



Hadley – Lake Luzerne Historical Society Newsletter Summer 2016

WORKING TOGETHER TO MAKE OUR COMMUNITY'S PAST A PART OF ITS FUTURE

From the President

Greetings. There are four historic sites in Lake Luzerne that have traditionally been staffed during the summer. They are the Kinnear Museum of Local History, the Pulp Mill, the Gailey Hill Schoolhouse and the Harmon Cottage. The Town of Lake Luzerne is committed to opening up these four sites four days a week during July and August, the summer tourist season. Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 11 AM to 3 PM are the days and times the Town would like them to be open. Having all four sites open at the same time is expected to encourage visitors to take the time to stop in to see what they offer. Taking a leisurely stroll from one site to the next is not a difficult task for most vacationers. Three of the sites are right on Main Street within sight of each other. Only the pulp Mill is off the road, up the hill through the park and over the foot bridge on a dirt path. Not a long haul by any means and doable if one takes it slowly, enjoying the sights and sounds of the rushing water on its way from Lake Luzerne to the Hudson River. The challenge is to staff the sites. One person is needed to staff each site. That's where we all can help. Staffing is to be done by volunteers, not an easy task to accomplish four days a week for four hours a day for each site. But with many

volunteers each taking whatever time they can commit to the task, the Town is positive the sites will be staffed and open for visitors. To make things easier for volunteers, the Town of Lake Luzerne is offering a stipend of \$15 for each four hour shift a volunteer staffs a site during this summer's program. Volunteers from years past have said there can be busy times and slow times at the sites. Busy times are spent greeting the visitors and slow times are spent reading, relaxing, doing some needlework or some other activity that one enjoys. Even working on one's tan in a lawn chair is something that has been done before. The coordinator for volunteers for all four sites is Sue Wilder. Please give her a telephone call at 518-696-4947 if you can join in for this program.

In other news, the May program of the Warren County Historical Society was a great success. Over fifty people came to the Lake Luzerne Town Hall to hear Jeff Hamblin and learn about the history of country music in Warren County.

By the time you read this newsletter, the June program will have come and gone. Pam Morin, the newly appointed town historian for Lake Luzerne will have given some insights as to her hopes and expectations for the job she has undertaken. For those of you who could not be there for her presentation, I hope to have a report for you about that program in the next newsletter.

July will be a busy month around these parts. Saturday, July 16th is the date for the Riverview Fair held in Pavilion Park from 9 AM to 4 PM. It is an event with lots of craft and food vendors in a great

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Death of "Falling Star" FAMOUS INDIAN BEAUTY



Photo: New York Sun, c1900

Luzerne, Jan. 21 (1903)- Mrs. Annie Fuller, better known as "Falling Star," the noted Abenaki Indian beauty, died here Monday night. "Falling Star" was a favorite model for the artists of New York city, and was considered by them as a most perfect type of Indian beauty. She was in great demand for portraits and Indian life scenes. There is a fine bust of her at the Museum of Natural History in New York by Casper Megee.

See **FALLING STAR Pg 3** ►

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Our Summer hours

Thursday – Sunday

11 – 3 pm

(or by appt, 696-4520)

PRESIDENT

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setting to which many people bring the whole family. Thursday, July 21st at 7 PM in the Lake Luzerne town hall is the date for a PowerPoint presentation by V.P. Howard Schaffer on the Oral History Project the society undertook this past year. This is a report we've been hankering to hear about. And if you haven't yet heard, Friday, July 22nd

through Sunday, July 24th is the 4th Annual "Ranches, Rodeos and Wranglers Weekend. A lot of activities are planned for that festival which is sponsored by the towns of Lake Luzerne and Stony Creek as a cultural heritage and history program. Contact Pam Morin (696-7184) for more information. And last but not least, Saturday July 30th is Lake Luzerne town history day with events going on at the Harmon House. What a busy month! Enjoy!

Joe

NOTICE: As always in the recording of history, there are multiple sides to any given issue, all views having some faults no matter their value, each demanding analysis and offering for later historians an opportunity to approach a possibility of historic accuracy.

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Did you know ?

