



HISTORIC PITTSFORD

fall, 2012

NEWSLETTER

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Edited by Karen Hultz

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.

PITTSFORD'S BRICKMAKER: ELIHU DOUD

by Audrey Johnson

We hope you have noticed when traveling through the village of Pittsford, some of the fine brick buildings that remain along our streets. Look at those on the Augustus Elliott House, now owned by St. Louis Church on the north side of the church. The bricks in the front are designed in a diamond shaped pattern. That was not a mistake – it was carefully created that way.

That home and the Phoenix Building, as well as the Drake House at 28 Monroe Ave. and numerous others, were all carefully crafted by a man named Elihu Doud who was born in Granville, MA in 1757. His parents were Isaac and Phebe Stowe Doud as one of four children of that couple.

Elihu's father, Isaac, died when he was four years old. His mother, Phebe, raised him with her family. Elihu was a soldier in the American Revolution and served under Capt. Cooley, a neighbor. Elihu enlisted in September 1777 and was discharged October 17, 1777. He didn't serve long but was able to receive a pension and some "perks" offered to veterans of that war.

Elihu married twice. His first wife was Sarah Hall, by whom he had three children and with the third child's birth, Sally died. Elihu stayed in Granville for a while and married Susannah Barnes, from a well-to-do family of that community.

Elihu heard of lands being offered for sale to war veterans at a good price in a new town of Northfield, NY. He decided to take advantage of that program and came to this community and purchased acreage near the pioneer Cemetery. His wife Susannah was not agreeable to changing her home from Granville to live in the "wild west" and be "scalped by Indians". It took two years of toil by Elihu and much coaxing to get Susannah and the homestead ready for Elihu's family to relocate to Northfield.

Elihu created a brickyard near his home and began making bricks that were used to build some of the important homes and buildings in the community. Most of the histories I have read revealed his home and brickyard to be in "Lusk Hollow" on the west side of the Lusk homestead, but the family record book recently sent to me by Jim Doud, a descendant,

says that this yard was on the east side of the school and cemetery and that he also had a mill and a mill wheel at that location. Some members of Historic Pittsford might want to do some investigating in the Spring and see if we can find pieces of Elihu's handiwork.

The trip to Northfield from Granville, MA took many days by wagon and oxen and the night before they reached their destination, the family stayed overnight in Auburn. While they were

sleeping, their belongings and their finances were stolen from the wagon and they were left without money for the continuance of their trip. Not a very fortunate beginning for the Doud family, but they did continue on their way and remained in this community for many years. Elihu and his wife are buried here, but the remainder of the family moved to Indiana where the descendants still live.

Pittsford owes many thanks to Elihu Doud and the work of his hands. Those bricks have remained for over 200 years.



Little House Office and Museum
18 Monroe Ave., Pittsford, NY 14534 / 381-2941
Open: Wednesday and Saturday 9am-12noon
Dorothy Meusburger, Secretary

ANNUAL MEETING

A cloudy morning gave way to a lovely summer evening as Historic Pittsford held its annual meeting on Sunday, July 15 at the beautiful home of Joyce and Doug Drake on Monroe Avenue.

Tours of the Drake's home were given, followed by a picnic supper of hot dogs and dishes to pass.

Doug Drake gave a very interesting presentation on his house with additional information provided by Audrey Johnson and Bob Corby.

During the business portion of the meeting, Bob Corby gave an update on the renovation of the Parker house on Main St. and the project at 75 Monroe Ave. Peter Webster reported on HP's finances, Peggy Brizee gave a synopsis of the work of the strategic planning committee and Rusty Likely was recognized for his years of service as President of Historic Pittsford.

Two new people were elected to the Board: Richard Osgood, Jr. and Maryjane Link and the slate of officers was presented.

The evening concluded with dessert and conversation.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

As the days turn chilly and the leaves begin their descent, my thoughts go to the fun fall programs with which Historic Pittsford is involved. Please check the "Upcoming Events" section for a complete listing of these programs.

On another note, I have some news to share with you. While I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as the President of Historic Pittsford, I have made the difficult decision to resign from the office.

Recently, I was offered the position of Director of the Fairport Historical Museum. I am thrilled to have been given this new opportunity to utilize my passion for local history at a different level than before. However, accepting this position has caused me to honestly evaluate the many ways my time is divided. My responsibilities to my family come first. My contractual obligations to Arcadia Publishing are also significant, as Audrey Johnson and I rush to meet our December deadline. The Director position, although part-time, will be labor intensive as I learn the ins and outs of running a museum and understanding a host of other

responsibilities. Due to these time constraints and other commitments, I felt it necessary to resign the presidency.

My successor has my hearty congratulations and my full cooperation as we guide Historic Pittsford further into the 21st century. I am thankful for your support of these changes, and I look forward to my continued participation on the board of Historic Pittsford.

