

# HISTORIC PITTSFORD

spring, 2013

NEWSLETTER

## In this issue

**The Cobblestone School**

**Ezra Patterson: A Pittsford Soldier at Antietam**

**Coming Soon: A Book About Pittsford**

**Architectural Consultation**

**President's Corner**

**Planning for our Future**

**HP Achievement Awards**

**Upcoming Events**

Edited by Karen Hultz

[www.historicpittsford.com](http://www.historicpittsford.com)

## Statement of Purpose

*Historic Pittsford is a not-for-profit organization chartered and incorporated under the New York State Department of Education. Committed to the preservation of Pittsford's rich heritage of nineteenth and twentieth century architecture and the special character and sense of place it has provided, Historic Pittsford also faces the complexities of today.*

## THE COBBLESTONE SCHOOL

by Audrey Johnson

In 1842, Pittsford Village needed a school-house. One that had been named as District #6 was located on State Street, made of wood and was destroyed by fire. The Trustees of the Village decided that a stone school building was needed and they advertised in a newspaper that went as far as Rochester.

Mr. Samuel Crump, a master stonemason, who had practiced that craft in his native country of England, had arrived not long before that to visit relatives in Rochester on his honeymoon. Sam had decided to stay in this country due to religious intolerance in England and was looking for work. This announcement seemed a godsend. He walked to Pittsford from his cousin's home and persuaded the village and school officials that he was the person to build the stone school house, and that he would use cobblestones which he had experience with and which he considered beautiful. In addition, cobblestones were abundant in this area.

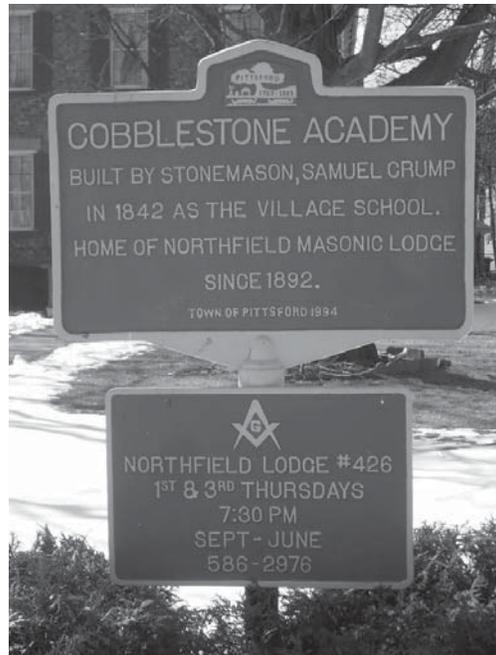
The school was built and housed all of the village students. Students who lived in outlying areas attended district schoolhouses located around the town. At this time, there were nine districts. A small wooden addition was added to the rear of the stone building in

order to accommodate more students.

When the "new" high school was built up on Lincoln Ave., it could house all of the grades up through 12 and this cobblestone building was no longer needed. This was around 1890.

The small wooden addition was removed in 1892 and became part of a home at #7 West Jefferson Road. The building was purchased by the Master Masons who have been excellent stewards of the property and even added a concrete basement where there had only been a dirt floor crawl space before.

Mr. Samuel Crump remained in Pittsford to become an outstanding citizen. He was a merchant who owned a general store and he figured heavily into the Underground Railroad movement, being the ONLY documented engineer we have in the community.



Note: Historic Pittsford will be holding their annual meeting and picnic at the Masonic Temple (formerly the Cobblestone School) in July – More details will follow.



# EZRA A. PATTERSON: A PITTSFORD SOLDIER AT ANTIETAM

by Vicki Masters Profitt

Antietam. What came to be known as the bloodiest day of battle in American history also happened to be the first engagement in which the 108th New York Volunteer Infantry participated. This was to be the only battle for Ezra A. Patterson of Pittsford, for Ezra did not survive to fight another day.

Ezra A. Patterson was born in July, 1841 to Aaron B. and Jane Ann Hecox Patterson. While Aaron farmed their land in Pittsford, Jane Ann cared for Ezra and his brother, Mortimer, who was born in 1847. A daughter, Alice, would be born in 1852. However, Jane Ann did not live long enough to raise her children to adulthood. She died in 1853 at age 35 and was laid to rest at the Pioneer Burying Ground in Pittsford. After Jane's death, Aaron Patterson married her sister, Harriet Hecox.

