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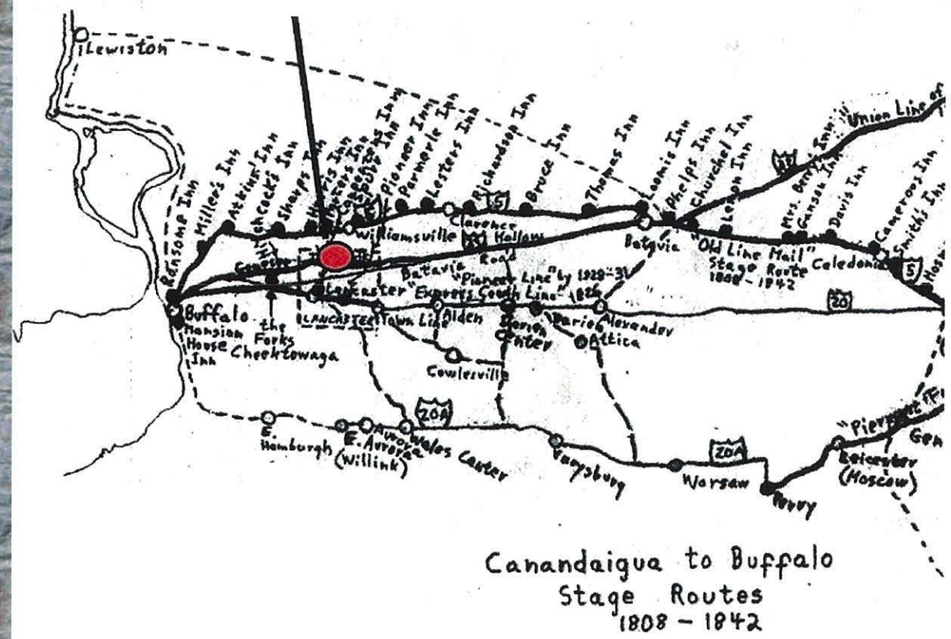
The Hull Family Home & Farmstead



HULL HOUSE FOUNDATION

5976 Genesee Street
Lancaster, NY 14086
(716) 681-6451
www.hullfamilyhome.org

HULL FAMILY HOME & FARMSTEAD

Strategic Plan

2011-2021

3M-51

HULL FAMILY HOME & FARMSTEAD

Circa 1810

Dear Friends:

The Warren and Polly Hull homestead is one of the most significant historic sites in all of Western New York. The region possesses no other comparable dwelling from an earlier time, nor any with such a wealth of historic connections. It clearly deserves our full attention and warrants the expenditure of the dollars needed to restore and preserve the site and to interpret its story.

Rescued from potential oblivion in 1992 by the Landmark Society of the Niagara Frontier, strong efforts since then have led to the establishment of the Hull House Foundation, and a major restoration campaign. What started with just the home itself, perched upon a small half-acre lot, has burgeoned into a growing campus of house, barn, cemetery, 24 acres of additional farm site along with a Victorian home—serving as our headquarters—adjacent to the house. The Foundation also has established a regular newsletter, a website presence, a membership following, and a schedule of year-round programming.

We are now on the verge of bringing to fruition an outstanding historic educational interpretive opportunity for our citizenry. The Hull Family Home & Farmstead will be a unique, exciting and meaningful experience focused on the earliest period of white settlement in Western New York. This is the culmination of years of work and thousands of hours of labor performed by dozens of dedicated volunteers with unflagging dedication to this one purpose.

The Foundation is proud of its accomplishments and greatly appreciates the help it has received from the Margaret L. Wendt Foundation, John R. Oishei Foundation, Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo, Conable Family Foundation, the M & T Foundation, the Town of Lancaster, our State legislative delegation, Barbara and Jerry Kelly, and the myriad of individual donors. We are also grateful for the support from the Fund for the Arts, which made possible the development of this plan.

We are now poised to advance our project to its final phase – to recreate a representative farmstead from the early 19th century with all of the appurtenant buildings and features. With the continued help of the many farsighted individuals, organizations and local leaders who have been involved, we will be successful at bringing the Hulls' family home to its rightful place as one of our community's most significant historic assets.

The ages of our past have brought this site safely to the present. It now falls to us, through our continuing exertions, to propel it into the ages of our future.

Sincerely,

Gary N. Costello
President
Board of Directors
Hull House Foundation

5976 Genesee Street, Lancaster, New York 14086 (716) 681-6451

Hull House Foundation, a 501c-3 tax exempt organization chartered by the Board of Regents of the State University of New York is developing the *Hull Family Home & Farmstead* as an educational interpretive center to present the history, culture and architecture of Western New York in the early 19th century.

Appreciation

A special thanks to our funders

The Margaret L. Wendt Foundation
The John R. Oishei Foundation
New York State Department of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo
Conable Family Foundation
M & T Foundation
Town of Lancaster
Our State legislative delegation
Barbara and Jerry Kelly
Fund for the Arts
And our Hull House Development Team and our many individual donors, supporters and volunteers

Board of Directors

Gary N. Costello, President
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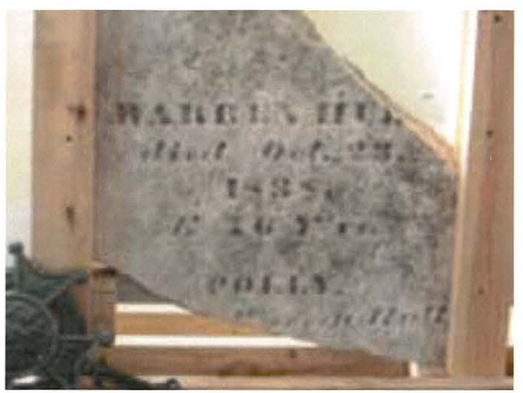
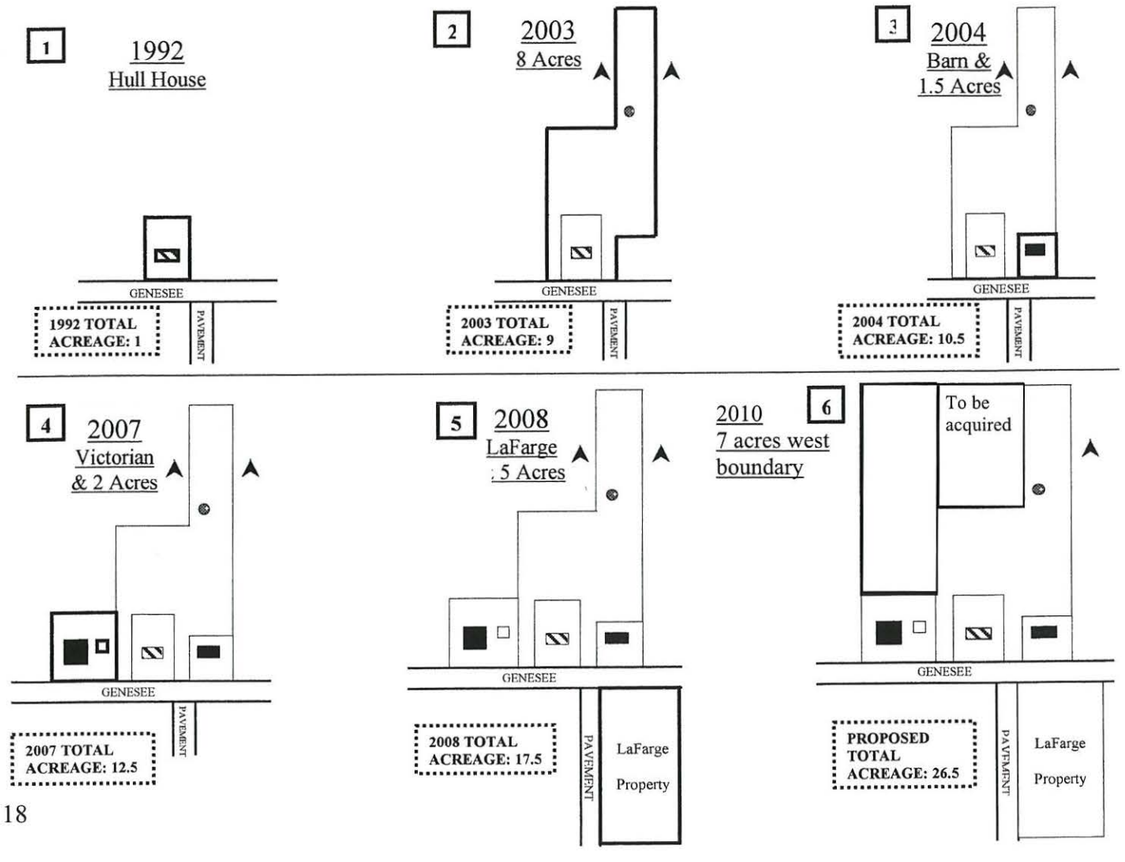
Mark Martin, Treasurer
Pamela Davison
Dennis Hirshfelt
Suzanne Jacobs
Diane O'Connor

And to Warren & Polly Hull, without whom none of this would be possible....



Hull House Foundation
Land Acquisition since 1992

Hull House Foundation Land Acquisition Since 1992



About the Hull Family Home & Farmstead

The c.1810 Hull House -- the oldest stone dwelling in Erie County, NY-- is a rare piece of early American architecture in Western New York. Located on Genesee Street in the Town of Lancaster, the Hull House is currently being restored by the Hull House Foundation as an educational and interpretive center for early 19th century life in the Western New York frontier. It is a rare surviving example of Federal style architecture in the Niagara Region and is purported to be the oldest substantial stone dwelling in Erie County. Nothing as substantial as this house has survived from any white settler who came to our area before Warren Hull. It is an extraordinary landmark.

The vision for the future at the Hull Family Home & Farmstead is ambitious but critically important to preserving the house and the stories of the family and the culture and events of the 19th century in Western New York. In order to help children and families, students and researchers, history buffs and tourists to understand the present, we want to help them appreciate the past. Our rich fabric of cultural heritage is something to cherish, protect, and build upon. We seek to preserve and to enhance our broad range of resources through sensitive stewardship, protection and enrichment for the future.

The Hull House restoration project is about sustaining, overseeing and ensuring the continuation of the Western New York story and the rich heritage that can be interpreted through this historic treasure. This site deserves to be preserved, interpreted, and celebrated for its own sake, as well as for all of the residents of our community.

The Hull House Foundation firmly believes in maintaining the authenticity and integrity of our historical sites. The heart of heritage development is to tell real stories—stories that explain the places and also tell why these places are important. We, therefore, derive an appreciation and understanding of the significance and value of our community and its past. This, in turn, helps us create a sense of shared experience and meaning.

In telling the story about how we arrived at this point in the 21st century, how we grew and developed since the first white settlers to this area, and how we became the community we are today, we are relighting the past so our story can be shared with future generations.

The house, on 1.1 acres, was acquired by the Landmark Society of the Niagara Frontier (LSNF) from the Peterson Family in 1992 in order to preserve the historic structure. Significant progress began in 2001 when the Hull House Restoration Committee was formed and spearheaded the beginning of major fundraising for restoration of the existing building. The chronology below summarizes the strides we have made thus far with the restoration. This plan sets forth the full vision of our plans to recreate an historically accurate, early 19th century family home and farmstead.

Chronology of Accomplishments

c.1810-1868
- Warren and Polly Hull establish farmstead and descendants remain until 1868

1991
- Six different owners occupy home until Landmark Society acquires property.

1992
- Hull House is acquired by the Landmark Society of the Niagara Frontier

1993
- Hull House is listed on the National Register of Historic Places

1998
- Historic Structure Report prepared by architectural historian John Conlin

2001
- Hull House Restoration Committee formed

2002
- Hull House awarded grant from the Margaret L. Wendt Foundation for exterior Stabilization

2003
- Exterior stabilization work completed
- Acquired 7.8 acres of adjoining land – including the Hull Family cemetery

2004
- 1.4 acres and contributing barn acquired

2005
- Second grant awarded from the Margaret L. Wendt Foundation to advance the Restoration
- Interior surface finish analysis completed
- Phase I archaeological survey begun by State University of New York, Department of Anthropology

2006
- Contract negotiated with the Lafarge Corporation to purchase five acres of land south of Genesee Street
- Cemetery conservators conduct preliminary study of Hull family cemetery
- Petition for charter submitted to New York State Department of Education
- Major restoration to parapet end walls, 4 chimneys, wood shingled roof, and oval attic windows is begun
- Preliminary study conducted by landscape architect in preparation for development of site plan
- Petition for Charter to New York State Department of Education approved for formation of Hull House Foundation (HHF)
- Restoration of fireplaces and hearths begun
- Roof, end-wall, and chimney restoration completed

Revolutionary War re-enactment

Civil War Living History

Cooking demonstration at children's History Camp

Revolutionary War re-enactors

Interior restoration work

Christmas at the Hull House

Life at the Hull Family Home & Farmstead

As the work continues with restoration and site development, a broad array of experiences are offered to visitors through a variety of methods to encourage understanding and appreciation of the multifaceted heritage story presented at the Hull Family Farm & Farmstead. We strive to develop a "hands-on" experience for visitors. The house is presently open for individual and family visitation and group tours including student groups and commercial tour companies. We continue to develop new topics for our lecture series, seminars, field trips and focused field studies. Several times each year, we invite the public to join our archaeologists in a community "dig" where they can unearth a piece of our past for themselves. We currently have seasonal and themed special events which provide new reasons to visit the site on a repeat basis.

The pictures on these pages illustrate some of the many activities at the site that help tell the story of the Hull Family, the home and life during the period. Many thanks to our dedicated volunteers who are active in both restoration activities and events that bring the site to life.

Tour with docent

Interior restoration work

Pony cart rides

Afternoon tea

2007
- 501 (c) (3) Tax Exempt Status granted by IRS
- Unidentified stone foundation north of house unearthed by archaeologists
- Two acres and Victorian home adjacent to Hull House purchased
- Common room floor replaced with wide plank boards & radiant heat system installed
- Purchase agreement signed to acquire five acres of LaFarge land

2008
- Twenty incorrect windows replaced with correct sashes
- Five acres of Lafarge land purchased
- Engaged services of Historical Research Consultant to study Hull Family

2009
- Missing fireplace in Common Room rebuilt
- Cellar flooring removed; area excavated by archaeology
- Final resolution by Landmark Society of the Niagara Frontier to transfer real assets to HHF initiated
- Interior walls on first and second floors reconstructed and lathed; rear doorway reconstructed; wainscoting restored in Common room
- Interior restoration of walls and floors begun
- Radiant heat installed on second floor – flooring reinstalled

2010
- Paint removal work begun in all rooms
- HHF selected for Capacity Building Initiative by Fund for the Arts to work with consultants Neil Melbrod and Eve Berry
- First "Polly's Tea Party" held
- Expanded Board of Trustees from 5 to 10 members
- Launched first special giving society as part of 200th anniversary Annual Appeal – exceeded its goal of $10,000
- Established Resource Development Committee
- Accomplished purchase of 7 acres of land adjoining farmstead's western boundary
- Transfer of four properties from Preservation Buffalo Niagara to Hull House Foundation completed

2011
- Finalized 10-year Strategic Plan

Onsite SUNY archeological research

Exterior restoration underway

Trends Affecting Our Work

Western New York emerging as a heritage/cultural tourism region:

Multiple efforts are underway to position Western New York as a major cultural and heritage tourism destination. Recent national coverage is building a stronger presence for the region, and Hull Family Home & Farmstead will continue to play an active role in the planning and implementation process. The historic preservation movement in the region is also an active force in bringing attention to the area and to continuing local effort to preserve historic structures and landscapes.

Trend toward 1st person interactive interpretation:

Within the world of heritage tourism and historic sites, the most current practice is to provide visitors with a realistic, active, "live" experience vs. a static presentation of materials. "Living history" is appealing to all ages and is especially effective for educational programs.

National Trust for Historic Preservation conference in Buffalo in 2011:

Buffalo will be the site for the October 2011 conference of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, which will bring 2,500 visitors to Western New York. This notable event provides an ideal opportunity to expose visitors from beyond the region to significant cultural and historical assets, including the Hull Family Home & Farmstead. The organization is an active participant in planning activities.

Regional plans to celebrate bi-centennial of War of 1812:

On the heels of the conference is the bi-centennial celebration of the War of 1812, a bi-national, regional commemoration of the two-year military conflict between the U.S. and Great Britain. Both events provide a platform for major public exposure to the Hull Family Home & Farmstead. The organization is an active participant in planning activities.

Increasing interest in growing and supporting "local"—food, agriculture, economy, community:

Given the heightened awareness of the environment and the emergence of a "green" economy, greater numbers of people are taking action to grow and distribute local food and invest in the local economy. The Hull Family Home & Farmstead can serve as a living demonstration of how a family maintained a sustainable farm and gardens.

Competitive funding environment:

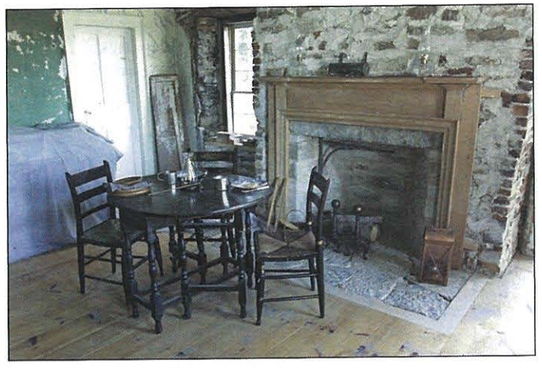
The economic climate has made the funding environment even more competitive and Western New York is home to over 3,400 nonprofit organizations. To be effective in fundraising, organizations need to make a compelling case for support.

Going green:
Climate change and "green" is in the news everywhere and it seems like everyone's "going green." There is a growing desire to align the agendas of the "green movement" and historic preservation, and collaborative efforts are underway among the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the U.S. Green Building Council , and The American Institute of Architects to tap the synergies between green building and historic preservation.

Project/Initiative	Phase 1: 2011-2014	Phase 2: 2015-2018	Phase 3: 2019 – 2021
Property Acquisition			
Northern billboard parcel		●	●
Pavement/Genesee vacant parcel		●	●
Eastern boundary residential parcel		●	●
Additional vacant acreage, western boundary		●	●
Marketing			
Marketing Plan	●	●	●
Collaboration	●	●	●
Master Interpretive Plan			
Create Master Interpretive plan	●	●	●
Develop educational programs	●	●	●
Capacity-building/Organization Development			
Board development	●	●	●
Staffing/volunteer plans	●	●	●
Technology plan	●	●	●
Financial Sustainability			
Develop/implement sustainability plan	●	●	●

Sheep from "Sheep to Shawl" Wool-making event

Project/Initiative	Phase 1: 2011-2014	Phase 2: 2015-2018	Phase 3: 2019 – 2021
Site Development			
Archeological research (used also for interpretation)	•		
Interior restoration	•		
Exterior restoration	•		
Plan/acquire furnishings	•		
Mechanical Systems	•		
Handicapped access	•		•
Reconstruct contributing historic structures and outbuildings	•		
Develop Native American Interpretive site		•	
Recreate farmstead/grounds	•		
Ground water drainage system	•		
Construct Visitor Center and parking			•
Construct Genesee crossing			•
Cemetery restoration		•	
Development of adjacent property	•	•	•



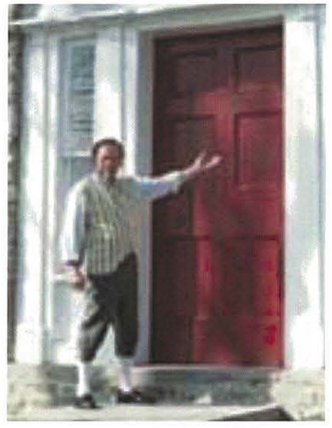
Hull Family Home interior

Vision

The vision of the Hull House Foundation is of a fully restored Hull Family Home & Farmstead which operates as an historic educational resource, interpreting early 19th century life in Western New York.

Mission

The mission of the Hull Family Home & Farmstead is to reflect the Hull family's occupation from 1810-1825 and to interpret for visitors daily pioneer life during that earliest period of Western New York white settlement.



Warren Hull portrayed by Brian LaTulip at the entrance of Hull House

Guiding Principles

- Maintain historical accuracy in achieving the restoration
- Seek to bring history alive
- Enhance the visitor experience

Strategic Goals

1. Complete the **historic restoration and preservation** of the buildings and farmstead.

2. Expand the Hull Family Home and Farmstead **property, furnishings and artifacts.**

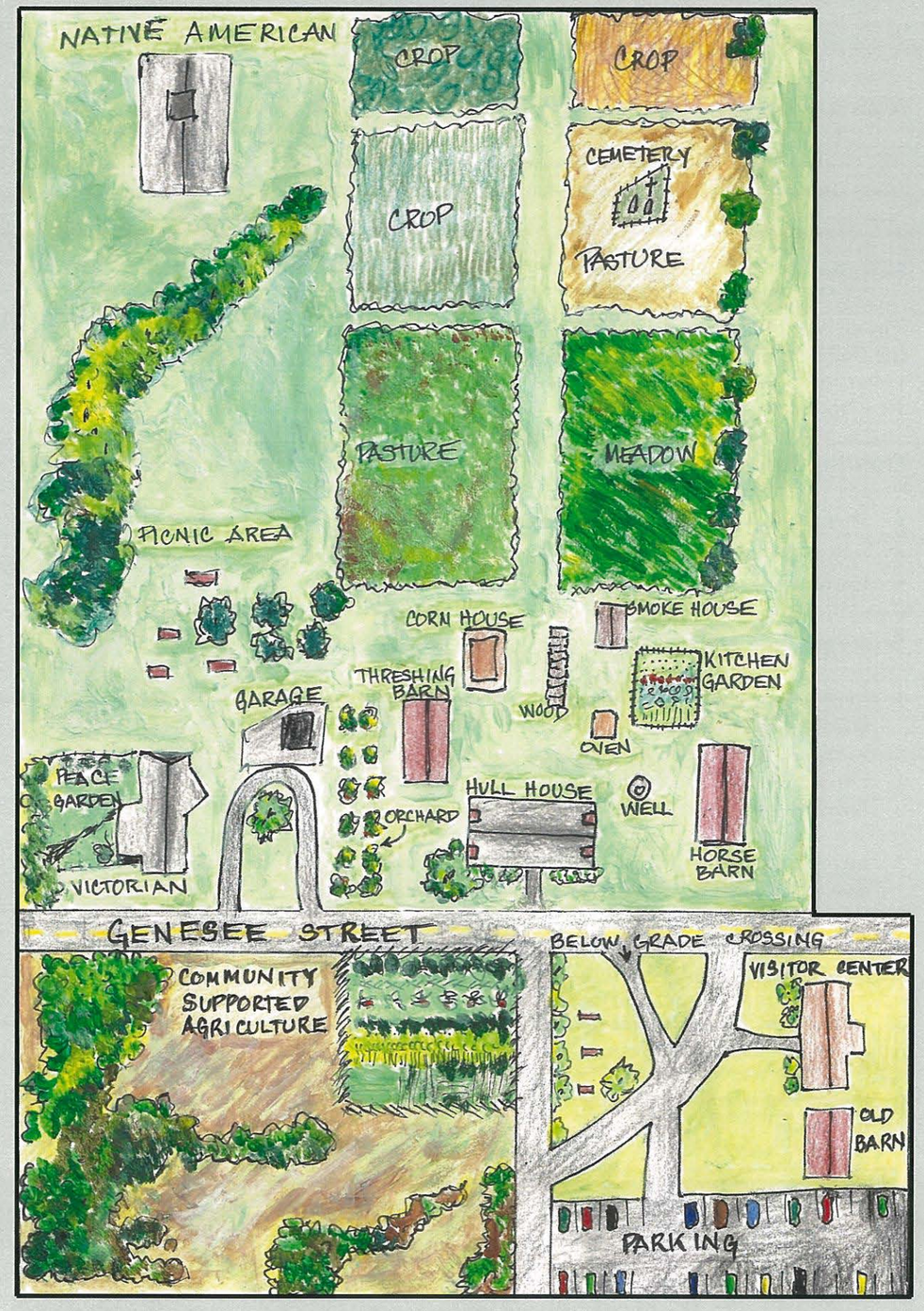
3. Increase the visibility of the Hull Family Home & Farmstead as a **heritage tourism destination** of local and regional prominence.

4. Expand **educational opportunities** that engage the public in learning about the multiple stories inspired by the Hull Family Home & Farmstead.

5. Increase **knowledge about the significance of the Hull Family** and their home as examples of early pioneer life in Western New York.

6. Implement capacity-building initiatives to ensure long-term **organizational and financial sustainability.**

Vision for the Hull Family Home & Farmstead Site



Note: Map not to scale

Staffing Plan

The growth and development of the site will necessitate core paid staff. The number and roles of these staff members will be defined during Phase 1 (see below for timeframe).

Professional Guidance

The restoration will continue to utilize the professional services of qualified preservation architects, historic researchers, anthropologist/archeologists, and construction specialists for guidance and implementation.

Technological enhancements

Information technology will be integrated into the development of the site. Technology will be required for point of sale transactions, accounting, website, fundraising/donor management and exhibits. A technology plan will also be developed during Phase 1.

Financial Sustainability

Concurrent with the restoration of the Hull Family Home and Farmstead, the Hull House Foundation will develop and implement a plan for long-term sustainability of the site. The capital costs are estimated at $3 million over a ten-year period. Sustainability will be achieved by developing a portfolio of income streams including the following:

- Earned Income (merchandise sales, rentals, admissions, tours, event income)
- Grants
- Membership
- Annual appeal
- Direct mail
- Major Gifts
- Fundraising Events
- Capital campaign
- Endowment
- Planned Giving

Phase 1: 2011-2014	Phase 2: 2015-2018	Phase 3: 2019-2021	Total
$850,000	$850,000	$1,300,000	**$3,000,000**
• Archeological research • Complete Hull House interior and exterior restoration • Reconstruct historic structures, outbuildings and farmstead • Interpretive plan-phase 1 • Marketing plan • Capacity building	• Develop adjacent property • Native American interpretive site • Cemetery restoration • Property acquisition • Interpretive plan-phase 2 • Educational programs • Marketing • Capacity building	• Visitor Center • Parking • Genesee Street crossing • Property acquisition • Interpretive plan-phase 3 • Educational programs • Marketing • Capacity building	

Strategic Focus Areas and Initiatives 2011-2021

Collaboration

Collaboration with partners sharing similar goals will be undertaken at every opportunity, both to maximize resources and to gain positive visibility in the larger community and partner constituencies.

Key ongoing partners are:

- Buffalo Niagara Convention & Visitors Bureau
- Town of Lancaster
- Seneca Nation
- Clarence Hollow Association
- War of 1812 Bicentennial Planning Group
- Lancaster Schools
- Fund for the Arts

Partners to be more fully developed include:

- Old Fort Niagara
- Holland Land Office Museum
- Genesee Country Museum
- Buffalo Public Schools
- Plimouth Plantation
- Ganondagan State Historic Site

Master Interpretive Plan / Educational programming

The master interpretive plan is the heart and soul of the Hull Family Home & Farmstead experience – just as the house and grounds are the skeleton and muscle of the site. It is this plan that will define the stories that are important to the site, will explain their relevance, and will describe how they will be presented. All programming emanates from this comprehensive plan.

Organizational Development

Governance/Board

In 2010, the Board was expanded to 10 members from five. The board will continue to expand up to 15 members in order to provide a strong base of support and leadership. Board member orientation, training and development will be conducted on a regular basis in order to gradually transition the board from a "working/hands-on" to a "governance" board. This transition is expected to take place over a ten-year period.

Committee Structure

The Committee structure for the organization will be reviewed on an annual basis in order to align it with current priorities. Committees will continue to involve supporters beyond the board and provide opportunities for development of potential board candidates.

Development Team

The Hull House Development Team organizes, promotes and develops public events and supervises volunteers for the Hull Family Home & Farmstead. The team members will continue to work with the Board to expand the depth and breadth of these events and to encourage the expansion of our volunteer base.

Volunteer Management

As the site develops and is open to the public for longer periods of time, the role of volunteers will need to be defined and a plan for recruitment, management and recognition of volunteers will be developed.

Home & Farmstead	
Hull Family Home	Fully restored historic house; furnished with appropriate period furnishings.
Horse Barn	Structure to be built to house carriage, wagon and horses (to be built).
Threshing Barn	Period barn for purpose of threshing and storing wheat (to be built).
Corn House	Structure to be built for storage of harvested corn (to be built).
Oven:	Outdoor bake oven for meal preparation in summer months (to be built).
Smoke House	Stone structure dedicated to smoke curing meat (to be built).
Cemetery	Hull family cemetery housing approximately 15 graves including at least 4 Hulls.
Kitchen Garden	Typical garden for growing staples for family consumption.
Orchard	Establish fruit orchard, typical of the period, for apple trees and other fruit.
Well	Source of fresh water for cooking, drinking and household use.
Visitor Center Area	
Visitor Center	Facility to accommodate visitor services, admissions, Shop, and restrooms; flexible use programming/educational space; orientation exhibits; and back office and volunteer support space (to be built).
Civil War era Barn	Existing barn relocated to south side of Genesee Street as site for events.
Parking	Establish parking for 100 vehicles plus buses as well as 'turn-around' (to be built).
Below Grade Crossing	Passageway to be constructed below Genesee St. to afford safe passage of guests from Visitor Center to Historic site. (to be built).
West of Farmstead	
Victorian House	House adjacent to historic site that houses Foundation operations.
Peace Garden	Establish special garden to commemorate 200 years of peace with our Northern neighbors. Project initiated by Bi-National Tourism Alliance, in conjunction with several dozen other area sites (to be created).
Picnic Area	Picnic tables for visitors' use.
Native American Center	Site dedicated to the interpretation of American Indian culture – the Seneca Nation specifically – for this period of history (to be built).
Community Supported Agriculture	If land is acquired, potential site for community members to invest in "shares" of garden and receive produce during summer months.

Strategic Focus Areas and Initiatives 2011-2021

- **Site Development**
- **Site Expansion**
- **Marketing**
- **Master Interpretive Plan**
- **Organizational Development**
- **Financial Sustainability**

Site Development

Archeological research (also used for interpretation)

The continuation of our archaeological exploration and research is an important facet of the overall reconstruction of the living history site. It strives to obtain the rarest pieces of information from the earliest occupation. Thus, it allows for the reconstruction of what was actually there, affords a more accurate historical representation of life in Western New York in the early 19th century and aids in gaining a broader view of the site. Research already completed has contributed to the accuracy of the restoration and provided a basis for site interpretation.

House restoration - exterior and interior

Plans call for the complete restoration of the house interior and exterior to return its appearance, configuration, and function as it was in the early 19th century, making the home representative of its period of prime significance. Handicapped accessibility will be addressed to the extent feasible in the house itself as well as other parts of the site. Restoration will incorporate the Hull House Foundation's "Green Plan."

Farmstead development, orchard, garden, pathways and outbuildings

Over the next ten year period we will recreate a farmstead typical of the era, with all of the appurtenant buildings and features – using the best available archaeological evidence coupled with results from historic research as to the nature and character of early farms in the Western New York region. Farmstead development will also incorporate the Hull House Foundation's "Green Plan" as well as a nature trail.

Visitor Center

A modern Visitor Center will be constructed to accommodate visitors, parking, buses and public recreational activities. The center will handle back-office services, ticket sales, exhibit space, classroom/presentation area, gift shop, lavatories, and snack bar. An event barn for special activities is planned adjacent to the center. Construction will incorporate the Hull House Foundation's "Green Plan."

Genesee Street crossing - below-grade pedestrian passageway

Plans are being set for construction of a below grade pedestrian walkway to provide for safe passage of visitors from the Visitor Center to the historic site.

Public and event areas

Open areas for events will be included in the site in areas adjacent to the home and farmstead in order to preserve the historic context of the site and to also expand programming opportunities. These include picnic areas and open spaces for flexible use.

Native American Cultural Interpretive Site

A Native American cultural site will be developed, offering year-round opportunities for interpretation of the culture and life style of the Native Americans of the Seneca Nation. The site will be designed and presented by members of the Native American community in collaboration with the Hull Family Home & Farmstead.

Cemetery restoration

Restoration of the Hull Family cemetery, in collaboration with the University at Buffalo Department of Anthropology, will be included as a component of the Hull Family Home & Farmstead experience. The cemetery presently holds the remains of at least four Hull family members, including two veterans of the American Revolution and at least 10 other graves. Markers will be restored, and vegetation, paths, fences and signage installed.

Community Supported Agriculture

In light of the growing interest in local food, it is possible to develop a series of large gardens on the property south of Genesee Street (see below) should it be acquired. These gardens could operate as a Community Supported Agriculture initiative in which community members "invest" in shares and receive fresh, local food throughout the growing season.

Acquisition of adjacent properties

- **Final "puzzle piece" in center of northern property boundary adjacent to Thruway**
  Parcel includes billboard. Acquisition of this parcel, which would finally "square off" the assembled farmstead site, is of paramount importance in presenting a realistic representation of the Hull farm. Presents short-term opportunity for billboard revenue with ultimate goal of removing billboard.

- **Residential property directly east of Hull House and present historic barn:**
  The property is important in protecting the historic site's eastern boundary; long-range uses of the property to be determined.

- **Vacant land, southwest corner of Pavement Road and Genesee Street**
  This area provides a valuable view-shed for the Hull site and every effort will be made to maintain this vista in its present state – just as it has been for hundreds of years.
  Present owners have been friendly about HHF using this vacant parcel for event parking. If acquired, one option proposed is to site Community Support Agriculture gardens here.

- **Potential additional parcels west of site**
  Vacant acreage west of the present site should be acquired as resources allow to further protect the site's western border from possible encroachment and allow for expanded programming opportunities.

Marketing

Marketing plan

A long-term Marketing Plan with identified goals, strategies, and quantifiable outcomes will be crafted that matches the goals and timeframe of this Strategic Plan. In addition, an annual Marketing Plan will be created in concert with the annual budget, programming plan and fundraising plan that identifies strategies to ensure positive visibility for each year's events, successes and promotable opportunities. Budgets will include reasonable funds supporting strategic advertising, printing and other methods of ensuring attendance, participation and positive awareness. In-kind support for same should be identified early as part of both long-range and annual plans. A Marketing Committee will also be formed to both guide the planning and implement the plans on an ongoing basis. This committee will be charged with all public relations initiatives, publications, advertising, website content, media relations, and other outreach.