History of Transporting the United States Mail

In early colonial times, letter writers sent their correspondence by friends, merchants and Native Americans via foot or horseback. Most of this correspondence, however, was between the colonists and family members back home in England. In 1633, the first official notice of a postal service in the colonies appeared.

The General Court of Massachusetts designated Richard Fairbanks' tavern in Boston as the official site of mail delivery going to or coming from overseas, a practice long used by England. In 1673, New York's Governor Francis Lovelace set up a monthly horseback post between New York and Boston. Old Boston Post Road is part of today's Route 1. In 1683, William Penn established Pennsylvania's first post office, while in the south private messengers, often slaves, delivered and picked up mail.

Around 1691 Thomas Neale of England received a 21-year grant from the British Crown for a postal service in the colonies.

Neale never came to America. This did not prove to be a lucrative move for him—he died in debt after assigning his postal interest over to fellow Englishmen Andrew Hamilton and R. West. In 1707, the British government bought the rights to the North American postal service from West and the widow of Hamilton. John Hamilton, the widow's son, was appointed Deputy Postmaster General of America.

By 1800, the Post Office Department had purchased a number of stagecoaches for mail transport. Roads, which became known as post roads, were in better condition because of the mail coaches. Steamboats were used for mail carrying where no roads existed. In the 1830s, trains transported some mail (4.5 miles in 35 minutes) in the East, but Americans were migrating and tracks would take decades to span to newly settled areas. By the 1850s, the population began to flow into the newly acquired Louisiana, Oregon and California territories. Wagon trains transported some of the mail, but were often targets of ambushes and other tragedies. After the 1848 gold rush, the Post Office Department awarded a contract to the Pacific Mail Steamship Company to transport mail to California. During this time some mail was carried by the military between Fort Leavenworth and Santa Fe. The Overland Mail Company stage line of John Butterfield was also awarded a contract. The stages used the 2,800 mile southern route between Tip-ton, Missouri and San Francisco, California, specified as a 24-day run but often taking months. Californians felt their isolation from lack of regular mail so a better idea was needed.

In 1860, the Pony Express was the brainchild of William H. Russell who had failed repeatedly in getting postal backing to carry mail. His ad in the newspapers seeking riders read: "Wanted. Young, skinny, wiry fellows not over 18. Must be expert riders willing to risk death daily. Orphans preferred." Later the ad was rewritten to be less restrictive. St. Joseph was the

See **US MAIL Pg 4** ▶

FALLING STAR

Continued From page 1

She was well known at the sportsmen's exhibits, and in her tepee was a most successful saleswoman. As a basket maker she was an expert. She was frequently invited by the society people in New York to attend their social teas, and in her Indian costume was the attraction.

She was the granddaughter of Sebatis, the well-known Adirondack guide, a chief who boasted of his white friends, and so well known by hunters that a mountain of the Adirondacks was named for him, also a station and post office on the Adirondack railroad.

"Falling Star" never fully recovered from a railroad accident last year, since which time she had been a cripple, though able to use her hands, and continued to weave her exquisite baskets. She was the sole support of an aged mother.

Some family history of Falling Star will be published in the Fall newsletter.

RECENTLY ACCESSIONED ITEMS

Article about summers at a camp in Hadley, 1950-1980

Large photo of the Hitching Post, circa 1940

Dr. Mary license plate medallion

1950's doll owned by a local resident

Stamp dies from Chuck's Barber Shop, Lake Luzerne

Several Madeline Gage Diaries and Autograph albums

Pamphlet about Reservoirs in the Adirondack region

600 + photos of Pine Log Camp

From My Window

July 30, 1948

The drive along the Hudson River between beautiful Lake Luzerne and Corinth is superb at any time of the year. I have witnessed its grandeur for twenty years in all seasons and at all hours.

I always ask whichever member of the family is driving to take it slowly (a request that is often ignored) for with all the years of travelling that particular stretch of road, I could still travel twenty more and love every inch of it. I often wonder if the inhabitants of the two towns fully appreciate the views that meets the eye in both directions.

