

# HISTORIC PITTSFORD

Fall 2017 NEWSLETTER

## NOTABLE WOMEN OF PITTSFORD

by Vicki Profitt

### **Sarah Hinchler Davis Lusk - 1777-1856**

Sarah Hinchler was the third of William Hinchler and Mehitable Moffatt Hinchler's eight children, which included seven daughters and one son. The Hinchers arrived in New York from Massachusetts in 1792. Three years later, the family moved to Charlotte, where William purchased 627 acres of land. Following his death in 1817, several acres of the Hinchler land was sold to the U.S. government and it later became the site of the Charlotte-Genesee Lighthouse. Mehitable was credited with being the first white woman to cross the Genesee River.

Sarah endured hardship and tragedy as a pioneer. She was left with a young son to care for upon the death of her first husband, Franklin Davis. In 1801, she married widower Stephen Lusk who had a young daughter. Sarah and Stephen had six children together. They built a good life together. Stephen farmed and owned a tannery, and Sarah raised their growing family. The Lusk home, located at 1 Mendon Center Rd., was constructed in 1822 and stands today as a testament to its fine workmanship. Stephen and Sarah were buried at the Pioneer Burying Ground, across the street from their home. Stephen and Sarah Hinchler Davis Lusk's descendants still live in the area.



*Sarah Hinchler Davis Lusk*

### **Ann Agate Miles - 1797-1886**

Ann Agate was born in 1797, the year before her parents, William and Mary Agate, moved to Pittsford. At four years of age, Ann was sent to District #1 school, the only school in the area at that time. It was a log cabin located at the current site of the Mile Post School at the corner of South Main St. and Mendon Rd. Since the area was still wild, it was unsafe for young Ann to travel through the woods alone. So, for a time, she boarded with the Ezra Patterson family, who lived closer to the school. Ann married Reverend Stephen Miles late in life, after the death of his first wife Polly, in 1848. Sadly, her marriage was short lived, as Reverend Miles died in 1851.

Despite her loss, Ann continued living in Pittsford and was listed as a farmer in subsequent census records. Upon her death in 1886, Ann was buried beside her parents in the Pioneer Burying Ground near the school she had attended so many years before.

Ann Miles Agate saw many changes in Pittsford in her 89 years. During her lifetime, the Erie Canal was built through the village, the town was named Pittsford and the building known as the Phoenix Hotel was constructed.

*(continued on next page)*



*Ann Agate Miles*

### ***Little House Office and Museum***

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

Open: Wednesday and Saturday 9am-12noon

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

Dorothy Meusburger, Secretary



### **Lillian M. Hartman** - 1864-1943

The only child of Dr. William A. Hartman and his wife, Caroline Rippey Hartman, Lillian was born in Seneca, NY. Her given name was Mary Elizabeth, but she preferred to be called Lillian, or Lillie for short.

Lillian attended Penn Yan Academy. She was an intelligent and able student with an eagerness to learn. These skills served her well and contributed to Lillian M. Hartman becoming the first woman to qualify as a licensed pharmacist before the New York State Board of Pharmacy on November 26, 1886.

Following her certification as a pharmacist, Lillian and her father operated the Hartman Drug Store in Pittsford. After Dr. Hartman's death in 1900, Lillian and her mother, Caroline, continued operation of the drug store, now called C. & L. Hartman Drugs.

For many years, Lillian was the Pittsford correspondent for the Herald-Mail, reporting on facts and social notes pertaining to the community. She was also a photographer, snapping photos of people and places in Pittsford.

### **Adele Burley Summers** - 1879-1960

A native of Pittsford, Adele Burley Summers was a doctor of optics who had cared for discharged patients of the Rochester State Hospital for 25 years. She was the first female oculist in the state of Kansas and Washington. Her girlhood had been spent in Kansas City where she attended Northwest Optical College and became a doctor of optics. She set up practice in Seattle, Washington at the turn of the century. After a couple of years she decided to homestead a 640 acre section in southeast Washington. She continued her practice while working on the land as well and delivered the mail on horseback. Adele and her husband, Arthur J. Summers, operated a 1,300 acre wheat ranch until they came east to Fairport in 1924. After Arthur's death in 1935, Adele arranged with the state hospital to take in women patients who were undergoing a readjustment period before resuming life in society. She boarded about 10 such women at a time, each one staying an average of about two years. Adele was president of the board of the Baptist Home during the 1930's and was long active in its affairs.