Hull Family Home & Farmstead

Development/Project Priorities -

Cost Estimates

#1 Restoration

Completion of Restoration of House Interior		**$71,000**
Plaster New Walls (parlor, sitting room,office, hall,cellar girls room, commom room, and cellar)	$15,000	
Reconstruct 3 walls in cellar	$12,000	
Restore fireplace - cellar kitchen	$ 3,500	
Repair floor - cellar kitchen	$ 6,500	
Plaster repair – ceilings, walls, (cellar, 1st floor, 2nd floor)	$10,000	
Paint removal and finish application – all rooms	$ 8,500	
Rebuild cellar stairs	$ 3,500	
Carpentry trim work	$ 3,500	
Remove cement floor in scullery	$ 2,000	
Repair eight existing doors	$ 1,500	
Construct mechanical room - cellar (heat, plumbing, electric)	$ 5,000	
Completion of Restoration of House Exterior		**$53,500**
Stucco removal	$21,000	
Masonry re-pointing	$15,000	
Rebuild exterior rear stairway & landing	$ 9,500	
Construct side (east) entrance stairs and porch	$11,500	
Re-set front stone steps	$ 8,000	
Paint trim	$ 4,500	
Develop Interior Furnishings Plan + Hardware		**$ 5,000**
Acquire Furnishings + Hardware (13 + areas @ approx $4-5,000)		**$60,000**
Mechanical Systems		**$29,000**
Completion of radiant heating system installation (partial second floor; cellar floor)	$14,000	
Fire prevention system	$ 8,000	
Security system	$ 4,500	
Completion of electrical update	$ 2,500	

Handicapped access **$10,000**

Architects **$35,000**

Other:

Contingency costs _____
Green Plan _____

#2 Site Development

Re-construct contributing historic structures & outbuildings **$85,000**

threshing barn
smoke house
privy
well
animal pen
root cellar
wood shed
forge barn
milk house
carriage barn
corn crib

Re-create farmstead/grounds **$30-40,000**

crop fields & crops
kitchen garden
landscape features
plantings
fences
paths
animals
signage

Install Ground Water Drainage System **$ 9,500**

#3 Archaeology (see 'UB' addendum 2) **$130,000**

Archaeological study impacts both Master Interpretive Plan development and site development

#4 Land Acquisition and Debt Reduction **$145,000***

barn property	$ 20,000	
H Q – 5962	$200,000	(anticipate EPF II grant funds of $130,000)*
Seven acres	$ 55,000	(may need – depends on other requests)*
	$275,000	

Plus final parcel ___?___

#5 Master Interpretive Plan/Educational Development **$82-97,000**

Historical Research consultant	($15-20,000)
Landscape Architect	($15-20,000)
Master Interpretive Plan development	($20-25,000)
Educational materials	($ 7,000)
Exhibits and Displays	($25,000)

TOTAL (page 1-3) $ 745,000 -770,000.

ADDITIONAL SITE DEVELOPMENT

Cemetery restoration	$ 35,000
conservation of markers reproduction of markers fencing & paths signage	
Development & Construction of Permanent Visitor Center & parking	$900,000
admissions exhibit area meeting room classroom area	gift shop storage area & workshop lunch room lavatory
Below Grade Pedestrian Passageway -	$750,000
Development of Adjacent Property	$ 50,000
nature trail sleigh ride/hay ride trail bird watch peace garden	
Development of Native American Cultural Interpretive Site	$ 50,000

TOTAL $1,785,000

Grand Total $2,525,000-2,550,000.

11.9.10

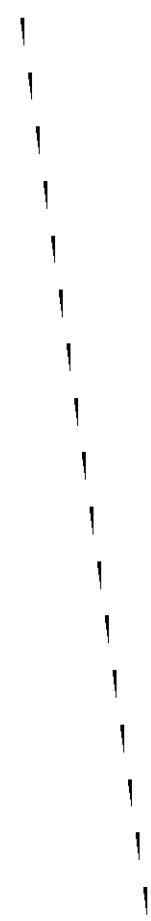
HULL HOUSE FUNDING ACHIEVEMENT 2002 - 2010

Wendt Foundation	$125,000	Summer '02	Restoration
Wilson Greatbatch Technologies, Inc.	500	October. '03	Restoration
N Y S Assembly - Tokasz/Hoyt	12,000	Fall '03	Acquisition
Hull House American Harvest Dinner '03	3,800	Fall '03	Discretionary
Town of Lancaster	5,000	Winter '03/04	Discretionary
Hull House Challenge Grant	1,400	Winter '03/04	Discretionary
N Y S - EPF Grant	87,423	Spring '04	Acquisition
Erie County Legislator Marshall	6,000	Spring '04	Archaeology
Lawn Sale & Open House	1,400	Spring '04	Discretionary
Erie County Legislator McCarville	3,000	Summer '04	Grant Administ.
N Y S Assembly Majority Delegation	27,000	Fall '04	Restoration
N Y S Assemblyman Tokasz	11,500	Fall '04	Restoration
Hull House American Harvest Dinner '04	6,200	Fall '04	Discretionary
Donations/long term fund	3,700	On-Going	Growth
N Y S Senator Volker	50,000	Fall '04	Restoration
N Y S Assemblyman Tokasz	50,000	Winter '04/'05	Restoration
Town of Lancaster	5,000	Winter '04/05	Discretionary
Lancaster Chamber of Commerce	650	Spring '05	Discretionary
Lawn Sale & Open House	2,700	Spring '05	Discretionary
Como Park School Walk-A-Thon	1,265	Spring '05	Discretionary
Wendt Foundation	225,000	Summer '05	Restoration
Hull House American Harvest Dinner '05	7,900	Fall '05	Discretionary
Christmas at Hull House	1,100	Fall '05	Discretionary
Town of Lancaster	2,500	Winter '05/'06	Discretionary
Conable Family Foundation	5,000	Winter '05/'06	Discretionary
M&T Bank Foundation	3,000	Spring '06	Restoration

Sub-Total (page 1) $648,038

Donation – Anonymous	$ 1,000	Fall '05	Long Term Fund
Buffalo Renaissance Foundation	1,000	Spring '06	Discretionary
Gerald & Barbara Kelly	10,000	Spring '06	Discretionary
Congressman Tom Reynolds/ Governor Pataki	250,000	Summer '06	Restoration
Hull House Foundation Trustee/ Challenge Grant	4,000	Sept. '06	Land Acquistion
NYS Assemblyman Tokasz	50,000	Summer '06	Restoration
NYS Assembly Majority Delegation	15,250	Fall '06	Restoration
NYS Assemblyman Paul Tokasz	7,750	Fall '06	Restoration
Hull House American Harvest Dinner '06	15,000	Fall '06	Discretionary
NYS – EPF Grant	45,000	Fall '06	Land Acquisition
Conable Family Foundation	5,000	Fall '06	Discretionary
Christmas at Hull House	1,000	Dec. '06	Discretionary
Town of Lancaster	2,500	Winter '06-'07	Discretionary
NYS Assembly Majority Delegation	12,000	Spring '07	Restoration
NYS Senator Volker	30,000	Spring '07	Restoration
M & T Bank Foundation	10,000	Spring '07	Fireplace Rest.
Ice Cream Musicale' & Open House	1,900	Spring '07	Discretionary
Donation – Anonymous	1,000	Summer '07	Acquisition
Pancake Breakfast	1,800	Summer '07	Discretionary
Doors-Open-Niagara	350	October '07	Discretionary
Hull House American Harvest Dinner '07	14,500	October '07	Discretionary
Christmas at Hull House	1,250	December '07	Discretionary
Conable Family Foundation	5,000	December '07	Discretionary
Town of Lancaster	2,500	February '08	Discretionary
M & T Bank Foundation	5,000	February '08	Discretionary

Sub-Total (page 2) $ 481,100.

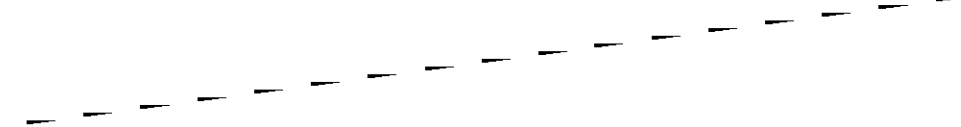


Membership Drive	$ 10,100	Oct. '07 – 8/09	Discretionary
Our Lady of Blessed Sacrament	$ 375	April '08	Discretionary
Pancake Breakfast	$ 1,200	May '08	Discretionary
Ice Cream Musicale & Open House	$ 1,500	June '08	Discretionary
History Camp	$ 1,000	July '08	Discretionary
Haunted Barn	$ 700	Oct. '08	Discretionary
Hull House American Harvest Dinner '08	$ 11,000	Oct. '08	Discretionary
Conable Family Foundation	$ 5,000	Nov. '08	Operating/ Archaeology
Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo	$ 40,000	Nov. '08	Acquisition
Christmas at Hull House	$ 500	Dec. '08	Discretionary
NYS Assembly Majority Delegation	$ 11,000	May '09	Acquisition
John R. Oishei Foundation	$ 50,000	May '09	Restoration
NYS Assemblyman Gabryszak	$ 10,000	July '09	Acquisition
NYS Senator Stachowski	$ 25,000	July '09	Acquisition
NYS – EPF Grant	$186,575	July '09	Acquisition
Hull House American Harvest Dinner '09	$ 15,000	Oct. '09	Discretionary
Conable Family Foundation	$ 2,000	Dec. '09	Discretionary
M&T Bank Foundation	$ 5,000	Jan. '10	Discretionary
Town of Lancaster	$ 3,000	Jan. '10	Discretionary

Sub-Total (page 3) $ 384,950.

Grand Total $1,514,088.

2.14.10



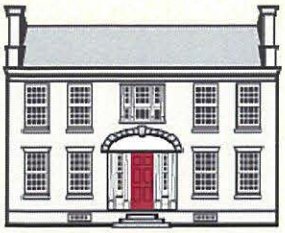
VOLUME 5 ISSUE 3

The Patriot

SEPT 2011

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE HULL FAMILY HOME & FARMSTEAD

. . . Relighting the Past



WELCOME

The Hull Family Home & Farmstead will be open for tours almost every Sunday from 1:00 – 4:00, June through September, with docents available to give tours and information to the public.

Please consider becoming a part of the Hull House Foundation family. We welcome new members and would like to share the excitement as we discover the secrets of this wonderful old home.

5976 Genesee Street
Lancaster NY 14086
716-681-6451

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

We're in the Basement

by Gary N. Costello

Being in the basement typically is not a good thing – at least if you are a baseball team. But in our case, we are thrilled to be there. Restoration work on the Hull house has progressed down to the cellar of the dwelling. Although hampered by a serious lack of funding to accomplish this work, we have made significant progress through close oversight from our preservation architects - Crawford & Stearns – and the use of a 'few good volunteers'.

The first step was taken some many months ago with the removal of all the old, deteriorated wood flooring from the main kitchen area. Most was not original to the house. A few of the earliest wide boards will be re-used. Also removed was the later cement slab that formed the floor in what will be the scullery (the kitchen/cooking clean up area).

The next step was to dig and pour several cement footers that will support the new wood plank walls built to conform to the wall configuration that was there in the original cellar kitchen.

Prior to any digging, archeological study of the area was conducted by the University of Buffalo Department of Anthropology. And as work has progressed, any soil removed while digging footers has been meticulously screened for artifacts. What has turned up consists of dozens of glass fragments; much animal bone; perhaps a dozens pieces of what appears to be pieces of shoe leather; and a number of pieces of ceramic pottery and other earthen ware.

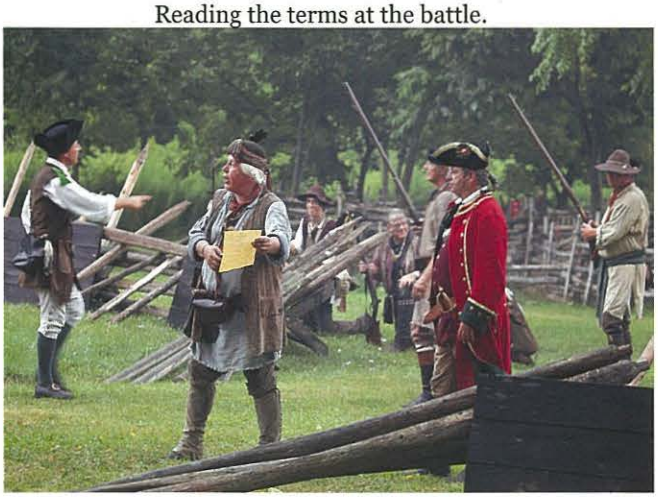
One of the most exciting finds was seven pieces of Staffordshire pearlware that, once reassembled, formed a complete 6" plate (see photo) Another fun find was a small clay pipe bowl, discovered at the bottom of the cistern by intrepid explorer Bernadette Tomeselli *(photo on Pg. 4)*.

Cont'd Pg. 4

WHO IN THE WORLD WAS MIRANDA HULL by Barbara Kager

Miranda Hull was born in 1802, place and date unknown. She was the ninth child of Warren and Polly Hull. On January 7, 1836, she married William H. Conley, the widower of her sister Vilera. Their wedding date appears to be the same day her sister Aurilla married Robert Wheelock. Miranda and William had one son, William Conley, and raised her sister's two children. They lived in a frame house on Genesee Street southwest of her parent's homestead. Their house was known locally as the Erisman house, named for Abraham Erisman who, around 1865, erected the largest extended fore-bay barn in Erie County. The house and barn were illustrated in the *1880 Erie County Atlas*.

Revolutionary War Reenactment 2011:
Reading the terms at the battle.

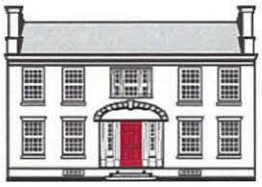


Native American Cultural Days: Spirit~Pride ~Tradition SMOKE DANCE

Darren Jaeckle, a member of the Buffalo Creek Dancers, is pictured here during the first Native American inspired event at Hull Family Home & Farmstead. He demonstrated the traditional smoke dance along with several other traditional dances during the two day celebration of Native American culture in Western New

The 1812 Bicentennial Peace Garden Dedication

On Sunday, August 21, 2011, the Hull Family Home & Farmstead formally opened our Peace Garden to the public. This international celebration of peace between the US and Canada included the unveiling of the installation of carved statues of General Albert Meyer and Buffalo Mayor Ebenezer Walden. Both were donated to the Hull House Foundation for the Peace Garden by Carvings for a Cause. The garden is located behind the Hull House Foundation Headquarters at 5962 Genesee Street, Lancaster, and will be open to the public during our regularly scheduled events.



VOLUNTEERS & DOCENTS NEEDED

You, too, can become a Hull House Docent.

After training, new docents shadow veterans on house tours until they feel comfortable going on their own.

Docents are encouraged (but not required) to wear period correct dress and must abide by strict protocols to ensure accurate and appropriate representation of historical facts.

Please contact Donna Schmidle, our Docent Coordinator, by email at: donnaschmidle@yahoo.com

The Patriot

is the official publication of the Hull House Foundation and is published three times yearly (January, May and September). All rights reserved.

Editors:
Cheryl Vogel, Gary N. Costello
& Pamela J. Davison

Questions or comments to:
Hull House Foundation
5976 Genesee Street
Lancaster NY 14086

716-681-6451
www.HullFamilyHome.org

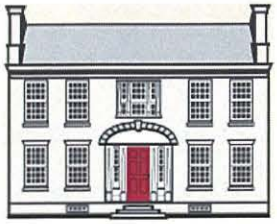
VOLUME 6 , ISSUE 1

The Patriot

JANUARY 2012

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE HULL FAMILY HOME & FARMSTEAD

. . . Relighting the Past



WELCOME

The Hull Family Home & Farmstead will be open for tours during events and some Sundays from 1:00 – 4:00 PM with docents available to give tours and information to the public. Please check the schedule for open dates.

Please consider becoming a part of the Hull House Foundation family. We welcome new members and would like to share the excitement as we discover the secrets of this wonderful old home.

5976 Genesee Street
Lancaster NY 14086
716-681-6451

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

How Do I Restore Thee?

by Gary N. Costello

...let me count the ways! An immense amount of work has gone into the restoration of the historic Hull House. This is a big house! The Hulls were making quite a statement when they built their home. In total, it's almost four thousand square feet including the cellar area and the garret (that's the attic, to the uninitiated). Those who have been following this gargantuan effort will recall work commencing in 2003 on exterior stabilization of the building, which stopped some of the most serious deterioration and shut out the elements in many areas. 2006 saw the complete restoration of the wood shingled roof, parapet end walls and all four brick chimneys, creating a striking new-old look. Then floors were leveled, radiant heat installed, and missing fireplaces rebuilt. And the work continued on – missing walls were rebuilt, and 20 incorrect windows were replaced with historically correct ones in 2008. Thousands of square feet of paint were removed from walls and woodwork in 2010. Hundreds of smaller repairs have been made in every room to advance the work toward completion. Many of these changes and repairs will never be seen by the average guest, but all were necessary to do the job right.

Most recently, much of the damaged plaster in the 10 first and second floor rooms has been carefully repaired – with more yet to be done. The focus of much attention of late has been the main area of the cellar kitchen. Here the floor has been prepared for the installation of insulation, radiant heat, and the application of a beautiful wide pine plank floor - now complete. The stairs that once led from the first floor common room down to the kitchen area, a stairway that had long been removed and replaced with a modern one, has now been meticulously recreated to mirror the original, steep and narrow though it was – watch your head! Another significant improvement can be seen in the kitchen's large wooden fireplace surround. Wood damaged in recent times by careless fire builders has all been craftily restored. More than a dozen repairs have been made to reverse 200 years of wear and tear on this one piece to make the surround ready for re-installation.

(continued on Page 2)

Restored fireplace in Common Room

WHO WAS MINERVA HULL?

by Barbara Kager

Minerva Hull was the tenth child of Warren & Polly Hull. She was born in 1804 and died Nov. 24, 1830. She is buried in the Hull family cemetery. Her grave marker, buried under two inches of dirt was unearthed on June 18th 2006. Surprisingly, the stone was fully intact. Her gravestone reads, "Minerva, daughter of Warren and Polly Hull, died Nov. 1830, aged 26 yrs." As far as we know, she never married.

Events *continued from Page 3*

July 22 (Sunday) 2PM – **International Peace Garden Re-Dedication and Open House**

Our glorious new 1812 Bicentennial Peace Garden, dedicated last August, will be rededicated this summer as one of a growing list of Peace Gardens along the Canadian-US border that celebrates 200 years of peace between the two nations. The garden is located behind the Hull House Foundation Headquarters at 5962 Genesee Street – the property adjacent to our historic site and are free and open to the public for visits during regular business hours.

August 15 (Wednesday) 6:30 PM—**The War of 1812 Candlelight Tour**

Plans are underway for this new event! Similar to our very successful Civil War Candlelight Tours, each story will be told through a theatrical presentation based on factual events. Much research is done to ensure accuracy and to present lesser-known events that contributed to this significant period of Western New York history.

August 19 (Sunday) 1-4PM – **Open House**

The historic Hull Family Home will be open to the public for guided tours through the afternoon. Donations are gladly accepted.

September 8-9 (Saturday & Sunday) 10AM-4PM — **Revolutionary War Weekend**

This very popular event is the *only* Revolutionary War reenactment in Western New York. Watch our website and local papers for more information on the program and scheduled battle times.

September 22-23 (Saturday & Sunday) 10AM-4PM — **Civil War Weekend & Candlelight Tours**

Another of our popular events will return this year bigger and even better. Our Candlelight Tour (Saturday 9/22 only) is a separate admission charge and reservations are required. The tour scenarios are new each year and the theme is in development already. Reservations sell out early so be sure to check for announcements.

October 19 (Friday) 6PM – **Annual American Harvest Dinner**

This major fundraising event of the year is a traditional dinner served up with a live theatrical performance and basket, silent and live auctions. A delightful evening, it will also have a few changes and surprises this year. The location will be announced in the near future.

December 1-2 (Saturday & Sunday) – **A Hull House Christmas Tea**

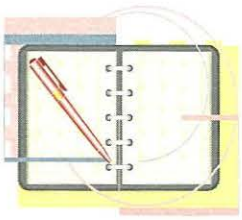
This year, we will present a Christmas Tea. Details are being worked out now to make this an event for everyone in the family to enjoy. Details on website

We are still working out the schedule for:

Summer History Camp *(tentatively set for week of July 23)*

We are planning a single week of full days for our campers this year. Topics will be updated and new programming is being developed for the expanded day.

If you are interested in getting further information on any of our 2012 events and programs, please visit our website throughout the coming months. Since many of our popular event dates are still not firm, our calendar is subject to change. We are working feverishly to make updates available on the website to provide easy access to information as dates and schedules become finalized.



We have much to look forward to in 2012 and much work to do to get there. We invite you, your family and friends, to be our guests at our unique Western New York site – to enjoy weekends focusing on our educational mission, incorporating the stories from the Hull Family and the development of Western New York throughout its early history.

Come and join us in ... ***Relighting the Past!***

Would YOU like to be part of all of this?

We need plenty of volunteers to help us present each of these events. Our volunteers do everything from grilling hotdogs to taking tickets, from mowing lawns to acting in theatrical skits. If you would like to become a volunteer or docent at Hull Family Home & Farmstead, please contact us through our website (click on *"Get Involved"* at the left side of the home page). You will be warmly welcomed into our family!

PEACE GARDEN DEDICATION

Honored participants at the August 21st dedication of the new 1812 Bicentennial Peace Garden included (from left) HHF Docent coordinator Donna Schmidle, General Albert Myer expert Bob Gilbert, Binational Economic and Tourism Alliance Executive Director Arlene White, "Carvings for a Cause" founder Therese Forton-Barnes, HHF President Gary Costello, Garden Committee Chairman Cheri Vogel, Lancaster Supervisor Robert Giza, District Director for Congresswoman Kathy Hochul, Joan Kesner, Canadian Consul General Marta Moszczenska, Niagara 1812 Legacy Council CEO Brian Merrett, Our "Warren Hull," Brian LaTulip, and Volunteer Coordinator Bernadette Tomaselli. *Photo courtesy of Gary Howell.*

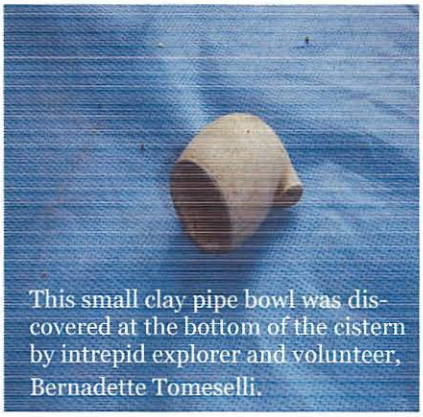
American Harvest Dinner

Wendy Nicholas, the Director of the Northeast Region Office of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, will be this year's American Harvest Dinner keynote speaker on **Friday, October 7**. With Buffalo hosting the National Trust Conference in mid-October, Wendy will share her insights on the state of historic preservation, the importance of projects like the Hull Family Home & Farmstead and national trends.

Get your tickets now for this great evening of friendship, auction items, delectable dinner, and surprises – event details, business sponsorship and tickets at **716-913-7922 or** www.hullfamilyhome.org. The Dinner this year will be at the Fox Valley Country Club, 6161 Genesee Street, Lancaster. Please join us!

Sheep to Shawl 2011

Dyer Liz Wells speaks of yarn and techniques of dying fiber at our Fourth Annual Sheep to Shawl event which was held on Sunday, July24, 2011. Our guests also enjoyed a demonstration of fleece harvesting by Sherry & Dan Swartz. Spinners, members of Common Threads Guild, used wool to spin yarn that was then woven on our Hull House loom. The beautiful shawl that resulted for their day-long work will be live auctioned at our American Harvest Dinner as one of our major fundraiser items.



This small clay pipe bowl was discovered at the bottom of the cistern by intrepid explorer and volunteer, Bernadette Tomeselli.

Con't'd Pg. 1 ...We're in the basement

Once the plank walls were back in place, work began on creating a grid work of floor joists that will support the hot water radiant heating network to be installed under the floor, and that will also support the wide pine plank floor that our visitors will eventually walk upon.

Once the main kitchen area is complete – floor; heating; plaster repair; and paint - work will continue in the other 3 rooms of the cellar. The scullery, the larder (or storage room) and the mechanical room that will house our electrical, heating and water requirements. This room will also serve as a coffee room 'retreat' for our docents and staff.

Exciting times as we dig our way through to the past – and the vision becomes more vivid and the possibilities more real. The cooks are out gather provisions already!

Yard Sale? Garage Cleaning? Can You Help Us by Donating Any of the Following Items?

30-pint De-Humidifier
2 metal picnic coolers
Large sturdy wheelbarrow
30' aluminum extension ladder
Working riding lawnmower
Garden wagon and/or Flat bed cart
Gas grill
20'x20' Tent in good condition with poles
Small tractor and trailer

Please contact Gary at 837-0893. Thank you!

CHRISTMAS IS COMING TO THE HULL FAMILY HOME & FARMSTEAD

Sat, Dec 3th & Sun, Dec. 4th - Noon-4 pm

Experience Christmas in the early 1800's. Enjoy period decorations, food, & music

What says Christmas better than the smell of fresh baked gingerbread . Large or small makes no difference . Just decorate a gingerbread house and bring it to the Hull House Foundation Headquarters at 5976 Genesee St., Lancaster . Houses will be placed on display and judged during our Christmas Event. Entries must be delivered on Dec.1 2011 and will be on display on Dec 3 & 4.

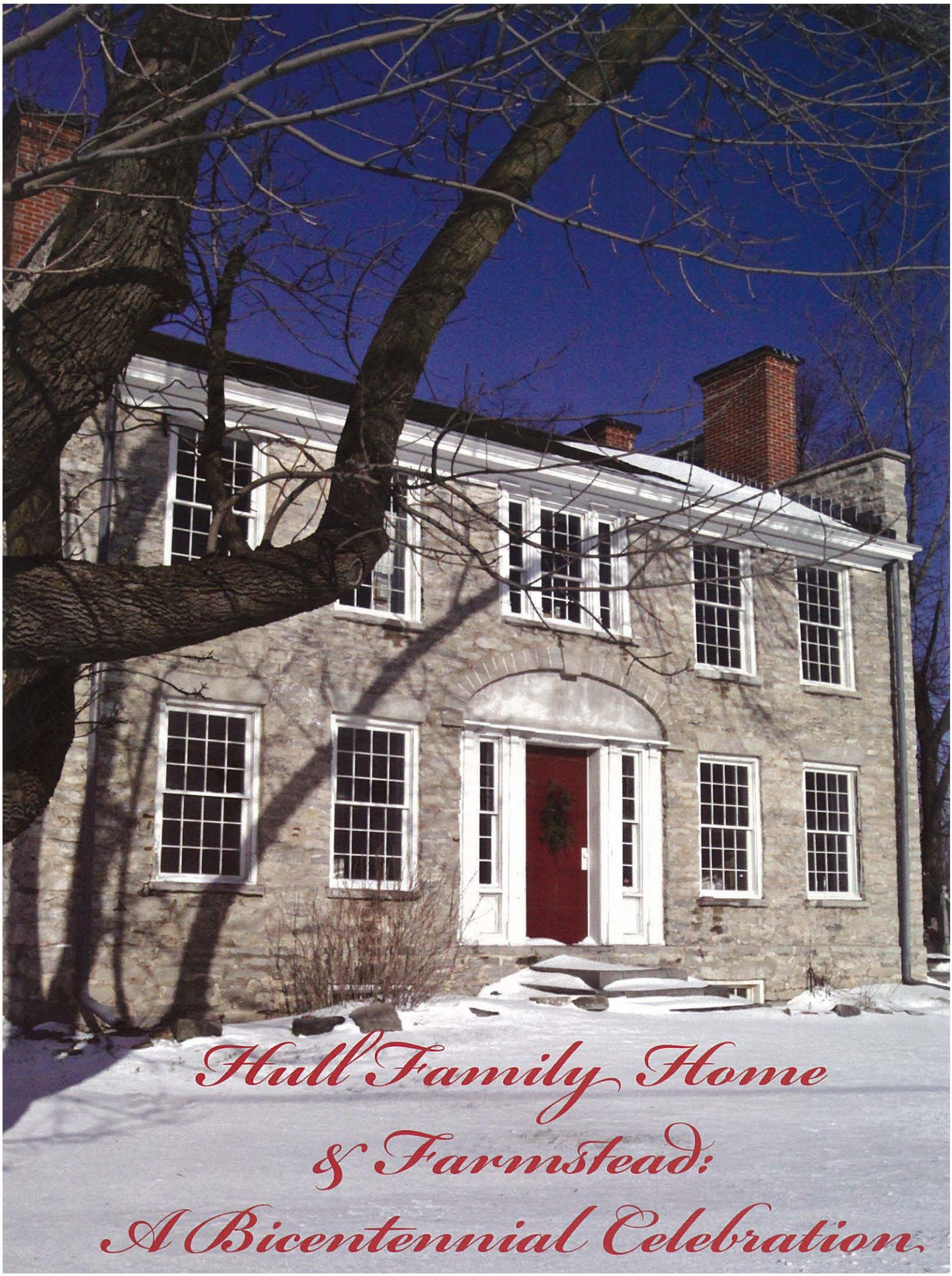
Open to all ages

Contact Cheri Vogel for details 683-7574

NAME: _____ *AGE:* _____

ADDRESS: _____ *TELEPHONE #* _____

Please fill out the information and mail to Cheri Vogel 66 Schwartz Rd Elma NY 14059



Hull Family Home & Farmstead: A Bicentennial Celebration

Hull Family Home & Farmstead
5976 Genesee Street (at Pavement Road)
Lancaster, NY 14086

Celebrating 200 Years of History 1810-2010

The Hull Family Home & Farmstead is the project of Hull House Foundation. The all-volunteer, non-profit organization was formed in 2006 to research, restore and operate the site as a Living History interpretive experience on the lives of the Hull family, representative of the earliest settlers of the Western New York region. The ongoing restoration and operation is supported by donors, members and friends, including the Margaret L. Wendt Foundation, Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo, John R. Oishei Foundation, New York State and the WNY State legislative delegation, M&T Bank Foundation, Town of Lancaster, Conable Family Foundation, Gerald & Barbara Kelly and others.

Information on upcoming events, membership and volunteering may be found at
www.hullfamilyhome.org

Image from the collection of Gary Howell

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Printed in the United States of America

Table of Contents

Foreword

Much has happened in Western New York in the past 200 years, not to mention the last ten thousand. Shaped by the immense, irresistible forces of nature and then finally made habitable again when the vast ice sheets receded – the area was first home to the people whom we call Native Americans. The "First People" who, science now tells us, probably arrived on the western edge of the continent from Asia and moved east.

Every school child knows the story of the discontented Europeans who, in search of a better life, left England and Europe early in the 17th century and traveled west by boat, establishing a toe-hold on the eastern-most edge of America. After much suffering, great struggles and with mighty endurance, the beginnings of our present day society took root, with most of the settlement and development taking place at or near the many waterways to be found here.

New York State, while an integral part of those early beginnings, was still truly a wilderness most anywhere west of Albany in the latter part of the eighteenth century and early nineteenth century. A few hardy souls, however, would venture as far west in the state as the shores of Lake Erie. The family of Revolutionary War veteran Warren Hull was one of them. As early as 1804, when the Village of Buffalo Creek could boast only a few dozen buildings and a few hundred souls, Warren Hull 'took an article' from the Holland Land Company, which was trying to peddle land acquired from the failed enterprise of Revolutionary War financier Robert Morris.

This region and its towns, including Buffalo, played a pivotal role in the War of 1812. The little village situated where Buffalo Creek emptied into Lake Erie eventually grew to become one of America's most populous and prosperous cities – ranking eighth largest in the nation by 1900. This was due, in no small part, to its splendid location at the edge of one of the five Great Lakes and the added distinction gained once selected as the western terminus of the Erie Canal in 1817. The history of this era is also the history of the less-than-admirable treatment of the Native peoples in the region. Over the ensuing years, many forces eventually drove the region from its pinnacle. The rise and fall of the railroads, the construction of the Welland Canal and the St. Lawrence Seaway and the decline of the American steel industry all worked against her. Much has been forgotten of our origins, our greatness and our history. The Hull Family Home & Farmstead restoration project is an exceedingly rare opportunity to re-focus our attention on the beginning moments of this extraordinary journey from the earliest beginnings of white settlement of this region. It provides an opportunity to showcase the early sparks that, once kindled, eventually lead to such heights and great achievements.

Our goal at the Hull Family Home & Farmstead – a goal of "Relighting The Past" – is detailed in the article entitled "A Vision for the Future." Our driving principles focus on a few key elements of living history. Recent studies have revealed that visitors to historic sites are no longer content to passively look and listen. They want to do – to be involved – to interact. We will involve them. Living history should include every means of making learning about the past and discovering its relevance enjoyable and engaging. This relevance should enlighten us today and not just provide a fleeting glance at the past. We will make history relevant. For living history is not merely about the past but rather how we connect to it in terms meaningful for us. To understand and to relate to our history is to make that past a part of "us." Thus, living history, so often misunderstood and ill-defined, is not intended to be a Jurassic Park-like reincarnation of those people and events of long ago. Rather, it is "interpreting" those people and events in such a way that visitors can connect to the past on their own terms, in a "living" sense, hence "living history," which brings history to life - the life of the visitor.

This book attempts to create a cohesive overview of our early history, including the many elements that impacted the intriguing story of early Western New York and the Hulls. We have briefly addressed the ancient geological forces that shaped our region, the *Haudenosaunee* experience, the Hull family history, the role of archaeological research at the site, the architecture and restoration of this venerable old house, as well as an explanation of the grand vision for this uncommon heritage resource. Much has happened in 200 years. Much work remains to bring it all together, work that will construct a premier cultural heritage destination our community will be proud of, and one that will continue its 200-year history on into future years while educating, engaging and entertaining generations to come.

Gary N. Costello
President
Hull House Foundation

Hull House Foundation President, Gary Costello, helps out a history camper with her stilt skills.

