

ANNUAL REPORT



2023



**CORNING-PAINTED
POST HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

**HERITAGE VILLAGE
OF THE SOUTHERN
FINGER LAKES**



Officers

Sean Lukasik	President
Alison Merkl	Vice President
Amy Irvine	Controller
Dr. Edward Franklin	Secretary

Trustees

Katherine Banerjee	Kirsty Buchanan
Kate Larson	Elizabeth Lorenz
Gautum Meda	Robert Patterson, Jr.
Casey Winston	

Staff

Charlette J. Smith, Director

Darby Webster, Custodian

Soni Lacey, Office Manager

Anna Hoyler, Depot

Patrick Monahan, Education Coordinator

Vision

The Corning-Painted Post Historical Society is a dynamic, community responsive, educational organization that inspires community memory by linking our local history and heritage to contemporary life.

Mission

The Corning-Painted Post Historical Society shall preserve and share our area's history through educational programming and exhibits, building preservation, archival collections, and experiential learning.

Contents

Board Members.....	2	Financial Report.....	8
Mission	2	School/Group Visits	9
President's Note.....	3	Membership.....	9
Buildings & Grounds.....	3		
Donors.....	4		
Collections & Exhibits	5		
Special Events & Programs	6		
Depot & Grants.....	7		

From the Board President

On behalf of the entire Board of Directors, I want to say thank you to all of our staff, volunteers, and members who help bring our mission to life every day. Through special events, fundraisers, educational programs, tours, and school visits, Heritage Village is more than a living history museum - it's a community hub for learning about and celebrating our history.

I'm proud of everything we accomplished during my tenure as Board President, which began with a deficit budget and forced closure due to Covid. Since 2020, we grew our Annual Appeal by more than \$10,000 per year and were awarded over \$140,000 in grant funding alone. This has allowed us to re-grow our investment accounts and hire a new Executive Director, in addition to addressing long-overdue maintenance projects, expanding our programming, and improving our historic village.

Looking ahead, I couldn't be more excited about the next phase of leadership. Along with our new Director, Charlette Smith, we have nominated Casey Winston as the next Board President. I'm confident they will continue to grow and expand this organization - with the help of the board and staff - in exciting and creative ways. My sincerest gratitude goes out to them, to the board members I've had the pleasure of working with, and to all the members of this wonderful organization. Thank you!

Buildings & Grounds Recap

The Society's Buildings & Grounds committee members include Edward "Sandy" Franklin, Alison Merkl, Darby Webster, and Leon Golder. Throughout 2023, The B&G Committee continued to remain busy with daily inspections of all our properties and performing the day-to-day routine tasks to keep us operational. With the new hire of Darby Webster's service as our Custodial/Maintenance Person we have dramatically improved our stewardship of the properties.

In 2023, two crucial projects were successfully completed:

The heating and air conditioning system at the Depot Museum was upgraded to enhance energy efficiency and reliability. Energy-efficient LED bulbs in our lamps now illuminate the parking lot, ensuring security and safety for our members during nighttime hours.

The committee has also outlined a "To Do" list with various tasks to address, some of those include:

- Painting and minor roof repair needed for Browntown School House's Outhouses
- Weed control and gravel refreshing for walkways
- Replacement of the Office's sidewalk fence top rails due to dry rot
- Repair of a plaster wall crack in the Inn's stairwell
- Spring Volunteer Building & Grounds clean-up event

Additionally, the committee is considering two significant projects:

- Painting several rooms in the Inn (Foyer, Hallway, Dining Room, Bathrooms, and Pantry)
- Refinishing the floors of the Inn and School House

The Committee welcomes all "handy persons" who are willing to help with these and other B&G projects.

Contributions and Donations

The Corning-Painted Post Historical Society would like to acknowledge the following for their financial contributions and gifts in 2023:

General Operating

David & Mamie Anderson
James & Mary Bacalles
Carmela Bertron
Michele Conte
Jacki Corsitto
Herb and Mary Ann Garlock
Susan Gois
Gene Herber
Lois Janes
Elise Johnson-Schmidt
Cheryl Jordan
Shannon Kete
Jean K. Krebs
John & Karen Madison
Todd Martin
Robert & Barbara McLean
Patrick Monahan
Susan Neilson
Bruce & Lynn Peffley
Karlye Pillai
Anna Rice
Max & Loz Sloan
Pat Starzec
Linda Sutton
Rob Sweet
William & Jean Walker
Richard Whitesell

FLX Gives

Anonymous
Leslie Bayer
Carmela Bertron
Megan Breslin
Kirsty Buchanan
Betsy Carisetti
Peigi Cook
Patricia T. Dann
Jennifer Fais
Kate Gerwig
Claire Warren Ginnan
Ted Goldwyn
Susan Gruber
Dusty Hewit
Roberta Hirliman
Cheryl Jordan
Jenna Lukasik
Sean Lukasik
Nancy Magrath
Michael Morrongiello
Alison Merkl & Darby
Webster
Marjorie Nieber
Mary Passage
Paul & Kelly Perine
Dave & Molly Rochelle
Rooted Planning Group
John Sirianni
Charlette Smith
Emily Smith

