



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