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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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Each year our Annual Report is an opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate you—our donors, volunteers, and partners who give so generously of your time and energy. It's because of you that we're able to offer programs that engage people of all ages. Because of your generous financial support and donations of artifacts, photographs and documents, we are able to create exciting new exhibitions and host museum tours to showcase our growing collections. With your support and participation, we can continue to tell the story of our community. The time and talent that you share throughout the year are much needed and much appreciated—it creates the fabric of this organization. We sincerely thank you and invite you to contact us anytime to share your ideas, suggestions, or goals for the future of the Historical Society. —*Jeanne Brown*

2019 Board of Directors

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BUSINESS & COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

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***Business Partners*** — We welcomed 22 local businesses as our 2019 Business Partners. With their generous support we were able to host a variety of educational programs, exhibitions, museum tours, open houses and special events—all offered free to members, guests and visitors of all ages.

***Wallenpaupack South Elementary School*** — In partnership with Wallenpaupack South Elementary School in Newfoundland, the Society coordinates local history programs for third and fourth grade students, including:

- Our annual “Local History Day” for fourth grade students features stations where students try their hand at using historic farm tools and household implements. Local history curriculum materials are provided for both students and teachers.
- “Mysteries at the Museum,” for 3rd and 4th grade students with interactive stations.
- “Food Preservation—From Salt to Canning Jars,” presented by Quiet Valley Living Historical Farm for third grade students, with hands-on demonstrations.
- “Farming = Good Food,” a permanent exhibition in the lobby of the school illustrates where our good food comes from—from planting and harvesting to processing and preserving.

***Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts*** — We host local Scout groups at the museum for special events, such as the Flag-Raising Ceremony at our annual Open House in July.

***Newfoundland Public Library*** — In cooperation with the library, we offered genealogy workshops free to the public to assist participants with their research using the tools available at the library, such as Ancestry.

***Greene-Dreher Alumni Association*** — In partnership with the GDAA, we hosted an Open House and an Alumni Brunch in June to honor the 50th Reunion Class of Wallenpaupack High School and the Greene and Dreher graduates of the Class of 2019. The Society is also the repository of the Association's historic documents and photographs.

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

***Greene-Dreher in the Great War*** — by Bernadine A. Lennon, published in 2019, documents and honors the military service of 142 local veterans who served in World War I. It describes America's role in the war as seen through the eyes of these young men and women.

***Mills on the Wallenpaupack—South and East Branches***, by Diane Smith, published in 2017, traces the development of the area's first industries—water-powered gristmills, sawmills and wood-turning factories.

***Historic Cemeteries of the Wallenpaupack Valley***, by Ruth Altemier, with photographs and summaries of ten historic cemeteries in the area, including a map for a self-guided driving tour.

***The Greene Hills of Home*** — Our triannual journal, published since 1984, features personal memoirs, oral histories, essays, and scholarly articles on a variety of topics related to local history.

***GDHS website*** — The Society's website is designed to be user-friendly and easily accessible. In addition to our calendar of events and archive of newsletters, the site offers virtual exhibitions, local history articles and resources, and a gallery of historic photographs.

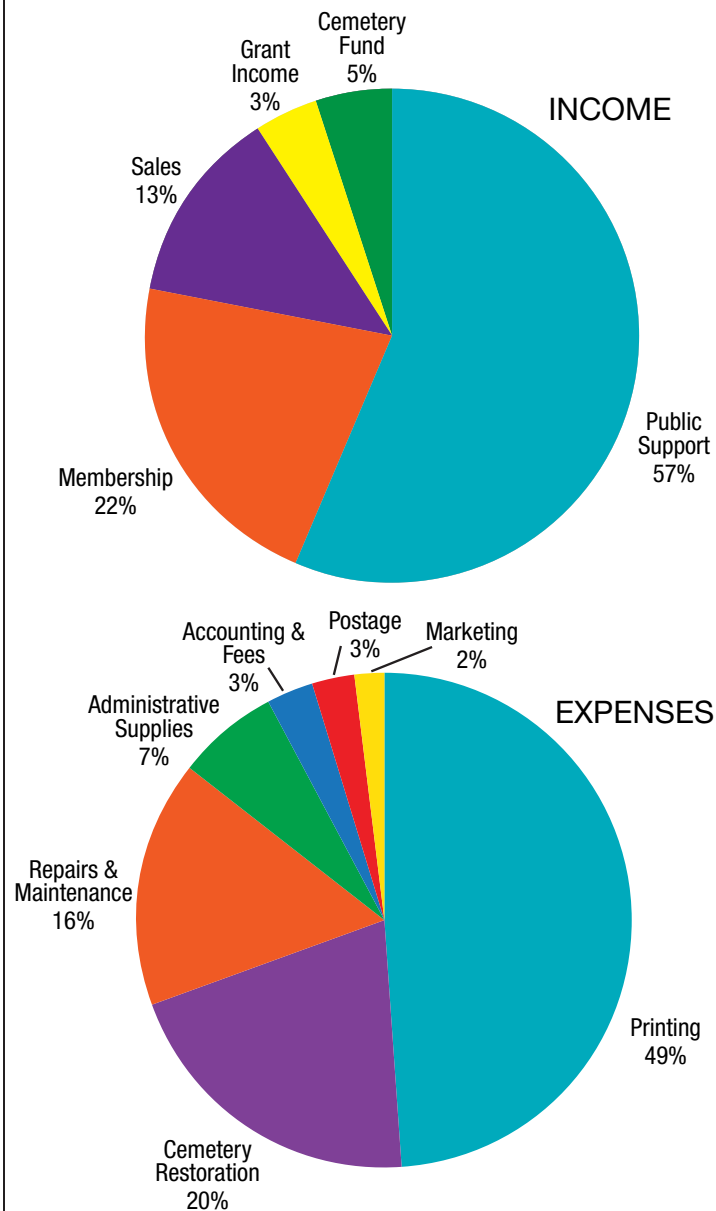
## 2019 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS

At the eleventh annual Holiday Luncheon in December, held at the Fairway Grille at Buck Hill, we presented our 2019 Historic Preservation Awards to:

***Jeffrey Martin, M.D., Commander, U.S. Navy, ret.*** — For preserving the historic integrity of the farmhouse built c. 1877 by Dr. Martin's great-great grandparents, Peter and Emma (Pasold) Marsch. The house has remained in the Marsch family since that time. In the early 1900s the farmhouse was operated as a summer boardinghouse known as Marsch Villa.

***Lake Paupac Club*** — For their visionary land use policies that have protected and preserved the pristine tract of wilderness and natural lake purchased by the club 70 years ago, and for preserving the historic Craftsmen-style lodge and cottages built on the property in the 1920s.

## FINANCIALS



**Income**—The majority of the Society's income was derived from membership dues and public support, including donations from members, Business Partners, and Greene Township. The Society was the beneficiary of a legacy donation last year in the amount of \$25,000. Most of the remaining income came from the sale of our publications. In addition, we received a \$1200 grant from the Wayne County Community Foundation to be used toward a new handicap access ramp.

**Expenses**—The Society's largest expenditure was for the printing of a new book, as well as the printing of other publications, such as the journal and newsletter. Restoration of historic cemeteries is the second largest expense, followed by repair and maintenance of the museum buildings.

## TELLING OUR STORIES...

One of the most important goals of the Historical Society is to tell the story of our community from its earliest days. To that end, we maintain a museum with changing and permanent exhibitions and offer lectures, tours and workshops. We operate a genealogy research center and publish articles and books on local history. Last year we initiated a seminar series that connected more people than ever to our local and regional history. Below are highlights of events, exhibitions, and community programs that we offered free to the public in 2019.

## MUSEUM & COLLECTIONS

### Exhibitions

Exhibitions at the museum shed light on important episodes from our past and engage people of all ages. In addition to semi-permanent displays that showcase the domestic arts and fraternal organizations around the turn of the last century, new exhibitions focussed on:

***Greene-Dreher High School, 1901–2000*** — A new wall display in the meeting hall celebrates 100 years of high school history, from the first two-year high school built in 1901 to the present-day Wallenpaupack High School. The display features a timeline poster with highlights and photographs from each decade and school memorabilia from the GDHS archives.

***Greene-Dreher in The Great War*** — An exhibition honoring local World War I veterans commemorated America's participation in the World War in 1917–18.

### Open Houses

At our Open Houses in June, July and October, we offered guided tours of the museum and outbuildings. Special Open House events included:

- Local Author Book Signing
- Jam Session with local musicians
- Demonstration of a 2-cycle engine and how it was used on the farm to power machinery—everything from an ice-cream maker to a corn chopper/blower.
- Flag Ceremony with local Scout troops, in coordination with Patriotic Order Sons of America

### Collections

Every year we witness the power of historical artifacts, photographs and documents to connect with and speak to our members and guests, and we believe the collections we hold within our walls will continue to provide meaning and inspiration for years to come. We are grateful for the many significant donations to our collections in 2019—each item is another piece in the fabric of our social history and helps us understand the people who lived here and formed the community we share today.

## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Talks by local historians follow a brief membership meeting held each month at Peggy Bancroft Hall from April through November. A new seminar series was offered last fall that covered local and regional history. Last year we saw an increase in overall attendance at on-site and off-site programs, totaling approximately 3000 attendees.