*Adele Burley Summers*

### **Claudia M. Race Day** - 1908-1994

Little Claudia Marguerite Race may not have been well known when she moved to Pittsford in the mid-20th century, but she was quite a celebrity as a child growing up in Syracuse, NY.

Claudia began playing the Irish harp at age six. Within a year, she was touring the Eastern seaboard and was hailed as a virtuoso. She became the protégée of Melville A. Clark, the creator of the first portable harp manufactured in the United States. It's unknown how long Claudia's career in the music industry continued. We do know she moved to Pittsford in the 1950's, likely due to her husband's job as assistant chief dispatcher for the New York Central Railroad. They raised two sons and a daughter together before his untimely death at age 53. Claudia Marguerite Race Day survived her husband by 31 years, passing on in 1994. She was buried beside him at Pittsford Cemetery.

*(These are just a few of the many notable women who have lived in Pittsford – both past and present. To learn about more of these amazing women, visit the Little House to see our display.)*

## **SUBURBAN ARCHEOLOGY**



Archeological digs are often associated with dry, arid lands far from home, but once in awhile, they can occur right in your backyard.

In July 2016, student Martin Banghart became interested in a pile of stones and mortar hidden amongst the weeds on Mendon Center Rd. After securing permission from the town, Martin spent his July days clearing brush and vegetation to expose the foundation of what appears to have once been a barn.

Town Historian, Audrey Johnson believes this foundation might have been part of the property of Ezra Patterson, who started the town's first library in his home, which once stood where Mendon Center Elementary School stands today.

For the remainder of the summer and into the Fall, Martin's hard work uncovered this foundation from Pittsford's past for all to see. Unfortunately, nature always wins in the end and weeds and vegetation have once again hidden the foundation, where it quietly waits to be discovered once again.

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER - PRESERVATION MATTERS

Throughout 2017, Historic Pittsford (HP) has been celebrating the centennial of the Woman's Suffrage movement in New York State, culminating in our hosting the Susan B Anthony VoteTilla at the Port of Pittsford in July through a great collaboration with the Women's Club of Pittsford. Our work resulted in Pittsford having the largest of any crowd to greet the VoteTilla.

Another all-year celebration has been the commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the ground-breaking for the Erie Canal. Historic Pittsford not only sponsored the VoteTilla, which also honored the canal, but supported the 2-day August mooring of the Lois McClure - a replica canal schooner and floating museum from Lake Champlain's Maritime Museum. Thanks to our pre-event publicity, hundreds of residents toured the Lois McClure and got a glimpse of what it was like to live and work on the canal 100 years ago. This was an extremely successful event, bringing tangible canal history to the public, especially children.

As you know, early Historic Pittsford boards and members incorporated HP to advocate for the preservation of historic architecture. Its first act was to save from demolition the Little House (circa 1819), our headquarters. A committed group of individuals, their persistence for preservation encouraged the village and later the town to adopt the Secretary of the Interior's criteria for preservation of historic resources. The Village has not wavered from these standards and the result is the preservation of a 19th and early 20th century critical mass of structures and the designation to the National Register of Historic Places of the majority of the village as a result.

Due to its location on the canal and adjacent to agricultural land protected through the public's purchase of development rights from farmer owners, Schoen Place (formerly

Schoen's' Alley) is arguably the only remaining intact village collection of historical buildings along the entire Erie Canal. As a unique visual record of the economic and agricultural history of the canal, the majority of these properties have been creatively and successfully 'repurposed' to adapt to changing economic times while maintaining their architectural and canal commercial integrity wherever possible, through formal application of the Secretary of the Interior's standards and guidelines. The result is simply remarkable and makes this historic area unique in the State and so very appealing to our community and the region.

This year's celebration of Woman Suffrage and the Erie Canal has highlighted the important advocacy role that Historic Pittsford will continue to play for the community. Of course, we need the help of all of our members and welcome your suggestions and support. The more I learn about the importance of historic preservation done well, it's evident that Preservation is Progress.

I hope you enjoy the Fall season; take in the historic significance of the Erie Canal; and don't forget to exercise your right to vote, especially in this centennial year of Woman Suffrage!