I had occasion to go to the Corinth Library the other afternoon. The river was quiet and peaceful. Along the bank, just as you enter Corinth, the children were having a merry time, some in the water, others about to go in, and small fry darting about on the grass. Youth and laughter! Did they, I wondered, realize the precious memories they were storing up for later years, years when a feeling of homesickness or sorrow would bring back to them a Summer's day when they swam with their playmates in the Hudson? No, I do not think they did. In our youth as we go merrily along life does not say, "Remember this hour, of this day, and store it for future reference." Something of which we know not leaves with us the most vivid impressions to take out in later years as you would an old picture album.

Out on the river a few row boats and one or two canoes floated with, perhaps, some of the Summer colonists from the opposite shore. You can catch, too, the twist of an arm as a fishing line is cast over the water weighted with a nice fat night crawler that didn't know enough to stay under ground the night before.

A full moon shining on the Hudson with the surrounding hills as a backdrop is a picture to remember. Or there are wild-ruffled baby whitecaps looking like frothy egg white, whipped and then dropped from the spoon of a flying fairy.

Spring finds the river jammed with logs that the river-drivers have sent down from the north. Fall is just as enchanting when the over hanging trees drop their flaming leaves into the river, looking like toy boats tossed about.

January on the river, you say- where is the beauty there? Snow-clad hills and snowflakes falling softly on the ice and the sun shinning on snow covered trees, sparkling like diamonds from milady's jewel chest!

Just five miles from my house to Corinth, and between here and there the Master Painter has given us beauty found in no art gallery.

Look! You'll see it along the Hudson.

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US MAIL

Continued From page 2

starting point for the direct 2,000-mile route to the West. Except for a few settlements and military forts, the route beyond St. Joseph was a vast unknown land inhabited by Natives. Russell, with two partners, built relay stations every 5 to 20 miles, with fresh horses. There was an estimated 150 to 190 relay stations. On an average day a rider could cover 100 miles. Riders were paid from \$50 to \$100 per month, ranging in age from 11 to the mid-40s, weighing less than 125 pounds. The horses were changed every 10 to 15 miles at the relay stations with riders averaging about 10

miles per hour. The cost of mail-a whopping \$5.00 per one-half ounce at first and then later the price was reduced to \$1.00 per one-half ounce.

The fastest piece of mail in the history of the Pony Express was President Abraham Lincoln's inaugural address. It was carried to California in 7 days and 17 hours. Although the Pony Express existed for only one and a half years it proved that the Central Route to California was usable year round. On October 24, 1861, the transcontinental telegraph line was completed and the Pony Express, suffering from financial difficulties, was sold to Wells Fargo, and became a legend.

The first airmail was transported in 1870 by letters in free balloons. It is difficult to

think of balloons as a form of transportation, however, on September 23, 1870, more than 500 pounds of mail was sent aloft. It is unknown to date if this mail has reached its destination. In 1911, demonstrations of airplane mail service were made in India, England and the United States.

Although the Wright Brothers successfully flew in 1903, for only 12 minutes, it wasn't until near the end of World War I that planes with motors were used. On May 15, 1918, The United States Post Office inaugurated airmail service from the Polo Grounds, Washington, D.C, thus establishing the Air Mail Service of the U.S. Post Office Department. By this time mail was also being transported via ground as it is today.

Ketchum Property History

In the Spring edition of the newsletter, your Editor started a short introduction of the history of the Ketchum home on Lake Avenue near Church Street, now the home of Gene and Linda Merlino and the Lamplight Inn. Even though this home has gone through several owners, many long time residents casually refer to it as the Ketchum home. Before the home was built, there was a small cottage down the hill on the corner of Church Street. It is noted on an 1876 map of Luzerne, this cottage was owned by a C. J. Crandell. This map also shows the land between Church Street and the outlet of the lake belonging to H.E. Pierrepont.

The Ketchum home was built about 1890 for a wealthy bachelor named Howard Conklin. A map of the Garnar Water Works dated 1899 continue to note the home was owned by Howard Conklin. The name of Howard Conkling has been shown in some records to be spelled without the G at the end. When Howard Conklin lived in the main house, a Mrs. Katherine Stebbins lived in the cottage. She was a housekeeper for Mr. Conklin. All that is left in the area of the cottage is a sidewalk that extends onto the lawn of the Lamplight Inn.

See KETCHUM Pg 7 ►

We're Lonely

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www.kinnearmuseum.blogspot.com

Local Historic District on TV !