### Guest speakers:

- *“Restoring the American Chestnut,”* by John Wenderoth, American Chestnut Foundation
- *“History of Teeter’s Funeral Home and the Relocation of Purdytown Cemetery”* by Dick Teeter
- *“Around the Shores of Lake Ariel,”* by Kurt Reed
- *“River Otter and Fisher Reintroduction,”* by Kevin Wenner, Biologist, PA Game Commission
- *“Formation of Lake Paupac Club,”* by Lili Cohan
- *“Stories From the Past—The Ehrhardt General Store,”* by Peg Price and Pete Reynolds
- *Tribute to the Model T,* by Dale and Margo Rogers
- *“Return of the Wild Turkey,”* by Sally Corrigan
- Community History Seminar—a series of nine evening lectures given by local historians
- *“Patriotic Songs Honoring Veterans,”* performed by the Wallenpaupack South Elementary School Chorus.

### Offsite programs:

- *Tour of Historic Ledgesdale,* led by Ruth Altemier, Bernadine Lennon, Ellen Drake and Carla Smith
- *“Local Veterans of World War I”* by Bernadine Lennon.
- *“Grave Matters: A History of Halloween,”* by Ellen Drake, followed by a tour and reenactment at Kiptown Cemetery by Ellen Drake, Ruth Altemier.
- *“Finding Family,”* a series of genealogy workshops led by Ruth Altemier, Valerie Wheeler, and Carla Smith, offered at the Newfoundland Public Library.

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## GENEALOGY AND CEMETERIES

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The Genealogy Committee conducts research, offers genealogy and deed search workshops, and maintains a Genealogy Database that is available for educational and research purposes. The Cemetery Committee oversees a Restoration Program for six historic cemeteries in the community. It manages an Adopt-a-Cemetery Program for volunteers who perform groundskeeping at the cemeteries and, when needed, coordinates the specialized work performed by tree service and other professionals. The Committee administers the Cemetery Preservation Fund, which accepts donations for preserving these six cemeteries and implementing their respective restoration plans.

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### GENEALOGY

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- The Genealogy Committee hosted workshops free to the public that cover how to conduct research and access resources, such as Ancestry. They are offered onsite at Peggy Bancroft Hall and, in winter, at the Newfoundland Area Public Library.
- The Committee maintains a database that includes more than 10,000 individual records and makes it available to the public for educational and research purposes. It also maintains a resource library of family histories.
- A Property Identification Project was implemented in 2017 to research—through tax records, deeds, maps, and other public records—and document ownership of houses and commercial buildings in the community.
- The GDHS Veterans History Project continues to research and document the military service of local veterans, from the early 1800s to the present day.
- Genealogical data is cross-referenced to our collection of historical letters, diaries, records and manuscripts to help connect people with their past.

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### CEMETERY TOURS

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Each year the Cemetery Committee hosts a tour of one of the local historic cemeteries. The tours are led by Ruth Altemier and include a historical reenactment given by Ellen Drake. Kiptown Cemetery was featured in 2019, and during the tour Ellen and Ruth transported us back in time to focus on the Isaac and Susannah Kipp family, who settled along the East Branch in the early 1800s in an area that would become known for a time as Kiptown. The family established the cemetery on the knoll above their homestead in 1830 when Isaac Kipp died at the age of 50. During the one-hour tour, Ruth pointed out tombstone symbols and art and their meanings, and Ellen gave voice to a few of the 223 individuals who are known to be buried there.

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### CEMETERIES

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Cemeteries are among our most valuable archaeological and historic resources. They are evidence of the early settlement patterns and economic development of the region. They reveal the social relationships and religious influences of those who lived here, and many times they represent the only reminder of an influential person, family or group. Of the ten cemeteries within our boundaries, six are no longer active and do not have cemetery associations to provide perpetual care. In 2009 the Greene-Dreher Historical Society implemented a Cemetery Preservation Program for five of the six cemeteries—Gilpin, Hazelton, Wolfe, Simonstown, and Kiptown Cemeteries. The challenge of documenting, restoring and preserving these cemeteries is one of the most complicated endeavors the Historical Society has undertaken. Volunteers with the Society's Adopt-a-Cemetery Program now care for the grounds on a regular basis. As resources permit, specialized work is being done to repair the grounds and remount and stabilize damaged stones. The Cemetery Committee is also in the process of researching and mapping all ten of the historic cemeteries in the community and making the information available to the public.

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### CEMETERY RESTORATION

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Volunteers Ed Kramer and Roger Altemier reset a damaged headstone at Kiptown Cemetery