We would also like to thank outgoing President Rusty Likly and Vice President Joe Maxey for their dedication and service to Historic Pittsford. Thanks also to Liz Rhody, who has resigned from the board after many years of service.

Sincerely,
Vicki Profitt, President
Historic Pittsford

(Note: At the October Board meeting, Margaret Caraberis Brizee was appointed acting President of Historic Pittsford.)

A CLOSER LOOK AT HP'S BOARD MEMBERS

Two new board members were elected at HP's annual meeting in July.

Maryjane Link is a Brighton native who has lived in Pittsford for 43 years. She worked in the child welfare/adoption field for 30 years, retiring in 2008. She has three sons and two grandsons. Maryjane has always loved local history and old houses.

Richard N. Osgood Jr. is an 11 year resident of the Longmeadow neighborhood. He lives in a 1936 Tudor revival cottage that is in a constant state of demolition, repair and preservation. His work experience includes 12 years at Bero Architecture PLLC specializing in historic preservation, restoration and adaptive re-use and design.

Taking over the position of Vice President is **David Minor** who has served on the HP Board since 2007. He has been a village resident since 1991. David is an author and presenter and operates two history blogs: the "Crooked Lake Review" and "Eagle Byte".

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

JOIN A COMMITTEE

Historic Pittsford has established its committees for 2012/2013 and is looking for members who would be interested in serving on these committees. Committees include Awards, Community Relations, Educational Outreach and Architectural consultation, Finance and Fundraising, Issues, Little House and Technology, Membership and Newsletter, Nominating, Programs and Strategic Planning. A fuller description of each committee and a contact person will be listed on our website at www.historicpittsford.com. If you are not a computer person, but would still like to help with a committee, leave a message at the Little House, 381-2941 with your name and the committee you are interested in.

PLANNING FOR OUR FUTURE

by Peggy Brizee

Since its inception in the 1960's, Historic Pittsford has been a strong advocate for historic preservation and has contributed significantly to the beautiful blending of old and new that our community is today. Without our stewardship of historic resources over the past 50 years, Pittsford would be a much less desirable place in which to live.

While past accomplishments are many, over the past year the Historic Pittsford Board of Directors has been engaged in a strategic planning process to guide our organization into a new era. The Objectives and Goals of the Strategic Plan were presented to the membership at the Annual Meeting in July and will be listed on the Historic Pittsford website (www.historicpittsford.com).

The Board of Directors has chosen three objectives to address over the next few years:

1: Ensure the sustainability of Historic Pittsford, Inc as a viable community-based organization

Goals under Objective 1 are related to the Little House, Technology, Membership, Governance, and Finance / Development.

2: Strive to infuse "historic preservation" as a core value in the greater Pittsford community through progressive advocacy of protection of historic resources

Goals under Objective 2 are related to Preservation Matters, Public Relations, Outreach, Communications and Collaboration.

3: Become the primary community resource for educational programs conveying the importance of historic preservation and the history of Pittsford's people and places.

Goals under Objective 3 are related to Membership Expertise, Affiliations, Exhibiting History, Archiving and Records Access

The HP Board of Directors would very much appreciate members' participation in the roll-out of the Strategic Plan. Committees are being formed; and there will be many opportunities to contribute time, interests, advice, and skills to secure the future for Historic Pittsford, the only independent advocate for historic preservation in the community. An email address for this purpose has been established at historicpittsford@gmail.com.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

4th Annual, Day of the Dead Program, October 28th at 4:00 p.m. at the Pioneer Burying Ground – Come speak with the spirits of Pittsford's earliest settlers as portrayed by Historic Pittsford members. This year, we have moved the time up to 4:00 p.m. in order to get everyone home before the witching hour. Be sure to dress warmly and bring a flashlight. The Pioneer Cemetery is located at the corner of S. Main and Mendon Rd.

Junior League House Tour of Pittsford Village, November 3rd from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. in Pittsford Village - Historic Pittsford is pleased to support the Junior League of Rochester's House Tour of Pittsford Village. Our own Little House will be open for the tour. Please plan to stop in and visit us! We can use extra docents at the Little House for this event. If you are interested, please contact Vicki Profitt at vprofitt@rochester.rr.com. Tickets for this event are \$25 per person and include admission to all the homes.

Candlelight Night, December 4th from 5:30-8:00 p.m. at the Little House - Historic Pittsford will once again participate in Candlelight Night in the village. Mrs. Claus will be on hand to meet our young visitors as Pittsford celebrates the arrival of another holiday season.



Pictured: **Paul M. Spiegel**

Over eighty people were in attendance to hear Paul M. Spiegel's presentation, "People I Wish I Had Known" as he kicked off Historic Pittsford's program season on September 27 at the United Church of Pittsford. Historic Pittsford will offer a variety of local history programs to the public throughout the coming months.

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PITTSFORD, NY 14534

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