Preface

The history of early Western New York is often the least celebrated, especially the period before the completion of the Erie Canal. In large part, this is due to a lack of "original voice." There are few letters or diaries from the Hulls or the Ransoms or the Williams that tell of life in the wilderness of the Holland Land Purchase. Many of the records were destroyed when Buffalo was burned during the War of 1812. So what exists are anecdotal accounts like Perry Smith's *History of Buffalo and Erie County*. This void of information is what makes the Hull House so significant. It is an artifact that takes visitors-- as well as historians, architects and archaeologists-- back to the very roots of our region. Studying it tells us much about life during that time. Restoring it helps us to share that vibrant story with generations now and those to come.

In a broader sense, writing history with such a paucity of primary resources presents its own challenges. The observant reader will note discussions in several sections about the original construction of the house and when it began. The simple answer is, "we don't know for sure." That said, we do know enough to build some well-reasoned theories about when the house was built. With certainty, we know that the Hulls were in Western New York by 1804, and that the house was constructed in the years before the completion of the Erie Canal. While spanning almost two decades, the Hull House Foundation uses the reference "circa" to encompass this period. Authors Ted Bartlett and Jessie Ravage offer insights into possible timeframes for the construction. In those sections, both refer to dendrochronology, or the science of dating a piece of wood (like the Hull House roof rafters) by comparing its growth rings to other trees in the same climatic region. As a dating technique, the process has been used for over 100 years. While dating the wood in the Hull House gives us an end date for construction, it does not necessarily speak to the possible phases of construction. In spite of questions that we may never fully be able to answer, the Hull House Foundation, based on the work of historians like John Conlin, has chosen 2010 as the beginning of our bicentennial celebration. Like the house itself, the celebration is a work-in-progress. Other signal events in the lives of the Hulls and their house will be celebrated as we move forward, but we lay the bicentennial cornerstone in 2010.

Warren and Polly Hull had twelve children, a fact that really catches the attention of many people in today's world of nuclear families. A large family was not uncommon on the frontier, so it is not surprising to find a clan of this size in the Holland Land Purchase. As farmers, children provided the work force to do all the chores that needed to be done on a daily basis. Additionally, infant mortality was higher in the 1800s than it is today, and it was not unexpected for a family to suffer the death of a child or two in infancy. The depth of the Hull family tree is what gives their history such resonance. Their children and grandchildren were swept up in all of the major events of the 1800s: the War of 1812, the Abolition Movement, Westward Expansion and the Civil War. It may be difficult, and even confusing at times, to follow the family tree, but the story of the Hull children and grandchildren is the story of the United States in the 19th Century.

It is impossible to tell the entire story of the Hull House and site in a work of this size. Rather, we have attempted to celebrate the bicentennial of the site through a collection of essays that focus on the keys to our story. As you will see, the work of the Hull Family Home & Farmstead is on-going. This publication, and each contributing author, has presented our research as it currently stands. Some of the sections are snapshots of where we are and provide the signposts for where we are going. In the future, finding a diary or a trunk full of letters could radically alter our understanding of the past, but this booklet represents our best and most current thinking. The articles are assembled in such a way that you, the reader, can go from cover to cover tracing the history of the site, from pre-historic times through the current work. If you are looking for particular information, each article may be read on its own. A work of this nature is not designed to be a "scholarly," work full of minutiae and footnotes.

However, there are some articles that the authors felt required some notation, so you will find an endnote section to accommodate them. It is our hope that we will eventually produce a larger, more comprehensive volume on the site and its history.

I would like to thank each of the authors for their willingness to be a part of this project. Many were skeptical that we could meet such a tight timeline, but everyone worked hard to make sure we were ready for the bicentennial. Thanks also are due to Andrew Wilson and Anne Conable for reviewing our text with an eye to grammatical propriety.

We thank you for your interest in helping us celebrate the history of this site, which is so significant to Lancaster and Erie County.

Douglas Kohler
Erie County Historian
April 2010

Doug Kohler, in an 1812 captain's uniform, drills the troops at History Camp.

Geology of the Niagara Region

by John Percy

Geologic time on our planet is so vast that the more than four and a half billion years since the earth was formed is a time period nearly incomprehensible to humans, whose time on earth is measured as a tiny fraction of Earth's existence. If the analogy is made that Earth was formed on January 1st of a geologic calendar, then humans did not appear until the evening of December 31, or approximately one and a half million years ago. The great ice sheet that covered much of North America would be measured at its maximum only a few minutes before midnight on the last day of the geologic calendar. The receding front of the last continental ice sheet passed through the Niagara region less than two minutes before the end of the geologic year or approximately 15,000 years ago. It was this great ice sheet that shaped the features of the land that we know as the Niagara Frontier and the Niagara Peninsula.

Geologists measure time on Earth by dividing it into great time segments called eons (the youngest is called the Phanerozoic Eon). Each eon is then divided into eras (the Phanerozoic Eon is divided into three eras, Paleozoic, Mesozoic, and the most recent, Cenozoic). Eras are in turn divided into periods (the Cenozoic Era which began about 65 million years ago is divided into the Tertiary Period and the Quaternary Period). Periods are subdivided into epochs (the Tertiary Period has five epochs, the Quaternary Period is divided into the Pleistocene [glacial] Epoch and the Holocene [recent] Epoch). Epochs are divided into ages. It was during the Pleistocene Epoch, which covers the approximate time period from two million years ago to ten thousand years ago, that the various ages of the Ice Age occurred. The Holocene Epoch includes the various stages of the settlement of humans in this Niagara region.

Names assigned to geologic time periods are determined from specific regions where the respective rocks were first studied (the Devonian Period from Devonshire, England), as are specific rock formations such as Onondaga Limestone (Onondaga County, N.Y.) and Lockport Dolostone (Lockport, N.Y.). The names assigned to these divisions serve as "handles" for both geologists and historians to grab on to when studying or discussing past events in the earth's development.

The underlying rocks of the Niagara region provide a clue as to what this area looked like before the Pleistocene (glacial) Epoch. There are several types of sedimentary rocks underlying western New York State[1] and southern Ontario, a clear revelation that this area was once covered by ancient seas. The sedimentary rocks were formed from tiny fragments deposited over millions of years when vast oceans covered much of North America during the Paleozoic Era (225-570 million years ago). Much of the deposited material was mineral; some came from animal and plant life in the ancient seas. As the oceans retreated, the buried sediments hardened into layers of sandstone, shale, limestone and dolomite. Geologists group them as Ordovician, Silurian and Devonian (sited from north to south in Western New York) and the layers are easily observed where streams have cut through them. The Niagara Gorge and several creek valleys in the area, such as Eighteen Mile Creek and Cattaraugus Creek, are good places to observe the multiple layers of sedimentary rocks exposed by stream erosion. The ridge along the north side of Genesee Street on the Hull House property is also a good place to observe the upper strata.

Tectonic (earth deforming) forces have tilted the rock layers in this region so that they dip to the south about nine meters per kilometer (fifty feet per mile). Over the 150 centuries since the last glacier retreated from the area, streams have eroded the land surface to form a drainage pattern flowing generally toward the north. Some of the rock layers are harder than others and better resist erosion. These more resistant rock layers are exposed as cliffs (escarpments) that extend across the Niagara region in an east-west pattern. They can be seen as the Lockport Dolostone cap rock in the Niagara Escarpment (scarp), the Onondaga Limestone in the Onondaga scarp, and the Java Formation in the Portage scarp (see the accompanying geologic cross-section to identify these rock

formations).

The landscape of the Niagara region, indeed that of most of northeastern North America, was shaped during the Pleistocene Epoch by the great Laurentian Ice Sheet which originated in what is now eastern Canada. This ice sheet was the last of four continental glaciers which severely eroded the pre-glacial landscape of this region. These four ice sheets dominated a period of time from about one million years ago until only a few thousand years ago. Because of their great size and weight (the ice sheets were as much as 3,000 meters, or 10,000 feet, thick) the pre-glacial land features were substantially altered. Even the highest mountains in what is now New York State, the Adirondacks, were covered by these ice sheets, and eroded from once much more lofty heights.

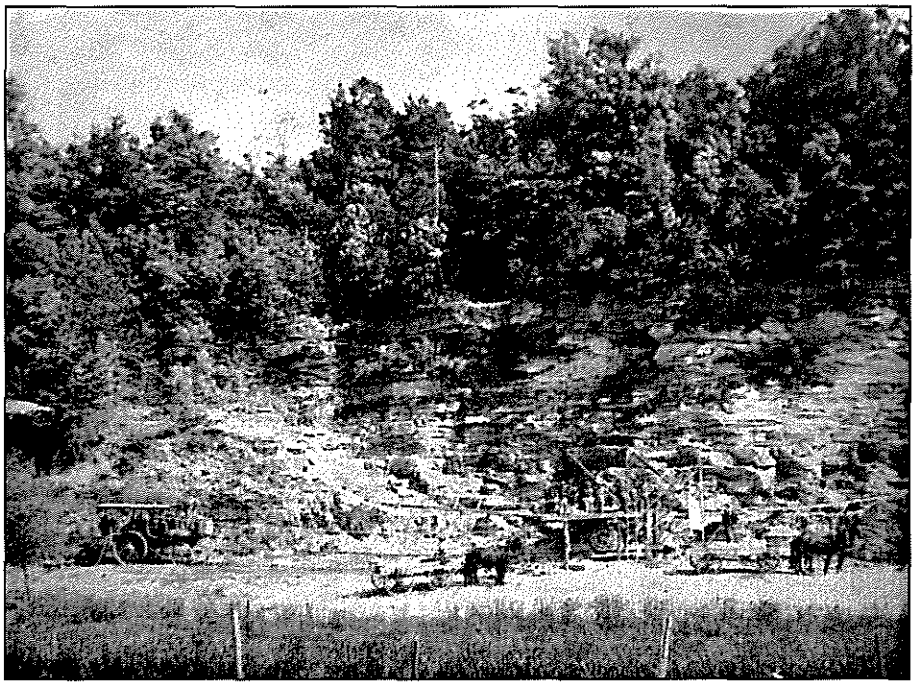
As each of these four ice sheets advanced and retreated they altered the land surface, both by scraping the rocks during their advance and by leaving deposits during their recession. Rocks were embedded in the ice far north of this area and carried south, all the while scraping the land surface over which the glacier passed. Glacial scratches are readily observed in local quarries, including those developed near Genesee Street. The material carried along by the ice sheet was eventually deposited as glacial till or drift. There are numerous glacial features here in the form of moraines (accumulations of boulders, stones, etc.) with kames and kettles, drumlins (large streamlined hills) and eskers (low, winding ridges formed by glacial streams). In addition, kames (low, conical hills) and kettles (small depressions formed by residual blocks of ice) are found throughout the Niagara region. Several kettles still contain small lakes (Crystal, Java, and Lime Lakes).

The entire drainage pattern of the Niagara region was altered by the last (Wisconsin) glaciation. Erosion by the ice sheet greatly modified and enlarged many north-south stream valleys. The enormous weight of the ice sheet depressed the land more in some areas than in others. Great basin-like depressions filled with meltwater from the receding ice mass, creating a sequence of glacial lakes. The Great Lakes are the present-day remainder of this process.

The land in the Niagara region slopes downward toward the north but because the receding glacier acted as a dam, the meltwater was forced to find outlets to the sea along alternate routes at different stages. For a time the meltwater flowed toward the Midwest into the Mississippi River system; later it opened a path through the Mohawk Valley to the Hudson River. Eventually the lake system came to drain through the present-day Saint Lawrence which is the lowest outlet, but the last uncovered by the ice sheet.

The ancestors of our present Great Lakes were larger and deeper than the current lakes. Ancient beaches of sand and gravel can be found along the Lake Erie shore at successively higher elevations. They mark the shorelines of the former Lake Whittlesey and the later Lake Warren. The shorelines of both ancient lakes roughly parallel Lake Erie's shore. Similar beachlines for Lake Dana and Lake Iroquois, the ancestors of Lake Ontario, can be seen south of the present lake. Ridge Road, running from Lewiston to Rochester, approximates the shoreline of Lake Iroquois.

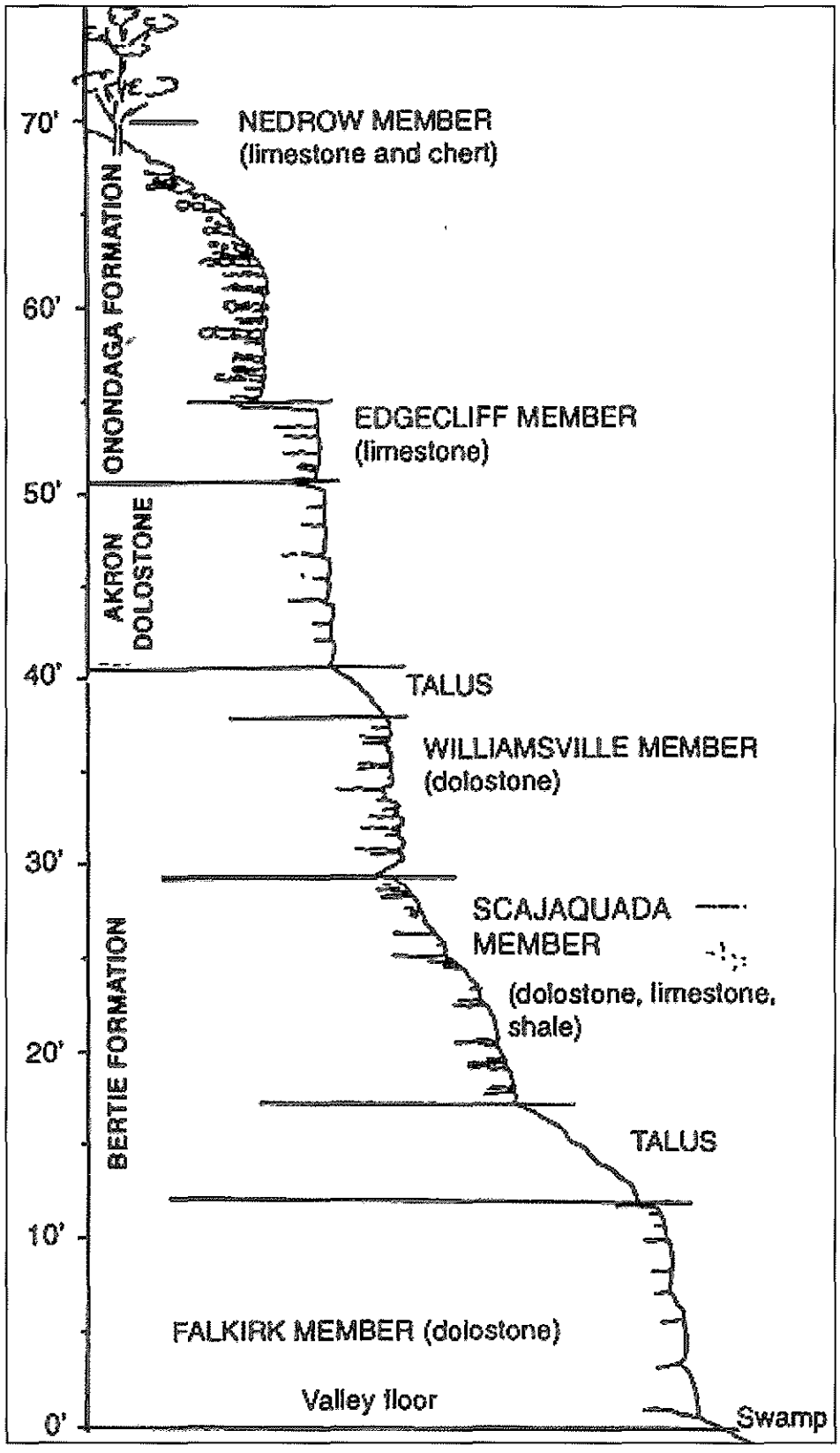
As the glacier retreated, its meltwater also filled a shallow depression just south of the Niagara scarp. Lake Tonawanda averaged only about 10 m (33 feet) in depth but extended 93 km (68 miles) from



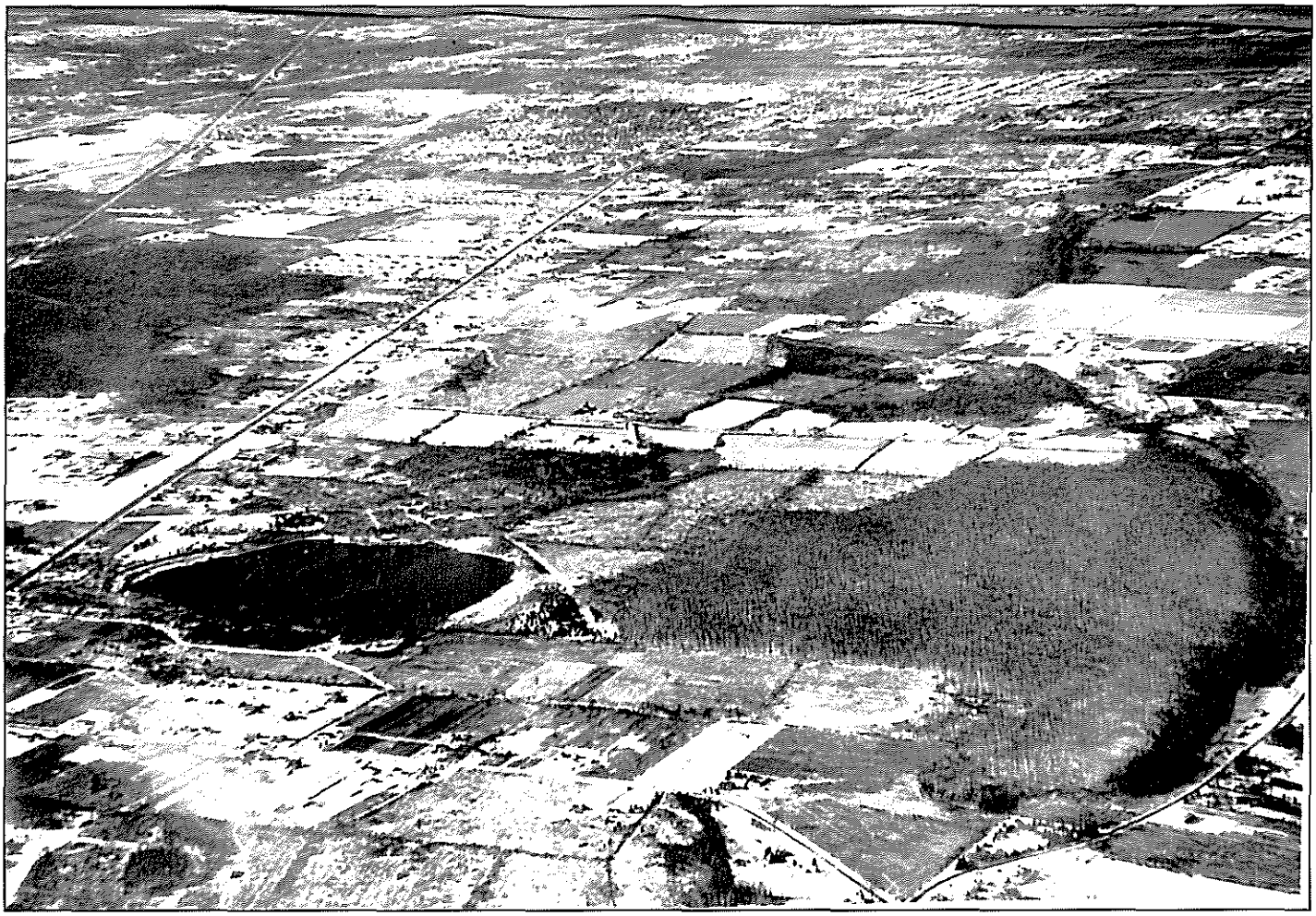
The Jacob Bieler's stone quarry on the north side of the ledge. Clarence historian, Oneta Baker, estimated that this photo dated to roughly 1900.
Image courtesy of the Clarence Historical Society

east to west and about 16 km (10 miles) south of the scarp. With five outlets, it provided an intermediate step between Lake Erie and Lake Ontario. Only a few faint beach lines, lake deposits and swamps, particularly in Genesee County, remain of the former glacial lake. Near the terminus of the Wisconsin glacier, Lake Chautauqua's outflow was reversed after the ice sheet deposits dammed its northern outlet and forced the lake to drain into the south-flowing Allegheny River system.

The region's most spectacular feature is Niagara Falls. It too is a legacy of the last ice age. Though there had been an older riverbed connecting lakes above and below the Niagara scarp, the present Niagara Falls began about 12,000 years ago in the vicinity of Lewiston as an outflow for the waters south of the scarp. Stream erosion over the centuries has moved the falls 11 km (7 miles) upstream to its present location. The whirlpool marks a point where the post-glacial river changed course from the route followed by another stream prior to the Wisconsin glacier. The old riverbed was completely filled with debris carried by that ice sheet forcing the river to carve a new course to Lake Ontario. It is estimated that the flow of the Niagara River varied from 15% to 110% of its present flow during its 12,000-year life. The fluctuation was due to the regional drainage changes caused by the retreating ice sheet. Thus the Niagara Gorge contains five distinct sectors, deep and wide portions alternating with shallow and narrow ones. The geology of each sector is directly related to the amount of



Onondaga Escarpment Profile
Image courtesy of the Clarence Historical Society



The Onondaga Escarpment in Clarence, NY. The dark area on the left is Spalding Lake.
Image courtesy of the Clarence Historical Society

water available at the time from the shifting conditions of the late Wisconsin stage. Increased volume resulted in faster, deeper erosion of the river channel. When meltwaters escaped along alternate routes, the Niagara's flow was reduced, as was erosion during that time. We can see similar changes at the cataract during our own lifetimes, as reduced flow from diversion of water for power generation and remediation projects just above the Horseshoe Falls have altered the river's natural flow and slowed the normal pace of erosion.

The land on which the Hull House is located is high and dry in comparison to extensive swampy land farther north. The house is set up high along the old Batavia Road in what was once the much larger Town of Clarence. The barn and farm were located on lower, more arable land to the north. The Batavia Road led directly to the Holland Land Office to the east, and to a young Buffalo to the west on Lake Erie.

The Ice Age brought significant changes to the land of western New York State and southern Ontario. Much soil and rock from the north has been deposited, leaving behind a large area with exposed bedrock. Geologists call this the Canadian Shield. Our land was depressed by the weight of the ice masses, flooded with huge lakes, and then rose as the glacier receded, reducing the size of our lakes. Drainage patterns were changed and erosion cut spectacular gorges in many area streambeds. We may be merely in a transitional stage before a fifth ice sheet covers the land again, but we live with the geologic legacy of the Pleistocene Epoch. This geologic inheritance has greatly affected the history of humans who came to settle the region in recent times.

The Red Jacket Monument and Haudenosaunee burials at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, NY. Red Jacket did not want to be interred at Forest Lawn, but early developers of the cemetery thought that the presence of the great orator would help sales.
Image courtesy of Douglas Kohler

The Haudenosaunee in Western New York

by Pamela J. Davison

Long before the Warren Hull family arrived in Western New York, the five nations of the Iroquois Confederacy lived and prospered here. With the arrival of the first White settlers, their landscape, their politics and their economy began to change. The Warren Hull Homestead, part of the Holland Land Purchase, was established in Lancaster, New York, c.1810. During the early years of the Hulls' settlement, the Seneca were represented in councils and treaty negotiations by such well-known chiefs as Red Jacket and Cornplanter. The Longhouse religion, which had sprung from the revelation visions of the Seneca, Handsome Lake, had become strongly supported and practiced throughout the region, along with Christian teachings brought by the Europeans. Although the Iroquois had been resettled on reservations by this time, there were undoubtedly interactions between the Hull family and local Iroquois. There are, to our knowledge however, no available recollections, diaries or written documentation of the Hulls' personal experiences. The history of white settlers is well documented, but a review of Iroquoian experiences can help to understand their viewpoint. Therefore, the prevailing attitudes of both the new settlers and those who once called these lands their own will provide a general setting in which to begin the story of the Hull Family Home & Farmstead.

The Original Peoples of Western New York

Before the arrival of Europeans in North America, the native inhabitants were free to roam their lands from the Mohawk River in the East to the Ohio River in the West, and from the Great Lakes south to the Susquehanna River. The *Haudenosaunee* were the strongest American Indian confederacy in North America. *Haudenosaunee* (pronounced Ho-den-a-show-nee), which is the traditional name of the Iroquois people, means "People of the Longhouse." This is the name used within the native nations. "Iroquois" was the name the French Jesuit missionaries used to describe the Native Peoples they encountered in their early travels in North America.

The five Iroquois nations (tribes) were formed from bands of people known as the Owasco around 1,000 AD. These five tribal nations from across what is now known as New York State included the Mohawk in the East, the Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga and Seneca in the West. Together they formed the Iroquois Confederacy, c.1630. About 1722, the migration of the Tuscarora would add a sixth nation to the Confederacy. The original Five Nations most likely united in an attempt to end the almost constant fear of warfare between competing bands. It was Hiawatha, a Mohawk and disciple of the Peacemaker, who proposed the alliance between the Five Nations one age (approximately the length of a man's life) before the white people came into the country. Although there were still warring factions, and years marked by famine and disease, peace came and there was a period of relative prosperity.

The Dutch were the first Europeans to have major contact with the *Haudenosaunee*. The settlements of New Netherlands at Manhattan, Fort Orange, Beverwyck (known as Albany after 1664) and Rensselaerwyck (all in Mohawk country) were the major centers for Dutch commerce. They were businessmen in the 'new land'—there to make the most of her natural resources by using the native inhabitants for their own profit. It was to their advantage to maintain the commercial traffic in beaver fur pelts from the *Haudenosaunee* back across the Atlantic. Beaver felt was a prime commodity for hats and clothing in Europe. Traders could become wealthy with the help of the natives who trapped the beavers, then cleaned and cured the skins before bringing them into the Dutch settlements for trade. The Dutch did not travel much beyond their settlements into Iroquoia and they showed little interest in the *Haudenosaunee* outside of their trading relationship.

The Dutch participated in the *Haudenosaunee* rituals of kinship, the trading of gifts and the Condolence Ceremony, not as commitments to brotherhood but as a commitment to being trade partners. Although the Dutch did not force religion or government upon the *Haudenosaunee*, they did

abuse the trade agreements, restrict the free trade between competitors and cause general abuse to the *Haudenosaunee* people, all in the name of commerce. General chaos in the Dutch settlements, and their disrespect for the law, would not allow good relations with the *Haudenosaunee* and, therefore, was not a good atmosphere for peace.

The French brought more to New France than trade and the colonial desire for American land and its rich natural resources; they brought the Jesuits and other orders of religious zealots. These 'men and women of God' were on a mission to save the 'savages' from their heathen ways and to convert them first to Christianity, and then to the standards of European lifestyles.

The history of the Jesuits and their foray into Iroquoia and Huronia is well documented from the Jesuits' viewpoint and certainly does not portray American Indians in a positive light, but the *Haudenosaunee* and the Jesuits did have one thing in common: they both wanted to 'convert' the other to their way of thinking—to have the other adopt their own material and spiritual culture. The French tried to attain their goal by attempting to divide the *Haudenosaunee* Nations from the Huron Nation and their allies. If they were not united, then the Indians could not rise up against the French, and the French could then keep the fur trade from the Dutch. This is in complete opposition to the unification ideals of the *Haudenosaunee*, who believed that the Great Law of Peace could only be attained when all people came together.

After 1664 and the English conquest of New Netherlands, the borders between New France and the newly expanded region of New England gave new cause for unrest and a new challenge for peace with the *Haudenosaunee.* The Dutch resisted English domination, and trade between the Dutch and the *Haudenosaunee* continued. Caught between the two rival colonial governments, both the *Haudenosaunee* and the Dutch eventually sided with the English because of their common fear of New France and her Canadian Indian allies. The French Jesuits continued to interfere with the *Haudenosaunee* and their desire for lasting peace.

Along with trade and Christianity, Europeans brought illness and death. Native Indians had no natural immunity to these unfamiliar diseases, such as measles and small pox, which devastated villages and towns. Competition for trade led European businessmen to pit one Indian Nation against another. The *Haudenosaunee* Confederacy and the Indian Nations to the south and east were in nearly constant strife. It was for this reason the Tuscarora migrated north to seek the protection of the *Haudenosaunee* Confederacy.

In 1722, the Tuscarora requested and were granted admission to the Confederacy, which from then on was called the Six Nations. For the *Haudenosaunee*, peace meant a practical way of life with kinspeople who found shelter, security and strength under the branches of the Great Tree of Peace. The peace they sought was a blend of natural, cultural and spiritual well-being—an ideal that was unfortunately never truly and completely realized after the arrival of Europeans in North America.

The Haudenosaunee in the Revolutionary War

The Revolutionary War was a major turning point in the history of the Iroquois Confederacy. The *Haudenosaunee* inhabited a most strategic location on the Niagara Frontier. Both the British and the Continental forces coveted the land, which provided access to the Great Lakes, Canada and the western territory. Although the Confederacy tried to remain neutral, it was impossible. This was the first time since the formation of the Confederacy that the Six Nations did not present a united front. *Haudenosaunee* fought on both sides of the war; neither group would be victorious.

In August 1775 at Albany, it was agreed that neither the British nor the Continental Army were allowed to pass through *Haudenosaunee* territory or disrupt their trade. At this time, both Red Jacket and Cornplanter, leaders of the Seneca Nation, were in agreement that the *Haudenosaunee* should refrain from taking sides in the conflict. The Continentals, however, would not tolerate a neutral nation in the middle of their campaign against their colonial father. The Americans broke the neutrality agreement in 1775 when they took possession of Oswego and, in a hysterical rage, killed the loyalist Mohawk sachem, Peter Nickus, then hacked his body to pieces.

By mid-1777, the British persuaded the Confederacy to stand against the 'bad children' who needed to be punished. The British claimed it would be an easy defeat over the American rebels and they bribed the Indians with the promise that they would retain their land after the British victory. It was

Joseph Brant, the Mohawk leader, who was the first to speak in favor of joining the British against the rebellion. Brant admonished the pacifists Red Jacket, Cornplanter and Handsome Lake as cowards in not taking up arms. The Seneca orator, Red Jacket, was strongly opposed to joining in the war on either side: "This quarrel does not belong to us—and it is best for us to take no part in it; we need not waste our blood to have it settled. If they fight us, we will fight them, but if they let us along (sic), we had better keep still."[1] Red Jacket supported the earlier agreements to remain neutral in the conflict, feeling that to side with either would place his people "between the upper and nether mill stone."

After being wooed and bribed with trade goods and rum, the majority of the warriors and the clan mothers agreed to fight with the British. Cornplanter, in order to protect the unity of the Confederacy, accepted the agreement, but Red Jacket earnestly desired a peaceful resolution and still refused to agree to war. Cornplanter would not accept this stance and he too called Red Jacket a coward, an accusation that cut deeply into the heart of a warrior. He warned Red Jacket's young wife to leave her husband because he was a coward and her sons would be cowards and disgrace her as well. The majority of the Seneca were against Red Jacket's desire for neutrality, and they chose to override him. Eventually, Red Jacket had no choice but to acquiesce and join the other warriors to fight with the British.

The Confederacy of the Six Nations began to fracture and soon the warriors of the Oneida and Tuscarora, encouraged by their missionary, Reverend Mr. Samuel Kirkland, left and sided with the Americans. The Seneca, however, took up the hatchet with their long-time British allies. The Cayuga, Mohawk and Onondaga Nations also decided to remain by the side of the British. For the first time since its inception, with the Oneida and Tuscarora as dissenting parties, the Confederacy was fighting against itself. The battles were vicious and the *Haudenosaunee* suffered greatly.

A Native American re-enactor
during Revolutionary War Days at the Hull House.
Image from the collection of Gary Howell

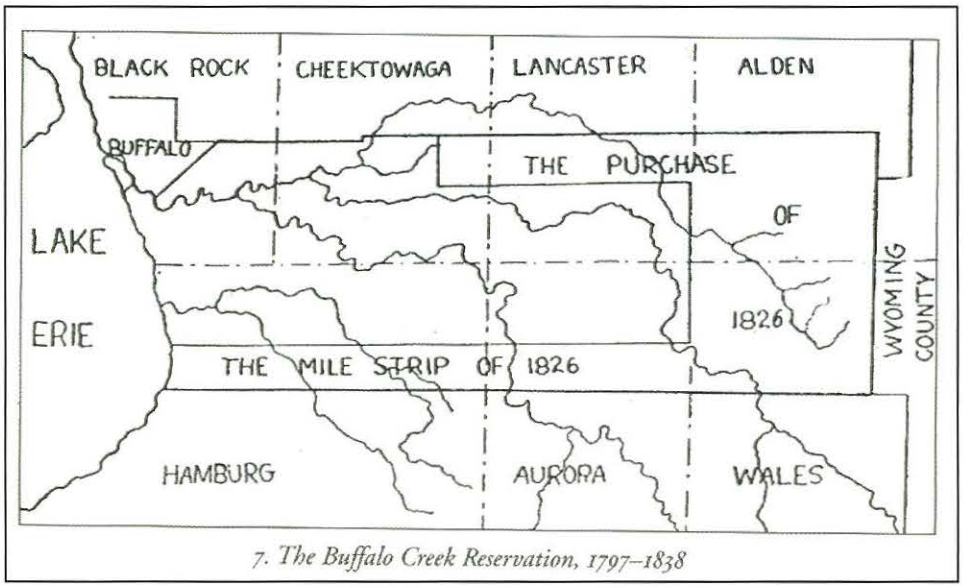
In the summer of 1779, George Washington sent Major General John Sullivan to destroy the territory of the Six Nations and to take as many prisoners as possible. In his "scorched earth" campaign, forty Mohawk, Onondaga and Cayuga villages were destroyed, along with their crops. The British retaliated by destroying the Oneida and Tuscarora villages, leaving the two largest villages of their Seneca allies still standing. Most of the Indians fled before the troops reached their villages and few were taken captive. The burning of the villages, stores and crops in the fields left the Indians defenseless and without food or shelter for the coming winter. Survival was questionable.