On July 12, we had some very good publicity, courtesy of TV 8 and Susan Wilder, Historic District Ambassador.

The 9 minute interview can be viewed on-line at
www.looktvonline.com/lake-luzerne-heritage-district-interview/

Contributors to this issue:

Joe Kavanagh
Gene and Linda Merlino
Jean Mayo

Submission deadline
for the Fall newsletter
is September 21

Letter Tile Puzzle. The object is to rearrange the tiles to form words. When rearranged, the words are the text that appears on local historic markers. All tiles in the top row appear on the top line of the marker; 2nd row on the second line, and so on.

If you want to look for the markers (to help you solve each puzzle), the title of each puzzle appears at the top of the historic markers.

Jeremy Rockwell

E	A	R	H	A	D	L	T	L	E	S	E	L	Y	B	U	I	T	T	L	E	R
T	M	O	S	,	I	L	L	N	E	R	1	8	R	I	S	A	G	A	L	G	E
I	N	H	O	M	7	,	T	H	I	E	S	1	8	O	R	E	S	T	O	S	
O	R	A	F	E	L	D	A	N	I	L	Y	A	R	E	D	H	F	A	M		
E	S	O	W	N	Y	T	O	F	M	A	N	F	I	C							


Post Office

D	S	L	Y	O	N	7	7	.	O	C	T	H	E	A	T	B	H	U	E	D	1	8
M	O	N	D	N	E	T	O	1	9	4	O	R	3	2	R	S	C	.	V	E	I	
O	O	W	.	O	L	N	T	R	I	D	P	.	N	H	R	D	C	O	O	.	N	
O	C	L	W	A	S	R	E	M	Y	R	E	L	E	T	H	K	W	J	E			
T	R	.	P	O	R	S	A	S	F	I	S	T	E	M								

Word Search. Find the words in the list. Words can be horizontal, vertical, diagonal, forward or backwards. When all the words are found, blacken those letters to reveal a hidden phrase.

CASCADEHOUSE	E P C O N T E S T O N E C H E
CONKLINGVILLE	R L A R Y I N P A R L O R S C
EAT	R L L G C H I N A C A B I A Y
GARDINER	I I M I E N E T O K N E S C N
GARNAR	C H T G V N C H I E A C T A O
HADLEYHILL	H Y A A R G S N R H A Y A N P
JEFFERS	A E N R I N N T T D I R N D D
KINNEAR	R L T N A E G I E L R A N A E
MTANTHONY	D D H A A Y W H L C D I E G T
PAGENSTECHER	H A O R S K O E P K H L R A N
PAINTEDPONY	I H N A A U W Y O N N E Y E I
RICHARDHILTON	L C Y K S K H E R R Y O R I A
ROCKWELL	T N E E C J E F F E R S C B P
SACANDAGA	O T O O W L N R E N I D R A G
TANNERY	N E R X T T O S T O V E E A T
TEKAKWITHA	

CONTEST

Sticky  from the spring newsletter was not found. He was hiding in the photo of John Bennett. Sticky is now on vacation (gambling in Atlantic City), but he left something for you to find. Somewhere in the Kinnear, Sticky has hidden three life-size cherries practically in plain sight. He said they are not photographs. Be the first person to tell the Kinnear Ambassador where the cherries are (before the fall newsletter is published), and Sticky said you will receive TWO \$5 gift certificates to Stewart's.

Answer to the Cryptogram
In the Spring newsletter:

Site of First Town Board meeting
April 17, 1792 Home of Silas Dibble
Fairfield, Washington County
Now Lake Luzerne, Warren County

Tips and Techniques

Searching the History of Your House

One of the many questions residents will ask us is “Do you know the history of my home?” We would like to say “Yes”, but often the answer is “No”. The Historical Society has a lot of information, but there's much more we do not have. It takes a time to do a thorough search on the history of a house. There can be dead ends or missing links. Tracing the history of an old house is like making your way through an overgrown garden maze. In most cases, unless you are a descendant of the original owners and have an attic full of memorabilia, finding out when your house was built and who lived within its walls can be a challenging—but fascinating—journey. Anyone who undertakes it will need to be equal parts architectural historian, oral historian, research librarian and genealogist. This article has ideas from various sources (including *This Old House Journal*) to help those who might be interested in searching the history of their house.

