February 7, 2018 - Our First Meeting of the New Year...BRING A TALE OR A TREASURE. 7:30 at the Dorcas Room of Trinity Lutheran Church in Wellsville. The Public is always invited.

April 4, 2018 - Next Meeting - Topic To Be Determined

Our next meeting will be our annual Bring a Tale or a Treasure. Try to stump the group with an oddball artifact from years ago, or tell a story you think we may enjoy. This is always a fun night.

We had our yearly elections at our last meeting, the new slate of officers is shown on the right here. Thank you Don and Carol Donovan and Marjory Vossler for being part of our board for the last several years.

The New Year started off oh so very cold! Right now, I can only hope temperatures return to a normal level. This is the second or third winter we are experimenting with leaving the water turned on at the museum. Our fuel bills have not been too bad (yet) and our water pipes and toilet are still functioning. In times of super cold weather, I leave the heat up to about 50, in warmer spells I push it a bit lower. So far, so good.

This winter Jane and Dave Pinney donated a large number of items to the museum, including some of Jane’s scrapbooks on the Wellsville Fire Department and Firemen’s Auxiliary. We are building a nice Fire Department Collection, which only seems fitting as we are located in an old Fire Hall!

Jane and Dave’s donation necessitated some rearranging in the downstairs museum, and just may require the purchase of some library type bookcases.

I have been asked to speak at a B&S Symposium that will be held at the Pennsylvania Lumber Museum in August, 2018. My topic will be the Wellsville Refinery (Sinclair). Mike Schleigh will share the platform with me and speak on the rolling stock for the Sinclair. It should be interesting. A preliminary meeting was held on Jan 20th, and I had a chance to meet the folks involved. If you are interested in this 2 day symposium, information will be available shortly through the Potter County Historical Society, who are sponsoring the event.

Over the past several years, Jane has developed a file on houses. The files are organized alphabetically by street names. It should eventually make it easy to find information on the evolution of a particular house if you do not know its previous owners. We are trying to collect information on when the houses were built, remodeled or when they were demolished. Lately, using Facebook, we have been asking for information on Lewis Place. This street disappeared into history about the time of the flood control project in the village. If you have a photo of a house that was on Lewis Place, we would very much appreciate a scan of it to include in our file. This is and will be an on-going project.

If you receive your newsletter via email, which is my preferred method of delivery, you may have noticed that I have not been very good at reminding you that your society membership dues are due. Those that receive the newsletter via US Mail have that reminder on their mailing label. I have
not yet found a simple way to remind my electronic members. Many of you will be getting an email reminder in the next month. Ah, record keeping, not my favorite topic.

In this business, we meet people from all over the states and beyond our borders! Megan McKenzen of Australia is a dedicated researcher, working to identify her American side of the family. When I asked her if she might like to write a little story for our newsletter, she responded in the blink of an eye! We do not often get a full story from researchers... they normally ask if we have anything on Aunt Alice Smith and do not supply all that many clues as to who Aunt Alice Smith is. Megan had a pretty firm grasp on her family and hoped to fill in some details. She is still looking to make some connections, as you will see in her story this month. I hope you enjoy the story or her genealogy search.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS

Don Baldwin - Don copied a photo that was on the wall of his store. Its an aerial view of Railroad Ave and the area behind the old Pfundner and the future Meadowbrook court. It shows where Walter Embser had a riding ring and stable that was called Gabby Hayes Corral in 1947

Barbara Blades - Dues and a $90 Donation

Larry Browning - Dues and a $10 Donation

Erie Depot Museum - A 1962 Erie Lackawanna Time Table

Walter Gardner - A DVD to copy from the Ember Family circa 1930-1940, showing the Riding Ring off Railroad Ave, ice skating in Wellsville, many landmarks are visible in the background in several shots.

David Hornburg - A repaired Victor Teapot, a WHS Girls Sports Letter, Booklet for the July 13, 1947 Horseshow at the Gabby Hayes Corral; Army E Award brochure for Worthington; a 1957 Centennial Banner

Bill Howden - A White Age Postal Cover Archival box to be used how we see fit. The hard cover box holds an album inside that can be used for postcards or postal covers.

