



Annual Farm Machinery Show

The 6th Annual Tractor and

Farm Machinery Show was the biggest success to date. The weather was perfect & the new site worked very well. We will have to do some tweaking next year. Some things worked better than others, but the addition of the tractor pull featuring the Gambler Weight Transfer Sled has huge potential.

There were people on the bleachers all day long. Next year we will be better prepared and hope to draw crowds from all over. We have an additional 5 acres at the new location on Gravel Bank Road, so the event can really be spread out & there is lots of room for expansion as we add new things to the show. We had many vendors selling their wares; from duck eggs to jewelry to home made crafts to a psychic numerologist.

As always we are very grateful to Jay Fink at WRIP for the continuous promotion of all the vendors, sponsors and activities that were being held throughout the day.

Sean Doolan, our local magician was on hand to entertain both children and adults. Wes' homemade ice cream was a big hit as usual. There was always a line at his tent. The kids were kept busy with tie dying, bounce house, hoola-hooping and sand art. We would be remiss if we did not thank our many sponsors. This year we collected \$3,000 in sponsorship money, so the total monies collected reflected all profit. We thank you so much for your donations as we would not be able to have a successful event without your continued support. From the money that was collected at the door we figure there must have been 650 people that came through the gate and that does not include the machinery exhibitors. Our local tv station,

WYBN TV 14 helped us with social media as well as WRP with our public service announcements. Last but not least, we need to thank all our volunteers from the parking



people to the food people to the dealer uppers. We look forward to next year, Sat., June 6th for the 7th Annual Show. Save the date & mark your calendars!

There are five cemeteries located in Ashland. Pleasant Valley, St. Josephs Chapel, Louis Creek, West Settlement & Mountain Valley View. Early in our town history burials were on family property, then on church property & now in cemeteries.

My Dad, Sheldon Fick, was a lover of history & we spent a great deal of time preparing genealogies & visiting cemeteries. Our walks were a chance to remember, reflect & research family members. I found out about where they lived, what they did & the contributions they made & how their physical characteristics (hair color, height) had been passed from one generation to another. It helped make a real connection to people I never met but helped mold our place in today's world. Cemeteries all over the world are visited by family members, historians, tourists & curiosity seekers. Care of burial sites at first was left to family members, then cemetery associations & today many municipalities have that responsibility. By Patricia Ferris

West Settlement Church: A double sided sign is being created for the Church, reflecting the year it was established & the AHA, Inc. as owners. The sign will be 3' x 4', white with black & red letters. Wes & Jim will make the frame. We are hoping to have this installed before winter. Phase I of the Church interior renovations will begin soon. We hope to hire someone in the fall for a winter job. Phase I will include interior demolition of the plaster & the removal of some of the pews. Phase II eventually will be replacing the walls with sheet rock & then paint. The plan is to keep the family pews & the stoves so that the building will retain some of its authenticity & historical appearance. Look for updates & photos on www.ashlandhistorical.com or www.ashlandny.com

President's Corner

By Dawn Thorp

CEMETERIES HAVE HISTORY- BEAUTY AND ART



As a child I learned how cemeteries were taken care of. My Grandfather, Wilbur Fish, was caretaker of the North Settlement Cemetery, which is actually bordering us in the Town of Windham. Each Memorial Day weekend our family cleaned out the debris left from the winter.

THERE ARE BEAUTIFUL STONES WITH HISTORY of people on the Mt. Top that we all knew. So, cemeteries are important. If you notice, the Daughters of the American Revolution & Veterans put markers & American flags on the graves of their descendants. My mother has a DAR marker.


Mr. Zegal, one of our founders, told me about many of the cemeteries in Ashland: People buried in Lewis Creek Cemetery and at St. Joseph's Chapel were workers in the college or boardinghouses in Ashland. The Mountain View Cemetery has farmers and area resident's names such as Ferris- Lane- Sutton. The West Settlement Cemetery has the Tuttle and Tompkins families. Pleasant Valley Cemetery on Rt. 23 is a beautiful site. Jeremy Glick's remains are there, he was one of the passengers that took down the plane in Pennsylvania on 9/11. Like the other cemeteries there are beautiful head stones engraved with poems, sayings and family history. There is still so much to learn about the local cemeteries in the area. Pat Ferris would like to have a tour of them. Should you like to come along, contact Pat at 518-734-3942 or me at 518-734-6432 or email hobbleinn@aol.com. Thank You, Dawn

The Annual Board of Directors meeting will be held on Wed., Sept 17, 2014 @ 6:15 PM, along with the adoption of our annual budget for 2015. There will be no officer elections this year however, Wes Benson and Larry Lawrence will be re-appointed to the Board of Directors for an additional three year term to expire in 2017.



We mourn the loss of one of our founding members, Pauline Lawrence who died 01/22/14, at age 92 and is buried in the Pleasant Valley Cemetery. An Ashland native, Pauline had many talents and was involved with the Ashland Historical Association, Inc. since its inception in 2003. We thank Pauline for her service and dedication to the Town of Ashland. She is greatly missed!

The Annual History Day & Chinese Auction is on Sat., Sept. 13th at the Town Hall. We kick off at 10 AM. There will be history displays and information about this year's theme, Ashland Cemeteries. Tickets will be

on sale for the Chinese Auction \$4 a sheet or 4 sheets for  \$15. There will be many prizes, all from local businesses & supporters. The drawing will be held at 3PM, you do not need to be present to win.

Lunch will be available at 11 AM from the VFW guys cooking & serving. The menu will be hot dogs with toppings & chips..... coffee, beverages & dessert will be available. Wes' ice cream will be ready at 2pm just in time to settle in for the big drawing. Please come and support your local Historical Association & spend the day with us. Looking forward to seeing you all.



Our annual raffle tickets will be available to purchase. This year's prizes are: 1- prize - \$500, 2- prize - \$250, 3- prize - \$100. The drawing will be held on November 19, at our regular meeting.

This will be the last meeting of the year before we break for the winter.

The annual membership drive is on. Please consider renewing your present membership. Raffle tickets are included in your packet. The money from the raffle and memberships finances our expenses for the upcoming year, but also this money is primarily for the focus on the renovations at the West Settlement Church. We'd like to complete all phases in the next couple of years, so that we can make use of the building. Fund raising is an important function for us & we appreciate your continued support.

Soon we will be starting to have breakfast again at the Town Hall. The kitchen is almost complete..... just waiting for the installation of the hood, then we can roll. We hope to have our first breakfast since the fire of 2010, this fall. The Saturday morning breakfasts are the best deal in town for the money and you get to visit with people you don't see all the time. Follow us on Facebook & look