The first step in compiling a house history is to identify the era in which the house was built. With the help of a few architecture books, most home owners can discern a core style by examining the silhouette of the house and its layout. A mansard roof may be of the Second Empire style of the late 19th-century, or a hip roof might mean a Queen Anne house built a decade later. Keep in mind that there may be a hidden chapter to the story. Many have uncovered other vestiges during a renovation. If you are not inclined to dismantle your house, a tour of the neighborhood to find similar houses can suggest the original blueprint lying within altered walls.

Greek Revival houses were prevalent in the early to mid-19th century. If a house looks like Greek Revival, it doesn't necessarily mean the house was built then. The house may have been built earlier and given a facelift, or it may also have been built after the style waned. In many areas, styles hung on longer.

The date of a house's style can be supported—or contradicted—by construction details, since the frame of a house is unlikely to have been altered since the time the house was built (except parts damaged by fire or changed with an addition). In the cellar, take a look at the floor joists, foundation, and timbers (especially near the center of the house). Though the timbers might be clearly hand-hewn, joists supporting the center section could have straight and parallel teeth marks typical of 19th-century water-milled boards. If it was an untouched mid-18th-century house, the floor joists would be completely made by hand.

Other details that help rough-date a house include nails, paint colors, and molding and muntin profiles. Before the 20th

century, all of these had styles particular to certain eras (Building materials became fairly standardized by the late 19th century). The type of nails in the frame (wrought, cut, or wire) can help date the house. Professionals can help date a house by examining a cross section of a paint chip. If a room has 10 layers of paint, but a door casing only had the last eight, the casing probably appeared around the time as the third layer of paint on the walls. Chemical qualities of that layer might link it to a period of manufacture. Home owners can use a crude technique called cratering. Slice a small patch of paint away from the wood, then lightly sand around it. Layers of color will feather away from the center and gradually reveal the earliest coats. Don't get too carried away with sanding. The old paint probably contains lead.

Hardware also tells a story, albeit difficult to decipher. Sophisticated hinges and bolts were available from Europe at the same time that early local hardware remained relatively crude. If a hinge design matches the estimated date of a door, and the hinge shows no sign of having been changed (paint irregularities and superfluous screw holes are big clues), it may confirm the estimate. If the hardware is from the days of mass production—from the Victorian era on—old catalogs become a great resource for dating the hardware.

Official records should back up any guesstimate about construction dates and alterations. Around 1900, many owners had to get permits for alterations. Every state has a preservation officer who can guide a homeowner to the right resources: county archives, state preservation trusts, and most importantly, local governments or historical societies. The latter two will have the best catalogs of municipal information, including maps, local newspapers, and the genealogical information that reveals fascinating details about the people who lived their lives in your home.

A town's property tax records can also help. If the per-acre land assessment on a piece of property goes up in a given year, it's a good indication that a house was either built or substantially improved.

Doing a deed search on the property for the previous owners will be helpful. Several ownerships backwards may reveal mention of a house or specific provisions for use of the house.

Looking at maps in chronological order, a researcher can pinpoint the date a house first appears in a town survey. For homes built after 1866, Sanborn maps—named for the firm in Pelham, NY, that created them—give excellent descriptions of size, layout, and materials used for homes built in densely populated areas. The maps were used by insurance companies to write insurance policies. The company is still in existence.

When starting your quest, don't look for your own address. Street names, house numbers and lot designations frequently

To join or to renew your membership
please complete the form below and remit to:

Hadley - Lake Luzerne Historical Society
PO Box 275, Lake Luzerne, NY 12846

Thank you for your Support!

Memberships (Jan 1 through Dec 31):

Individual \$ 8 Family \$ 12 Business \$ 20

Name _____ Membership dues \$ _____

Address _____ I would like to
make an addtl
donation of \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Email and/or Phone # _____

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Would you like us to contact you about our monthly programs ?
 No Please call me Please e-mail me

How would you like to receive our newsletter ?
 Via Postal Mail Please e-mail it to me

TIPS

Continued From page 6

change over the years. It is a good idea to work backward from current records. To uncover the names of former owners or tenants, check old city directories, organized by address. Historical societies or libraries usually have them. City directories exist even from the days before phones. Newspapers also sometimes yield surprising information. Construction of prominent houses in the area may have warranted an article.