Lois Weinrich Halbert - A $100 Donation (the second one in a year!)

Jane Pinney - 40 three ring binders of the WFD, and WFD Auxiliary History, Genesee Hose Company Minutes and other ledgers from their 143 years history of the fire service for Wellsville. Several binders of Wellsville photos, which include Before and After pictures; a TV/VCR player, a Quilt made by the Dorcas League of the Trinity Lutheran Church. The Dorcas league has made and given away quilts, to any needy child or other person for over 50 years. Dave Pinney’s Class A U. S. Army Uniform; A nurse's cape of the same vintage as the museum’s nurse's uniform. In 1960 the cape was given to Jane Pinney by her Big Sister, both nursing students at Williamsport Hospital School of Nursing. Tradition held that the cape was a gift every 3 years to a first year Little Sister from her third year Big Sister. So I don't actually know how old the cape is. I broke the tradition because I realized even then how rare this cape is. Many Clippings to file.

Bev Stockman - Thank you for collecting local newspapers for our files

Marsha Sick - 1975 Boces Publication: Allegany County the First One Hundred Years

If I have left anyone off, I apologize, and hope to correct it in the next issue.
FROM MOUNT GAMBIER, SOUTH AUSTRALIA TO WELLSVILLE, NEW YORK STATE.

Fortunately (or unfortunately), I was afflicted with the “virus” known as Family History or Genealogy some 30 years ago. My grandfather John Shaughnessy died just a few months after I was born, and my father, Jack Shaughnessy, died at the early age of 57 so my natural curiosity about the family couldn’t be answered by either of them. No-one else in my father’s family seemed very interested.

After obtaining the usual birth, death and marriage certificates, and obituaries from the local paper I could put together a very sketchy tree showing that my Great-Grandfather was William Shaughnessy born about 4 August 1834 in Adare, County Limerick, Ireland who came to Australia in 1858, married on 14 January 1861 to an English lady named Emmeline Twitchell.

A stroke of luck came my way when an uncle asked whether I had ever seen a letter that was written to him from the United States enquiring about the family. Of course, the answer was “no”, and the letter was produced. I could hardly wait to get back home and write to this person. Sadly, no answer, so after about 6 months I wrote again and this time I received an answer to find that she had passed on, and it was her son Michael replying to me. The start of a wonderful friendship and a huge connection as he was descended from William’s sister Mary Shaughnessy who married William Burke Minahan and their first child was born in Howard, Steuben County on 27 January 1858. The family then moved to Wisconsin and many descendants are still there today.

Michael knew that William’s other sister, Ellen, had married Stephen Madden and they also resided in Wisconsin. Another leaf was added to the tree, which was starting blossom somewhat. Michael also had a letter written by his Aunt, Ellen Minahan to her brother answering his questions about the family and she mentions all the family members by name, also that William’s son had visited them in Wisconsin while he was in the United States to study. The family members were Thomas, James, Patrick, John, William and Mortimer but always known as Murty, and the abovementioned Mary and Ellen. To add to my delight Michael also produced a photo of William as a much older man than the photo I had, and one that no-one in Australia had a copy of.

As I pursued the family, more and more records became available online, thus making my task a little easier. More photos appeared. Pat Shaughnessy’s farm at Wellsville, and the Electric Power House, with James Shaughnessy Engineer. Pat’s farm at Wellsville was just a photo of a piece of land, no date, no description but the name Wellsville made it interesting and I started looking for Shaughnessy’s in that area. Amongst the many records, I found a Thomas in the 1860 Federal census and living next door was Margaret Shaughnessy who I believe was his Mother. Patrick Shaughnessy and Margaret Sullivan were the parents of the family, and I then found in the 1855 State Census of Wellsville a Patrick and Margaret and their son James aged 9. To me that was like finding gold.

