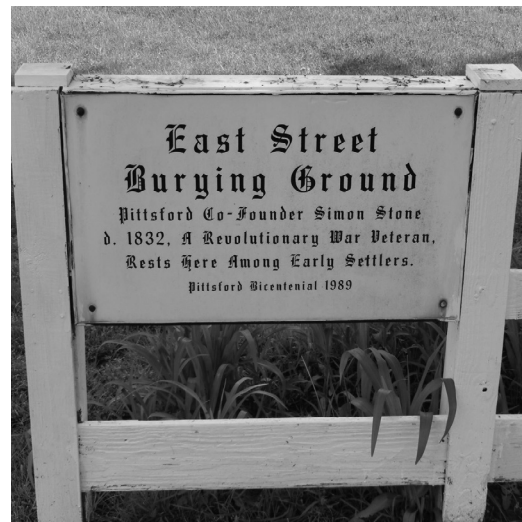




HISTORIC PITTSFORD

Summer 2021 NEWSLETTER

EAST STREET BURYING GROUND



Earlier this year, Pittsford's East Street Burying Ground was designated a Town Historic Landmark. This burial ground is historically significant as it is the final resting place of Simon Stone, a veteran of the Revolutionary War and co-founder of the Town of Pittsford along with his cousin Israel Stone. Simon Stone died October 17, 1832 and Israel's place of burial is unknown.

Simon and Israel Stone came to this area from Salem, NY in 1789. They purchased land, built log houses and persuaded family and friends to settle here. In 1792, Simon built a water powered grist mill on Irondequoit Creek. The mill ground local grain for distilleries. He served in the Ontario County militia from 1797-1805. Simon and his wife Hannah Nye had 10 children.

Simon owned a large parcel of land in what was known as the Johnny Cake area, so named because of all the corn grown in the area. He set aside a portion of his land to be used as a major cemetery, but other cemeteries in the town became more prominent. The East Street Burying Ground is what remains of the land that Simon Stone intended for a cemetery.

Israel Stone built the first house in Pittsford, now marked with a historic sign near the Erie Canal on State Street.

It appears that the earliest death and presumed first burial was Augustus Gardner who died on October 27, 1814 at the age of 9 years. Forty more burials occurred, spanning the years from 1814 to 1879. Simon Stone's tombstone is intact and located at the back of the cemetery. Others buried here include a number of Pittsford's founding families: Crosier, Hughes, Martin and Searl.

The East Street Burying Ground now resides in a residential neighborhood surrounded by single family homes built primarily in the 1960's. Private homes abut the cemetery on two sides and East Street is now a busy two lane, north-south road.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER - PRESERVATION MATTERS

To Members and Friends,

I hope this summer edition of Historic Pittsford's newsletter finds you and your family in good health and returning to relative normalcy of life. While still taking precautions due to COVID, the Board of Directors of Historic Pittsford (HP) remains quite active in preparing for the future re-opening of our headquarters at the Little House. In addition, we remain vigilant where historic preservation and pertinent conservation efforts are concerned.

Here is an update on several actions the Board has taken or will take in the coming months:

- **Due to COVID-19, the Annual Membership Meeting will not take place again this year.** We will conduct proceedings by proxy as we did last year and will give details later in this column. The Little House will continue to be closed to the public through the summer (though painting and repairs will continue). I would be glad to meet folks by appointment if necessary. Just email us at historicpittsford@gmail.com.
- **This year we saw the passing of renowned architectural historian Jean France**, a founding member of Historic Pittsford and articulate counsel on preservation of historic and architectural resources. In her honor, the Board will award its yearly Jean France Historic Preservation Scholarship and offer an additional award at Sutherland and Mendon High Schools.

- **This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Town of Pittsford's innovative Greenprint** where the Town purchased the development rights (PDR) to 7 historic, active family farms. Several volunteer organizations were heavily involved in the development of the plan, Historic Pittsford and the Pittsford Greenbelt Association being two. This year HP intends to receive the remaining assets from the dissolution of the Greenbelt Association, founded to focus on and support the PDR. Both volunteer organizations were instrumental in bringing about the PDR, thus preserving active farming and Pittsford's tangible agricultural heritage.
- **For the Annual Membership Meeting, the Board of Directors will use votes-by-proxy to conduct business.** All HP members will be mailed proxies to approve revised and updated Bylaws and to vote in the election of Board Members and Officers. The Board refined the Bylaws over the course of several months and the result is a refreshed set of rules well-adapted to the 21st century! We hope you agree!

We will be in touch periodically. Please keep in contact with HP through email, the website, and Facebook. Hoping the Summer will bring a close to this 18+ month epidemic and interpersonal, actual communication can resume.

Best,
Peggy Caraberis Brizee

PITTSFORD'S GREENPRINT CELEBRATES 25 YEARS!

2021 marks the 25th anniversary of the creation of Pittsford's "Greenprint". In reality, this was a very complicated, time consuming endeavor. Here is a shortened version of how it all came about:

- Dating from the settlement of Pittsford in the late 1700's, agriculture quickly became its principal economic engine.
- Farmers recognized that Pittsford's top producing, exceptionally fertile soils, assured a diversity of crops could be grown and brought to market via the Erie Canal and railroad well into the first half of the 20th century.
- By the second half of the 20th century, important land and landscapes of family farms were giving way at an alarming rate to post-war development for residential and commercial purposes.
- In the late 1990's, local advocacy groups like the Greenbelt Association and Historic Pittsford collaborated with farmers and town officials to explore methods to conserve open space and remaining productive farmland and thus the local agricultural economy.

