



Allegany Area Historical Association

May 2005

Issue XXIV Vol. 2

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I am very sorry to report that Vernon Field has died at the age of 88. Vernon served for many years as the Recording Secretary of our historical association, but more than that, he served as an enthusiastic member who always attended the meetings, helped with Heritage Days, helped with questions of genealogy, helped in so many ways. An enduring memory is of Vernon sitting in our library room during Heritage Days, talking with all who came and filling them in on Allegany's history.

He was born in Allegany, graduated from Allegany Central, and worked on the family farm after graduation, as well as at Potter Lumber Company. He enlisted in the U.S. Army at the age of 25, served until he was discharged in 1946, and was in the Army Reserve until 1969. After the service he returned home to continue working at the family dairy farm. He married Jean Delaney in 1950. Vernon went to Reserve summer training for 2 weeks each summer and Jean ran the farm while he was gone. Jean died in 1996.

Vernon gradually retired, but found other things to keep himself occupied. He enrolled at Jamestown Community College in 1978 and earned an Associate in Humanities degree in 1988. He developed a special interest in writing, and over the years wrote an autobiography and several books of local history. AAHA is fortunate to have copies of most of his writings in our files. He also made maple syrup for many years, finally quitting in 1994. In later years he had great difficulty in getting around, and finally had both knees replaced, at the same time, which eased things for a while. Before he went into the nursing home, he would often call me to see if "Potter's taxi" was running to our meetings. I would pick him up (he was my next door neighbor), and away we would go.

He leaves behind three daughters, and many fond memories for those of us lucky enough to have known him.

I recently took a weekend trip to Washington, D.C. What a place to visit if you are interested in history! The Metro subway system is cheap and very easy to navigate. We used the National Park Service's Tourmobile to get around the first day and found it to be the way to go. You pass by most of the major sights to see, you can get off and on all day long for one price, and you save your legs. There was an exhibit in the Museum of American History on polio - I was a student at the University of Michigan on the day that Dr. Salk announced that the polio vaccine worked and I remember the electric atmosphere on campus that day. There was an exhibit about Ella Fitzgerald - I was fortunate enough to see her in concert several times. Does the fact that these things are now considered "historical" make me old? The new Museum of the American Indian is very well done and the building itself is marvelous. But the U. S. Holocaust Memorial Museum is the one that will stay with me the longest. It covers that time period very completely and makes you aware, if you weren't before, of the terrible sufferings of the Holocaust victims. It's not for young children. For them, there is the Museum of Natural History with a Woolly Mammoth commanding your immediate attention in the center rotunda. And the best part was that spring had come to Washington. All the trees were leafing out, anything that could bloom was blooming, and the air was full of flowery perfume. We drove through snow on our way back to Allegany, but this year I will have two springs, not a bad deal.

This is the last newsletter before Heritage Days, which this year is August 5th and 6th. We are making major changes to Heritage Days this year in that all the events will be on Second Street around our Heritage Center. By concentrating everything in one area, we hope to attract a larger attendance. We'll see.

Our main display this year will focus on the village of Allegany, as it celebrates its 100th year since incorporation. The *Allegany Citizens* of 1905 will be a rich source of material for us, as well as our own files. I know you will all, as always, help in many ways to make Heritage Days a success.

We are still looking for some help with our library as we prepare to open for the summer. The library room will be open on Wednesdays beginning May 4th and ending the last part of October. The hours are 1 to 4 p.m. and the duties are light. They mostly consist of assisting people who come to do family research. You will receive training so you will know what we have and where it is, and you will always work with another person. So don't be shy, come help us out.

We are planning our meetings for next year, so if there is a topic you want to hear about or a speaker you think would be interesting for us, please contact Marge Geise on the West Five Mile Road. We are always looking for topics of interest. We are the only historical association in the area that has a regular slate of speakers (we have 5 each year), and I feel that this is one of the special services we can offer our local members - a chance to broaden their knowledge of the history of our area.