FLX Gives

Brian Lee Whisenhunt
& Mitchell Smith
Penelope Wilson
Casey Winston

Corning Inc. Matching

Marcia Ashworth
Timothy M. Major
David Sonnefeld
Jill VanDewoestine

Endowment

Norma Bird

Browntown School

Corning Area Retired
Teachers

In-Kind

Leon & Sheri Golder
Brian & Chris Hoyler
Tom & Barbara Rhodes

**Please note that
some contributions
to the 2023 Annual
Appeal were not
made until 2024
and will be
reflected in next
year's report.**

Exhibits

In May of 2023, we unveiled our exhibition, "Trailblazing Women: Celebrating those we knew and those who came before us," during our Victorian Tea Fundraiser.

New York State, and our area in particular, has been a home for numerous influential women throughout history. Through this display, CPPHS proudly acknowledged a selection of these early trailblazers who made a significant impact on the nation, our communities, our streets, and even our bakeware! A few of the local women highlighted were Laura Houghton, Alice Tully, Mary Lou Walker, Jinny Wright and Lucy Maltby.

During the exhibition, we carefully curated clothing and objects from our archives that best represented the featured women.

Publications

Several years ago, local artist Barbara Hall Blumer sought assistance from the Historical Society for a research project she was conducting for the City of Corning. Her aim was to identify and explore the individuals portrayed on the "People Wall" in Corning's City Hall.

Fast forward a few years later, Barbara was nearing completion of her research and had compiled a remarkable collection of stories and information. In January of 2022 she did a program for us, "Puzzle of the People Wall", as part of our lecture series. Shortly after, she came to us seeking input on how best to share the information and wondered what our thoughts were on doing a book. We loved the idea of a book and were beyond thrilled when she proposed a partnership, with all proceeds benefiting the Corning-Painted Post Historical Society. The book was a tremendous effort; Barbara collaborated with numerous people in the community and dedicated a substantial amount of time to create the book, resulting in a spectacular finished product! Initially aiming to sell 100 copies, the book's success exceeded expectations, with 248 copies sold by the end of 2023 (We have now sold over 300 copies!) The book generated an impressive revenue of \$19,348.00 and its publicity enhanced the Society's visibility within the community. The Society expresses immense gratitude to Barbara for her remarkable contribution and gift to both the organization and the entire community.

Collections

In 2023 the Historical Society began a significant project to update its collections database and streamline information in preparation for an upgrade to a new, more advanced system. This initiative is part of a broader effort to modernize the society's operations and enhance accessibility to its vast collection of historical records and artifacts. With the new PastPerfect web based system, the Society aims to make its wealth of information more readily available to the public, fostering a deeper appreciation and understanding of local history.

Our thanks to Sheri Golder and Eunice Taggart for their work on this project.

Special Events and Programs

Here is an overview of our 2023 calendar:

January:

Awaken the Spirits Ghost Hunt:

In 2023 we ran our popular ghost hunts monthly through October. Due to personnel changes within the Paranormal Association of the Southern Tier, our monthly hunts have ended. We are currently exploring other options for bringing something similar back on an occasional basis.

March

Chili & Chocolate:

Our Chili & Chocolate fundraiser returned with dine “inn” and take out options. Due to food permit regulations, this event is temporarily on hold. We are working on ways to bring it back in the future.

April

Spring Clean Up

Virtual Lecture Series

The Erie Canal, by Gary Emerson

What’s Cooking at the Patterson Inn:

Hearth Cooking experience with Paul and Kelly Perine

May

Annual Membership Meeting:

Hosted virtually and in person, the agenda included approving and introducing new board member(s) and a review of 2022. Following the business portion of the meeting, Andrea Lynch, President of the Corning Incorporated Foundation, gave a presentation about the history of the Corning Incorporated Foundation and its future.

Victorian Tea Fundraiser:

This year’s theme was celebrating women, and with that we launched our exhibit “Trailblazing Women: celebrating those we knew and those who came before us. The Victorian Tea will return in 2025!

July

Open House:

The education committee hosted the first of 2 Open House events for the summer.

Bladesmith Seminar:

Nationally renowned master bladesmith and winner of the HISTORY Channel’s “Forged in Fire” tv series, Ray Smith, joined us along with Kevin Moyer and Ryan Grohsmeyer for our first bladesmith seminar. We had an excellent turn out and hope to do a similar event in the future.

August

The Education Committee’s second Open House event.

September

Heritage Festival:

Our annual Heritage Festival returned with traditional demonstrators, music, food, re-enactors, country store, raffles, visiting animals, bake sale, rummage and antique sales, hands-on activities and old-fashioned games for families!

October

The Days of Incandescence Celebration:

This year we had blacksmithing demos and a selection of old fashioned toys and games set up in riverfront park.

November

FLX Gives Fundraiser

Blast Into History:

The 1st McCracken’s Company re-enactors joined us for a weekend of living history activities focusing on drills, camp life, children's games, and music of the Revolutionary War.