By 1860, Ezra could be found in Marion, New York, working for Marvin Rich as a merchant's clerk. However, once the Civil War began, Ezra wasn't content to work in an office while others went off to fight. He enlisted in Co. C of the 108th New York Volunteer Infantry on July 21, 1862, and was mustered in on August 18th. Ezra A. Patterson had just celebrated his 21st birthday. At 5' 7 1/2" tall, Ezra was of average stature for those times. However, he must have been a striking figure with his light complexion, black hair and grey eyes.

After his quick promotion to First Sergeant, Ezra and the 108th traveled through several states before arriving in Maryland. The 108th had only mustered in one month earlier, and they were about to get a trial by fire.

On the morning of September 17, 1862, the men of the 108th were awakened at 4:00 a.m. and told to get breakfast and be prepared to march. The battle commenced and Ezra was wounded in action. He would have been carried to the field hospital for treatment. After over a week at the field hospital, a train of ambulances transported the wounded to Washington, D.C. Ezra was among those in the ambulances.

Carver Hospital in Washington D.C. was to be Ezra's last stop. It was at Carver that Ezra began to recover from his wounds. In fact, he was well enough to receive a Surgeon's Certificate of Disability on October 14th and be discharged. His comrade, Franklin R. Garlock, gave a first-hand account of what happened next in George H. Washburn's *A Complete Military History and Record of the 108th Regiment N.Y. Vols.*: "Here our comrade Patterson formerly of Pittsford, N.Y., was also discharged and was to go home with me, but who was detained, by reason of his papers not arriving from the war-office in

time. He was apparently doing well when I left the hospital, but soon a fatal hemorrhage set in, which resulted in his death, soon after. He never got home alive."

Had Aaron Patterson been aware that his son was given his discharge and was coming home? If so, it must have been a terrible blow to the Patterson family when subsequent word reached them of Ezra's death on October 26th. Mortimer, Ezra's young brother, would be the next Patterson to join the war effort. He enlisted in June, 1863 in Co. F of the 14th Heavy Artillery. The official paperwork lists his age at enlistment as 18, but Mortimer was discharged just one month later for "being under 18 years of age". In actuality, Mortimer was just 16.

Ezra's body was returned to Pittsford and he was buried at the

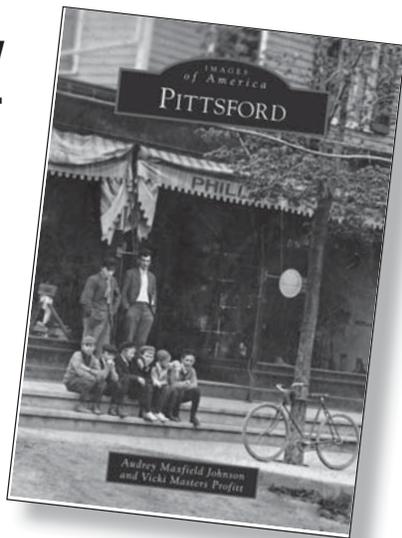
Pioneer Burying Ground beside his mother, Jane Ann Hecox Patterson. Aaron Patterson couldn't bear to live in Pittsford after the loss of his son and by 1870 he, Harriet and Alice had moved to Marshalltown, Iowa. Aaron died in 1878. Ezra's aunt/stepmother, Harriet, passed on in 1907. Alice, Ezra's only sister, lived to age 83 before dying unmarried in 1935. They are buried at Riverside Cemetery in Marshalltown, Iowa. The record of Ezra's brother, Mortimer, runs cold after 1863, and his whereabouts remain unknown.

On September 17, 2012, the United States commemorated the 150th anniversary of the battle of Antietam. Eight other soldiers from Pittsford served in the 108th New York Infantry with Ezra. Among those was nineteen-year old Charles A. Tillotson, who also died of wounds received at Antietam. He is buried at Pittsford Cemetery.