- Collaboration and focused planning resulted in the Town's visionary "Greenprint for the Future", identifying 2,000 acres of highly-rated parcels with exceptional natural features and undeveloped open land, including the historic farms where agriculture was a constant for generations.
- In 1996, the Town approved a \$9.9 million bond (now fully repaid!) to purchase the development right to 7 farms (1,100 acres) identified in the Greenprint, thus protecting active agriculture, allaying farmers' uncertainty as to loss of productive farmland, and allowing their long-term investment in the business of food production for our future.



A NEW HOME FOR THE TOWN HISTORIAN'S OFFICE

by Vicki Masters Profitt

For many years, the Town Historian was based out of an office in the basement of the Town Hall. While it was cozy, there wasn't nearly enough space for the collection, especially after it grew to include a sizeable donation of Pittsford ephemera from Paul M. Spiegel.

In late 2019, we began the process of inventorying the historian's holdings in preparation for the big move to the Spiegel Community Center. Boxing began in January 2020 and continued until March 13, when everything came to a screeching halt due to the Covid pandemic.

For many months, genealogical research continued to be done from home while the boxes at the Town Hall remained untouched. By July, we were ready to return to work. During our absence, 14 file cabinets and dozens of boxes arrived at the new location that had previously been in storage. Going through the boxes was like a treasure hunt. Photographs, vintage documents and memorabilia were viewed and filed into the new cabinets purchased for the office. Once the boxes came over from the Town Hall, work began in earnest to combine the contents from storage and the Town Hall. Files were arranged in groups – by people, places, organizations and topics.

An intriguing item in the office was a very old leather suitcase filled with mysterious contents. Although we had the key, the lock was jammed and, try as we might, we couldn't get the case open. We called in town employee Charlie Moulton and he had it open within a few minutes. Resting within the suitcase for many decades was a collection of memorabilia pertaining to Pittsford Grange No. 424. The oldest item dated to 1897, while the majority of artifacts were dues books and secretary notes from the 1920s and 1930s.

Town Historian Audrey Maxfield Johnson attended sixth grade in this very room. Her teacher was Miss Ruth Dibble (1893-1972). Miss Dibble was one of eleven children. She and two of her sisters became teachers. Audrey has fond memories of attending school in this building and of Miss Dibble.

Though the move itself has been completed, there is still much to do. Now that everything is in its proper category, we will go through each file searching for misplacements and duplicates. At some point, everything will need to be scanned in so it is preserved digitally.

We are thankful for the many town employees who helped with the move and to Town Supervisor Bill Smith, Recreation Director Jessie Hollenbeck and Chief of Staff Spencer Bernard for putting the plans in motion.

Audrey and I are happy to have a beautiful space in which to welcome visitors. Please stop by Room 114 at the Spiegel Community Center some Thursday afternoon to say hi!



LITTLE HOUSE OFFICE AND MUSEUM

The Little House is still closed due to COVID concerns. We are using this down time for some needed repairs to the Little House. We hope to be able to open again in the Fall. There are many ways to contact us in the meantime:

- leave a phone message at the Little House 585-381-2941
- email us at historicpittsford@gmail.com
- visit our website at www.historicpittsford.com
- follow us on Facebook and/or send us a message via Facebook messenger



PAT PLACE ARCHITECTURAL CONSULTANT SERVICE

As the weather turns nicer, home repairs usually follow. Historic Pittsford continues to offer its' architectural consultant service in partnership with Bero Architecture. This program makes expert advice available to homeowners wishing to maintain the architectural and historical integrity of their properties. The program provides a free consultation that most often involves exterior architectural changes and projects which should be addressed in the early stages. Basic structural problems can also be addressed. Homeowners receive an on-site consultation and follow up written report and are not obligated for any future services.

This program is available to owners of any property in the village of Pittsford, properties in the Town of Pittsford that are designated as landmarks, inventoried as eligible for landmark status or built prior to 1902.

The Consultation Application form may be found on our website at www.historicpittsford.com. For more information, please contact Bonnie Salem, HP Board member, at 585-586-2764 or email her at bsalem@rochester.rr.com.

100 YEARS AGO IN PITTSFORD

(excerpts from Echoes of Old Pittsford 1920-1921 by Paul Spiegel)

January 1921: Henry Perrigo had purchased the Victor Milling company and Pittsford Milling Company. The name would now be Victor Flour Mills, Inc.

March/April 1921: the Zeitler and Seigel store suffered a serious fire. Firemen poured great quantities of water inside the store causing most of the damage sustained.

July 1921: The Town Board voted to put life preservers at the Main St. bridge and perhaps others at strategic places where they could be thrown to anyone in the canal needing help. A fifty dollar fine was to be levied against anyone who tampered with the preservers.

The Board voted to give \$50 to be used to improve the condition of the Bob Ford baseball field on South St.

October 1921: It was potato harvesting time. The district schools simply closed for a week and the High School ended its day at 12:30pm to allow the young people to help the local farmers. The pay was \$5 a bushel.

November 1921: Dr. Arthur Davis made sure the newspaper and people of Pittsford knew that he had shot a large deer weighing 225 pounds in his most recent trip to the Adirondacks. It had 14 points and was one of the largest taken from the woods that season.



18 MONROE AVENUE
PITTSFORD, NY 14534



2020/2021

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HISTORIC HOUSE PLAQUES

Throughout the village and town, you may have noticed historic structures sporting a reddish-brown plaque showing the date the structure was built. If you own a home or business in Pittsford that is 50 years or older and you would like a plaque, they may be purchased through Historic Pittsford.

Ordering information is available on our website at www.historicpittsford.com. Click on the "services" tab, then "historic home plaques" to submit your information. Your purchase helps to support HP's mission of community education and advocacy to preserve Pittsford's history and historic resources.