

Washington Historical Society

2024 Newsletter

Levenseller Brothers

Pvt. Warren Levenseller, left, and Pvt. Thomas Levenseller were sons of John & Dorothy Levenseller of Washington. In 1864 Warren, 19, and Thomas, 28, enlisted in the Maine Coast Guard Infantry, Company B. Company B mustered in at Augusta, Maine and was stationed at Fort Foote, Maryland. Fort Foote was part of the wartime defenses of Washington, D.C. which helped defend the Potomac River approach to the city. Both Thomas and Warren served until company B was mustered out on June 24, 1865.



Home to Washington

It is always interesting how a bit of Washington History comes to light once an item comes home to Washington. The Levenseller brothers' Civil War portrait "came home" to Washington in 2023. It was a gift from Hugh Sipowicz. Thomas Levenseller, on the right, is Hugh's great, great grandfather. Hugh found this picture in the attic of his boyhood home in Hallowell. This picture once hung in Hugh's grandparents' home. It travelled to Tennessee with Hugh before returning to Maine and then to Washington. Hugh's wife, Judi Schneider Sipowicz, taught at Prescott Memorial School with Hazel Kopishke.

Thomas returned home to Washington where his wife, Mary, and daughter, Louise, were living. Thomas and Mary would have at least two more daughters and a son. Warren settled in Taunton, MA, married and raised one son. Neither brother is listed on Washington's Soldiers Monument. Thomas (1835-1923) and his wife, Mary, were laid to rest in Levenseller Cemetery.



Prescott Students: Learning by Doing

Before Memorial Day, Jim Freyenhagen and his sixth graders walked down to Maple Grove Cemetery and helped place flags on the graves of veterans buried there. They also helped clean lichen off stones.

The following week, they came to the Razorville Hall and Old Town House for their annual visit. After learning about the exhibits during the morning in both buildings, they spent time with hands on activities. They used a rotary push mower cutting the lawn at the Town House, used a wash tub and hand cranked wringer while doing wash, cut wood with a two person crosscut saw, and cranked up a batch of homemade ice cream in record time.



Expansion of the WHS Office

Our WHS office located at the Mount Olivet Masonic Hall has expanded to four rooms. After Bo Marks closed his law office last January, the Masons offer his space to us to use. We were becoming a bit cramped so the added space allows room for visitors to come for research and for meetings. The front two rooms have table space for working and meetings; one back room is our office with our printers, and scanner and a table for working at; and the other back room is for storage. We bring certain items back from the Razorville buildings for winter storage and have file cabinets filled with Washington related paperwork.

Book shelves hold our collection of binders filled with Washington history. We are increasing our collection of genealogy information. There are cabinets filled with historical items and pictures and maps displayed on the walls. We are still "settling in" and it will always be a work in progress as we acquire more donated items. For example, we just received a medical bag once belonging to Dr. Pierpont from his granddaughter.

We welcome visitors. We are usually at the office on Tuesday mornings from 9-12 and will make other time available upon request. We do our *best* to help answer your questions but nothing is guaranteed. Questions often lead to more questions!

Building Maintenance

A lot was accomplished at our Razorville building this past year thanks to funding through the town, donations of money, and man power.

The Old Town House has a new sign matching the one on Razorville Hall. The interior of the building was cleaned and painted last fall and the floor was painted this spring. Members made curtains during the winter that were hung along with shades at the top windows this spring. Completing this work allowed for more permanent displays to be set up featuring the Washington Telephone Company; history of the Town House; our one room schools; Clyde Sukeforth's baseball career; and our local country stores. Moving a few items across from the museum allowed for expanding our displays there also.

Future work will involve replacing clapboards and painting the exterior of the Old Town House. We have begun setting aside funds for that project.

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HERITAGE DAY

AUGUST 24TH



OPEN HOUSE
Razorville Hall and the Old Town House will be open from 9am to 1pm.

PIE CONTEST:
Drop off is at 9am with judging at 9:30.
The winner will receive a gift card to Hannaford.
Pie slices will be available for purchase!

LOOKING BACK AT WASHINGTON

Join the Washington Historical Society as we share a presentation on the history of Washington, Maine. Hear about how Washington was 200 years ago.
Starts at 10am in the Old Town House.

263 RAZORVILLE RD * WASHINGTON, ME

Annual WHS Heritage Day!

This year's special programming is a presentation about the history of Washington, Maine. The Historical Society worked hard to create this presentation for Maine's bicentennial, only to have to tuck it away when the pandemic shut down all social gatherings. Well, the time has come to share this with everyone. Come join us at 10am in The Old Town House.

Bakers Needed

Bakers needed for our PIE BAKING CONTEST. Pies need to be dropped off between 9 and 9:30 at the Town House. Judging for the "Best Pie" will take place at 9:30. The winner will receive a gift card from Hannaford. Slices will be for sale after the History of Washington Presentation.

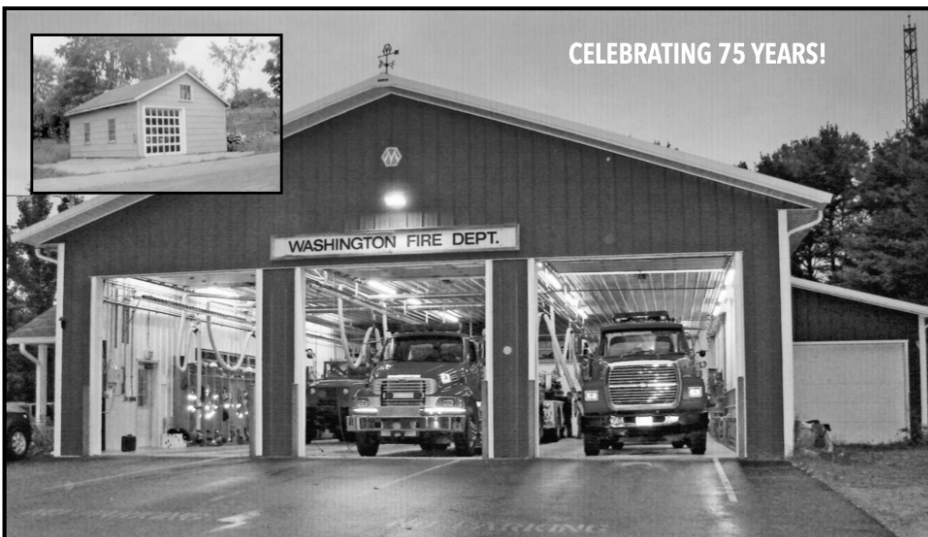
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Washington Historical Society

Washington Fire Department: 1950-2025



2025 Calendar

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Our fund raising calendar is now available for \$10 at Gibbs Library, Washington General, Linscott's, Blueberry Fields, and at our events. The theme is "Celebrating 75 years of the Washington Fire Department." Pictures feature the history of the department and its many contributions to the town.