After the Continental Army defeated the British Loyalists, nearly two thousand Seneca sought refuge on the shores of the Niagara River close to the safety afforded by the British forts in the region. The Seneca had migrated westward from their ancestral lands in the Genesee Valley to Fort Niagara, then south through the area now known as the city of Buffalo, to a place along the banks of Buffalo Creek. Many Onondaga and Cayuga, Oneida, Munsee, Mahican and other Iroquoian and non-Iroquoian people moved to join the Seneca at Buffalo Creek, a village which began at Lake Erie, in what is now the city of Buffalo, and extended eastward through what is now West Seneca. The Confederacy's council fire, where the chiefs met to conduct the Confederacy's business, was maintained at Buffalo Creek under the Onondaga chief, Captain Cold (Ut-ha-wah). Here the sacred wampum belts of the Onondagas were housed for protection.

Following the Revolution, Joseph Brant, still loyal to the British, led many *Haudenosaunee* Mohawks, along with some members of each of the other *Haudenosaunee* Nations, to Canada where they settled along the Grand River on a tract of land presented to their Indian allies by the British government. This would become the Grand River Reserve. Another group of Mohawks settled on the Bay of Quinte along the northeast shore of Lake Ontario at Tyendinaga.

There were still small communities of Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga and Seneca in their older villages in the Genesee Valley, but the new settlements at Buffalo and Cayuga Creeks were becoming the centers of *Haudenosaunee* power and politics. Joseph Brant became the representative of the *Haudenosaunee* in Canada. In the United States, leadership fell to the Seneca who were led in treaty negotiations by three of their chiefs: Cornplanter, Farmer's Brother and Red Jacket.

The Continental Army had won the war and, through the 1783 Treaty of Paris, laid claim to lands that Britain and her Indian allies had once claimed as their own. The newly formed United States claimed ownership of all Indian territory south of the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River and east of the Mississippi. The *Haudenosaunee* clearly did not consider themselves a conquered people. They did not believe in the "conquest theory" that the Americans had won Indian land by defeating the British. They had not been recognized separately from the British in the negotiation of the Treaty of Paris and, therefore, did not agree to the terms of the peace agreement. The Americans had no desire or resources, either financial or military, to begin another war with the *Haudenosaunee* so the problem of the land dispute would be settled through diplomacy and, in many cases, by deceit.



7. The Buffalo Creek Reservation, 1797–1838

The Buffalo Creek Reservation, 1797-1838,

Conspiracy of Interests, p. 103.

Relations with the New United States

In ceding native lands to the United States under the Treaty of Paris, Great Britain gave only the right claimed by herself: a priority of right to purchase, known as the 'pre-emptive right of purchase,' from the original occupants of the soil. The new United States government was initially guided by the Articles of Confederation (1781-1789), in which each state conducted its own Indian treaties independently. Massachusetts and New York both claimed the *Haudenosaunee* land in New York. In 1786, New York had jurisdiction over the land, but Massachusetts was granted the 'pre-emptive right to purchase' the land should the *Haudenosaunee* decide to sell.

Without the power to tax under the Articles of Confederation, the new United States Government looked to land sales as a way to generate revenue. An early attempt to acquire such land coincided with an attempt to negotiate a peace settlement with the *Haudenosaunee*, resulting in the lopsided and volatile Treaty of Fort Stanwix (1784). This treaty required the return of all prisoners taken by the Senecas, Mohawks, Onondagas and Cayugas during the Revolution. The Oneida and Tuscarora, who had fought alongside the colonies, would continue to hold all lands where they were currently settled. More importantly, the Six Nations would yield all claims to lands in Western New York, northwest Pennsylvania and the Ohio Country. In return, the United States would provide goods and annuities to them to provide for their use and comfort.

The Six Nations council opposed the treaty, believing that the cession of land was excessive and unfair to the *Haudenosaunee* people. They refused to ratify the treaty, arguing that the delegates had no right to relinquish their western

lands—that all parties concerned should have a voice in the decision. The Confederacy also opposed the ceding of the Ohio Country, as few of the *Haudenosaunee* lived there. The Native nations of the Ohio Country (including the Delaware, Mingo and Shawnee) also refused to recognize this portion of the treaty as binding.

The Treaty of Fort Stanwix by no means represented an effective, long-term solution to Native American relations. Therefore in the autumn of 1794, the United States, since 1789 under the governmental framework of the Constitution, requested a council at Canandaigua to discuss the continuation of *Haudenosaunee* neutrality. To reassure the *Haudenosaunee*, the Americans, led by negotiator Thomas Pickering, invited a Quaker delegation to attend as official observers. Although the *Haudenosaunee* proposed the meeting to be at Buffalo Creek so that they would have the shadow of the British for political leverage, the Americans invoked the history of Sir William Johnson's council fire at Canandaigua to manipulate the weight of tradition to their side.

The *Haudenosaunee* were represented by 1,600 members—the largest council since they met with Sir William Johnson at Fort Stanwix in 1768. Prior to the council meetings, the Seneca, led by Cornplanter, along with the Oneidas and Onondagas, made a show of their fierceness and martial prowess by displaying their war-dress and performing a mock battle. This psychological maneuvering was not lost on the American delegation. After a presentation of the traditional Condolence Ceremony by Pickering, the *Haudenosaunee* were prepared to negotiate. Not surprisingly, they had serious issues to discuss regarding lands that were contested during the Treaty of Fort Stanwix in 1784. The Erie Triangle (Pennsylvania) and the lands along the Niagara River west of Buffalo Creek served to isolate the *Haudenosaunee* and separate them from the rest of the Six Nations to the west and those in Canada at the Grand River community. Pickering could not concede the Erie Triangle but did return the Niagara River tract, with the exception of a strip of land for portage around Niagara Falls from Fort Niagara to Fort Schlosser. He also agreed to limited white occupation of that strip along the Niagara River. Pickering ceded approximately 1 million acres from Buffalo Creek west to the Erie Triangle, which would protect the Cattaraugus and Buffalo Creek villages. Unlike preceding treaties, this document resulted in the reclamation of land by the *Haudenosaunee*.

At the end of the treaty, the *Haudenosaunee* received gifts and increased annuities, plus the *Haudenosaunee* were recognized as "allies" of the American government. The treaty also acknowledged the preemptive land claims and federal oversight to future cessions. It stated "the native reservations would endure until they choose to sell the same to the people of the United States, who have the right to purchase." The *Haudenosaunee* were returned land that was necessary to maintain their freedom to meet and communicate with the rest of their Nations, while the American government maintained their hold on the Pennsylvania property, including Presque Isle, a strategic military and political location. Because of the political and military ramifications of this treaty, the United States Senate and President Washington quickly ratified it in January, 1795.

In 1791, William Morris, one of the key financiers of the Revolutionary War, had gained the legal right to purchase four million acres in Western New York from Massachusetts for the Holland Land Company. However, the Dutch investors refused to hand over the $4 million purchase price because of the extensive Indian claims to that land. Therefore, in 1797, Morris sent his son Thomas to strike a treaty with the Seneca at a council at Big Tree (now Geneseo, NY). The Seneca were led by their sachem Red Jacket, who was adamantly opposed to relinquishing the Indian lands to white intruders. Thomas Morris convinced the Seneca women, who had the authority to elect or remove tribal chiefs, along with several of the other sachem and chiefs that it was in their best interest to have Red Jacket removed so that the treaty could proceed. When the council resumed, Cornplanter, the principal war chief, struck the bargain to sell the lands for $100,000 (which amounted to under a third of a cent per acre). Added to this was the establishment of five reservations on the Niagara Frontier. The *Haudenosaunee* had thus given up the right to live by the Niagara River, had no hunting grounds and would have to depend on the white man's world of agriculture and the raising of livestock to survive.

The eleven reserves designated in the Treaty of Big Tree included: two one-square-mile tracts each at Canawaugus, Big Tree, Little Beard's Town, Squawky Hill and Gardeau, all on the Genesee River; the 16-square-mile Caneadea tract,

also on the Genesee River; the one-square-mile tract at Oil Springs on Cuba Lake; Buffalo Creek on Lake Erie and Tonawanda at Tonawanda Creek, which together covered 200 square miles; 42 square miles at Cattaraugus on Lake Erie and the 42-square-mile Allegany reserve on the Allegheny River, adjacent to Cornplanter's private tract. Their total land area now amounted to a mere 311 square miles, or approximately 200,000 acres.

The promises that the *Haudenosaunee* would retain their remaining lands were already deteriorating only two short years after the Canandaigua Treaty was ratified.

The Holland Land Company

While the Holland Land Company was negotiating the deal to purchase the lands of Western New York from Morris, the State of New York was working with other investors on plans to build a water highway from Albany to the western end of the state—"The Grand Canal" or Erie Canal. Buffalo would be the most logical terminus since it would by-pass the falls at Niagara and would provide access to the western Great Lakes and the new western territories. This, however, was not possible without access to the lands currently occupied by the *Haudenosaunee* around Buffalo Creek.

The New York State Board of Canal Commissioners, founded in 1810 as a state agency, included the respected scholar of "Iroquois antiquities"-- the state's governor, DeWitt Clinton; his cousin, Simeon DeWitt; Joseph Ellicott, then the state's surveyor-general as well as agent of the Holland Land Company; Peter B. Porter, also connected to the Holland and Ogden Land Companies and founder of Black Rock; and Henry Seymour, a great promoter of the canal and grandfather of its future chief engineer.

The Canal Commissioners claimed the so-called New York Reservation strip lands north of the Buffalo Creek Reservation (which were acquired via a treaty between the Holland Land Company and the Seneca in 1802), arguing on political, economic and national security grounds that the property was "waste and unappropriated lands in need of state development." It is easy to see that there was a connection between the dispossession of the *Haudenosaunee* land and the development of the water transportation highway across the state.

The principle investors in the Holland Land Company, all of the City of Amsterdam, Holland, were represented by their American agent and attorney, Joseph Ellicott, Esquire. Ellicott had been hired by the Holland Land Company as Chief Surveyor in July, 1797. After the Seneca Indians relinquished their land claims through the Treaty of Big Tree later that same year, he was anxious to begin the detailed survey of the land. Nearly a year later, after procuring the needed personnel and supplies, the "Great Survey" began.

The Holland Land Company Office in Batavia was established by the Ellicott brothers, Joseph and Benjamin, along with their brother Andrew Ellicott of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, to manage the sale of the three million acres of land purchased from the late Robert Morris. The lands were surveyed under the direction of the Ellicott brothers. The Batavia office was near the center of the company's land, which extended west to Lake Erie, north to Lake Ontario, and south to the Pennsylvania state line.

The Ellicotts were meticulous in their recording of these tracts of land. They recorded their survey on three large maps, which were set in a case with rollers on top and bottom, allowing them to turn the map back and forth to easily view a particular tract. The average price of land in the Holland Purchase ranged from two to four dollars an acre, several times the amount paid to the Seneca for the land. At first they took installment payments in wheat, but by 1809 they demanded cash.

When a person made a contract to purchase a parcel from the Holland Land Company, he paid the price and 'took an article' of land. By this contract, the new owner agreed to a designated period of time in which he would improve the land and prepare it for farming. The settlers, which included Warren Hull, were to build a house and barn so that taxes could be collected on the property. Lands were sometimes granted to Revolutionary War veterans in lieu of pay, since the new government was without sufficient funds to pay them for their time in service.

The Reservations

During and after the Revolutionary War, the Seneca lost their ancestral home in the Genesee Valley, doing severe damage to their Nation. The prophet Handsome Lake had received a series of visions and, in the early 1800s, had begun preaching at the Coldspring, Cornplanter, and Tonawanda reservations. The "Code of Handsome Lake" stressed the need to abide by the traditional ways and

customs, to educate the members in order to strengthen the Indian Nations and to follow the ancient ceremonies of the Creator in order for their people to survive in the white man's presence.

Quaker missionaries had been on the reservations only occasionally during the mid-1790s, but the Baptist mission was established in 1800 and lasted almost perpetually until 1836. These missionaries not only ran white schools for the Indians, they also felt the need to teach them the laws of the white society. As early as 1811, mission schools began to teach the *Haudenosaunee* children in their villages and on their reservations. The presence of Christian missionaries caused a major rift between the Christian converts and the traditionalists. The Pagan Party, those who followed the traditional Indian Longhouse Religion and the new visions and code of Handsome Lake, wanted to preserve the Indian traditions that had supported their people since pre-history.

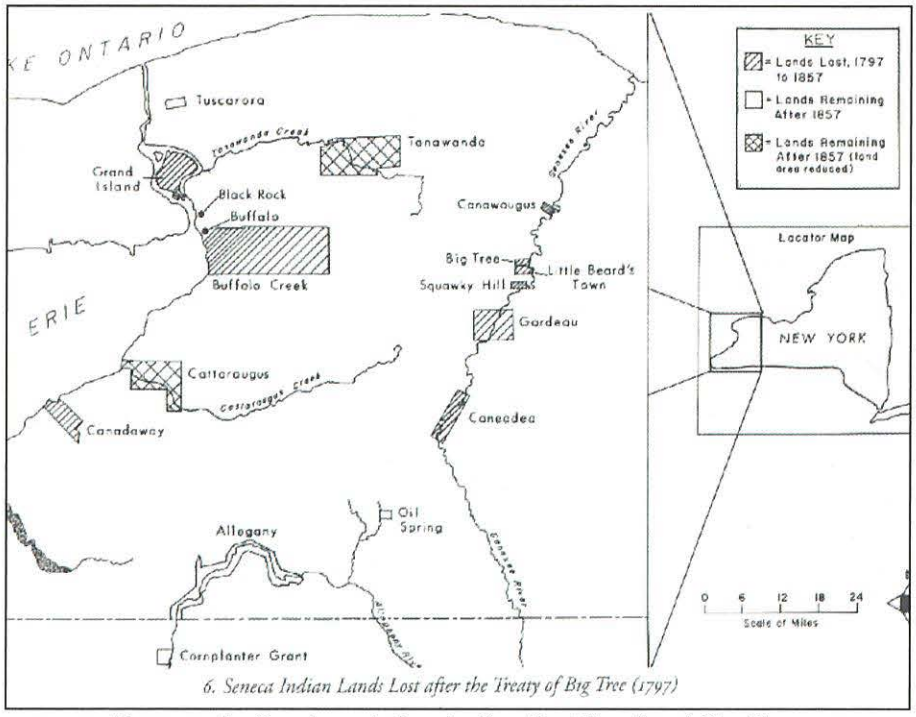
The Quaker missionary, Halliday Jackson, continued the push for 'civilization' and, in 1798, he requested a shipment of tools and plows to help the Seneca become "tillers of the ground and keepers of flocks and herds." The distribution of annuities to the Seneca, Onondaga, Oneida and Cayuga in Buffalo supplied dry goods and agricultural implements in accordance with the treaties made in April, 1792 and September, 1794. The shift from hunting, fishing and nomadic farming communities to reservation living was being reinforced by this form of annuity payment, which was designed to further push the Native people toward 'civilization.'

Although the Quakers may have had good intentions, the new lifestyle was unnatural for the *Haudenosaunee*. Buffalo Indian Agent Erastus Granger, in his report to the War Department at Washington in 1817, stated: "The situation of the Indians is truly deplorable. They have exerted themselves for the year past in trying to raise crops but have failed in their expectations. Their prospects have failed. Their hunting grounds are gone. They have availed themselves of their money arising from their public funds but they fall short. They are in fact in a state of starvation."[2]

On reservations where Indians lived in close proximity and in depressed states, both physically and mentally, diseases like the 'Genesee Fever' spread rapidly, with disastrous results, contributing greatly to the decline in the number of the *Haudenosaunee*. Life on the reservation was not only limiting, but was demeaning and demoralizing for a nation of people who had always enjoyed the freedom to live and move throughout their traditional lands.

By 1819, Red Jacket opposed Christian infiltration into the *Haudenosaunee* society, believing that, in the words of a late nineteenth century biographer, they were "simply advance agents for the land speculators…[Red Jacket] became utterly averse to any further intercourse or association with the whites, having arrived at the conclusion that the only means of preserving his race…was by creating a wall of separation, strong and high between them." In 1820 or 1821, Red Jacket petitioned then-New York State Governor Clinton to remove all white missionaries from Buffalo Creek reservation. Sympathetic to his plea, Clinton urged the passage of a law that removed all non-Natives from Seneca lands. All missionaries and teachers were forced to leave the reservations.

In 1810, the Ogden Land Company bought the pre-emptive



6. Seneca Indian Lands Lost after the Treaty of Big Tree (1797)

Seneca Indian Lands Lost after the Treaty of Big Tree (1797)

right to purchase the Seneca lands from New York State. Nine years later, Ogden land agents came close to closing a deal with the Christian faction of the Seneca Nation, in which the Seneca would receive cash and new reservation land in Green Bay, Wisconsin Territory, for the purchase of all of their land in New York State. If the *Haudenosaunee* signed this treaty, they would be, in effect, completely removed from their ancestral land. The deal was defeated at the last minute by Red Jacket's intervention.

In 1826, the Ogden Land Company succeeded in buying the large tracts of land that included the Buffalo Creek, Tonawanda and Cattaraugus Reservations. The Seneca agreed to sell eighty-one thousand acres for fifty-three cents per acre plus land in the Green Bay area of Wisconsin. The Quakers believed that the Seneca had been defrauded and led the task of having the purchase revoked. Red Jacket convinced President John Quincy Adams to delay the treaty. In the spring of 1828, the Ogden Treaty was named fraudulent by President Adams because it did not represent the true opinion of the Seneca. Eleven years later, the Ogden Company again tried to secure the Seneca reservation lands in Western New York. This time, President Martin Van Buren approved the same treaty that President Adams had overturned. The Quakers organized in support of the Seneca and were finally able to negotiate a compromise that kept part of the original Allegheny and Tonawanda reservations. By 1850, Buffalo Creek Reservation had been cleared for development.

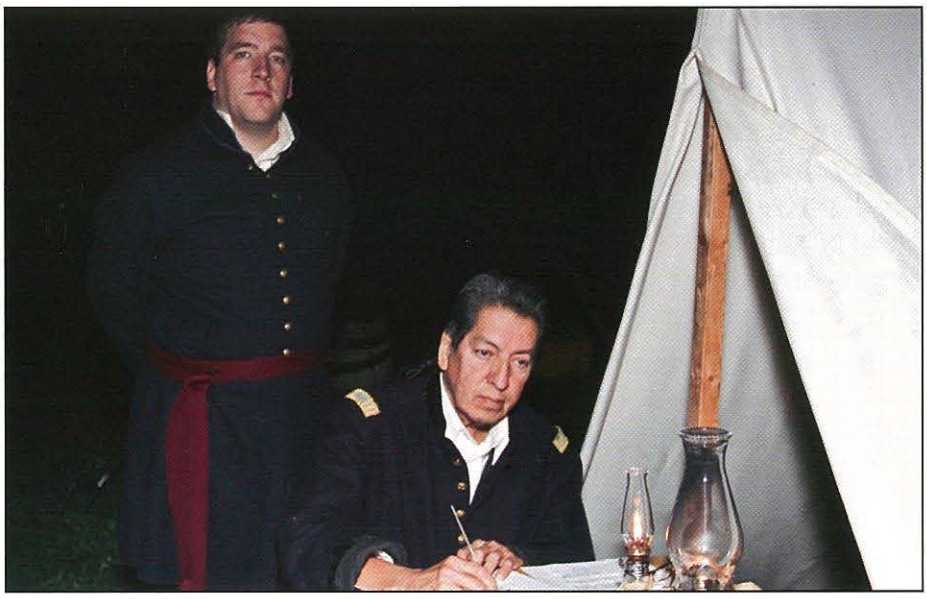
In a few bold strokes of the pen, the *Haudenosaunee* traditional homelands were diminished from the vast area of New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Ontario to a few acres on scattered reserves. Surrounded by white settlers, who wanted to eliminate the *Haudenosaunee* traditions, their art, their music, their government, their language and their belief in the natural world, it is a tribute to them that their culture has survived to this day.

The Haudenosaunee and the Hull Family Home & Farmstead

The American Indians had learned to be wary of Europeans. Many treaties and agreements that had been made had been broken. Indians were often treated as 'savages,' as 'wards of the state' and in need of being 'civilized.' Many whites, however, were sympathetic to their Native neighbors, and friendships were formed.

Warren Hull, as a veteran of a Revolutionary War militia unit, probably had some apprehension about the *Haudenosaunee*, including the Seneca, who fought against the Americans during that conflict.

When the *Haudenosaunee* were settled on reservations, the interaction between them and the white settlers was greatly limited. It is yet to be determined to what extent the residents of Buffalo Creek and the Hull Family may have influenced each other's survival and industry during the beginning of the reservation period and through the 19th century. It is likely that there were influences, either directly or indirectly, on each other in the sharing of knowledge with regard to agriculture, medicine, literature, the arts, language, music, religion and traditional crafts, as well as other social norms. When new evidence emerges to support a portrayal of the *Haudenosaunee*, the educational program at the Hull Family Home & Farmstead will be expanded to give an honest representation of Native American life.



Al Parker (seated), a member of the Seneca Nation and descendant of Red Jacket, portrays General Ely Parker at the Hull House. A Seneca from the Tonawanda Reservation, Ely Parker eventually rose to become U.S. Commissioner of Indian Affairs. He is buried in Forest Lawn Cemetery. Al is a direct descendant of General Parker.
Image from the collection of Gary Howell

The Early History of Western New York

by Douglas Kohler

While not Terra Incognita, the land west of the Genesee River was largely unsettled until after the American Revolution. Though not their original territory, by the 1700s the Seneca Nation of the Iroquois Confederacy had occupied the land along the Niagara River. Their presence, under the protection of the English, inhibited white settlement west of the Genesee.

In the frenzy of land speculation that followed the Revolution, Oliver Phelps and Nathaniel Gorham bought much of the land encompassing Western New York but were faced with the daunting task of extinguishing the Seneca's claim to the land. When Phelps and Gorham defaulted on their payment for the land, financier Robert Morris stepped in and purchased the land. In the early 1790s, he sold off almost 3,000,000 acres to the Holland Land Company, which was a consortium of six Dutch banking houses. The Seneca claim to this area was finally extinguished with the signing of the Treaty of Big Tree in 1797. In addition to opening the land to non-Native Americans, it also set aside reservations for the Seneca. The most important of these was the Buffalo Creek Reservation located south and west of Buffalo Creek.

In 1797, Theophile Cazenove, Agent-General and the Holland Land Company's representative in America, hired Joseph Ellicott to survey the land that had been acquired. Ellicott set out to survey the Purchase's boundaries, the Military Tract that New York State reserved along the Niagara River and the Indian Reservations. Actual surveying began in March, 1798. The survey was based on two north-south meridians. One was located near Batavia and the other about thirty miles west. Given the terrain, Ellicott had need of a portable transit, but since there were very few in the United States, he had his brother, Benjamin, construct one. The west meridian was surveyed with this transit and today is known as Transit Road. The road covers a large part of Ellicott's survey line. The Great Survey was completed in October, 1800.

Paolo Busti, who replaced Cazenove as Agent-General, hired Ellicott to serve as the chief land agent. Ellicott would be responsible for selling the land and overseeing its development. To foster traffic into the Holland Land Purchase, Ellicott offered parcels of land at the company's best price to those who were willing to open a tavern as a way-station for travelers. In 1799, Asa Ransom opened an inn in Clarence and, in 1801, Ellicott established his land office there.

Joseph Ellicott, Chief Agent for the Holland Land Company
Image courtesy of the Clarence Historical Society

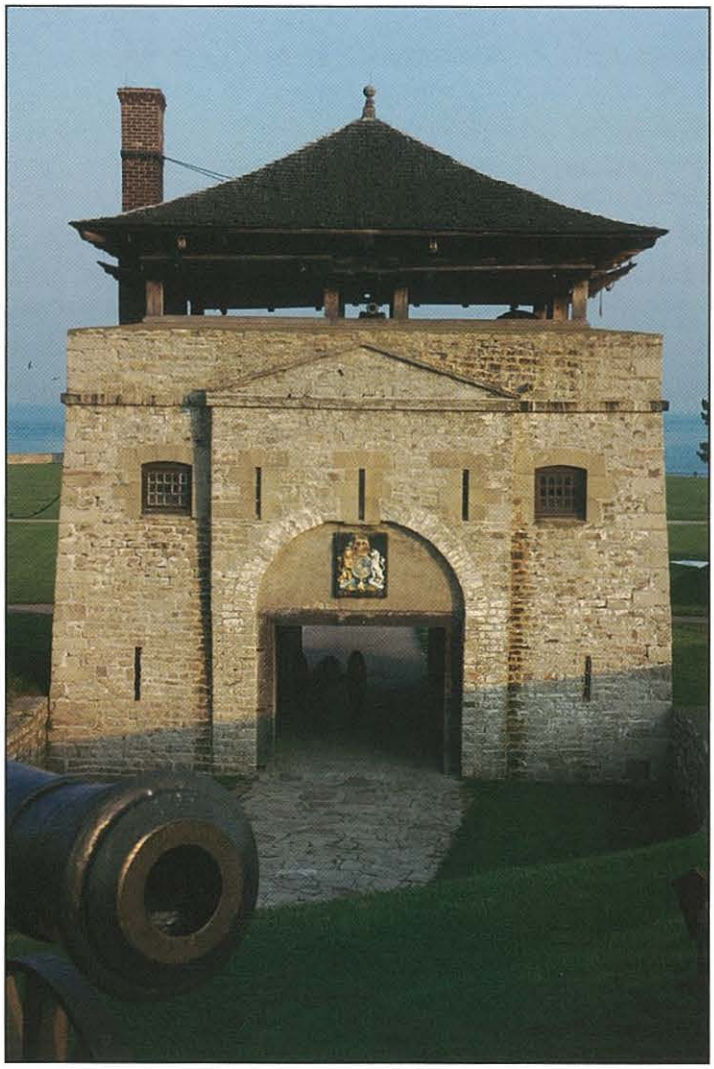
Land was sold through an Article of Agreement. Few settlers could pay the price of $2.50 an acre, especially with average parcels running 120 acres. As a result, the purchaser could take and clear the land for a down payment. Through Ellicott's efforts, liberal credit was extended and many settlers had the better part of ten years to make final payment.

With the initial survey completed and land sales underway, Ellicott turned his attention to the development of a major settlement. To curry favor with his employers he called the town New Amsterdam, but the name did not stick and residents began referring to it as Buffalo.

The development of Buffalo was interrupted by the War of 1812, which raged across the Niagara Frontier for three years.

The War of 1812 in Western New York

While settlement here in the Holland Land Purchase was accomplished with little violence, there was increasing Native American resistance in the Ohio Country. The popular American perception was that the British in Canada were supplying arms to the



The capture of Fort Niagara (pictured here) by the British on 19 December, 1813 marked the beginning of two weeks of destruction that culminated with the burning of Buffalo.
Image courtesy of Douglas Kohler

Shawnee Chief Tecumseh and his Native American alliance. Many of the western Congressional "War Hawks" seized upon this British incitement as a cause for war and a reason to invade Canada.

In addition to these concerns in the West, the United States had been teetering on the edge of conflict with France and Great Britain on the high seas. While both countries violated the sovereignty of US ships, it was Britain's Orders-in-Council, which allowed the Royal Navy to impress America sailors, that rankled national sentiments the most. In 1807, a British frigate, HMS *Leopard*, attacked the USS *Chesapeake* and seized four American sailors under the pretense that they were deserters from the Royal Navy. While this incident did not lead directly to war, British interference with American commerce did.

When war was declared on 18 June, 1812, the Niagara Frontier became one of the key theatres of operations for both armies. Unfortunately, the American Army had languished in the years following the American Revolution, and a poorly trained mix of regulars and volunteers were sent to Western New York to mount an invasion of British Upper Canada.

On 13 October, 1812, a force of volunteers and regulars crossed the Niagara River from Lewiston in order to seize the heights of the Niagara Escarpment above Queenston. Despite initial success and the death of British General Isaac Brock, the American attack stalled when the NYS Volunteers, standing upon their Constitutional rights, refused to cross into Canada. The invasion of Canada would have to wait for better weather the following summer.

When hostilities resumed in April, 1813, the American fortunes seemed to turn for the better. A joint effort between Commodore Isaac Chauncey and General Zebulon Pike succeeded in raiding York (Toronto), the capital of Upper Canada. In May, Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry and Colonel Winfield Scott landed at Newark (now Niagara-on-the-Lake) and captured Fort George. However, a subsequent push toward Burlington, at the head of Lake Ontario, faltered at Stoney Creek in a fierce night engagement.

The American forces withdrew to Fort George and were placed under the command of New York State Militia General George McClure. By December, his forces had dwindled to barely 100 men, and he decided to withdraw to the US side of the Niagara River, but not before burning the village of Newark (modern Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario). Of little military value, his actions were criticized on both sides of the border and prompted an immediate response from the British. On 19 December, a British assault captured Fort Niagara and Lewiston. Over the next two weeks, the British and

their Native allies from the Grand River Reservation put the Niagara Frontier to the torch, culminating in the burning of Buffalo on 30 December, 1813.

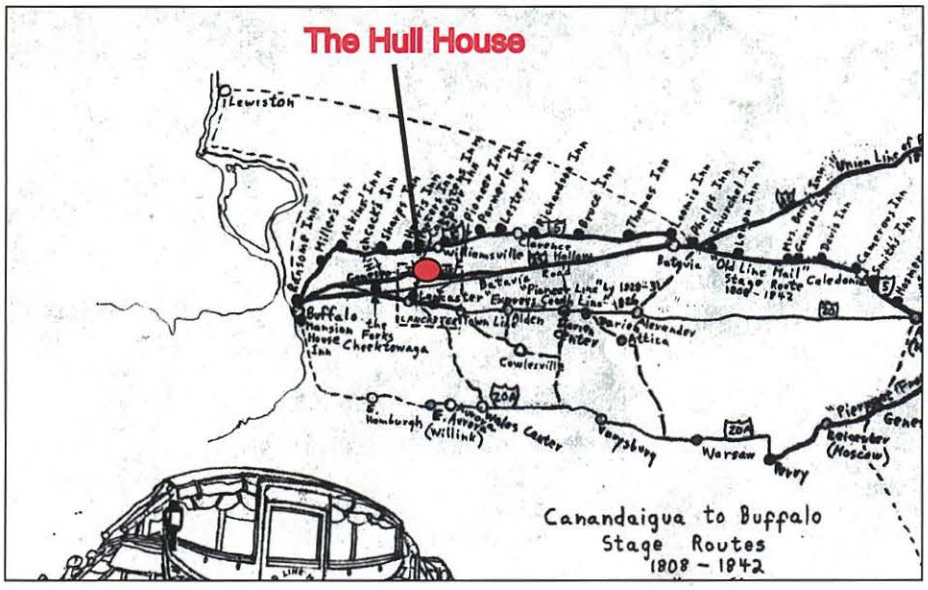
Major General Phineas Riall, with orders for "destroying the villages of Buffalo and Black Rock in order to deprive the enemy of the cover which these places afford," crossed the Niagara River at the settlement of Black Rock. The American regulars had retreated to Batavia, leaving the village's defense in the hands of roughly 2,000 militia, who made their stand along the river near North Street. After a brief skirmish, the militia retreated to the corner of Niagara and Main Streets where a cannon had been placed. Unfortunately, after firing only a couple of shots, the cannon dismounted, and Dr. Cyrenius Chapin was forced to surrender the village.

Fearing the British torches and the presence of the Grand River Mohawk, many inhabitants fled south to Hamburg or east towards Clarence. It is likely that residents fleeing Buffalo would have sought refuge at the Hull House. Indeed, Warren and Polly Hull's daughter Polly was a resident of Buffalo, and her husband, Daniel Lewis, was captured by the British and held for a brief time at Fort Erie. Polly's brother, James, was a veteran of the war and saw action at Queenston, the burning of Buffalo and Lundy's Lane. Polly Hull probably spent the winter of 1813-14 at her parents' house.

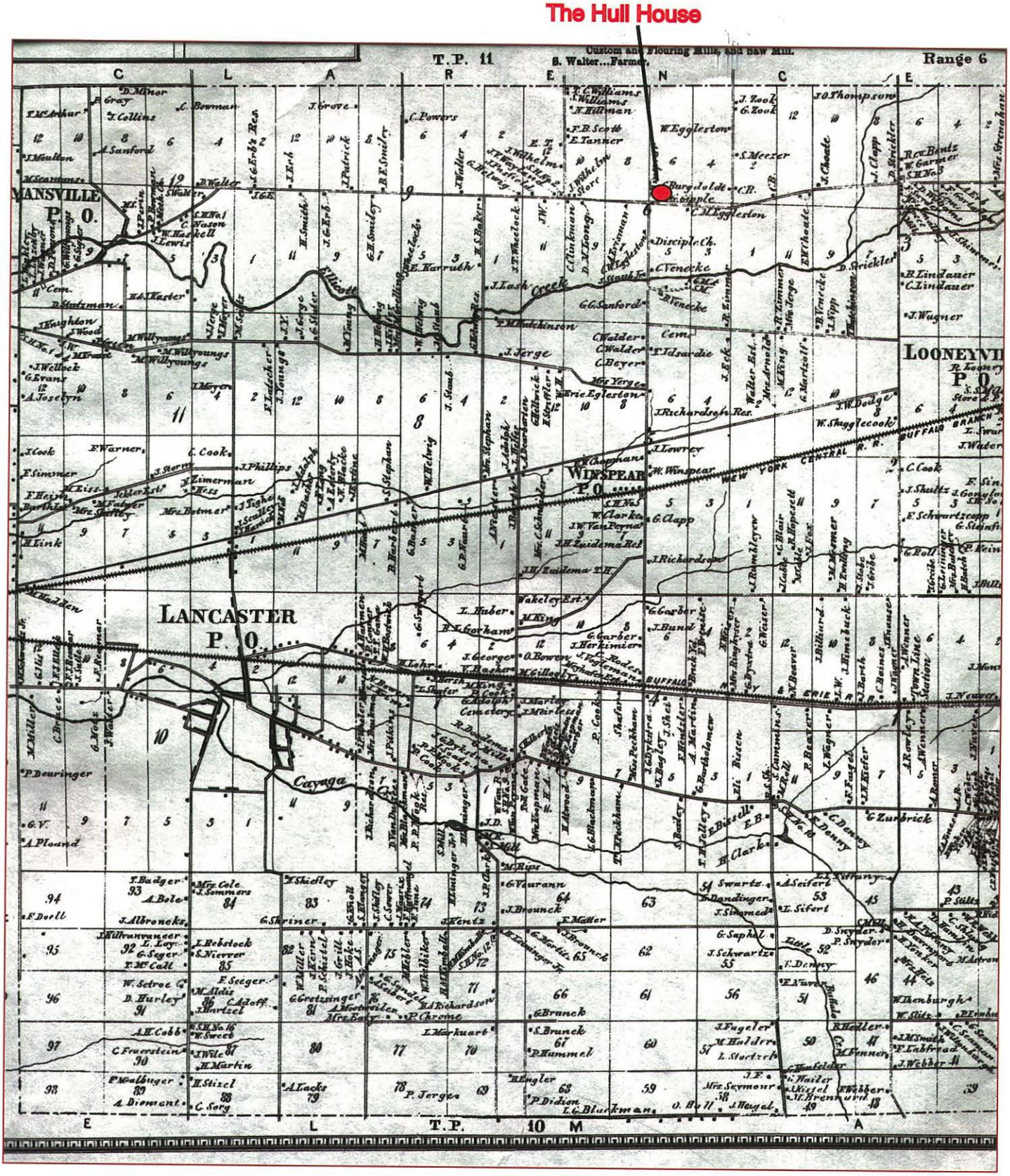
The village of Buffalo lay in ruins until Generals Winfield Scott and Jacob Brown returned with regulars in the spring. Throughout 1814, the conflict see-sawed along the Niagara River with battles at Fort Erie, Chippawa and Lundy's Lane, and, while the United States Army acquitted itself well, no definitive blow was struck.