During a visit to the United States, my friends from near Allentown in Pennsylvania drove me to Hornell and then to Wellsville as I was convinced I had found “my family”. With great help from St. Ann’s in Hornell and the secretary at the Church of Immaculate Conception I received lots of information and was directed to the Sacred Heart Cemetery. Every day I became more convinced this was my family. I have gone on researching with the wonderful support of Mary Rhodes and Ron Taylor and have land records, which include the elusive Murty, also his 1863 Registration for the Military but no record of him completing any service.

It would seem that two brothers; Patrick who married Bridget Ryan, and Thomas who married Marjory Sharkey, stayed in the Alma and Wellsville area. Between them they had at least 16 children, quite a few it seems became nuns, some did not marry but others did. Some of the families they married into were Rauber, Geary, Markey, McGee, Shaffer, Geagan. Some of the names of the Nuns were Bridget. (Sr. Xavier Marie, Sisters of Charity of New York, Mary (St. Raphael of the Benedictine Order), Elizabeth (Sister Mary Agatha of the Mercy Sisters). These were all daughters of Thomas and Margery of Wellsville and the information was contained in a
letter written by Mary Rauber about 1994 when asked about the family.

My work is far from over, however I think I have made significant progress and I am working toward re-visiting Wellsville and surrounds in 2019 and to walk the land they owned (if possible). I would be very grateful if you as a reader can offer me information re the families I have mentioned.

Megan McKenzie (Shaughnessy)
Mount Gambier, South Australia.

Megan tells me that she recently completed a genealogy DNA test and now has absolutely no doubt of her connection to the Wellsville Shaughnessy’s. She is hoping that others will also submit to DNA testing so she can establish more connections in the area.

Some of the connections in Megans family tree that MAY be in your family too are:

- Catherine Shaughnessy (1862-1942) married John Rauber
- Edward Shaughnessy (1866-1923) married Ella Geary
- Katherine Shaughnessy (1899-1968) married Frank Markey
- Margaret Cecelia Shaughnessy (1901-1985) married Leo McGee

So, just what is a DNA Test? It sounds painful, doesn’t it? Well, nothing could be farther from the truth. This test is not painful at all, except perhaps, to your checkbook.

A Genealogy DNA Kit is the new normal for modern family history researchers. The United States National Library of Medicine gives us a brief explanation of a DNA test:

“Genetic ancestry testing, or genetic genealogy, is a way for people interested in family history (genealogy) to go beyond what they can learn from relatives or from historical documentation. Examination of DNA variations can provide clues about where a person’s ancestors might have come from and about relationships between families. Certain patterns of genetic variation are often shared among people of particular backgrounds. The more closely related two individuals, families, or populations are, the more patterns of variation they typically share.”

It basically all comes down to the 23 pairs of chromosomes we all carry. Those little bits of cellular material that make us who we are. We carry our family history in those little bitty things. Our genetic history.

You can purchase a DNA test kit for $50 to $100. Your kit will be sent to you and, depending on which test you choose, all you need do to submit a sample is to spit into a tube or scrape some cells from your mouth and return it to the provider.

A short time after that, you will receive your results, either via mail or via a site like Ancestry.com, who was one of the first genealogy based sites to promote DNA testing.

The test will tell you much of what you already know: ethnicity/likely point of origin. It will also show you other people who are very likely to be related to you, based on the similar chromosomes they also carry. In my case it has pointed out many people who may be my 2nd or 3rd cousins. There is usually a way of contacting your matches in order to begin a conversation.

Researchers are warned to use caution in selecting a DNA test provider. Your provider should offer you assurance that your results will be kept private and they will not use your sample for anything except to answer your family history questions.

An excellent source for information on learning about DNA testing is “Beginners Guide to Genetic Genealogy” by Kelly Wheaton. There is a lot to learn about this topic.

Good luck out there in your genealogy quest!
I would like to support the preservation of our local history by becoming a member.

**NAME (s) ____________________________________________________________**

**ADDRESS __________________________________________________________**

**PHONE __________________ EMAIL ________________________________**

Would you prefer your newsletter emailed to you? _____ (Make sure you fill in E Mail Above)

Family membership is $15.00 per year. Individual membership is $10.00 per year. (circle one)

I would like to add $ _____ for ongoing maintenance and restoration projects at the museum.