### PRESERVATION IS PROGRESS!

Peggy (Margaret) Caraberi  
President, Historic Pittsford  
[historicpittsford@gmail.com](mailto:historicpittsford@gmail.com)



## HISTORIC PITTSFORD'S ANNUAL MEETING

Historic Pittsford's Annual meeting took place on June 11 at Monroe's restaurant where attendees enjoyed appetizers and a delicious buffet dinner. Highlights of the meeting included the following:

- President Peggy Brizee led the business meeting where she reported on historic issues and projects throughout the village and town.
- Vicki Profitt reported on the VoteTilla events along the canal on July 20 and 21.
- Treasurer Suzanne Shaw reported a net operating deficit of \$2,300 due to major expenses for the year, including restoration of the Little House front door and one of its columns.

- JoAnne Shannon presented the nominating committee's report. Many thanks went to Alyssa Plummer and Maryjane Link for all of their work with HP as they go off the board. Suzanne Shaw has taken over as treasurer and two new members have been added to the board: Vicki Profitt and Katie Andres. The remaining officers and members at large remain the same.
- David Minor presented HP's awards. The 2nd annual Jean France award went to Austin Ange who plans to study architecture and preservation at Virginia Tech. HP announced two preservation award winners this year. The first award went to Jake Hoppa who organized the pocket park across from the Depot. The second award was a surprise for Audrey Johnson, our town historian and board member, for her dedication to the preservation of the history of the community.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sunday, October 29, 2 pm**  
**“Day of the Dead”**

Actors in period costume will portray the lives of Pittsford’s earliest settlers at gravesides throughout the cemetery. The cemetery is located at 210 Mendon Rd. Participants may park at United Church of Pittsford (123 South Main St.) and use a free shuttle to the cemetery. This program is free, but registration through the Pittsford Recreation Center is required at: 585-248-6280 or [www.townofpittsford.org](http://www.townofpittsford.org).

**Tuesday, December 5, 5:30 – 8:30 pm**  
**Candlelight Night**

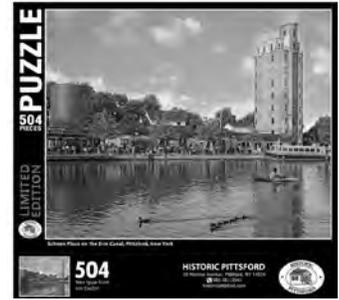
Be sure to visit the Little House, 18 Monroe Ave., on Candlelight Night. The house will be aglow with Christmas lights and smiling faces as we welcome visitors in for treats and a little history.

**“Like” us on Facebook!**  
**Visit us at: [www.historicpittsford.com](http://www.historicpittsford.com)**

### Limited Edition Puzzles coming soon!

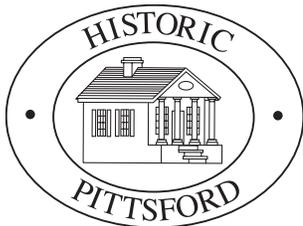
Just in time for the holiday season, Historic Pittsford will offer customized jigsaw puzzles of iconic Pittsford scenes. Four different puzzles depict Schoen Place on the Erie Canal, Town Hall, The Little House, and a Fall Scene on the Hopkins Farm. Each colorful puzzle is 504 pieces and 16 x 20 in size – perfect for individuals and families to enjoy.

Historic Pittsford expects to make the puzzles available at The Little House by the end of November. These are Limited Edition puzzles. When they are gone, they are gone! If you are looking for a unique gift, or a treat for yourself, be sure to stop by the Little House to pick up a puzzle or two!



### Holiday Shopping at the Little House

For the history lover in your family, the Little House is a great place to shop for the holidays. We sell a special edition Pittsford sweatshirt, books on local history, note cards and a beautiful poster of the historic barns in Pittsford. Stop by Wednesdays or Saturdays, 9-noon or visit us on Candlelight Night on December 5.



18 MONROE AVENUE  
PITTSFORD, NY 14534

**2017/2018**

#### **HP Board of Directors**

**President: Margaret Caraberis Brizee**

**Vice-President: David Minor**

**Secretary: JoAnne Shannon**

**Treasurer: Suzanne W. Shaw**

#### **Members at Large:**

Katie Andres, Lanie Bittner,

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Mark Greene, Karen Hultz,

Audrey Johnson, Shelley O’Brien,

Vicki Profitt, Deborah Resch,

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