The war ended with the Treaty of Ghent on 24 December, 1814, but, by defining our border with Canada and demilitarizing the Great Lakes, it left an indelible mark on Western New York.

The large eastern room on the front side of the Hull House may have housed refugees in the days following the burning of Buffalo in 1813.
Image from the collection of Gary Howell



Located on a major east-west road, the Hull House would have been one of the first structures the refugees encountered in December, 1813.
Image courtesy of Dr. Harley Scott and the Lancaster Historical Society



1866 map of Lancaster
Image courtesy of the Lancaster Historical Society

Warren and Polly Hull: Tradition and Innovation

by Jessie Ravage

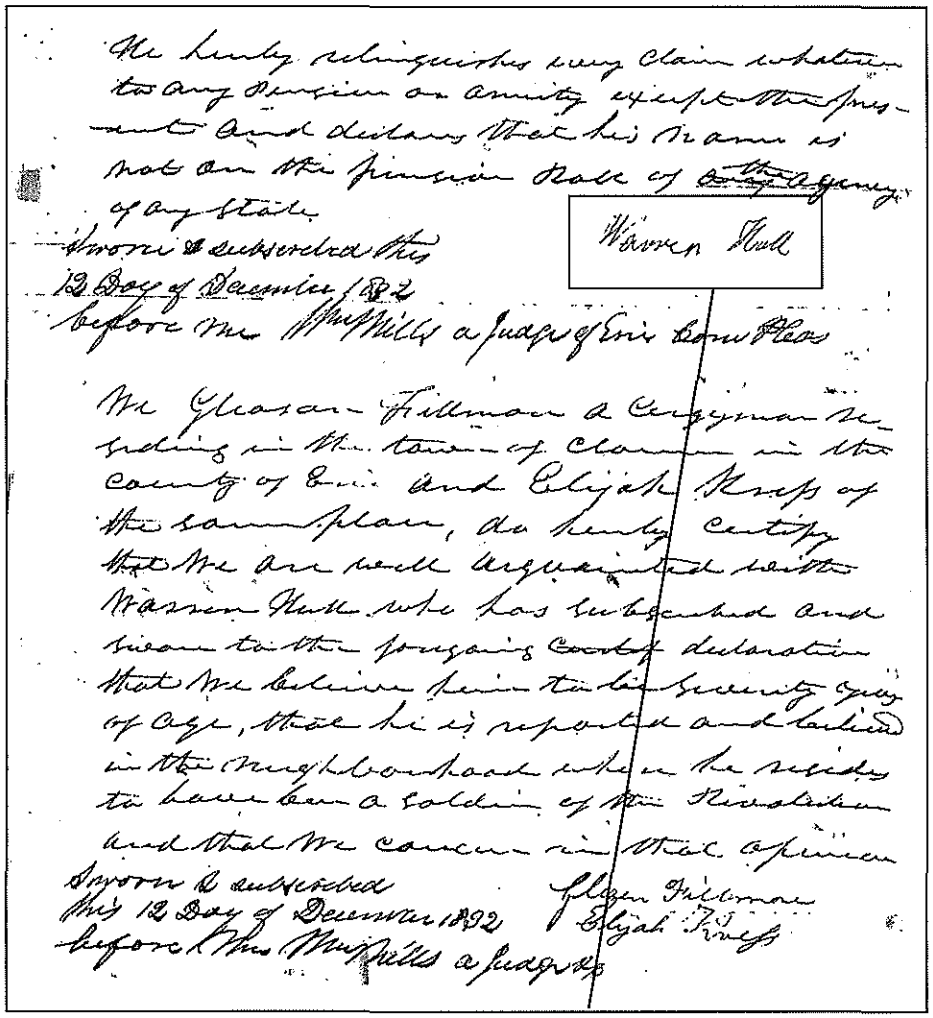
Warren and Polly Gillett Hull were raised in Berkshire County, the westernmost county in Massachusetts, and came of age in the period of great political and social change that followed the American Revolution. We have none of their personal records, and only a handful of public ones, documenting their lives, but the records of numerous people like them show that many of their recorded actions were representative of their generation of New Englanders. Those who spilled out of New England's crowded landscape to clear new farms in new towns in New York and places farther west during the 1780s and 1790s adapted their inherited world view to rapidly changing conditions of their times. The tensions between tradition and innovation repeated themselves in new towns across central and western New York. Mostly of the generation born in the 1760s, they grew up as colonists; as adults, they became citizens of an autonomous nation. They were raised in towns where affairs revolved around the twin suns of the meeting house and the town meeting, where their parents honed skills of governance, both temporal and religious. They moved to places distant from many of the forces exerted by church or state, where they lived in new towns on new lands both like and unlike those they left behind.

Raised in Massachusetts, Warren (1762-1838) and Polly (1765-1834) were both born in Connecticut. He was a sixth generation resident of that colony. We know less about the Gilletts, but it seems likely that she came from a similarly well-established family, based on the cultural tendencies of the long-settled regions of southern New England. They were born into a society that had grown and matured over a century in the New World. While New Englanders considered themselves subjects of the King of England, during five or more generations, they were culturally distinct from their cousins across the Atlantic.

The New England colonies were founded in the religious ferment of early seventeenth century England. After Elizabeth I—as queen, also head of the Church of England—died in 1603, the monarchy passed to her Roman Catholic nephew, James Stuart, and thence to his son Charles. During her long reign, Elizabeth grew increasingly tolerant of religious difference because it enhanced her kingdom's economic stability. This permitted a proliferation of Protestant sectarianism, mainly based in the precepts of John Calvin. Under Stuart rule, English Calvinists found their religious and economic freedoms curtailed to such a degree that they sought new places to live. These included the Separatists (later the Mayflower Pilgrims), who moved for a time to Leyden in the Netherlands, and people we generally call Puritans. The Plymouth Colony, founded in 1620, was the first successful, permanent New England settlement. The chartering of the Massachusetts Bay Company in 1629 helped inaugurate a period called by colonial historians the Great Migration, which coincided with the Stuart bid for increased monarchical power. Between 1629 and 1640, when the "Long Parliament" convened, 20,000 English Calvinists settled

The Baptismal font at St. Bartholomew Church, Somerset, England. Ancestral home of the Hull Family.

Images courtesy of the Hull Family Home & Farmstead



Warren Hull's signature is visible (upper right) on his Revolutionary War pension application.
Image courtesy of Jessie Ravage

in a rapidly expanding radius of towns springing up in eastern Massachusetts and, after the chartering of the River Colony in 1636, along the Connecticut River. George Hull (1590-1659), Warren's great-great-great-grandfather joined the migration and followed Roger Ludlow to Connecticut in 1637.

From the beginning, New England differed from old England. At the individual level, the owner and the occupant of a parcel of land were usually one and the same. In England and also neighboring colonies, landlords owned most of the land, and tenants rented farms on long leases, which were paid annually, usually in wheat. Thus, New Englanders enjoyed great autonomy in making decisions about their diversified agricultural endeavors. They devoted the greatest energy to raising a variety of grains and hay, along with cows and pigs for meat production. Dairy and textile production was generally limited, except for linen made from flax, and that was largely for domestic use. Reasonably successful farmers expected to sell surpluses to buy textiles, non-native foodstuffs, ceramics, metalwares—many of them imported from England—and local services.

As landholders, most heads of household could participate in town and church government. As they established new towns, they replicated the religious, judicial and legislative systems they had evolved by the mid-1600s. These worked in tandem to enforce a sense of community through conformity of belief and comportment. Some of these beliefs manifested themselves in unusually progressive ways for the late Renaissance period. Towns met to set policy and make decisions, which engendered an unprecedented degree of political involvement and acumen among small landholders. The level of education for all children in New England, regardless of gender, outstripped that of any other part of colonial America and England. It supported the Puritan practice of insuring that offspring would be economically competent by providing them with the necessary basic tools of literacy and numeracy. Widespread economic competency engendered concord within communities, which encouraged social and religious conformity in colonial New England. For men, education was nearly as important for participation in government. Finally, reading was essential to religious mindfulness, and both men and women were expected to lead righteous lives. It is no coincidence that the oldest colleges in the United States were founded in New England, where young men trained for the ministry, the law and to teach.

By the 1760s, when Warren and Polly were born, however, an atmosphere of economic and political unrest was brewing in Great Britain's American colonies. Britain expected to preserve the roles established in the early seventeenth century, where her

colonies exported raw materials and foodstuffs and imported goods manufactured in Great Britain or acquired in trade. American industry was discouraged or even banned to reduce competition with British industry. The colonial economy was almost exclusively agricultural. Colonial New England's staggering birth rate—calculated to have been as high as 3% a year and leading to a doubling of population in each generation—exerted enormous pressure to open new lands because New Englanders generally did not subdivide family farms among several offspring. Subdivision could compromise the next generation's economic competency. Typically, a younger son would inherit the home farm as his parents entered their sixties or seventies. Older sons were set up elsewhere during their parents' active middle age, usually on new lands. They might also train to a locally necessary trade like milling, smithing, wagonmaking, shoemaking or coopering. Some studied theology or the law or became teachers. Girls married. Warren Hull's own will, probated in 1838-9, illustrates this New England pattern in its careful provisions for his children, and some of his grandchildren, made in addition to those already provided when each left home for work or marriage.

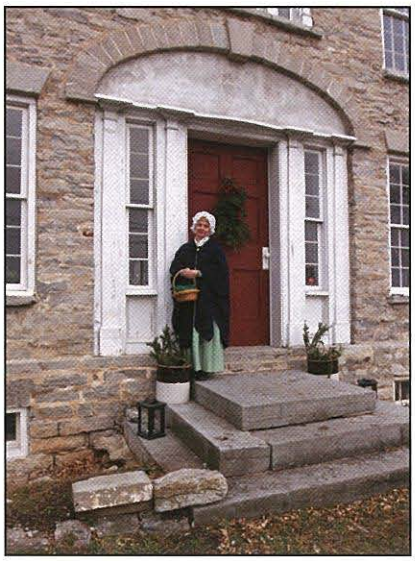
Towns proliferated apace in southern New England after King Philip's War ended in 1676, and southern New England was largely cleared of its original inhabitants. Warren Hull's lineal antecedents remained within a small radius of where George Hull settled in Connecticut in the 1630s until 1769. We can guess that Warren's father, Peter Hull, Jr., (1738-1818) was drawn to lands made relatively secure by the treaty ending the French and Indian War in 1763. He bought Lot 14 on the western boundary of Stockbridge, Berkshire County, Massachusetts, from Jonas Wauwommaumawas, one of the few remaining Mahicans in the town, in 1767. Stockbridge was laid out in the 1730s as a traditional six-mile square town, but its founding principle as an experiment in cooperative living between English and Mahican people was irregular. By the 1760s, however, it had strayed from this course, and it was on the verge of dividing into two towns as its English population was growing quickly due to both birth rate and incoming settlers. Peter moved his wife Esther and their six children Candice (b.1761), Warren (b.1762), Lorain (b.1764), Ashbel (b.1766), Aden (b.1767) and Elah (b.1769) from Killingworth, Connecticut, two years later.

During Great Britain's frequent wars with France and other European countries during the eighteenth century, boundary areas in America were often unstable. By 1769, however, western Berkshire County was both secure and not very

The Hull House in the late 19th Century.
Image courtesy of the Hull Family Home & Farmstead

distant from family in Connecticut, and Peter was among a sizable number who moved to the hills between the Connecticut and Hudson rivers—an area claimed by both the Massachusetts and New York colonies. Britain's European and colonial wars drained its financial reserves, and it sought additional funds through taxes. The colonial legislative bodies, with their limited range, were powerless to fight the variety of taxes on British trade and manufactured goods considered essential by its American colonists. This, combined with the limitations placed on American industrial endeavor, generated enormous friction, which would eventually erupt in rebellion by the colonies in 1775.

Peter's exodus from Connecticut appears to have been unusual within his generation of the Hull family. Even in 1790, the year of the first federal census, over 100 men with the surname Hull headed households in Connecticut, while only a handful lived in Massachusetts or New York. Peter eventually became one of West Stockbridge's most successful farmers. The town's 1792 tax evaluation shows that he produced quantities of beef, pork and wheat. Wheat was among the most important commodities in American trade, and it commanded a price more than double of any other grain. It was plagued by a variety of fungal diseases, which followed the grain onto new lands, pushing its culture ever farther west in North America. Peter also harvested significant quantities of Indian corn and hay which, while less highly valued, were used domestically as well as sold. The farm included fields, orchards (grazed or tilled between rows of trees), meadows for hay, pastures and land that could not be cultivated. The last was probably steep or rocky.



An interpreter portraying one of the Hull children at the Hull House.
Image from the collection of Gary Howell

Polly Gillett Hull's father, Simeon, Sr. (1743-1795), moved his wife and children to Berkshire County from Wintonbury Parish in Hartford, Connecticut, at about the same time as the Hulls' move. They lived first in the northeast corner of West Stockbridge; later they appear to have moved just over the line into Columbia County, New York.

The family moves executed by Warren and Polly's parents might be viewed as a bridge from the colonial world view to the new one shaped by Americans in the last quarter of the century. Peter Hull and Simeon Gillett left established family settings for new lands in Berkshire County, but they helped establish town government along familiar lines. Hull rapidly became involved in town affairs after 1772, when West Stockbridge became a separate town. He served on several committees and as a highway supervisor. Gillett recorded town service, most often as a clerk for meetings and committees. It appears that Hull was a leader in religious affairs based on his appointment to committees to site and build a new meetinghouse in West Stockbridge. Two of Gillett's daughters' marriage intentions were announced in the West Stockbridge church, so he may have attended there. Another of Gillett's daughters became a Shaker, which suggests possible independence of religious thought in his household. The Shakers were among the earliest of American Utopian sects, which grew very popular in the social and religious upheaval of the new republic. Both men turned against their king, deciding for colony and a greater say in government. Gillett served on the local Committee of Safety; Hull was a captain in the militia and fought in the American Revolution. Finally, they were among the thousands who inaugurated the opening of the American West. Both moved again before 1800, to Madison County, New York, where both eventually died.

Their children's generation quickened the pace of change and broadened their range of movement. Warren was born in 1762 in Killingworth, Connecticut, the first son and second child of Peter and Esther Parmelee Hull. At seventeen, Warren enlisted to fight in the Continental Army. While Berkshire County residents generally favored the American rather than the Loyalist cause, we do not know the degree of young Warren's patriotic fervor. By the time he enlisted, many colonial families' resources were stretched thin, and some recent writers speculate that in the slack times of the agricultural year after the hay and grain harvests, young farm boys enlisted to reduce the strain on their families and earn some

The Hull farm in the early 20th Century
Image courtesy of the Hull Family Home & Farmstead

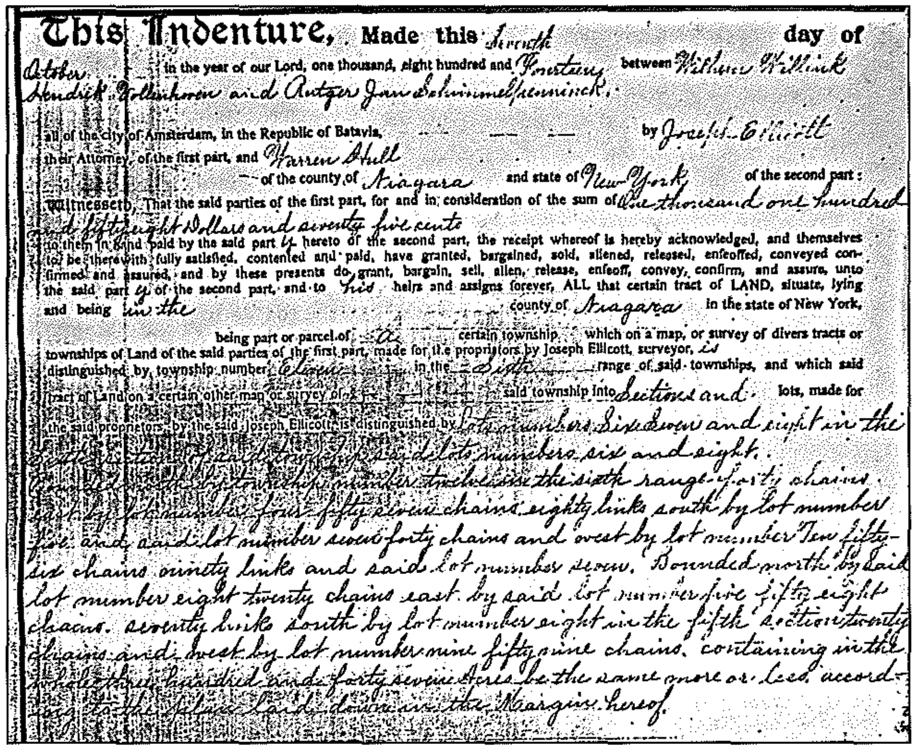
money, although the latter proved rare in the cash-strapped colonies. Warren's enlistments follow this pattern. He spent the winter of 1779-80 in the Massachusetts Line of the Continental Army at West Point on the Hudson River. He enlisted twice more for service totaling 15 months. Eighteenth-century campaign seasons generally ran during the warm months of the year, and Warren's two militia service periods in 1780 and 1781 were typical. He left soon after the grain harvest in July and returned home in the fall. He was stationed in long-settled areas in New York. In 1780, he was near the Middle Fort on the Schoharie Creek; in 1781, he was near Fort Plain, midway up the Mohawk River's south bank. He fought in the Battle of Johnstown, near the manor house of the deceased British Indian agent, William Johnson, in the eastern Mohawk Valley.

Warren married Polly Gillett, daughter of Simeon and Rebecca Gillett, in 1783. Polly was eighteen; he was twenty-one. Between 1783 and 1788, the year Warren Hull was recorded as paying tax in New York's Old England District, then in Montgomery County and now in Otsego County, we know little of their whereabouts. Early genealogies list the birthplaces for their first two children, Polly (b.1786) and Rebecca (b.1788), as Killingworth, Connecticutt. This seems peculiar as both Warren and Polly's parents remained in the Stockbridge, Massachusetts area during this period. Their third child, Peter, was born in 1789, reputedly at Cooperstown in Otsego County, New York, but that record has not been located. From this date until 1800, when Warren was listed as a head of household in that year's federal census, we have almost no records to tell us where they were when. Warren was not listed as head of household in the first federal census, taken in 1790, in New York, Massachusetts or Connecticut. He and Polly and their three children might have been living with someone else, but where and with whom remains a mystery. Or, they were simply missed. Warren's application for a Revolutionary soldier's pension filed in 1833 states that he lived in the Town of Otsego, Otsego County; the Town of Eaton (divided from Town of Hamilton in 1807), Madison County; the Town of Bloomfield, Ontario County; and the Town of Lima, Livingston County, before settling permanently in Erie County. This would coincide with Warren's 1788 tax record.

vote nor hold political office. This may explain his absence in political affairs, and by 1814, at age 51, such lack of involvement was probably habitual. In similar fashion, there were no organized church societies in Township 11 until about the same period, and except for Bloomfield and Otsego, he and Polly had lived nowhere where religious groups had yet emerged.

When Warren Hull finally became a landowner in 1814, he also bought Lot 8, which adjoined his lot's west line, and Lot 7 adjoining Lot 8's south line. A matrilineal cousin, Joel Parmelee, about whom we know almost nothing, first held the article on those lots and, by local accounts, resided there during the early period. Hull might again have followed the traditional pattern of moving with a group of related people when he transplanted to the Holland Land Purchase, as he had to Chenango County in the 1790s. If so, others in the group are as yet unidentified.

With the addition of these two lots to Lot 6, Hull owned about 350 acres of land. We can guess that he expanded his farming operations, even as his children grew up and established households of their own. Based on his ability to eventually buy so much land compared to many of his neighbors, and the later construction of the large stone house, he appears to have been more prosperous than average. His will, probated upon his death in 1838, noted that, in addition to these cash outlays, he had also set up his three sons in various lines of work, including printing, the law and brick making in rapidly growing Buffalo. Three of his daughters married men who eventually owned land for


This Indenture, Made this Seventh day of October in the year of our Lord, one thousand, eight hundred and Fourteen between Wilhem Willink Hendrik Vollenhoven and Rutger Jan Schimmelpenninck,

all of the city of Amsterdam, in the Republic of Batavia, by Joseph Ellicott their Attorney, of the first part, and Warren Hull of the county of Niagara and state of New York of the second part: Witnesseth, That the said parties of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of One thousand one hundred and fifty eight Dollars and seventy five cents to them in hand paid by the said party hereto of the second part, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, and themselves to be therewith fully satisfied, contented and paid, have granted, bargained, sold, aliened, released, enfeoffed, conveyed confirmed and assured, and by these presents do grant, bargain, sell, alien, release, enfeoff, convey, confirm, and assure, unto the said party of the second part, and to his heirs and assigns forever, ALL that certain tract of LAND, situate, lying and being in the county of Niagara in the state of New York, being part or parcel of a certain township, which on a map, or survey of divers tracts or townships of Land of the said parties of the first part, made for the proprietors by Joseph Ellicott, surveyor, is distinguished by township number Eleven in the Sixth range of said townships, and which said tract of Land on a certain other map or survey of [illegible] said township into Sections and lots, made for the said proprietors by the said Joseph Ellicott, is distinguished by Lots numbers Six Seven and eight in the [illegible] said lots numbers six and eight. [illegible] township number twelve in the sixth range forty chains east by lot number four fifty seven chains eighty links south by lot number five and said lot number seven forty chains and west by lot number Ten fifty-six chains ninety links and said lot number seven. Bounded north by said lot number eight twenty chains east by said lot number five fifty eight chains seventy links south by lot number eight in the fifth section twenty chains and west by lot number nine fifty nine chains. containing in the whole three hundred and forty seven Acres be the same more or less according to the [illegible] laid down in the Margin hereof.

An image of the Warren Hull deed to the property.
Image courtesy of the Hull Family Home & Farmstead

which Hull held either articles or deeds, suggesting that he played a financial role in establishing some of his sons-in-law, thus insuring his daughters' economic well-being.

These expenditures may have required much of Hull's earnings during the period from his buying the three lots until the construction of the large stone house occupying the prominent position overlooking Pavement Road. Dendrochronology, a very accurate dating method for lumber that matches tree ring sequences to seasonal and annual variations, shows that a significant portion of the white pine harvested for the roof and interior framing of the house was harvested in 1823/24. This suggests that this portion of the house was built soon after that date.

Warren Hull was in his early 60s, and his stone house could be a statement of ultimate economic success in new country. Almost surely stuccoed and scored to resemble coursed ashlar stone, the stone house stood proud on a high basement, raising it above the nearly level site. Masonry domestic buildings were very uncommon in New England and only slightly less so in central and western New York. A few examples on the Niagara frontier might have inspired Hull's final choice of building material. Despite its masonry construction, the house is not highly detailed, and its plain interior finishes are of average workmanship, suggesting that its interior was of secondary importance. Its position straddling the boundary between Lots 6 and 8 centers it at the north end of Pavement Road, which doubled as a formal drive to the house. At the time, Pavement Road connected the area with the important east-west Ellicott Road. Genesee Street was a local road; it was adopted as part of New York Highway 33 in the early 1900s.

The formal symmetry of the house façade might have been extended to a symmetrical layout

of the outbuildings, but, so far, archaeology has revealed little about the area beyond the house yard. Hull's 1838 probate inventory locates a three-acre field of wheat "round the barn," but no additional structures are noted in any known documents. The level site offered no topographical obstruction to planning the typical rectilinear plan of a lane running the length of the property with squared fields, pastures and meadows flanking it. Every component of the property would have been fenced to keep livestock from wandering and damaging Hull's land and crops or those of his neighbors. Fencing probably demonstrated a hierarchy: from house and house yard—a decorative and functional design made of sawn lumber; barn and stable yard—sawn board fencing; and fields, pastures and meadows—"worm" or stump fences. Stone was not especially plentiful on Hull's own land, so walls seem less likely. This makes the house even more of a statement of success than it might have been on land with abundant stone.

Warren Hull died in October 1838; Polly predeceased him by a few years, and she appears to have been the first burial in the family plot a few hundred feet north of the house, and slightly off center of a north-south line drawn from it. His probate inventory, enumerated on the 24th of December, suggests modest wealth. The furnishings seem somewhat old-fashioned. The livestock list is average although, by that season, those beasts destined for market were already culled from the herd. About ten acres planted in winter wheat were recorded even though Hull owned a threshing machine, which was among the most highly valued items. These circumstances seem less affluent than might be expected, but some irregularity in the surrogate documents suggest that some of his heirs might have taken household goods before the inventory was completed. In addition, several factors might have affected Warren Hull's economic competence late in life. At 76 and recently widowed, simple grief combined with age might have affected his will to work hard. He might have been ill. In the broader scheme, the Panic of 1837—brought on largely by land speculation—might have reduced his circumstances. No land records show that Hull was directly involved in land speculation during the mid-1830s, but the effects of the panic spread far beyond the speculators themselves, and the panic's impact in Western New York, where so much land yet remained undeveloped, was especially acute.

Much of Warren Hull's property continued in family hands in a variety of configurations for more than a generation. The house's exterior was partially remodeled in the mid-1800s, but it remained a prominent landmark in Lancaster. Its survival and our subsequent study afford a window on the lives of one New England family who moved west soon after the American Revolution. By extension, they illustrate patterns common to many such people. During their long lifetimes, Warren and Polly became something different from simply transplanted Yankees. They became people of the frontier and raised a dozen children there. By the time they died in the 1830s, they were established in Lancaster—no longer the frontier. Their children, heirs to the traditions and innovations of their parents, were stamped by political, economic and social ideas we now identify as strands in the evolving American world view.

The Hull House in the late 19th Century.
Image courtesy of the Hull Family Home & Farmstead

The Hull Children

by Donna Schmidle

Polly Hull (born Aug. 1, 1786; died Nov. 8, 1863) was the first child of Warren and Polly Hull. She married Daniel Lewis (born 1776; died 1830 in Clarence). Polly was 19 years old when they were wed on October 11, 1805. Daniel was present at the Burning of Buffalo, as depicted in the following excerpt in "The William Hodge Papers" from *Recalling Pioneer Days* at the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society:

> "All remaining buildings, except Mrs. St. John's dwelling, the stone jail walls, a barn-frame, and a black-smith shop, were destroyed, and thirty or forty prisoners taken, in and outside of the village. Among these latter was Daniel Lewis, our next door neighbor. He had ventured back on Saturday to his barnyard, to feed his cattle which he had left in such a hurry, and was seized by the enemy. They took him with the rest over the river, but kept him only a day or two; and after having some sport over him they sent him back."

Polly Hull Lewis acquired her parents' stone house from Warren Hull's estate in 1842. She kept the house until she sold it to her sister Aurilla and her husband, Robert U. Wheelock in 1849.

When she died in 1863, her obituary in the Fredonia newspaper read, "Mrs. Lewis was identified with the early history of this section of the state. She was a resident of Buffalo during the War of 1812 at the time it was burned, and an eye-witness of the massacres and pillage by the Indians. She has maintained a Christian character from early youth, ever lived in the enjoyment of religion, and in the full assurance of future bliss, without a pain, a murmur, or a gasp, peacefully fell asleep in Jesus." The Forest Hill Cemetery record states that Polly died of typhoid fever.

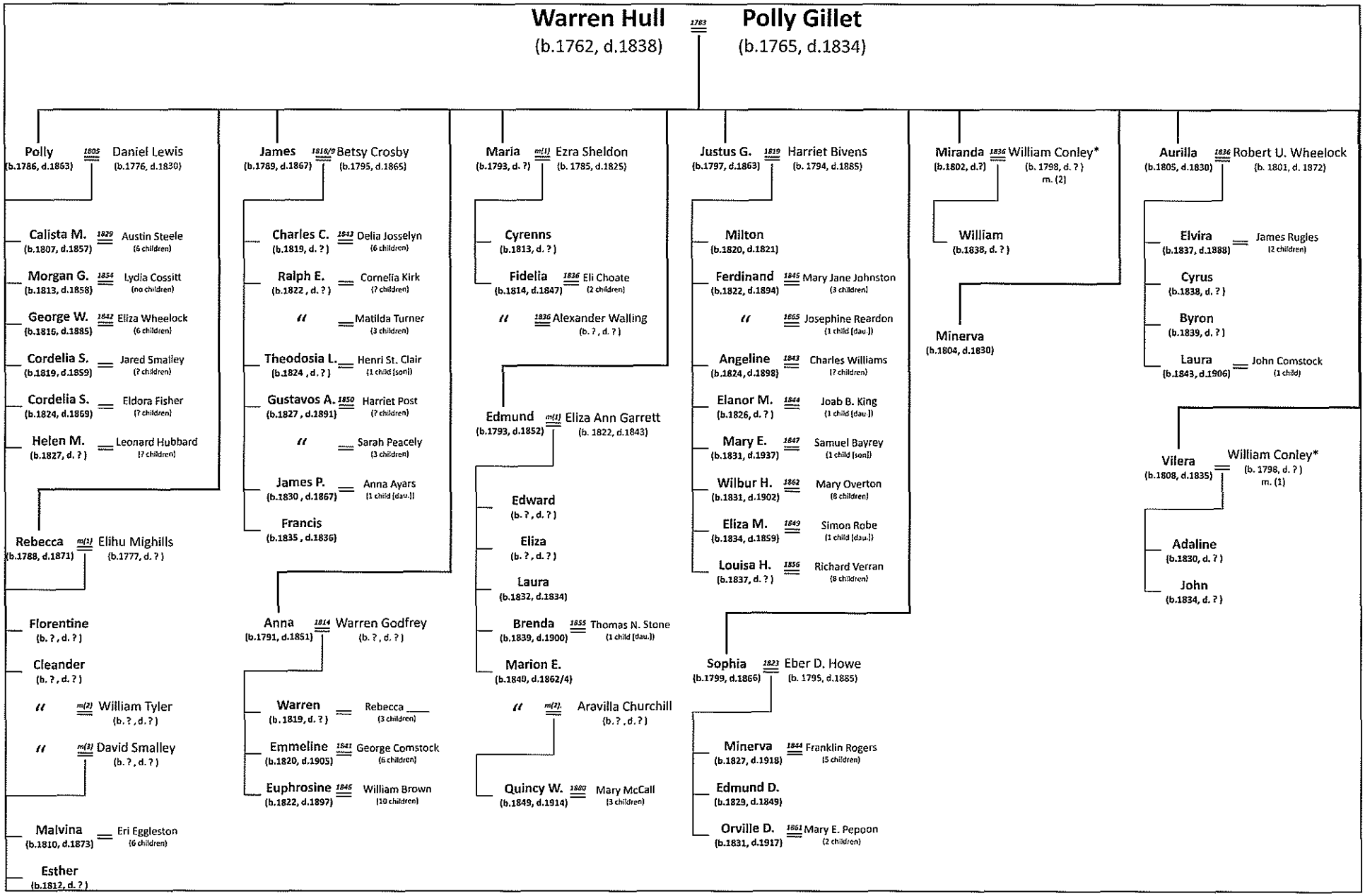
Polly and Daniel Lewis had six children:

Calista Marie Lewis (born 1807; died Jan. 3, 1857) married Austin Steele. Her uncle, Edmund Hull, Esquire, conducted her wedding. Calista attended Fredonia Academy. Below is what was written from *Reflections of the Women of Fredonia, Fredonia Academy 1826-1867.*

The Fredonia Academy developed a Ladies Seminary in 1830, apparently assuming that women would not be able to excel in algebra, astronomy, botany, geology, and philosophy. The purpose of the Ladies Seminary, according to its catalog, was to give 'instruction in all the useful and ornamental branches of female education.' The Ladies Seminary curriculum centered on developing 'well-rounded' women, evident in the courses of music, drawing, and painting. By the third year, the Ladies Seminary basic courses in arithmetic, grammar and history were expanded to include philosophy, penmanship, bookkeeping, and rhetoric. Student researchers Erin Rozler and Lezlie Brown reported, "The women not only learned how to be 'successful homemakers' but were required to become worthy intellectual companions for their

Interpreters portray a portion of the Hull family at Christmas.
Image from the collection of Gary Howell

The Hull Family Tree



Please note that some dates may vary from the timeline to the article. Research is on-going to resolve any discrepancies.