## COMING SOON: A NEW BOOK ABOUT PITTSFORD

Pittsford Town and Village Historian Audrey Johnson and *Illuminated History* genealogist Vicki Profitt are pleased to announce that their pictorial history book, *Pittsford*, is due to be released by Arcadia Publishing on June 3, 2013. The book chronicles the histories of Pittsford's earliest settlers, businesses and organizations through photographs, many of which were graciously shared by descendants of these pioneers. *Pittsford* will be available for sale through Historic Pittsford and other booksellers.



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## ARCHITECTURAL CONSULTATION PROGRAM

Historic Pittsford offers and underwrites up to three hours of consultation services by a preservation architect for the following: (1) any village designation regardless of date (2) any town structures built before 1902 or those having "historic designation" regardless of date. Advice and written reports by the architect are particularly helpful in the early stages of planning exterior changes that require approval by review boards. Basic structural problems such as water damage, roof leaks, chimney and gutter problems also fall under this program.

Contact Mary Menzie, 381-3799 for details.



### *Little House Office and Museum*

18 Monroe Ave., Pittsford, NY 14534 / 381-2941

Open: Wednesday and Saturday 9am-12noon

Dorothy Meusburger, Secretary

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER - Preservation Matters

We have much to report since our last newsletter. Your Board of Directors is making significant progress as we implement our strategic plan. The recent purchase of a wireless computer system has opened up a myriad of opportunities to focus on Historic Pittsford business and to develop new programs and initiatives. Please feel free to contact us at our new email address, [historicpittsford@gmail.com](mailto:historicpittsford@gmail.com) and visit our website at [www.historicpittsford.com](http://www.historicpittsford.com).

Since approval of our strategic plan, our three most active committees have been the Little House / Technology, Membership, and Issues Committees. Addressing the long term viability of Historic Pittsford, we are carefully developing a plan to adapt the Little House to better serve you and our community as a center for historical preservation and headquarters for the organization. The Issues Committee continues to monitor various preservation matters, including the new Westport Crossing project at 75 Monroe Avenue, and the Membership Committee is identifying ways to increase and diversify our membership and to better utilize the skills of our current members.

One of the changes you will notice is that we will be sending out a separate membership renewal package

this year, coming out in early May. Our hope is to not only better inform and engage you but to reach a wider audience with the message of the significance of historic preservation. In the coming weeks, you will be hearing more about this and plans for the annual meeting to be held at the Masonic Temple this July.

I am also pleased to announce that Historic Pittsford will be an organization sponsor for the Landmark Society's Annual Preservation Conference the weekend of April 19th. It's titled *Outside the Box: Innovative Preservation Practices for the 21st Century* and fits right in with our own directions. This promises to be an exciting weekend; so please attend if you can.

We invite you to join us on any of our committees, to contribute your time and skills to making Historic Pittsford a viable, enduring organization. Historic preservation requires constant vigilance and commitment; and we certainly cannot be effective without our members' participation.

Sincerely,  
by Margaret Caraberis Brizee, **President**  
Historic Pittsford

**HP's 2012/13 Board of Directors:**

**Acting President - Margaret Caraberis Brizee**

**Vice President – David Minor**

**Secretary – JoAnne Shannon**

**Treasurer – Peter Webster**

**Assistant Treasurer – John Parker**

Members at large: Lanie Bittner, Bob Corby, Jean France, Karen Hultz, Audrey Johnson, Rusty Likely, Maryjane Link, Joe Maxey, Mary Menzie, Shelley O'Brien, Richard Osgood Jr., Deborah Resch, Bonnie Salem

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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](http://www.historicpittsford.com) and should be sent to the Little House, 18 Monroe Ave., Pittsford 14534 by April 30. Individuals may make multiple submissions.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**April 19-20, 2013**

“Outside the Box: Innovative Preservation Practices for the 21st Century”  
Landmark Society’s Preservation Conference  
(for details, go to [www.landmarksociety.org](http://www.landmarksociety.org))

**Thursday, April 25, 2013**

“The New Frontier of Western New York Post Revolution”

Key events and personalities that set the stage for settlement of the six million acres west of Geneva. (Details TBA)

**Sunday, July 14, 2013**

HP Annual meeting  
Masonic Lodge (Cobblestone school) in the village (Details TBA)



18 MONROE AVENUE  
PITTSFORD, NY 14534