December

Holiday Open House:

The event featured our always popular cookie sale, attic treasures, holiday gift shop, visits with Santa, kids crafts, coffee and tea shop, demonstrators, and a cold weather necessities drive to benefit area youth.



*Blacksmithing Demo, Days of Incandescence.
Photo by Lee Speary*



Painted Post – Erwin Museum at The Depot

The Depot Museum was open 2 days per week from July thru Labor Day weekend with a total of 99 visitors.

Anna Hoyler returned as Depot Manager, accessioning artifacts, greeting visitors, and answering and/or researching questions about Erwin and Painted Post.

One of the new items on exhibit is a Pennsylvania Railroad Company Telegraph (pictured right). Donated by John Sowinski, the Telegraph Office gives visitors a hand-on opportunity to “send” a message using Morse code. Electrical telegraphs were primarily used from the 1840s until the late 20th century.



Grants

In 2023, CPPHS received its first ever Support for Organizations grant from the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) in the amount of \$30,000 with an additional \$10,000 to create inclusive programming.

Additional grant funding is always being pursued as a means to support general operating costs, as well as programs and research initiatives. CPPHS now routinely receives grant support from the Community Foundation of Elmira-Corning and the Southern Finger Lakes, the Corning Foundation, Humanities New York and The ARTS Council of the Southern Finger Lakes.

These are the grants received in 2023:

\$10,000.00 NYSCA (February)

\$30,000.00 NYSCA (March)

\$1,500.00 Community Foundation (July)

\$250.00 Community Foundation (August)

\$12,500.00 Community Foundation (September)

\$750.00 Community Foundation (October)

Income Statement

Corning Painted Post Historical Society Investment Summary Report December 31, 2023

At the beginning of the calendar year 2023, the combined Vanguard investment balance of the Inn and the Depot was \$665,434.

Year to date, there have been **no** withdrawals, nor any contributions.

The balance on December 31st was \$768,874, for a net increase of \$103,440.

The portfolio is allocated 64% Stocks and 36% Bonds, managed for long-term growth.

As mentioned in the 2009 annual report, the board chose to separate the Vanguard account based upon endowment donations vs. investment gains, to better monitor the amount required to be kept in the endowment account. A resolution was drafted allowing quarterly transfers to the investment account from the endowment account based upon any gains in the endowment over that time period. Going forward, 90% of any gains in the endowment account may be transferred to the investment account, at the discretion of the board, with the remaining 10% being reinvested into the endowment account. The board has not elected to transfer the gains in 2023.

The total of the endowment account increased from \$485,208.77 on January 1, 2023 to \$563,495 on December 31, 2023.

The total of the investment account increased from \$129,970.93 on January 1, 2022 to \$150,412 on December 31, 2023.

The total Depot Account Increased from \$50,254.32 on January 1, 2022 to \$54,968 on December 31, 2023.

Profit & Loss

ACCOUNTS	Jan 01, 2023 to Dec 31, 2023
Income	\$180,555.90
Cost of Goods Sold	\$0.00
Gross Profit	\$180,555.90
As a percentage of Total Income	100.00%
Operating Expenses	\$176,160.05
Net Profit	\$4,395.85
As a percentage of Total Income	2.43%

Education

In 2023 Heritage Village had the following school and group visits:

Public Schools

Corning Painted Post Grade 310
 Corning Painted Post Grade 2 287
 Corning Painted Post Grade 4 302
 Bath VEW 119
 GST BOCES 18
 Campbell-Savona 140
 Cohen EX 80
 Broadway ES 93
 Hendy Ave ES 90
 Pine City ES 98
 Center Street ES 65
 Big Flats ES 75
 Rb Walters ES 60
 SRU ES 77
 Northern Potter 36
Total 1850

Private Schools

Holy Family 14
 St. Mary Our Mother ES 18
 Northside Baptist 20
 Kings Way Academy 9
 Ingleside Homeschool 20
Total 90
Grand Total 1940



Membership

Memberships in 2022 are as follows:

	New	Renewals	Total
Patterson	0	6	6
Benefactor	0	1	1
Family	2	24	26
Honorary	0	6	6
Individual	1	25	26
Patron	3	54	57
Senior Citizen	3	76	79
	9	192	201

It is vitally important for the organization's survival to increase the number of memberships.

Visitors

Our event attendance was roughly 1575 people. Our walk-in tour total was 159; combined with school groups we had a total of 3,674 visitors in 2023.

Thank you to all of our dedicated docents and volunteers who give so much of their time, knowledge, and energy to make our programs and events possible.

Pictured left: Jenny Monroe, Diane Horning, Mary Franklin, Jean Walker, Mary Ann Gontarz, Lisa Rustici, Mary Ellen Haff, Collette Roberts, Roberta Hirliman, Pat Monahan, Nancy O'Loughlin, Lynn Peffley, Kacey Blaney, Diana Fee, Chris Hoyler, Norma Bird