Image courtesy of Ryan Austin and Sue Jacobs

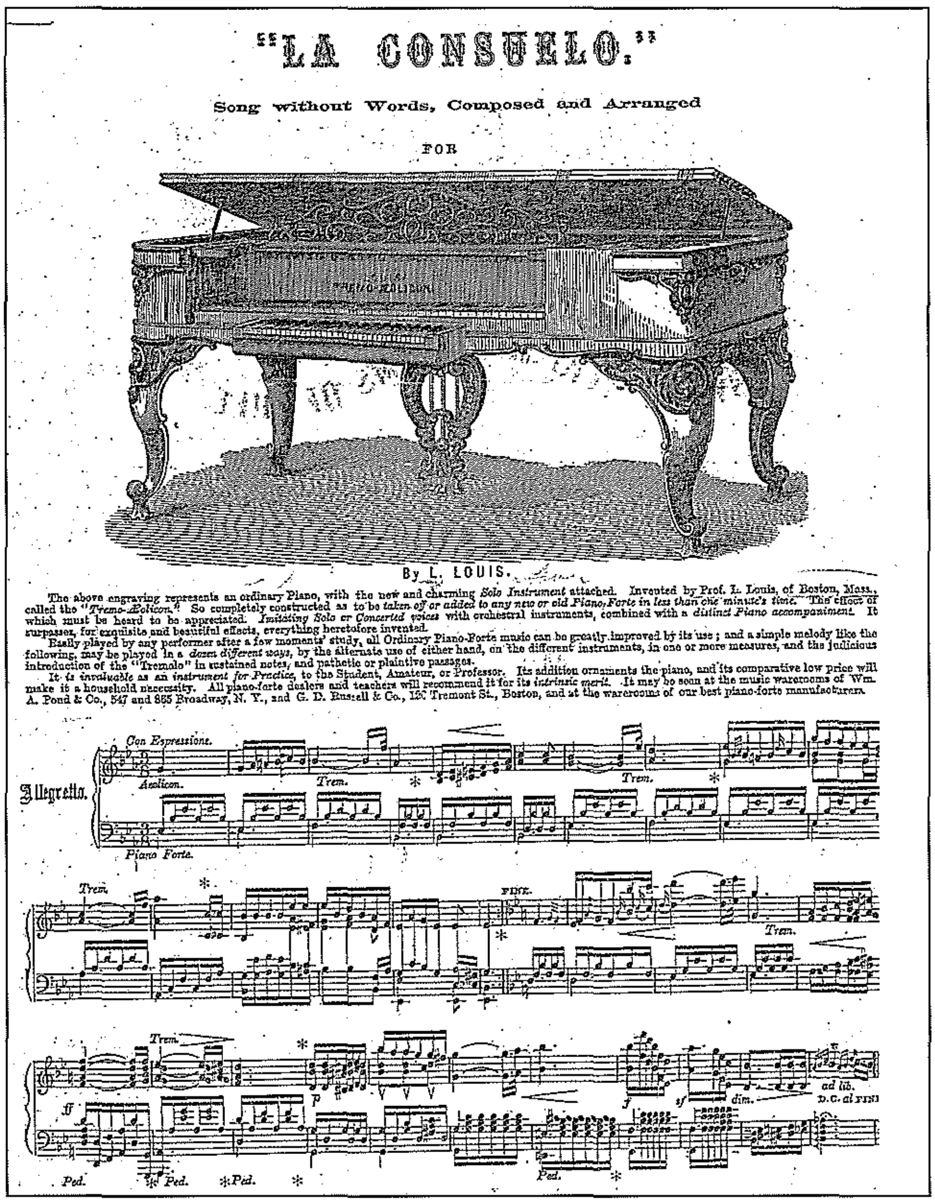
future husbands.

They were given a broad overview of topics that prepared them for their roles as social entertainers and were taught the fine art of inspiring their husbands, as muses of wisdom and comfort. They were expected to shine in their husbands' social circles as educated, refined ladies."

Calista M. Steele was later principal of Black Rock School in Buffalo, New York for 10 years.

Morgan Gillette Lewis, M.D. (born 1813; died Feb. 8, 1858) was an assistant editor in 1835 in his uncle Eber Howe's newspaper, *The Cleveland Herald*. He is listed as a physician in the 1850 census in Black Rock.

George Washington Lewis (born March 13, 1816; died Nov. 13, 1885) was a prominent merchant. As a young man, he worked in Canada as a clerk and went to Fredonia in 1843 with a stock of goods to open his "Canadian Store" in the Center Block. In 1843, Mr. Lewis married Eliza Wheelock of Mendon, Massachusetts. The family lived in a large house on Chestnut Street in Fredonia where many of the Steele and Lewis family marriages and funerals were held, and where the Lewis family raised two sons and four daughters. George Lewis' obituary gives us this insight: "He was a great reader with probably the best individual library in town, many of the books being rare and valuable." He helped to incorporate, and was one of the first directors of, the Fredonia Gas Light and Water Works Company. In 1858 Fredonia Gas Light and Water Works Company became the first natural gas utility in the United States.

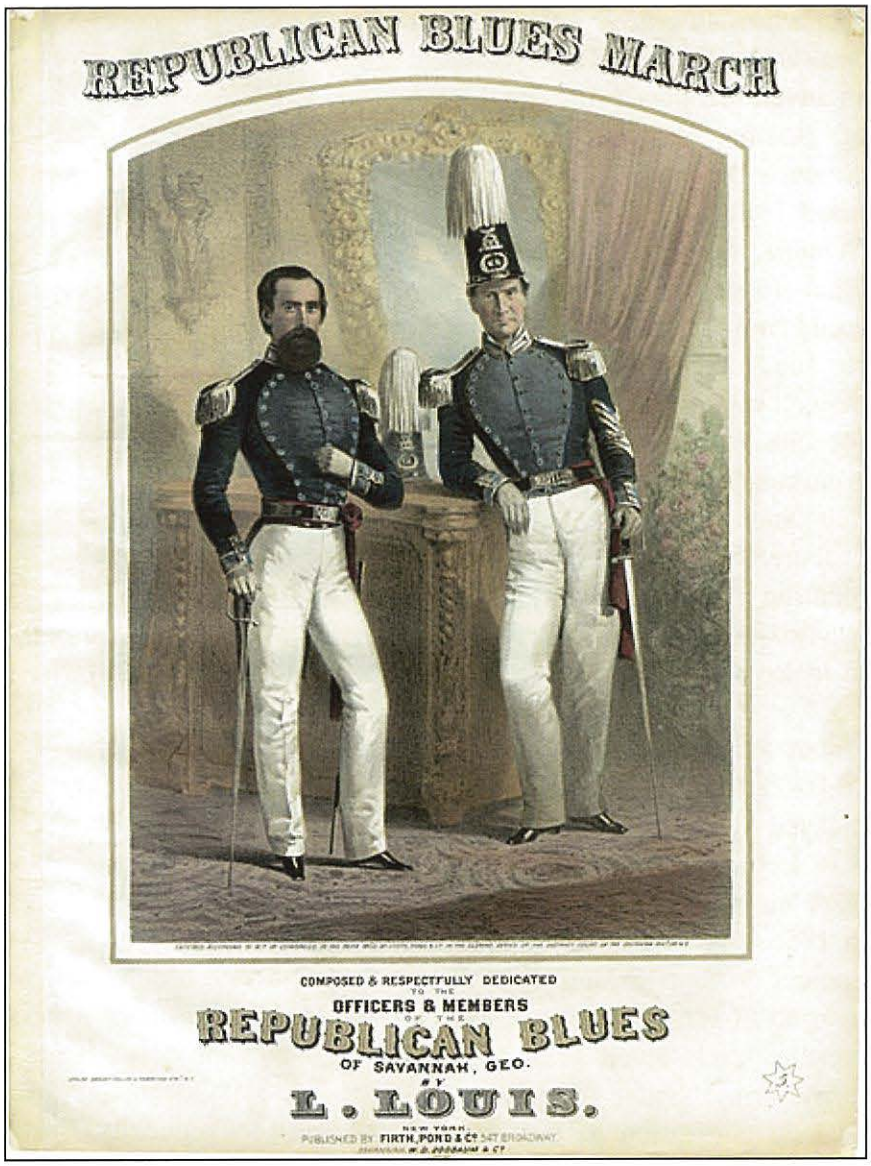


La Consuelo by Lafayette Louis Lewis.
Image courtesy of Donna Schmidle

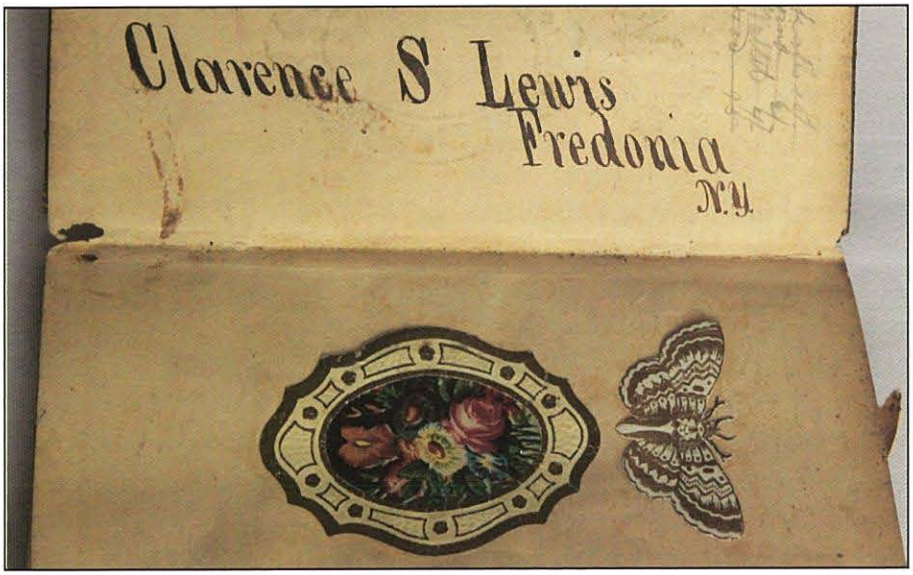
Cordelia Saphronia Lewis (born 1819; died Aug. 14, 1859) settled in Ohio after her marriage. Here she was active in the anti-slavery cause. In 1855 she received her degree in obstetrics and diseases of women and practiced until her death.

Lafayette Louis Lewis (born 1824 Williamsville, NY; died Sep. 14, 1869) was a musical prodigy. Eventually, he settled in Boston, Massachusetts where he became well-known for composing musical pieces. Among the better known in his time were *Departed Days, In Sunny Youth* and *La Consuelo.* Not only did he compose music, he was also an inventor of musical devices. On November 8, 1856, a patent was issued to Lafayette Louis for an invention which produced a tremolo in the musical notes of melodeons or reed instruments, and which has since become known as the tremolo attachment.

In 1857, a report in the



Republican Blues March by Lafayette Louis Lewis.
Image courtesy of Donna Schmidle



Frontispiece of the Clarence Lewis diary.
Image courtesy of Gary Howell

Fredonia Advertiser observed a "music box" powered by a fountain, an invention of a Professor Lewis of Boston. It played *Pleyel's Hymn*, *Vesper Hymn*, *What Fairy Likes Music? Waltz of Water Nymphs*, *God Save America*, and other tunes of which the writer could not remember the names. He suggested such an item would be well worth the cost of procuring for one of "our fountains in the common." No evidence was found that such a fountain was ever procured, as there was not further mention of musical fountains in the *Advertiser*. Lafayette Lewis died in Jacksonville, Florida.

Helen Minerva Lewis (born Mar. 30, 1828; death date unknown) was married twice. Her first husband was Leonard S. Hubbard. They were married in 1850, and he died in 1855. Her second husband was Samuel S. Sumner, and they were married in 1864. He was a Baptist preacher and served as a chaplain in the army. After the Civil War, he held a position in the Internal Revenue Service.

Rebecca Hull (born Feb. 5, 1788; died July 10, 1871) was the second child of Warren and Polly. She was married three times; her husbands were Elihu Mighills, Major William Tyler and Daniel Smalley. Rebecca had four children: Florenine, Melvina, Cleander and Esther. Little else is known about Rebecca and her family.

James Hull (born Nov. 29, 1789 in Cooperstown, Otsego County, NY or Montgomery County; died Sep. 1, 1867 in Louisville, KY) was the third child and the first son of

Clarence Lewis, grandson of Polly Hull Lewis.
Image courtesy of Fredonia Historical Society

Warren and Polly. In a letter written by Edith Lewis Morse (sister-in-law of Polly Hull Lewis), she says that, at age twenty-three, James was a soldier in the War of 1812. He fought under Major Hill, who was in charge of military affairs in the Town of Clarence. James was in the battle at Queenston (1812) , the skirmish at Conjockity Creek (1813), the burning of Buffalo (1813) and the battle of Lundy's Lane (1814). James married Betsy Crosby (born approx. 1794; died Jan. 3, 1865). They were married in November or December of 1818.

The *Chautauqua Gazette*, the county's first newspaper, was first printed in Fredonia in January 1817 by James Percival. James Hull took over the paper in 1818 and continued until 1826, when it was united with the *People's Gazette* from Forestville. The name was changed to the *Fredonia Gazette*. It was published a short time by Hull & Snow and removed by Mr. Hull to Dunkirk. James eventually went into printing in northeastern Ohio. In 1834, he published *The Observer* in Hudson, Ohio and the *Cleveland Daily Herald*. After moving to Louisville, James and his sons had their own printing and publishing firm known as Hull Brothers. Here they printed *The True Catholic, The Free Mason* and *The Presbyterian Herald*. They also printed Ben Casseday's *History of Louisville* and other publications.

James and Betsey Hull had six children:

Charles Crosby Hull (born Sep. 19, 1819) married Delia Josselyn in 1843. He was also a printer and worked for the *Herald and Gazette* in Cleveland, Ohio in 1837-1838. He was a printer in Buffalo from 1840 to 1852 for the *Express* at 188 Oak Street. In 1859 he was listed at Hull and Brothers Co. in Louisville, KY.

Ralph Erskine Hull, who was born June 30, 1822.

Theodocia Hull (born Aug. 5, 1824) married Henry St. Clair in 1844. Their son Henry Hull St. Clair was an important New York City newspaper publisher in the late 19th Century.

Gustavus Adolphus Hull (born April 18, 1827; died Sep. 28, 1891 in San Francisco CA.) was retired from the US Army. He fought in the Civil War and saw action in the Battle of Cold Harbor in the spring of 1864. He was a quartermaster in Louisville and was made a Captain in 1866.

James Pearson Hull (born April 30, 1830; died Oct. 4, 1867) fought in the Civil War in Company K of the Kentucky 3rd Cavalry Regiment, which was a force of Confederate volunteers. His service and

Gustavus' for the Union, exemplify the divisive "brother against brother" nature of the Civil War.

Francis Hull was born 1835 and died July 12, 1836 at age 11 months, 20 days in Cleveland, Ohio.

Anna Hull (born July 28, 1791; died Nov. 21, 1851) was the fourth child of Warren and Polly. She married William H. Godfrey on February 11, 1814. They had four children: Warren Hull (born 1819); Emiline (born 1820); Euphrosine (born 1822) and Emma Jane (birth date unknown). Emma Jane is buried in the Hull Family Cemetery; her gravestone reads "5 yr 5mo. 5days."

Maria Hull (born Mar. 6, 1793; died Jan. 1, 1847) was the fifth child of Warren and Polly. She married Ezra Sheldon, and they had two children: Cyrenns Sheldon (born 1813) and Fidelia Sheldon (Choate) (born May 23, 1814 in Clarence; died June 1, 1847 in Lancaster). Fidelia is buried in the Fillmore Cemetery on Ransom Road in Clarence. Alexander Walling, who was a justice of the peace in Clarence, was Maria's second husband. There are still descendants of Maria Hull in the Lancaster/Clarence area.

Edmund Hull (born Dec. 22, 1795; died Sep. 16, 1852 in Black Rock) was the sixth child of Warren and Polly. Edmund studied law in Fredonia, New York in 1819 and 1820 at the law office of Mullett & Crane and assisted his brother James in editing the *Chautauqua Gazette*. Edmund later became a lawyer, clerk of the Town of Clarence and New York legislator with Millard Fillmore, who was later President of the United States.

Edmund's first wife was Eliza A. Garrett (born c. 1822; died Feb. 1843 in Clarence, NY). She is buried in the Shope Cemetery on Hillcrest and Main Street in Clarence. Her gravestone reads "wife of Edmund Hull Esquire". Edmund and Eliza had three children:

Interpreters portray a portion of the Hull family at Christmas.
Image from the collection of Gary Howell

Laura Hull (died Aug. 18, 1843 at age 10 mo.) is buried in the Shope Cemetery.

Brenda Hull (born July 25, 1837; died Dec. 28, 1900 in Oakland, CA) was a teacher who married Thomas Newell Stone on September 11, 1855. In the 1880 Oakland census she is listed as "43 yrs., divorced, teacher born in NY."

Marion E. Hull (born 1840; died Aug. 3, 1864) was a private in the Freeman's Regiment Missouri Confederate Cavalry that was attached to the 49th Tennessee Infantry Regiment, 1864. He was wounded in a battle near Fort Stevens, Washington, DC and later died.

Quincy Hull (born 1849 in Erie County; died Dec. 24, 1914 in Ely, NV) was born to Edmund and his second wife, Avarilla (born 1822). He was three years old when his parents died, and he went to live with his father's sister, Aurilla. Quincy moved to Nevada in 1874 and located in Elko, where he became identified with the Post Office and later was appointed Postmaster under the Grant administration and again under President Hayes.

Edmund is believed to have been living with his second wife, Aravilla Churchill, in Freedom, New York at the time of his death. She died in Freedom four months after her husband. Edmund is buried in the Shope Cemetery.

Justus Hull (born Feb. 13, 1797; died Dec. 30, 1863 in Grant County, WI) was the seventh child of Warren and Polly. Justus married Harriet Estella Bivins (born on

Dec. 10, 1794; died Nov. 8, 1885) in Clarence on December 29, 1819. She was the daughter of Benjamin Bivins who took an article of land on the southwest corner of Ransom Road and Genesee Street. Benjamin Bivins was Clarence Town Clerk and Town Supervisor.

Justus was a plow and brick maker whose company was named Ream and Hull. He owned land at the southwest corner of Broadway and Bailey Avenue in Buffalo. Justus and Harriet had eight children, including a set of twins:

Milton Hull (born Oct. 2, 1820; died Nov. 13, 1821)

Ferdinand M. Hull (born 1822)

Angeline M. Hull (born May 10, 1824; died Aug. 13, 1898 in Kenosha Co., WI)

Eleanor M. Hull (born Nov. 13, 1827)

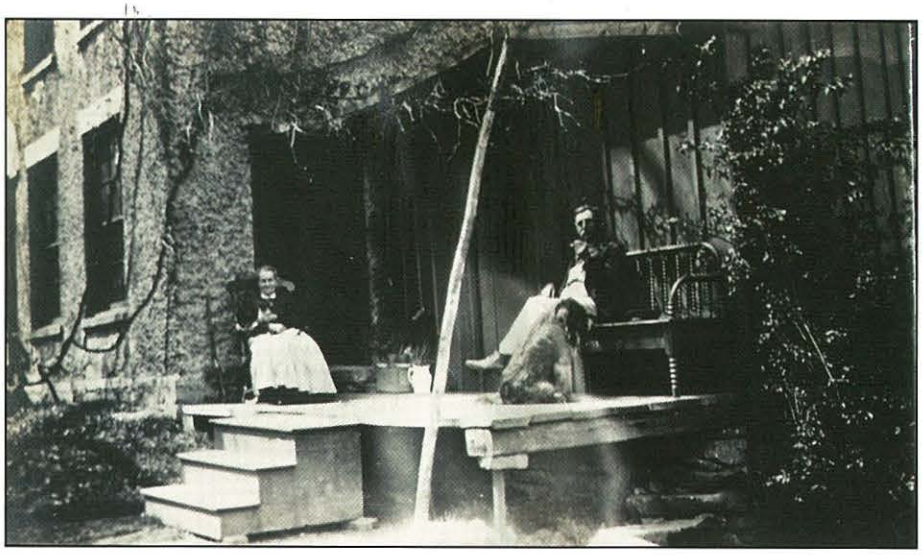
Mary E. Hull (twin born Oct. 13, 1831; died Oct. 19, 1937)

Wilbur H. Hull (twin born Oct. 13, 1831; died Mar. 1, 1902)

Eliza M. Hull (born Jun. 19, 1834; died fall of 1859 IL)

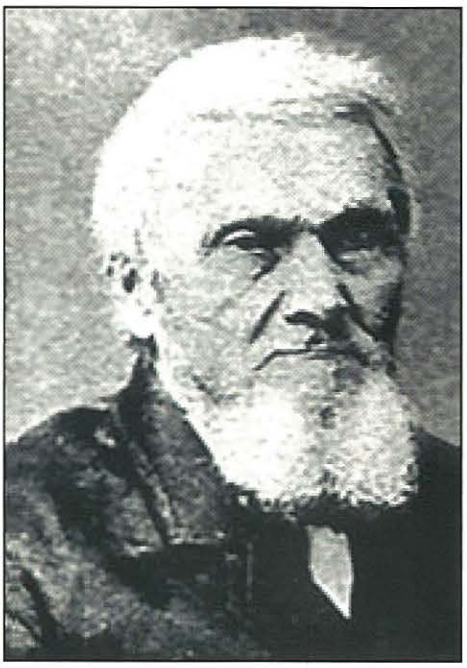
Louisa H. Hull (born Sep. 6, 1837)

Sophia Hull (born Jan. 5, 1799; died May 28, 1866, Painesville, OH) was Warren and Polly's eighth child. An article related to her death reads, "Her unusually excellent health remained almost entirely unimpaired until about six months before her decease, which was occasioned by a cancerous tumor in the stomach. Mrs. Howe was one of the first to join with her husband in the anti-slavery movement..."



An unidentified elderly couple on the porch on the east side of the house.
Image courtesy of the Hull Family Home & Farmstead

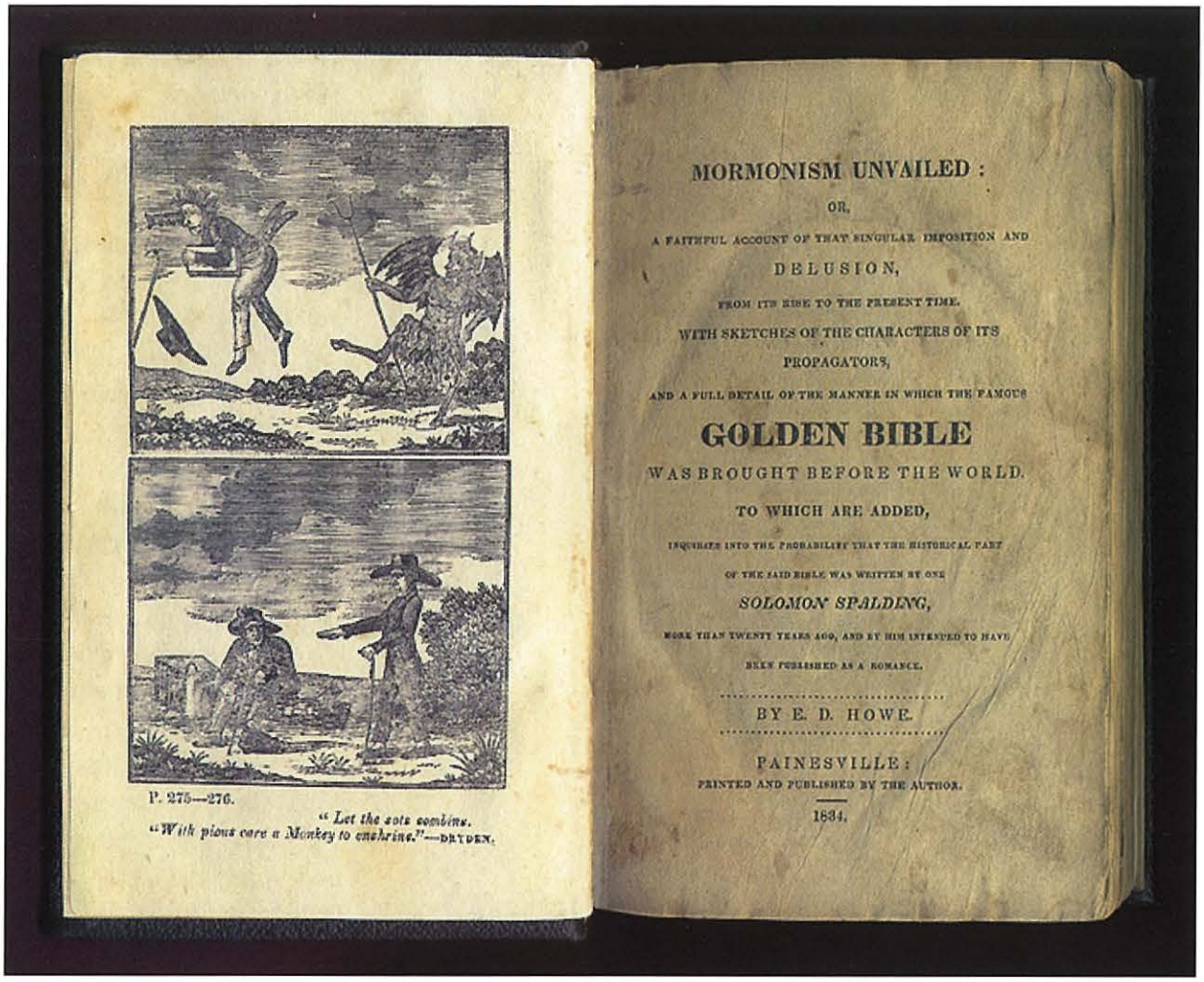
Sophia married Eber Dudley Howe (born June 9, 1798; died Oct. 9, 1885). They married on June 6, 1823 after a courtship of six years. Eber Howe was born in Saratoga County, New York to parents who emigrated from Connecticut. In 1811, his family moved to Upper Canada, so his initial view of the War of 1812 was from the Canadian perspective. Eber Howe witnessed the burning of Buffalo in 1813 and wrote a memoir of the event. In May 1814, Eber enlisted at Batavia to serve in the War of 1812. Following the Battle of Lundy's Lane, his father, a surgeon, was given charge of the British prisoners' hospital at Buffalo, and Eber served as his assistant.



Eber Dudley Howe
Image courtesy of Donna Schmidle

After the war, Eber relocated to Buffalo to work as an apprentice on the *Buffalo Gazette*, "the first paper started west of Canandaigua." Owned by the Salisbury Brothers, the *Gazette* had been published at the Asa Harris Tavern after Buffalo was burned. In 1818 Howe went to Fredonia to assist with the *Chautauqua Gazetteer*, published by his brother-in-law, James Hull. In the 1820s, the Howes moved to Painesville, Ohio.

In January, 1835, Howe retired from the newspaper business and turned the *Painesville Telegraph* over to his younger brother Asahel for $600. However, Howe remained a printer while becoming a manufacturer of woolen goods in partnership with his son-in-law. Howe is the author of books entitled, *History of Mormonism* and



Eber Howe's *Mormonism Unveiled*
Image courtesy of Donna Schmidle

Mormonism Unveiled, "setting forth Mormonism's fallacies, depicting in their true light the character of the principal founders, and tracing to its true source the origin of the Mormon Bible." His 1870s memoir, *Recollections of a Pioneer Printer,* was published by the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society in 1905.

Sophia Howe was known to be a social activist and successful humanitarian. Her first project was aid to Greek freedom fighters in their struggle for independence from Turkey in 1825-26. She was also one of the first women in the Ohio's Western Reserve to join the anti-slavery crusade. Aiding fugitive slaves, she ran a "station" on the Underground Railroad. If the slave catchers were in the area, Sophia kept a kettle of boiling water on the stove "in order to give these pursuers a warm reception should they make their appearance."

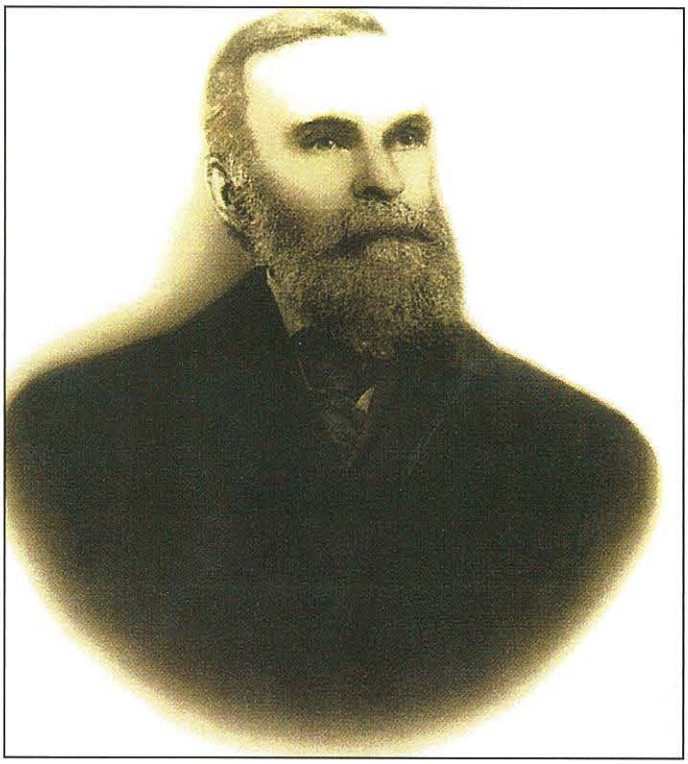
Eber and Sophia had six children; however one girl and two boys died young. The surviving children were:

Minerva Howe (born July 8, 1827; died Oct. 11, 1918) was considered a "vigorous intellect, with active sympathies and great energy; her life has been a continual record of good deeds. The early and staunch friend of reform, she gave willing aid to the destitute, the fugitive and the orphan."

Edmond D. Howe was born in 1829 and died Jan. 13, 1849. He is buried in Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York.

Orville Duane Howe (born Sep. 1, 1831; died Feb. 4, 1917) died from "grip which developed into pneumonia." He married Mary Elizabeth Pepoon, who was known to be "a lady of great refinement and originality, being the author of many poems and prose articles." Orville was a schoolteacher and superintendent of the Madison, Wisconsin schools. He was involved with agriculture and politics.

Miranda Hull (born 1802, place and date unknown) was



Orville Duane Howe.
Image courtesy of Donna Schmidle

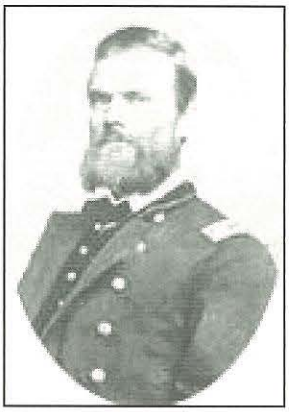
the ninth child of Warren and Polly. On January 7, 1836 she married the widower of her sister Vilera, William H. Conley (born 1802 in Maryland). Their wedding date appears to be the same day her sister Aurilla married Robert Upton Wheelock. Miranda and William had one son, William Conley (born 1838) and raised her sister's two children. They lived in a frame house on Genesee Street southwest of the Hull House. Their house was known locally as the Erisman House, named for Pennsylvania German Abraham Erisman, who around 1865 erected the largest extended fore-bay barn in Erie County. The barn was located near the house. The house and barn were illustrated in the 1880 *Erie County Atlas*.

Minerva Hull (born 1804 date and place unknown; died Nov. 24, 1830) was Warren and Polly's tenth child. She is buried in the Hull Family Cemetery. Minerva's grave marker was buried under two inches of dirt and was unearthed on June 18, 2006. Surprisingly, the stone was fully intact. Her gravestone reads, "Minerva, daughter of Warren and Polly Hull, died Nov. 1830 aged 26 yrs." As far as we know, she never married.

Aurilla Hull (born Oct 10, 1805; died Feb. 8, 1898) was the eleventh child and eighth daughter of Warren and Polly. Aurilla married Robert Upton Wheelock (born 1806 in VT; died 1872 in Janesville, WI) on January 7, 1836, the same day her sister Miranda married William Conley. Robert and his father, John Gleason Wheelock, emigrated to Erie County from Albany County in 1832. Aurilla and Robert Upton Wheelock had four children:

Elvira Wheelock (born 1837; died 1888) married General James M. Ruggles. General Ruggles was born in Mansfield, Richland Co., Ohio, on March 7, 1818, and in 1837 went to Illinois. At the age of 15, he engaged in the printing business. In 1846, he settled in the town of Bath, studied law and was admitted to the Bar. In 1852 he was elected to the State Senate where he served for four years with distinction. While in the Illinois Legislature, he became friends with Abraham Lincoln. Ruggles was a delegate to the Chicago Convention in 1860 when Lincoln secured the Republican nomination for the Presidency.

At the beginning of the Civil War, James Ruggles entered the army and was appointed Lieutenant and Quartermaster by Governor Yates, in the 1st Illinois Volunteer Cavalry. He was sent to Missouri, but dissatisfied with the inactivity of his position, he requested and was sent to the front. By order of General Ulysses S. Grant, he was promoted to Major in the 3rd Illinois Volunteer Cavalry. At Pea Ridge he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel, and for a time commanded the regiment. At the close of the war,



General James Ruggles
Image courtesy of Donna Schmidle

he was brevetted Brigadier General for meritorious service. After the war, he served a time as Master in Chancery.

Cyrus Wheelock (born 1838; died in a home for veterans) is listed in the New York Civil War Index at the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library.

Vilera Hull (born Oct. 27, 1808; died 1833) was the twelfth child of Warren and Polly. She married William Conley; no marriage information is available. Vilera died on March 21 or 24, 1835, leaving her husband to raise their two children, Adaline (born 1830; died 1883) and John (born 1834; death date unknown). John was recorded in the 1880 Federal Census in Missouri. Vilera is buried in the Hull Family Cemetery; her headstone is the only one that remains standing.

A view of the Hull House from the south.
Image from the collection of Gary Howell

The Hull House Archaeology Project

by Douglas Perrelli & Ryan Austin

Archaeologists study artifacts and material culture, defined as objects, structures and landscapes made by people in the past. The goals of archaeology are to measure, record and interpret the physical remains of what people did, and to preserve local and regional cultural heritage for future generations. Archeology provides an opportunity to study aspects of the past, based primarily on the nature and condition of material remains. It is a tool for studying a range of things from the mundane aspects of daily life to important events in human history. It is a means to a different understanding of history, society and culture.

Historic sites like the Hull House produce material culture in the form of small, portable objects, such as gunflints, toothbrushes or teacup fragments, and larger, immovable features such as garbage pits, fence post holes or building foundations. The study of these artifacts is augmented by the use of personal diaries, historic maps, probate inventories and census data. According to authors Cantwell and Wall, "For archaeologists, all these finds (artifacts/documents), the humble and the grand, the fragmented and the whole, have meaning because their creation, use, and disposal were deeply embedded in the social, economic and symbolic worlds of the peoples whose ways of life they are studying"[1]

Introduction to the Hull House Archaeology Project

The Hull House Archaeology Project (HHAP) began in 2003 as a partnership between the University at Buffalo Archaeological Survey and the Hull House restoration effort, thanks largely to the persistence of Gary Costello. Since that time, UB Survey has been excavating at the site with three main goals in mind.