Old photographs also provide a source of evidence. The background of an outdoor family portrait may show small or large changes to the footprint of a house. Publicize your curiosity, because neighbors and older community members may come out of the woodwork to tell you bits and pieces about your home's history.

If a home owner wishes to restore a house's original paint colors—or is simply curious about them—it is strongly suggested they consult an expert from a conservation firm.

KETCHUM

Continued From page 4

At about the same time (1890 - 1899), there is mention of a Gordon Conkling, for whom Conklingville was named. Conklingville was located where the Sacandaga Reservoir is now. Gordon established the Lynwood Tannery on the Sacandaga in this area. He may possibly have been a relative of Howard Conklin.

From assessment rolls of 1911, the house still belonged to Howard Conklin. Sometime after 1911, Henry G. Ketchum was the next owner of the present Lamplight Inn property. This man started the Ketchum Tag Factory. He first opened a small tag shop in Cohoes, N.Y. and commuted from his home in Luzerne. He wanted a shop closer to home and found a building on Wall St, Luzerne that would be suitable. In the year 1922, he opened his shop and began making metal tags for livestock, poultry, hogs, animal pelts and stocked fish (Some accounts have the date 1927. Perhaps 1922 was the year the Cohoes shop opened, and 1927 when the Luzerne shop opened). The Tag Factory changed owners a few times after Henry Ketchum's death, and the factory is now located



Ketchum Cottage 1931 (H-LP 267)

in the area of the Town Shed off East River Drive. This move was made in 1962.

In Aug 1984, Gene and Linda Merlino bought the Ketchum home in an estate sale. Gene and Linda were both in the Textile business. Gene managed a textile engraving plant; Linda was a textile artist with a background in fashion illustration and watercolor.

Those who do not learn History. . . are doomed to repeat it

**Hadley-Lake Luzerne
Historical Society
52 Main St ~ PO Box 275
Lake Luzerne, NY 12846**

The H-L Historical Society is dedicated to the discovery, preservation and dissemination of knowledge of the history of the Towns of Hadley and Lake Luzerne in the southern Adirondack Mountains in Upstate New York. We are located on the east shore of the Hudson River in Warren County, with offices in the Kinnear Museum of Local History. The museum is a Victorian Home furnished in the style of the day. Historical artifacts and a permanent exhibit room in the Museum tell about the Hadley-Luzerne area's history. With your support we can keep the history of our towns alive.

Are you a member in good standing? Your membership is good to the end of the year shown on your mailing label above. Renew your membership using the form on Page 7. **Your membership and donations help to keep our facility open and historical records available to the public. We are a 501(c)(3) Non Profit organization as determined by the IRS.**

Up-coming Society events

- July 21: Oral History and how to make your own oral history. Lake Luzerne Town Hall 7pm.
- Aug 9: Holocaust during WWII and the relocation of a resident to this area. H-L Public Library 7pm.
- Aug 27: Annual Society picnic. Pavilion Park, LL. Tentatively 3pm (starting by 4pm for sure. Details coming soon)
- Sept 22: Railroads of Saratoga County. Hadley Town Hall 7pm.
- Oct 20: Presidential Political Americana: 1800's to the Present. H-L Public Library 7pm.

Other select and notable events

- July 22-24: "Ranches, Rodeo and Wranglers" weekend. Various locations in Lake Luzerne.
 - July 23: Cowboy themed displays and speakers. Gailey Hill Schoolhouse, Lake Luzerne. 10am - 2pm.
 - July 24: Painted Pony
 - July 30: Town of Lake Luzerne History Day. Harmon House Park. Lake Luzerne. 10am - 3pm.
 - Sept 21: * Logging In The Adirondacks. Community Room at the Richards Library, 36 Elm St, Warrensburg. 7pm.
 - Nov 16: * Warren County in World War I. Auditorium in the Scoville Learning Center, SUNY-ACC. 7pm.
- (* denotes a Warren County Historical Society event)