Francie Potter, President

Memorials



For: Sophia Wolf
From: Bob and Francie Potter

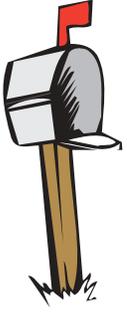
For: Margaret Pitcher
From: Marjorie and Harold Geise
Richard and Susan Yehl

For: Forrest and Orlena Wing
& Catherine Hornung
From: Carolyn A. Wing

For: Charlotte Farr
From: Alice Altenburg

For: Vernon Field
From: Jim and Orma Carls
Francis Hirt
Margaret Green
Thomas R. Walsh
John and Jillian Walsh
Ed and Sandi Petrovick
Edythe Mayberger
Bob and Francie Potter
Orin and Margaret Parker
Larry and Nancy Kardos
Craig and Pamela Senfield
Mark H. Dunkelman
Hugh and Lois Crean
Alice Altenburg

Stephen and Kim Potter
Connie and Gary Lockwood
Mario and Cathy Zakel
Robert and Ruth Conhiser
Robert and Gloria Chapin
Steve and Betty Eaton
Ivan and Susan Streif
Joyce and Edgar Melanson
Jan and Wallace Bailey
Don and Lucy Benson
Jerry Buffington-Dunn
Clinton and Shirley Christianson
Staff at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Office of USDA
Loretta Eaton



As people sent in memorials for Vernon Field, many enclosed a word or two about Vernon, and we wanted to share some of those. Nancy and Larry Kardos: “In memory of our dear friend,.; Mark Dunkelman: “To honor a remarkable man.”; the staff at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Office of USDA, Food and Nutrition Service: “Made by co-workers of [Vernon’s] daughter, Joyce Rouba. Joyce had suggested your organization as an appropriate one for a memorial donation, as her dad had not only been affiliated with your group, but had a deep interest, appreciation and fondness for the work accomplished by your agency.”

The *Olean Times Herald* has a monthly supplement in the paper called *Seniority*, which has items of interest for senior citizens and works of fiction and poetry by seniors. Vernon Field was a regular contributor to *Seniority*. In the issue of April 8, 2005, there was a separate box on a page of *Seniority*, and the heading was: “In memory of Vernon E. Field, 1916-2005, a gentleman and a friend.” It goes on to say: “Vernon Field was a regular contributor to this magazine’s Wrinkles of Wisdom section, a collection of original writings contributed by senior citizens across the Twin Tiers.” Three people had notes and poems about Vernon.

The day Vernon died, March 7, we lost a special friend. For years, Vernon attended our Enchanted Mountain Senior Writers class and we grew fond of him. He always had his lesson done and even mailed assignments from the nursing home. He was more than a writer - Vernon was a gentleman and a friend. It was right that we canceled class and went to his viewing on March 9. Two writers in our group penned these memorial poems to our dear friend.

*Betty Lundberg
Enchanted Mountain Creative Writers*

TO VERNON FIELD

*Vern’s depiction of history
dispels some of the mystery
of events of the more recent past.*

*His recollection of farming
and time with the army
is recorded with care, meant to last.*

*We honor this writer
more farmer than fighter
whose knowledge as recored is vast.*

*Continue your writing
your stories inviting,
dear friend, so the public can know
of the struggles for rights,
of a great person’s insights
that helped this great nation grow.*

Ruth Lowe, Olean

TO VERNON

*You were blessed with many friends
and in your journeys here
you brought to us the memories
that filled the lines you penned.*

*We heard of far off places,
some beyond our shores.
You showed to us what matters,
no blessing was too small.*

*We wished you well in this life
and know that in the next
what will be in store for you
will be more wonderous yet.*

*May we be reminded of our blessings,
large and small,
and may there be within our hearts
peace for one and all.*

Norma Bissell, Allegany



MAY MEETING



Our next meeting will be Sunday, May 15 at 2 p.m. at the Heritage Center, 25 North Second Street, Allegany. Olean native Steven Howard will talk about an archaeological dig he worked on at a site near the Allegheny River in back of Bockmier's Farm Market. The Bockmier Point site was identified as being an early Late Woodland site (800 to 1200 AD), and the results of two seasons of digging will be presented.

Mr. Howard worked on the site as an undergraduate at SUNY Geneseo, and is currently finishing his masters degree in anthropology (with a concentration in archaeology) at Ohio State University, and plans to continue his education to obtain his PhD.

I was fortunate enough to look at the site while the dig was underway, and found the whole process very fascinating. I think that Mr. Howard's talk will be equally fascinating, and hope you will be able to attend. Don't forget - ***Sunday May 15th, 2 p.m., Heritage Center.***

**Allegany Area Historical Association
P.O. BOX 162
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INSIDE SPECIAL ISSUE:

Presidents Report

Memorials

The Loss of a Friend