The first is historic preservation. Some of the excavations are designed to minimize damage to the site that will be brought about by the proposed restoration project. By carefully removing and recovering artifacts and identifying features that would otherwise be damaged by ground disturbances resulting from reconstruction or stabilization efforts, information is not lost.

The second goal is to aid the site reconstruction by finding the actual remains of features and outbuildings that were made by the people who actually lived there.

The third goal is to provide accurate information for interpreting the Hull House that can only come from the recovery of physical evidence. Archaeology provides important support for the interpretations of the docents and historical re-enactors who present the Hull Family Home and Farmstead to the public.

In archaeological terms, the site is referred to as the Hull – Peterson site (UB 2708) The first part of the name references the surname of the farmstead's first owner, Warren Hull. The second name is that of the 'last' owner, Gordon Peterson. The use of this naming scheme is intended to remind us that the scope and significance of the site extend far beyond that of any of its individual occupation periods by different families at different times. From an archaeological perspective, the site is important as a record of change through time. The UB 2708 number is a unique reference ID number that is keyed to the University at Buffalo Archaeological Survey Site Files. These files contain information on numerous archaeological sites in western New York State.

The Hull-Peterson site represents a rare opportunity to study an entire farmstead, including both the domestic core and agrarian working areas, each of which are expected to produce different kinds of artifacts and features. The site is very old by local historic site standards, quite well-documented and artifact rich. It offers a wealth of knowledge regarding 19th century rural development and agrarian change. With data from the site it will be possible to discover the manner through which the site's household members acquired, used and disposed of material culture, as well as the way in which they modified the built landscape throughout the site's nearly 200-year occupational history. The Hull-Peterson site may be one of the oldest of its kind in Erie County, and provides researchers with a rare look at many different periods of historical development in the Niagara Frontier region. All the different periods are preserved through excavation and analysis so

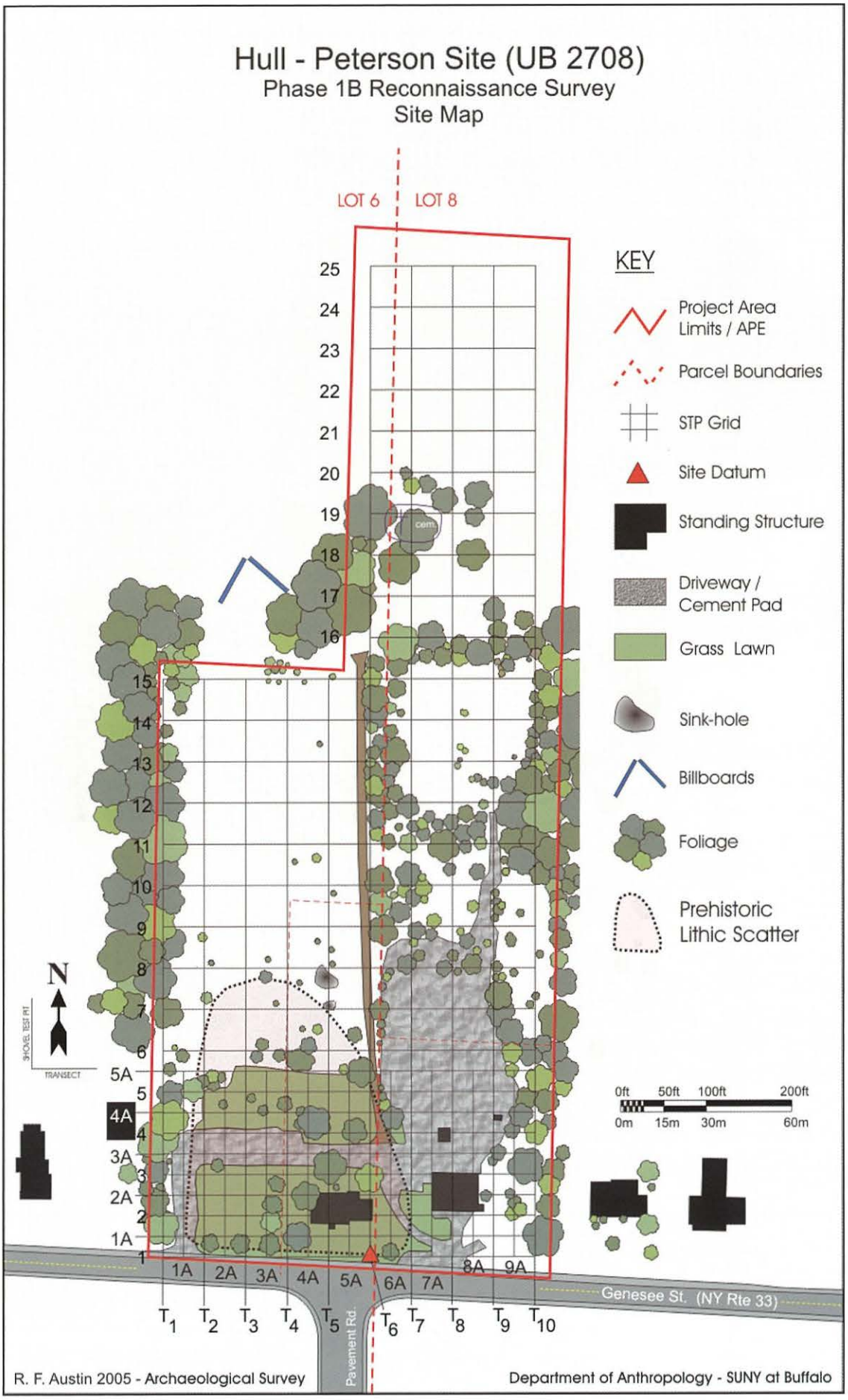


Figure 1: Phase 1 site map

Figure 2: Crew excavating Phase 1 STPs
Image courtesy of
UB Archaeological Survey

they can be interpreted and presented to the public in the future.

Methods

Excavation at the Hull-Peterson site follows a three step process: 1) Reconnaissance Survey, 2) Site Examination and 3) Data Recovery. The process is designed to systematically identify, assess and recover material culture from different parts of the farmstead. This process allows us to deal with the site's overall size and complexity by breaking it up into smaller parts. Then we can focus on those parts of the site that offer important information to the reconstruction of this living history museum. In proceeding this way, the archaeological survey is attempting to meet the needs of the Hull House reconstruction, while at the same time preserving all aspects of the site. It can thus serve as an educational resource for the local and regional community well into the future. Since its inception, the project has involved public outreach and volunteers at all stages of investigation.

Archaeological Reconnaissance

A walkover of the Hull House property was conducted in order to locate physical traces of the site's 19th century layout. The domestic core is at the south end, near the road frontage along what is now Genesee Street. This area includes the stone house, the kitchen ell, an early 20th century privy, slab concrete walkways and the surrounding grassy lawn. The agricultural core is located to the northeast and consists of the barn and surrounding yards. Located further north are the former agricultural fields, orchards and pastures used by the Hull family and subsequent occupants. The family cemetery is positioned on a small rise in the midst of the agricultural fields well north of the stone house. Between 2004 and 2005, the reconnaissance survey involved the excavation of a grid of shovel test pits over the entire site.[2] The goal was to find artifact deposits, soil stains, disturbances and other landscape features related to the use of the house and farm (Figures 1 and 2).

In all, 238 shovel test pits were dug, including 112 at 25-foot intervals around the house and barn, and 126 at 50-foot intervals in the rest of the site, up to the New

Figure 3: Prehistoric Artifacts
Onondaga Chert flakes
Image courtesy of UB Archaeological Survey

Figure 4: Phase 1 Historic artifacts
Image courtesy of UB Archaeological Survey

Figure 5 : Crews excavating TUs during Phase 2 south of the house.
Image courtesy of UB Archaeological Survey

York State Thruway (I-90) right-of-way. Shovel test pits are small, hand-dug excavations, about a foot in diameter and two feet deep, used to determine the presence or absence of artifacts and features in a given location. All the soil from shovel tests is sifted through ¼-inch wire mesh screens to standardize recovery methods and aid in finding small artifacts. Everything is saved by location on the grid and artifact distribution maps are made from these data. The pattern of artifacts on the landscape tells us a lot about how the site was used and how its use changed through time.

The reconnaissance at the Hull House produced 1,889 historic objects and, to our surprise, 34 Native American artifacts, mainly chips of stone tools (Figure 3). These objects are difficult to date and interpret, as most were recovered from disturbed soils. A wide variety of historic artifacts were found, dating to a broad time range from the 19th through the mid-20th century (Figure 4).

Domestic and architectural materials were found in the greatest quantity in the grass lawn north and west of the stone house. The densest concentration of artifacts was found near the rear basement door. Moderate-to-high density deposits were also identified in the lawn north, west and south of the house. Artifacts are scattered all across the western property line and along the boundary line between the two historic lots that comprise the site parcel. Isolated finds occur well north of the site, and in the field west of the cemetery.

Site Examination

Major excavations were conducted in 2006 around the Hull House, and in the lawn north of the house in anticipation of drainage system improvements (Figure 5, 6). The goals of this investigation were to determine the extent of architectural features, historic landscape modifications and household refuse deposits. This was accomplished through the excavation of 27 test units (TUs), measuring one square meter, or about 3x3 feet, and some smaller trenches. Test units are much larger than shovel tests and help to better define and sample the site deposits. They provide longer wall profiles for understanding features and soil layering, and produce more artifacts from more controlled excavation. As with shovel tests, soil is removed by hand using shovels and trowels and was sifted through ¼-inch wire mesh screens. Some soil was sifted through finer screening to recover even smaller artifacts.

A total of 19,825 artifacts were recovered, including 15,564 from the house perimeter and 3,261 from the north yard (Figure 7). The majority of artifacts (19,794) were historic, while 31 were of prehistoric origin. Artifacts associated with the typical household of the time period were found in distinct patterns. Evidence for food preparation and consumption activities was found in the lawn outside of the basement kitchen. Objects associated with meal consumption and tea drinking activities that likely occurred upstairs in the house's front rooms were found in the front lawn.

A dense fill layer was found throughout the testing area that contained architectural debris deposited during an extensive mid-

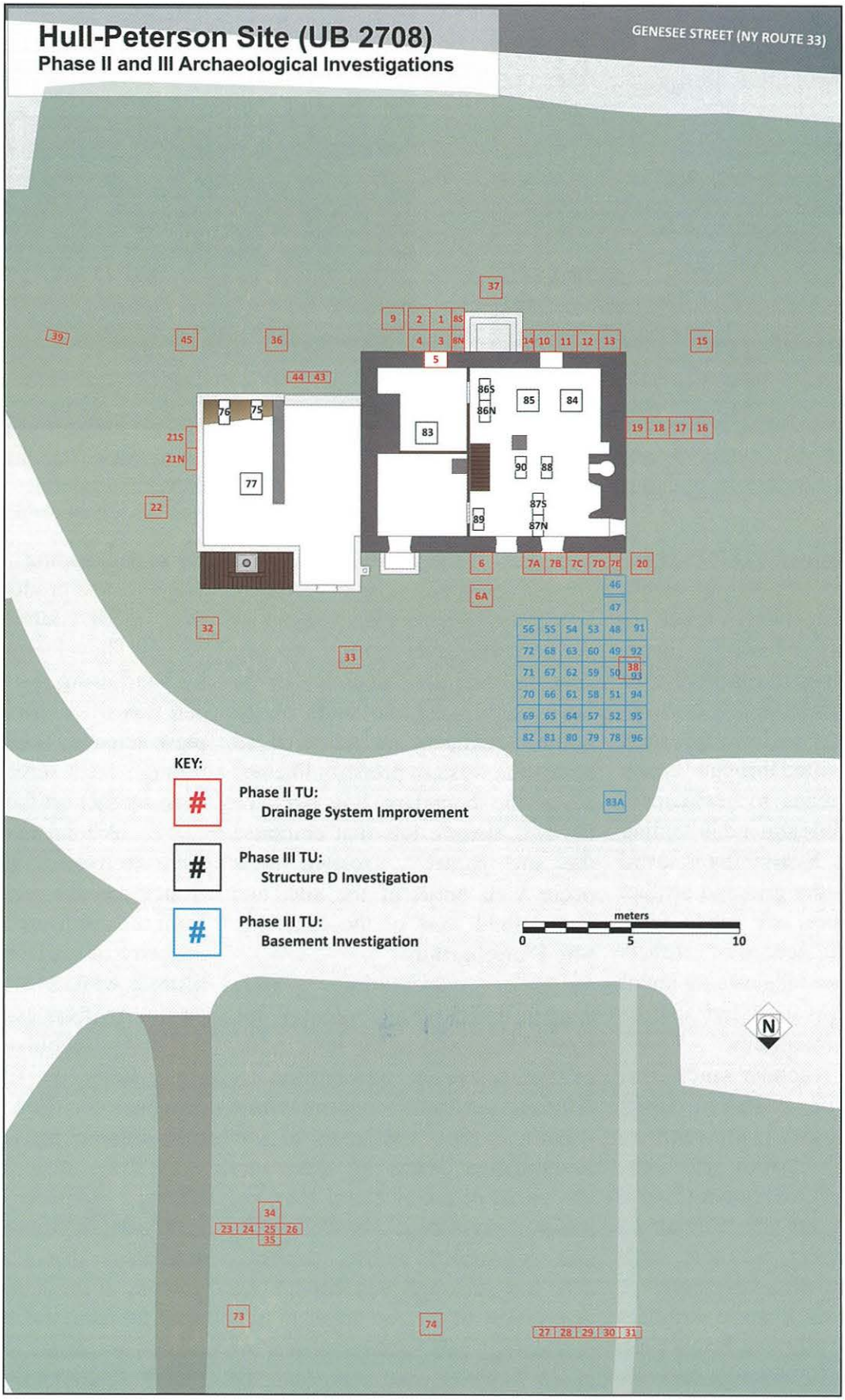


Figure 6: Phase 2 Site map
Image courtesy of
UB Archaeological Survey

Figure 7: Phase 2 historic artifacts
Image courtesy of
UB Archaeological Survey

Figure 8: Phase 2 architectural rubble
Image courtesy of
UB Archaeological Survey

19th century renovation (Figure 8). During the renovation, a single-story kitchen ell was built off the stone house's eastern façade. Unlike the basement kitchen fireplace, the new kitchen was fitted with a modern cook-stove. The basement continued to be used throughout the rest of the 19th century, but the range of activities performed was likely diminished. Artifacts that help us date the occupations of the site include broken dark-aqua window glass, but also things that are harder to date such as mortar, cut stone and brick. These materials are variously associated with the replacement of the house's early 19th century 12/12 windows with a more modern 6/6 arrangement, the removal of the parapet gable ends and ovular attic lights, the resetting of the house's roof line at a steeper angle and the addition of a decorative, gingerbread-style verge-board to the roof line.

After the mid-century renovation, the amount of refuse deposited in lawns increased dramatically, maybe as a consequence of having more manufactured and disposable consumer goods in the 19th and 20th centuries. A decline in kitchen rubbish in the front yard between the first and second occupations suggests that later households were intentionally disposing of rubbish in areas located away from the public eye. Previously, the occupants discarded food related materials onto the front lawn through the front windows and doors. Such behavior was commonplace during the early 19th century.[3] The rear lawn was always used for refuse disposal, though the basement kitchen was not as intensively used. The distance that household members traveled to dispose of basement kitchen garbage also decreased. These artifacts are concentrated closer to the rear door than in the previous period. This pattern suggests less effort in keeping the rear yard tidy. Not surprisingly, after the renovation, fewer artifacts are found in the front lawn. Despite the fact that most of the cooking was now taking place in the new first floor kitchen, the focus of the household's leisure activities had shifted to the front lawn. Thus the front of the house was kept cleaner.[4]

As can be seen, patterns discovered through archaeology reflect the way that household occupants managed their activities and the appearance of their physical space; their landscape. By studying artifacts and soils at the site we can tell when the occupants stopped dumping their garbage in more public areas, and instead transformed these areas into ornamental lawns fit for public display. It is likely that the same shift in ideology, evidenced by the change in front yard disposal patterns, played a substantial role in the reorganization of activity patterns symbolized by the new kitchen on the first floor ell. This shift is further illustrated by the alteration of the house's original gable ends and roofline to reflect a more modern, 'Victorian' appearance (Figure 9).[5]

Data Recovery

Since 2007, large-scale data recovery excavations have been ongoing in the lawn immediately north of the house, associated with

The Hull House: Architecture and Restoration

by Ted Bartlett

Built on a slight rise along Genesee Street, it is easy to envision how the Hull House would have dominated its surroundings. As one of the few surviving early nineteenth century Federal-style houses in Erie County, it is one of those special places that is readily recognizable, even to the casual observer, as having historical and architectural significance. Historian Austin Fox noted that the Federal style symbolized the newly independent country and its seemingly unlimited economic potential. Even today, in the midst of its restoration, the Hull House retains that prominent and distinctive visual character carefully established long ago by Warren and Polly Hull.

In 1992 the Landmark Society of the Niagara Frontier acquired the property to save it from potential demolition and redevelopment. Over the ensuing fifteen years, additional adjoining lands have been purchased, including the property on which the 1850s barn is located. Since its inception in 2006, the Hull House Foundation has been working to redevelop the house and immediate grounds for museum use in order to make the property available to the public and to assure the property's preservation. One of the initial efforts towards that objective was the preparation of an Historic Structure Report (HSR) by John Conlin in 1998. That preliminary, but thorough, HSR became the guide for early fund raising, activities, restoration planning and maintenance of the house and property. In 2003 serious restoration work on the house began and comprehensive planning for the completion of the house and site development was implemented.

The Federal Style: A Status Symbol on the Frontier

The house, as completed by the Hulls, was a local, that is to say vernacular, representation of the American neoclassical Federal or Federalist architectural style. The term Federal in this instance has little to do with the design origins of the style but more with timing. Its name comes from the time that it was popular, namely the Federal period of the early American republic, just after the American Revolution. The refined and formal character of the American Federal style reflects its Georgian style roots up through about 1800. About that time, the style broke away from the Georgian-style constraints and evolved with a freer, lighter mode of neo-classicism that was popular until the early 1830s in the United States. After that, it transitioned into, and was then replaced by, a new neoclassical, bold Greek Revival style.

So why would there be a house of such refined design in the middle of the Western New York frontier? It is all about image, success and projection of accomplishment. Buildings of substantial design rising out of the frontier landscape signified attainment of success by the builder. First and foremost, these early buildings illustrated the time-old rivalry between man and nature, that is to say man's success in dominating the environment (or at least being able to survive in it). From primitive log and plank dwellings to more permanent masonry and timber frame structures, houses that varied in design, materials, size and style were built to provide refuge and living quarters for the owners. Once the most basic need for shelter was addressed, settlers set out to improve their dwellings, both for comfort and for image. It was socially and economically important to make a statement of accomplishment to family, friends, colleagues and travelers. The Hull property was no exception.

Opportunities for financial success beckoned in the newly opened lands of Western New York and, by 1810, early dwellings were popping up to house the settlers coming from the East. Warren and Polly Hull arrived here via a circuitous route across New York State from areas where full-blown architectural designs in the Federal style were prominent. While Warren Hull's trek across New York took him physically further and further from the refinements of society and civilization, his emotional attachment to civilization remained. He quickly sought to imprint the visual order of their familiar society upon the wilderness. Hull would have been familiar with architectural pattern books and, more than likely, had received that portion of a gentleman's education including an understanding of basic

classical architectural styles and vocabulary, as well as the ability to draw an idiomatic classical building elevation for his house. From these tools, frontier settlers, masons and carpenters could produce a frontier version of refined architecture. Warren Hull had a house plan in mind that would command respect from other settlers and new arrivals. The venerable stone house on the site could not be more representative of the settler mindset in the first quarter of the nineteenth century.

It should be noted that their first dwelling on the site remains undocumented. It appears that the present house was commenced about 1810 with evidence suggesting two possible scenarios. It is possible that the basement section was completed, and possibly occupied first, while the upper stories were not finished until several years later. The second possible scenario is that some of the timber was reused from an earlier house. Dendrochronological research and historical research seem to indicate a completion of the house in phases. Research is on-going that will hopefully further define the construction date.

Site and setting, like the building style, were of the utmost importance to portray permanence, accomplishment and arrival. The placement, with the raised façade of the Hull House at the head of Pavement Road, was not coincidental; it was carefully designed to give it prominence. It made the house visually dominant over the surrounding site. The placement of the house facing south at the upper end of the north/south Pavement Road lent a sense of status and estate to its setting, while using Pavement Road as reflective of a long entry driveway. At the time the house was built, there were freshly cleared lands and open spaces, surrounded by the rather rough beginnings of settlement. The raised foundation with exposed, basement-level windows allowed for the house to appear taller and in control of its wilderness surroundings. Likewise, although undocumented to date, there were probably tree plantings and a fence to set off the house and its site. Possibly the outbuildings, like barns and sheds, were set behind the house at a lower grade with the house placed front and center to further emphasize its control over nature and the status of its owners. Here, then, is a building of refinement. In the crude, rough frontier environment, the sophisticated home of the landowner brought a sense of civility to the wilderness setting. Who could argue that the owner/builder of this house was anything but accomplished?

Drawing from its roots in American neoclassicism, and in particular from the Adams brothers' refining influences upon the formality of eighteenth century American colonial Georgian style, the Federal style is clearly the heir to many characteristics typical of this time period. In scale and massing, Federal-style buildings exhibited rectangular form and were often as symmetrical as possible. Symmetry was important to the visual classical and neo-classical notions and translated into order and organization for the layout of buildings of the era. While the Federal-style building may be formal and representative of the most refined design and ornamentation of the period, greatly simplified versions of form, plan and ornamentation abounded to create the visual character. These vernacular interpretations of the Federal style are prominent across New York State, and the Hull House stands as perfect example of localized style on the frontier. For example, the ellipse is a frequent architectural motif found in the Roman-inspired, Federal-style building and, in the Hull House, it appears on the exterior in the wide fanlight over the front

The Hull House showing restored roof and windows.
Image from the collection of Gary Howell

The simplified Palladian window.
Image courtesy of Douglas Kohler

doorway, in the oval attic windows in the end gables and in the library mantelpiece. Means, materials, social status and local skills were important determining factors of vernacular design, construction and detailing.

The Federal Style: Fundamental Characteristics

The Federal-style Hull House, with its balanced proportions, epitomizes the hallmark symmetrical idiom within the rectangular box. A raised basement supports a connected first and second story, all of which are topped with a gable roof stretching between two rising masonry step gables. Designs of this era were clear and straightforward. The exterior walls were plain, flat stucco, though they may have been scored to look like stone block. Window and doorway punctuations reinforced the building symmetry. Ornament was limited to the center bay of the building, with a doorway, elliptical fanlight and second story window embellishments. At the same time, these central features provided the axial center of the building with flanking symmetrical features on each side. Following the simple tenets of the Federal-style plan and form, Warren and Polly Hull made slight modifications for their occupancy situation and, through the judicious application of ornamental features, they were able to build a substantial home that imparted a strong image of accomplishment, prosperity and frugality.

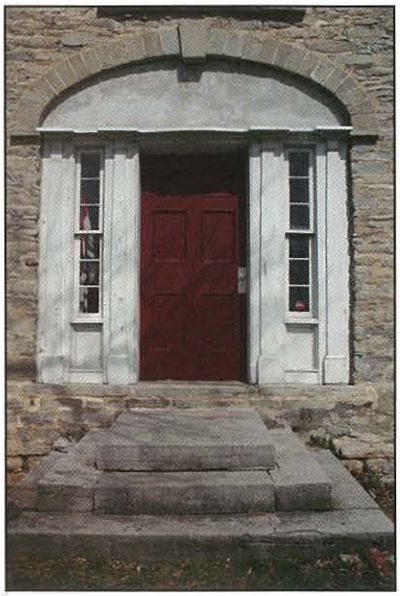
The center was anchored by steps leading to grade, with a doorway at the first story, and tri-partite window at the second story. The tri-partite window is a greatly simplified version of a Palladian window that would have been a common, prominent feature on a less-restrained house. Single windows flank the entrance stairs on the basement level. At the first story are two large, double-hung window penetrations, equidistant from the doorway and outside corners. Likewise at the second story there are two similarly-sized window penetrations between the center window and outside corners. The prominent central entry stairs, doorway and window features draw the eye to the center of the building and establish essentially a five-bay building façade. Flanking windows and wall surfaces serve to visually support, but not conflict with, the center symmetrical bay of the building. Ironically the east, west and north elevations, while strongly rectangular and symmetrical in massing, have minimal attempts at symmetry where fenestration, or window placement, is concerned. Windows and doorways are placed where they are needed for function, not simply for appearance.

While traditionally thought of as horizontally arranged, there is a strong vertical element in this vernacular version of Federal-style architecture that provides visual tension between the horizontal and vertical elements. The strong horizontality is defined by the layout of the fenestration, roofline and rectangular plan. The verticality is stressed at the gable end walls, with stepped gables rising up beyond the horizontal mass and providing somewhat of a vertical termination at the ends of the building.

Roof eaves project slightly over the façade, with entablature returns terminating at the ends, and no returns extending around the building corner. Based upon numerous other examples in the region, it is believed that, although undocumented at Hull House, there would have been a balustrade across the roof eaves stopping at the masonry end walls that extend up beyond the roof plane. A balustrade provided an important top or finishing feature of the facade as found in American neoclassical- and Federal-style designs.

Construction

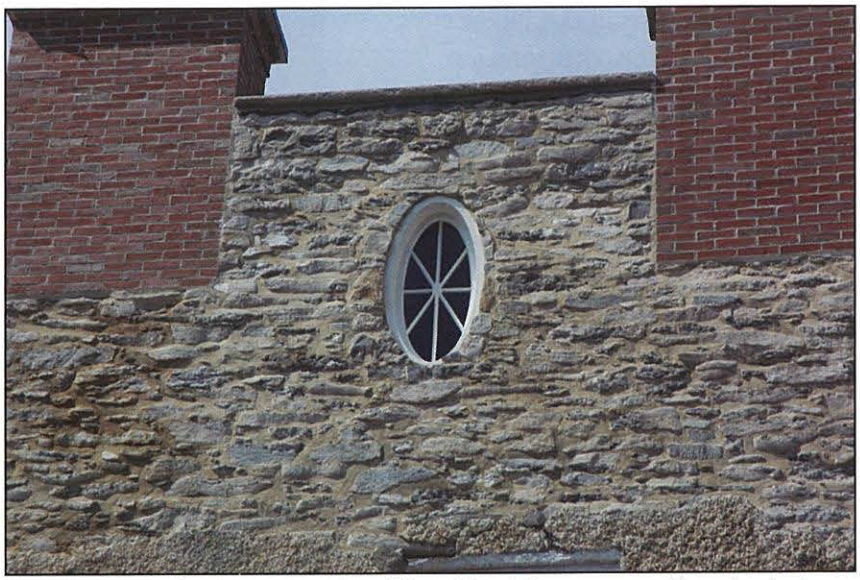
Construction of the stone masonry house is very traditional, with load bearing exterior masonry walls and timber framing within. In



The Hull House's signature exterior with an elliptical arch, six panel door and sidelights.
Image courtesy of Douglas Kohler

this case, masonry construction contributed to the image of the house, but in all probability the use of stone was also cost effective. The general stone on the house is not cut or quarried; it is surface glacial limestone found at grade near the back of the property. A thick stone foundation wall supports rubble stone masonry upper exterior walls and stepped gable end walls. Given the unrefined nature of the stone masonry exterior, and lack of tooled quoins or stonework, it has been concluded that the stonework was originally stuccoed to create a flat surface, possibly even with stone joints scribed into the stucco. The stonework on this house is rough, with poorly aligned mortar joints, and is juxtaposed to the cut stone sills and lintels. Given the formality of the Federal style, in all likelihood this house was designed to have a smooth exterior wall surface mimicking refined cut stonework. During masonry restoration work an early layer of stucco has been found under the mid-nineteenth century pebbly stucco. The early layer of stucco is integral with many of the mortar joint materials. No penciling lines for scoring have been documented.

Tooled stonework is limited mainly to the façade of the house in the windowsills, overhead splayed window lintels, doorway threshold and elliptical arch over the doorway. Secondary elevations have tooled sills and doorway thresholds only. Gable end walls have integral fireplace chimneys and flues within them. Heavy hewn mortise and tenon floor and roof timber framing systems extend between the exterior masonry walls and support the interior of the house. Dimensional sawn floor joists are pocketed into the stone walls and framing timbers. The flooring is sawn, tongue-and-groove, six-inch-wide boards nailed to the framing. Typical of early Western New York construction is the use of wide, sawn planks for interior wall framing. These can also be found in exterior walls in timber frame houses of the period. The availability of large amounts of timber for lumber allowed for this rather inefficient use of materials. Instead of regularly dimensioned studs placed at regular intervals, large, 2-inch-thick square sawn planks were installed next to each other forming a solid plank wall. Wooden lath was nailed to each side, then plaster applied, and the interior wall was complete.



The restored eastern end gable with chimneys and oval window.
Image courtesy of Douglas Kohler

Interior Layout

The balanced proportion and symmetrical arrangement of the Federal style is also found inside the house, anchored to the center hallway which extends from the front doorway to back exterior doorway, and dividing the plan of the house into two equal halves. Often each of the halves was divided into two rooms of about equal size in what was called the "center hall four-room plan." Warren Hull followed that concept, sustaining the balanced proportions with the plan of the center hallway and two equal sized rooms with fireplaces on the west side of the house. However, on the east half of the house is found a large common room taking up about 60% of the space, with two smaller service rooms at the rear. Suggestive of what is often called a tavern layout, the large room could accommodate roadhouse or tavern activities. On the second story, a similar plan is found: two equal rooms on the west, a small room at the head of the stairs at the rear of the center hallway and a large single room occupying the east half of the second story. While a slight deviation from a strict symmetrical interior plan may seem at odds with the façade symmetry, such vernacular interpretations of plan are not unusual for this time period. Differing from earlier eighteenth century Federal-style construction that exhibited much panel work, the Hull House has flat plastered walls and ceilings throughout, with no ceiling cornices or decorative

The cooking fireplace and crane in the basement kitchen. The bee-hive bake oven, located to the left of the fireplace, with its original wood mantel.
Image from the collection of Gary Howell

plinth blocks and elliptical cutouts over the pilasters, all similar to those found on the exterior doorway. The rectangular panel in the breast board has an elliptical cutout as well. The room does not have the naturally lighted characteristics of the parlor, with trim and floor finishes accentuated in bright blue greens. The room exudes simplicity of light colored plaster walls with bright blue accents, an extremely popular visual character of secondary space finishes during the Federal style era. The rear window has always been suspected of being an original doorway, given the "ghosts" found in the masonry wall. During restoration of the window it was determined that it was a window first, then a doorway, then again a window.

Found in the common room on the east half of the first story is the exception to the secondary wood trim. This room has an applied ovolo backband, an 18th century Federal-style holdover, on the trim, flat panel wainscot around the room and flat plaster walls above. This large room, with a central projecting fireplace on the east wall, is reflective of a typical tavern room layout that might have been found in the Federal-style frontier or wayside building. The Hulls most likely used this space as a common or dining room, however. It is directly connected to the basement kitchen and has a pantry adjacent. The placement of wainscot, while attractive, is also a functional feature that protects the lower sections of wall surfaces. The wainscot installed here is a simple, large flat board panel with applied flat board dividers. The projecting molded cap and trim are integral with the projecting window stool sills. No other decorative moldings or trim are found on the wainscot. The windows have a similar panelized reveal with no extra trim detail. Other than the two front windows, the room lacks symmetry. On the east wall is a projecting fireplace, which was reconstructed in 2009.

Three oddities are found in the room layout. The first is the placement of the basement doorway in the center of the west wall; usually service doorways were in less prominent locations. The second is the angled doorway into the office at the northwest corner. The third is the exterior doorway at the southeast corner, more often a tavern feature than a household feature. These anomalies, with peculiar framing below, suggest that the final plan for this room may have been an alteration to the earliest ideas for this space. The room, while refined with wainscot and ovolo trim features, remains as a purely functional room to accommodate eating and common room activities.

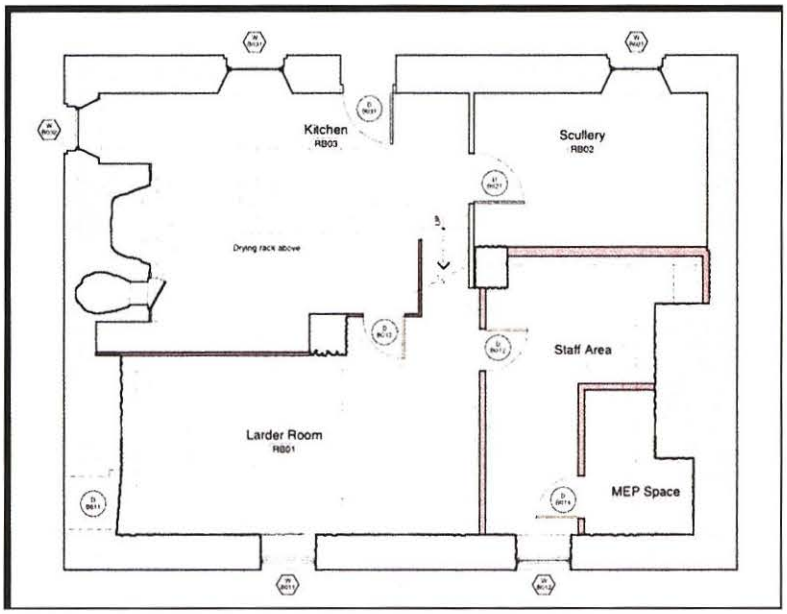
Behind the common room to the north are two service rooms. In the northeast corner is the pantry with shelving and one window. Extending across the remainder of the north section to the center hallway is a room referred to as the office, with close access to the rear exterior doorway. Its original configuration is somewhat unclear in that it may have been two rooms very early on and then one room when restored, probably during Warren Hull's occupancy. Both office and pantry have the simplest of trim features and detailing.

The Kitchen

The kitchen is located in the basement with an at-grade entrance to the rear of the site. The room is well-lighted by natural light from windows, with large cook hearth and bake ovens projecting from the west wall. A dry sink would have

The northern elevation of the house with restored windows, eves and roof. The kitchen entrance is the center door on the lowest level.
Image from the collection of Gary Howell

been located against the northwest corner. A finished service room for cooking and food-related activities occupied the northeast corner and was lit by a western-facing window. Under the main floor is a large masonry cistern for collection of rainwater. The kitchen had simply detailed flat trim and mantelpiece with flat plaster ceiling and walls. Behind the kitchen, in the south half of the cellar, was an unfinished room that appears to have been used for cold storage.

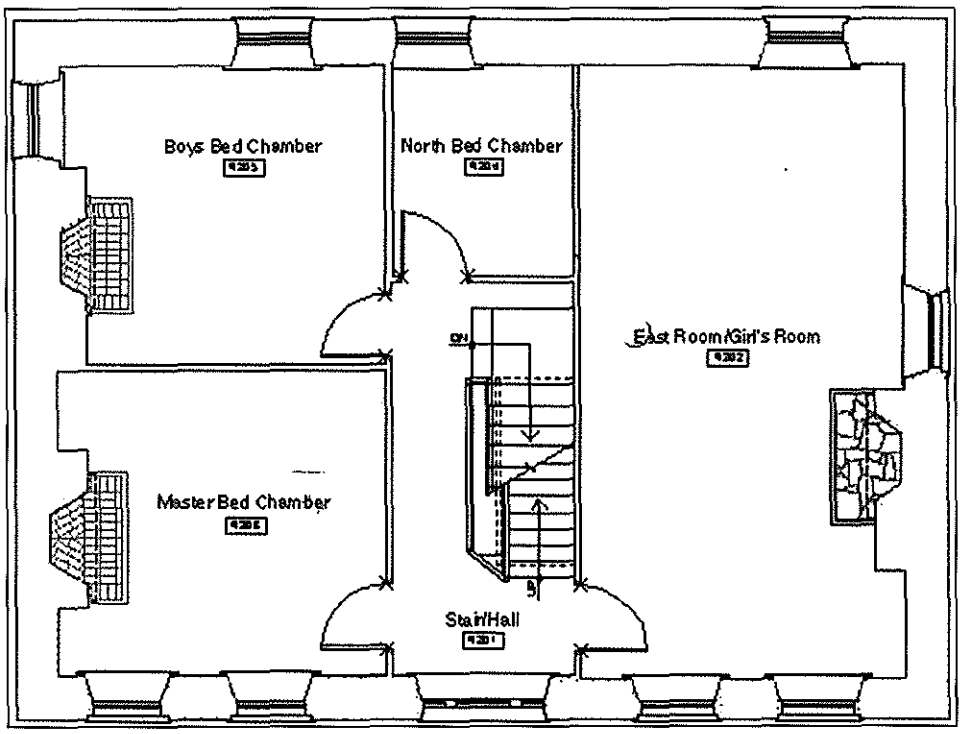


The floor plan for the basement of the Hull House.
Image courtesy of Crawford & Stearns, Architects

The Second Story

The second story of the house was laid out similarly to the first, with two bedchambers on the west half of the center hallway, a larger southwest bedchamber in the front and a boys' bedchamber behind. The north end of the center hallway was partitioned off as a small bedroom, the north bedchamber, and the eastern half of the second story was a single large bedchamber, which was the girls' bedchamber.

The center hall had the same level architectural detailing, finishes and colors as found in the entry hall on the first story. The defining quality, as below, was simplicity;



The floor plan for the second floor of the Hull House.
Image courtesy of Crawford & Stearns, Architects

the two primary features in this space being the stairway against the east wall and the tri-partite window in the south wall.

The primary bedchamber was the master bedchamber, which is directly over the parlor in the southwest corner of the house. Utilizing the same square plan as in the parlor below, this bed chamber does not have the built-in corner cupboard, and the entry doorway is located in the south end of the hallway wall, not the center like downstairs. The room is well-lighted by two windows and has a projecting fireplace in the center of the west wall. The trim in the room is the same secondary trim with backband found elsewhere, and the windows have the same flat board paneled reveals but no panels below the windowsill. The location of the room and the detailing of the fireplace give this room a higher level of refinement than the other bedchambers. The wooden fireplace mantelpiece has applied trim pilasters supporting a narrow horizontal trim band, with the same pilaster trim extending up to support an articulated top shelf with moldings underneath. The pilaster trim is similar to, but not exactly the same as, that found in the parlor. The mantelpiece is quintessential American rural Federal style. The room, with flat plaster walls and ceiling, had painted finishes with yellowish walls, ivory ceiling and brown colored flooring. The trim was two-tone with light greenish blue and deeper Prussian blue hues. Most of the Hull features survive.

The northwest bedchamber, or boys' bedroom, like the rooms below, is a restrained version of the corresponding front room; this square room has no symmetry with placement of features other than the fireplace, which is somewhat centered in the west wall. Detailing consists of simple, secondary trim with backband and baseboards, and the walls and ceilings are flat plaster with no cornices. The wooden fireplace mantelpiece has a simple architrave-surround molding with plinth blocks and a broad shelf with complex support molding. The room was painted with white walls, ivory ceiling and deep-blue painted floor. The trim was two tones with light greenish-blue and deeper Prussian blue hues; these colors are the same as the master bedchamber trim, but reversed in placement. Again, most of the Hull features survive.

The north bedchamber is small, and occupies the north end of the center hallway. Simple, secondary trim is found in the small space, with the placement of features, one window and one doorway offset, not allowing for room symmetry. The room, with flat plaster walls and ceiling, had painted finishes, the walls and ceiling being off whites and the trim having a two-tone brown color scheme. The floor appears to have been unfinished.

The girls' room occupies the entire east half of the second story, with two windows in the front and one in the east and north walls, respectively. The large, projecting fireplace occupies the front section of the east wall. The character of this room is defined by its size and the amount of natural light, while the trim features are the same secondary trim features as found elsewhere in the house. This room may correspond to the earliest size room on the first floor, and its size is also suggestive of public house use. The reconstructed wooden mantelpiece is similar to the one found in the boys' bedchamber. The room, with flat plaster walls and ceiling, had painted finishes, the walls and ceiling being off-whites, the trim having a two-tone brown color scheme, and the floor a

yellowish-brown color.

The Hull House in the Mid-19th Century

At the time when the frontier was being settled and vast lands were being opened up, agriculture was a fundamental reality of life for most Americans, and rural architecture loomed large as a subject of importance up through the Civil War. The Hull House was one of those important structures. However, change was in the offing, and new owners with modern, mid-nineteenth century sensibilities brought visual and architectural changes to the Hull House.

The nineteenth century was one of rapid change across the young United States, but nowhere was this change as rapid as upstate New York. The advent of the Erie Canal, followed by railroads, connected the western part of the state with the East Coast. The frontier character quickly gave way to the development of both industry and agriculture. Along with the financial successes and developments of the United States came new attitudes towards architectural designs. By mid-century, the neoclassical idiom for houses had been absorbed into the burgeoning romantic mode and the Picturesque. Led by such notables as Calvert Vaux, A. J. Davis, and A. J. Downing, the romantic notion focused on working within the land and environment; site and natural setting were important. Architecture used natural materials and naturalistic, flowing designs to fit into the landscape, as opposed to the neo-classical notion of dominating the landscape. The Gothic revival style, the plethora of Italianate styles and other romantically inspired designs became the norm for residential construction. In cases where the old homestead was of neoclassical design, a facelift was in order, with applied details and many physical alterations. Such was the case for the Hull House.

By the 1860s, the impact of romantic designs had been applied to the boxy, neoclassical Hull House. Most notable was the removal of the tall end chimney step gables and roof cornice, and its replacement with a wide, pitched roof with deep overhangs, sawn scrollwork at the eaves and raking cornice overhangs. Likewise the 12/12 double-hung window sashes were replaced with 6/6 sashes; the shutters were changed, and the smooth exterior stucco was changed to a pebbly stucco. The east board and batten-sided addition was added; the front stoop was replaced with stone steps, and paint colors were changed to earthy tones. The grounds saw substantive changes as well. The grade was raised at the front, landscaping was changed from formal to romantic and the barn assumed its mid-nineteenth century form. While significantly changing the exterior of the house, these alterations were simply detailed and undertaken in a frugal manner, not unlike Warren Hull's work. On the interior, the northwest first story room was opened up to include the back of the main hall and part of the office area by removing the hallway back doorway. This created one large living space across the back of the house. Subsequent installation of large double doors to the parlor further opened up the plan of the house. The fireplace and chimney were removed from the common room, and the east common room window was changed to a doorway, providing access to the new one-story east wing. More open use and layout of house interiors was possible as technological improvements in the nineteenth century changed the heating of houses from fireplaces to stoves, then to more sophisticated

The parlor fireplace with molding.
Image courtesy of Crawford & Stearns, Architects

stoves and subsequently to central heating systems. Surface finishes were changed to elaborate, colorful mid- and late-nineteenth century wallpapers, deep trim colors including grain paint, and carpeting. The basic early form, plan and features of the neoclassical house remained embedded within the new appearance, however.

The Hull House is emblematic of American Picturesque, with initial design reflective of the neoclassical period of Picturesque, only to be modified mid-century with naturalistic detailing and features, signaling a shift to the romantic period of American Picturesque.

Restoration

Over the next 100 years, little architectural work of a profound nature occurred. The Hull House continued as a farmhouse, with repairs and alterations that were necessary for use, but none of significant architectural merit. By the time the Society acquired the house and property in 1992, the house retained most of its mid-nineteenth century character, although with noticeable modernizations and in a seriously worn and deteriorated condition.

A plan on how to proceed was needed. The basic family history, developmental history, archaeological work and architectural significance of the house and site were scrutinized and, from initial work and subsequent research, it was determined that the important focal era for restoration and interpretation would be the early years of the house as a pre-Erie Canal, Western New York pioneer homestead. Using the Hull House, Hull family occupancy and site as architectural, cultural/economic and landscape backdrops, a conceptual plan evolved to establish an interactive museum site reflective of a pioneer homestead for this region, circa 1815. Research and existing conditions assessments continued with a team of professionals, including architectural historians, landscape historians, preservation architects, preservation landscape architects, cultural historians, genealogical historians, archaeologists, finish consultants, dendrochronologists and others, all under the leadership and coordination of the Hull House Foundation Board members and volunteers.

Appropriate developmental planning for important cultural resources like the Hull House is based upon a well-established set of principles and research technologies; it is not a subjective decision. The criteria have been established by the National Park Service (NPS) to assess historic resources and their significance, and for the appropriate treatment of historic resources (including museums). These treatment standards and accompanying philosophies have also been widely accepted as basic preservation standards in the private sector as well. The preservation treatments, as outlined by the National Park Service, are those that form the basis for the recommendations developed for the Hull House. Those four distinct, but interrelated, approaches to the treatment of historic resources are: preservation, rehabilitation, restoration and reconstruction. These are the same standards used by the New York State Historic Preservation Office.

Restoration to the pre-Erie Canal Era is the appropriate preservation treatment for Hull House architecture. Restoration as a treatment allows for the removal of features, as well as the reconstruction of missing features, in order to return the resource to its circa 1815 condition. In this case, that meant removing the mid-nineteenth century roof and chimney alterations, the window alterations, the stucco alterations, the stone front steps, the east one-story addition and interior alterations. Prior to any

The restored 12 over 12 windows.
Image courtesy of Crawford & Stearns, Architects

removals, however, each feature to be removed was documented, researched and, in the case of the trim, finishes and wallpapers, preserved in storage after removal.

The first challenge undertaken was the restoration of the roof, eaves, end step gables with chimneys and upper stone masonry. With careful examination of existing roof construction, details and materials, a restoration plan was devised for the roof of the Hull House. The 2006 work retained and repaired a large amount of original building fabric, removed mid-nineteenth century alteration/features and reconstructed documented missing circa 1815 features. Comparisons with other stone step gable chimney houses of the period, along with reading existing details and "ghosts" of details, facilitated the roof restoration. The four brick chimneys above the step gable were reconstructed along with the upper section of stone masonry step gable walls. The oval gable windows were reconstructed, as were the front and rear eaves with cornice details and built-in gutters, and a sawn wood shingle roof was installed. A profound change in the appearance of the house resulted from the first phase of work: its neoclassical form and detailing began to re-emerge. It is important to note that, while this work made a strong and important first effort in the restoration process, it also addressed many maintenance and physical problems related to leaking and deteriorated roof conditions.

While this work was underway, additional physical study of the house was completed. In 2008-2009, windows were restored, based upon physical research indicating that the 6/6 sashes had been installed within the original heavy wooden frames, leaving many original features still in place. About half of the window frames required extensive reconstruction and masonry opening re-alignments. Reconstructed window frames and trim replicated the originals. Only a photograph of two original sashes remained. From the photo and physical evidence in the surviving window units, new 12/12 sashes were custom-made and installed. Window restoration has required tedious and time-consuming craftsmanship and will be completed in 2010. The visual change to the exterior with the restored sash is dramatic. At the same time, the 1860s frame east wing with 1960s extension was removed, exposing the east elevation of the house, grade changes and common room window. A previously unknown feature revealed here is the presence of a porch deck along the east elevation of the house.

Reading and interpreting interior conditions continues. Using forensic techniques that involve opening up construction for assessment and paint finish assessment will culminate in a plan for the restoration of the original interior layout of the house in 2009. Many questions about details and plan were answered by on-site investigation. The discovery of a missing original cupboard in the parlor, and confirmation that the large parlor doorway was a later addition, has allowed for a restoration design for the parlor, retaining its original features. Dramatic changes to the interior are the restoration of the northwest rear room, rear section of the center hallway and pantry/office area. As previously noted, the mid-nineteenth century changes had opened this into one large room across the back of the first story and filled in the original rear doorway. The pantry/office area has seen several wall relocations and configuration changes, none of which would have been discernible

The façade of the house creped in black for Civil War Days.
Image from the collection of Gary Howell

without intrusive physical examination. The reconstruction of the missing common room fireplace completely changes the character and scale of this room to its circa 1815 appearance. Upstairs, the east bedroom had been partitioned off early on, with an eventual bathroom located at the end of the former large space. As part of the 2009 work the alterations were removed while the large east room plan and small north bedroom plan were restored.

The immediate landscape around the Hull House still holds many mysteries. As part of the restoration it would be best if the working relationship of close-by outbuildings, features and plantings was reflected as accurately as possible. Archaeological research into sub-surface conditions has the potential to answer many of these questions. Archaeological investigations have already determined circa 1815 grade levels, walkway paving and large foundations to the rear of the house. Important out-structures not yet pinpointed are the privy, sheds, summer kitchen, fences and barns.

The Hull House and its site possess the potential to illustrate and demonstrate for the public a brief, but critical, time period at the beginning of this region's settlement. Most histories focus on the impact of the Erie Canal and subsequent growth. New and revealing research into the personalities, Holland Land Office records, settlement patterns and way of life in this area "before the canal" is providing rich, historical material about this region and site. The Hull House and site development will provide an authentic venue from which to tell this compelling story of the region's settlement period.

Hull Family Home & Farmstead: Vision for the Future

by Gary N. Costello

The c.1810 Hull Family Home & Farmstead, presented to the public as an historic, educational interpretive site, will tell the rich, otherwise untold story of pioneer settlement in Western New York. Additionally, it will encompass the many stories associated with the history of the house and lives of the Hull family and their descendants.

The Hull House restoration project aims to re-create, as accurately as possible, a microcosm of pioneer life on the Niagara Frontier in the days of its earliest pioneer settlement. This vision includes a fully restored house and illustrative farm with outbuildings.

The mission of the Hull Family Home & Farmstead is focused upon helping the citizens of Western New York and others to learn of the contribution made to the settlement and development of the community by some of the earliest white pioneers to the Western New York region. This goal will be met first by preserving and restoring the c.1810 Hull Family Home & Farmstead. Then, as we conserve, rebuild, hold and maintain this rare historic resource, our focus shifts to presenting and interpreting the Hulls' home and grounds. The goal is to engage, inform and inspire visitors as they learn about the lives and contributions of the Hull family, this historic dwelling and its later inhabitants. The events that occurred here and in Western New York during the house's period of prime significance–1815-1825 –have been largely overlooked and uniterpreted.

To reach this end, the Hull Family Home & Farmstead will

The sheep from "Sheep to Shawl."
Image from the collection of Gary Howell

operate as an educational historic resource, open to the public. We hope to contribute to the public's understanding and appreciation of the earliest settlement of Western New York through tours, exhibits, lectures and special events, while enhancing regional efforts to promote the Buffalo Niagara region as a heritage tourism destination.

There is an important role for heritage sites such as Hull House in the education and cultural development of those who live in our community. These sites help to tell the story of how we got here, how we grew and developed, and about who we are as a community. The key to the heart of heritage sites such as Hull House is to tell real stories – stories that explain the places and also tell why they are important. The benefit that derives from this is the understanding of the meaning and the value of our community and its past. This, in turn, helps to create a sense of 'place' and a sense of shared experiences and meaning. The significance of the 1810 Hull Family Home & Farmstead and the stories that can be woven throughout the Hull House experience include, but are not limited to, the following:

1.) The role of early pioneer settlers in the settlement and development of Western New York.

2.) The Hulls are representative of the lives lived by Western New York's earliest settlers, and so present multiple opportunities to interpret daily life during that time, including the connection between Warren Hull and Joseph Ellicott, agent for the Holland Land Company. Warren Hull purchased 'an article' for his farm from Joseph Ellicott in 1804.

3.) The related story of Joseph Ellicott's plan for 'New Amsterdam' as unveiled in 1804.

4.) The architectural significance of the Hull House as a rare surviving example of early federal style architecture from the early 19th century in the Niagara Region.

5.) Its distinction as home to Warren Hull, a veteran of the American Revolutionary War.

6.) The house as a place of refuge for those fleeing the village of Buffalo during its burning by the British in December 1813.

7.) The related story of the two Hull sons who fought in the War of 1812.

8.) Links to the broad pattern of westward expansion of the United States as told in part by the migration of the Hull children and grandchildren who, by the 1850's, had branched out to no fewer than six mid-western states.

9.) Western New York's role in the American Civil War as illustrated by Hull descendants who served in the Union Army.

10.) The interrelationship between Western New York settlers, the development of Western New York, and the Erie Canal.

11.) The Hull family saga as it can be interpreted through the family cemetery on-site.

12.) The importance in the storytelling of the valuable archaeological resources on the site.

13.) The story of the earliest Hulls in America (George Hull c1630) and their descendency to Warren Hull, born 1762.

14.) The interrelations between white settlers and the Native Americans that inhabited the

A Revolutionary War era Ranger at the Hull House.
Image from the collection of Gary Howell

learn to their own lives – hoping to be "engaged" and involved or drawn into the setting. Towards this end, much of the interpretive programming at the Hull Family Home & Farmstead will be of a 'first person' nature – programming with interpreters who take on the persona of particular historical figures and who speak in the first person. To advance the primary mission of education at the 1810 Hull Family Home & Farmstead, a broad array of experiences will be offered visitors through a variety of methods, to encourage their understanding and appreciation of the multifaceted heritage story presented here.

Tours

Tours of the site will be available in a variety of schemes. Open visitation at the home and grounds, with regular, established days and hours of operation will be a mainstay. In addition, group tours arranged by special interests and commercial tours arranged for a special destination, or as a part of a multi-site circuit through professional tour companies, will also be incorporated.

An important function of this unique historic resource will be visitation by school children. The Hull Family Home & Farmstead will become a field trip destination for elementary and middle school students to learn, first hand, about early pioneer life on the Western New York frontier, as well as the significant role played by our region in the westward expansion of America. Educational materials supporting a site visit, and in concert with NYS Education Department Regents' mandates, will be developed and offered to schools.

Focused field studies will also be offered at Hull House, providing opportunities for students to learn by becoming immersed in hands-on experiences in a particular concentration of study (i.e. food-ways, early clothing/textiles, trades, period crafts, pioneer farming, historic preservation practice and archaeology study).

Lectures

Many opportunities exist for reaching the residents of the region with the Hull story. A lecture series will offer opportunity for the presentation of a myriad of heritage topics of interest. Potential topics include: early federal architecture, a history of lace, music of the early 19th century, early lighting devices, fashion and clothing of the period, Buffalo in the War of 1812, building methods of the era, the Underground Railroad in the region and many more.

Seminars are another educational opportunity to present pertinent topics of interest to the community. The seminar format would offer a full day or two of immersion in a particular topic. Seminars would likely incorporate a lecture component, discussion component, and a 'lab' or 'hands-on' element as well. A sampling of topics that may be presented include: 19th century woodworking, carpentry techniques, gardens of the early 1800's and cooking on the open hearth.

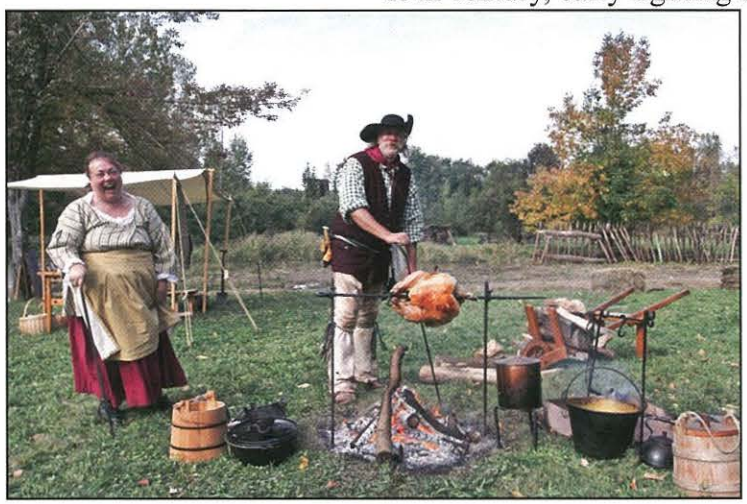
Archaeology

An ongoing archaeological effort will be an integral part of the Hull Family Home & Farmstead experience. A fully detailed archaeological survey is being undertaken so as to maximize the potential for understanding the Hull House site in its full 19th century context and, therefore, to allow for the most accurate interpretation of the site and its history. This effort will have a public education component that will encourage the active participation of residents of the community.

Special Events

The 1810 Hull Family Home & Farmstead, as an historic educational interpretive site, will offer a grand opportunity for the conduct of an almost endless variety of special events. These events will focus on the educational benefit to the public, and provide new reasons to visit the site on a repeat basis. Topics may include:

1. Archaeology Public Days



Interpreting 18th Century cooking at the Hull House.
Image from the collection of Gary Howell

2. Native American Culture
3. War of 1812 Military Encampment
4. Quilt Show and Sale
5. Christmas at the Hull House
6. Antiques Show and Sale
7. Civil War School of the Surgeon
8. Civil War Military Encampment
9. Water Color Artists Show and Sale
10. A Formal Tea
11. Dashing Through the Snow-Sleigh Rides
12. Flag Day Ceremony
13. 4th of July Celebration
14. Ice Cream - The Early Days

Additional Acreage

To complete the full development of the Hull Family Home & Farmstead as a premier heritage interpretive site, the acquisition of additional acreage has been undertaken. Five acres of vacant farmland to the south of Genesee Street and east of Pavement Road has been acquired. This land allows for the permanent preservation of the existing viewshed and maintains the aura of the site as it has been for hundreds of years. And it is here that the envisioned visitor center will be constructed. This center will be the focal point of many of the Hull Family Home & Farmstead's important and related functions, as well as many of its educational activities. The Victorian home to the west of Hull House has also been acquired, and now serves as the Foundation's headquarters. An additional 7 acres of land north of the headquarters building will soon be added to the Hull campus. These additional lands, totaling 17 acres, will allow for the maximum development of the Hull House heritage interpretive site; increasing programming opportunities and potential visitation as well as improving sustainability."

Conclusion

The Hull Family Home & Farmstead will provide an innovative and important new attribute to our region's growing arts, culture and heritage assets. Its focus will be on educating visitors about a broad range of historic topics related to the earliest years of Western New York settlement that have been long overlooked. It will be a 'living history' site, with programming focused on interactive participation from visitors. In addition to the restored home, attendant ancillary structures will be established, a farm setting created, the family cemetery restored and a visitors center created, which will offer a host of services. Tours, lectures, seminars and special events will all be incorporated into the methods for presenting this important part of our local history. The Hull Family Home & Farmstead promises to be one of the most exciting attractions on the landscape.

The Haunted Barn has become a Hull House tradition.
Image from the collection of Gary Howell

Hull Family Home & Farmstead: Programming

by Suzanne Jacobs

To create a vision in the mind's eye is to conceptualize the ideal. It is to dream of a perfection.

Thus is the vision for the Hull Family Home & Farmstead: a dream that one day visitors will come to enjoy the fully restored house and fields and outbuildings and be able to interact with family members, farmhands and animals as the daily work and chores are performed. The dream includes an education and visitor center, where a tour might begin with exhibits or perhaps a performance or demonstration.

This is the ideal, but in 2010, we live in the reality of the process. While the house itself is not completely restored, while the outbuildings have yet to be built and the fields have yet to be planted, we have not waited for the physical site work to be finished; we have, from the beginning, pursued our mission of educating and interpreting pioneer life in the early 19th century. By doing this, we have provided a unique educational opportunity for our visitors: they have been able to see the restoration as it progresses, and learn from it. Most people have come back again and again to watch the improvements, reveling in the fact that they remember "what it used to look like," and thus appreciating every new/old feature.

At the same time the restoration has been taking place, a variety of educational and entertaining programs have been developed. We could embellish and say that this development has occurred in a linear fashion, according to a grand plan. However, many of our activities have begun as a brainstorm, a "what if?" or because of someone's contact with a person who could offer an excellent program. All these events started small and have grown over the years. Each has an enthusiastic leader who is committed to providing a quality learning experience for visitors. Each event has a team of dedicated volunteers who work hard to ensure every detail is considered.

The season usually begins the first weekend in June. The initial event is the Ice Cream Musicale, an annual celebration of pioneer and folk music. From fiddles to banjoes and Erie Canal songs, patrons are treated to the talent and tunes of local musical groups. Hand-churned ice cream is a featured refreshment, while tours and a plant sale are also available.

From this date through September, the Hull House is open on Sundays for tours for the public. Docents discuss the family members and the circumstances under which the Hulls settled here; they explain the architectural features of the house as it was and as it will be when the restoration is completed. A trip to the cemetery is part of the tour, and visitors are further enlightened about the family members and interment practices.

Field trips for school children – usually fourth graders – are scheduled from early to mid-June. Docents lead small groups through several stations, including a look at a wall-size family tree in the barn and a trip to the cemetery. In the house are costumed docents in the first-person characters of

Authentic 18th Century cooking at History Camp 2.
Image courtesy of Douglas Kohler

Archaeological dig at History Camp.
Image courtesy of Douglas Kohler

Polly, Rebecca and Miranda Hull. They speak of the family and the work of the house and the farm in the context of 1820, when the Hull family members would have been busy doing that work.

Summer is an opportunity for children to spend extended hours at the Farmstead during History Camp. Given time for many hands-on activities, campers are able to perform pioneer chores, work with University of Buffalo archaeologists, learn from Native Americans and play lacrosse, practice military drills, stitch a haversack or reticule, play pioneer games and prepare food for open-fire cooking. The week goes all too quickly, and our junior historians are disappointed when it comes to an end!

Another summer event is the "Sheep-to-Shawl" day, when visitors observe the process of creating a wool shawl. Sheep are sheared on site, and their wool is carded in preparation for spinning. The wool is dyed using natural articles such as flowers or nuts, and it is woven into a shawl that is auctioned at the Hull House Foundation's Fall Harvest Dinner.

A perfect way to learn about a soldier's life during the Revolutionary War would be to attend the annual encampment and re-enactment in the fall. Local re-enactors set up camp on the grounds of the Hull House for a weekend. Visitors are invited to wander among their tents, ask questions of them and their families, watch them cook and bake and care for their weapons and observe a battle re-enactment complete with cannon fire.

Similarly, visitors can learn about the life of a Civil War soldier during the Civil War Candlelight Tour. Through a series of vignettes held in the evening hours, patrons hear the stories: from the young soldier being sent to war, to the camps of the North and South, the experience of Ely Parker, the death of Stonewall Jackson, the music of the war, and medicinal and funeral practices.

For several years, the Hull Family Home & Farmstead has participated in "Doors Open Niagara". In October, when many cultural institutions are open *gratis* for a weekend, the Hull House also invites visitors to tour the house and grounds. This often brings many newcomers from other areas and, as a result, we gain more followers!

The season ends when the sights and sounds and smells of Christmas grace the Hull House the first weekend in December. Decorated in greens, the house greets visitors as it would have in 1820. Baked goods, mulled cider and Christmas carols fill the senses. In 2009, guests reserved places on tours during which they were treated to holiday vignettes featuring Hull Family members.

Program planning takes place in various venues at various times of the year. Critical to the process, however, is the annual

Look what I found!
A History Camper has success doing archaeology.
Image courtesy of Douglas Kohler

vision meeting held in February. It is at that time that Development Team members and others receive an update on restoration plans and research progress and outline event plans for the coming year. The development team meets every two weeks throughout the year for in-depth event planning, including scheduled tours and workdays. The Education Committee and individual event committees also meet regularly during the year.

Careful planning and dedicated volunteers have allowed the Hull Family Home & Farmstead to bring quality educational programming to visitors. Future events promise to be as enlightening and exciting!

Cleaning up after lunch at History Camp.
Image courtesy of Douglas Kohler

About the Authors

John Percy has spent over 50 years as an educator and writer. He has taught for the U.S. Army Signal School, City of Tonawanda Schools, the University of Buffalo, Canisius College and the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society, among others. Since 1969, he has served as the historian for the Town of Tonawanda and the Village of Kenmore. During that time, he has published five books about those communities. He has presented a wide variety of historical programs to hundreds of community organizations in WNY and Ontario.

Pamela J. Davison received her B.A. from Daemen College *Summa cum Laude* in 1998 and has published poetry, short stories and a one-act play, as well as scholarly research in Child Psychology. In 2011, Ms. Davison will complete her M.A. in American Studies with a concentration in Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) History. Currently working with representatives of the Seneca community, she is developing an Iroquois-focused educational curriculum for use at Hull Family Home & Farmstead. Pam is a long-time friend of Hull House Foundation and serves on the Development Team and the Education Committee, and she is Co-Chair for several annual events.

Douglas Kohler is a local historian and author who has written extensively about early Western New York. In addition to teaching, he is also the Erie County Historian. He has a B.A. in History and M.S. in Education from Canisius College.

Jessie Ravage is an historical researcher and writer based in Cooperstown, New York. Among her specialties is the agricultural history and architecture of central New York State. She researches these and related topics for history museums developing interpretive programming, and prepares National Register of Historic Places documentation. She holds a B.A. from Bryn Mawr College and an M.A. in History Museum Studies from the Cooperstown Graduate Program.

Donna Schmidle is a life-long Western New Yorker, and has, since childhood, been interested in American history. Donna is a member of the Education Committee at the Hull Family Home & Farmstead and has been instrumental in the food-ways component of the summer History Camp for children. She is the docent coordinator and is charge of planning the Hull Family Home & Farmstead Civil War Living History Weekend.

Douglas Perrelli is a life-long resident of Western New York. He graduated from Kenmore West Senior High and attended SUNY Geneseo as an undergraduate. He received his M.A. and Ph. D. degrees in Anthropology/Archaeology from the University at Buffalo in 1995 and 2001, respectively. Professional interests include the prehistoric archaeology of eastern North America with a focus on stone tools. Since 2001 he has been Director of the Archaeological Survey, an applied archaeology and cultural resource management program in the Department of Anthropology at UB.

About the Authors

Ryan Austin received a B.A. in Anthropology from the SUNY College at Geneseo in 1998, and an M.A. (2001) and a Ph.D. in Anthropology (2007) from SUNY at Buffalo. He is currently employed as a project director the University at Buffalo Archaeological Survey and has directed archaeological investigations at the Hull House since 2003.

Ted Bartlett is a Senior Associate with Crawford & Stearns and has been an Associate and the Senior Historic Preservation Planner since 1986. He holds a B.S. from Cornell University and undertook Graduate Historic Preservation studies at Middle Tennessee State University. He has consulted with a number of Central New York communities on historic preservation, and is a frequent guest lecturer on a wide range of historical topics. Crawford & Stearns has been the preservation/restoration architects and consultants for Hull House since 2005, with Ted Bartlett serving as project manager since 2007.

Gary N. Costello is a native of Buffalo and a graduate of the University of Buffalo. He holds a M.A. in Education and another in Public Health from University of North Carolina. He served 20 years with the Erie County Department of Health. Presently retired and living in the Town of Tonawanda, Gary now devotes his energies to the Hull House Foundation and the Hull Family Home & Farmstead restoration and development project, serving as president of the Hull House Foundation for the past 3 years.

Suzanne Jacobs is a native of Syracuse and hold degrees in English Education, Reading and School Administration. She retired from the Lancaster Central School District after 35 years of service - in the classroom, as an elementary principal, director of special education and assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction. After doing some limited volunteer work, she agreed to chair the Education Committee for the Hull Family Home & Farmstead.

Gary Howell is a resident of Lancaster, New York, an amateur photographer and avid supporter of the Hull Family Home & Farmstead.

Revolutionary War re-enactors
Image from the collection of Gary Howell

End Notes

Pages: 1-4

1. A brief explanation of New York State geology is found in: (a) *Geology of New York: a short account,* Educational Leaflet No. 20, (New York State Museum and Science Service, Albany, 1966).
   (b) Frank E. Richards, *Atlas of New York State,* (Phoenix, NY, 1967).

Pages: 6-13

1. Hubbard, p. 45.
2. Goldman, p.3.
3. Additional sources for "*Haudenosaunee* in Western New York" are in the Bibliography

Pages: 37-44

1. Cantwell and Wall, 2001:6-7.
2. Austin, 2006.
3. Larkin 1988:130; Rafferty, 1998:51; Versaggi 2000:49.
4. Austin, 2007.
5. Austin, 2007.
6. Erie Co. Deeds 1814-1941; NYS Census 1855-1925; Federal Census 1810-1930.

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