

Town of Greenburgh
**ASSISTANT
TOWN HISTORIANS**



— felicia barber + riley wentzler —

A Tale of Two Towns: Greenburgh, NY, and Muncy, PA

By: Riley Wentzler & Felicia Barber



As previously stated in our article, “The Guardians of History,” Greenburgh preserves its rich history through six historical societies: the Ardsley Historical Society, the Dobbs Ferry Historical Society, the Hastings on the Hudson Historical Society, the Irvington Historical Society, the Historical Society serving Sleepy Hollow and Tarrytown and the Westchester County Historical Society
<http://www.greenburghny.com/Documents/Mail%20->

%20jlucasey@greenburghny.com.pdf). In addition to these various historical societies, some of Greenburgh's history is preserved at the Westchester County Archives. Most of these historical societies preserve history by collecting and maintaining the integrity of historically important objects which professional librarians and professional historians refer to as *artifacts*, such as the possessions of Sara Mead, as in the case of the Dobbs Ferry Historical Society, or various scientific instrument, and 100 year old children's toys, as in the case of the Hastings on the Hudson Historical Society. A few collect and maintain valuable written records such as the 2,000 manuscripts, kept at the Westchester County Historical Society, (<http://www.greenburghny.com/Documents/Mail%20-%20jlucasey@greenburghny.com.pdf>) or the numerous wills, birth certificates, marriage certificates, and death certificates at the Westchester County Archives.

As we have worked diligently to preserve Greenburgh's history, we couldn't help but wonder how other towns elsewhere preserve their history. So this week we traveled back to Riley's hometown of Muncy Pennsylvania to see how Muncy's history is preserved. Before discussing our findings it is important to note that as Greenburgh is a town of 91,338 people (<https://www.newyork-demographics.com/greenburgh-demographics>), six historical societies are necessary, but as Muncy Pennsylvania only has a population of 2,427 (https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community_facts.xhtml?src=bkmk) people, one historical society can quite easily cover the whole town. The Muncy Historical Society is located at 40 North Main Street P.O. Box 11 Muncy, PA 17756. Just like: the Hastings on the Hudson Historical Society, the Irvington Historical Society, and the Westchester County Historical Society, the Muncy Historical Society is only open two days a week.

Additionally unlike Patrick Raftery, at the Westchester County Historical Society, and Jackie Grazino, with the Westchester County Archives, who are paid and have degrees in library science, the Muncy Historical Society is staffed with four- six self-taught volunteer historians. For the purposes of this article, we interviewed one such volunteer, Linda Poulton.

The Muncy Historical Society was founded in 1936 (www.muncyhistoricalsociety.org/). However, it has thousands of documents with

the oldest dating back to 1765, and hundreds of artifacts with the oldest such artifact dating back to the late 1700s. Also their collection has several photographs with some dating back to the mid -1800s (telephone interview with Linda Poulton conducted on 8/26/2019). The Muncy Historical Society hates having to destroy anything, so when it is time to remove an artifact or document from the collection, it is merely sent elsewhere. In fact, some items that they have discarded have been sent to California (telephone interview with Linda Poulton conducted on 8/26/2019). The Muncy Historical Society publishes a newsletter twice a year, however this newsletter is only available in print (telephone interview with Linda Poulton conducted on 8/26/2019).



Previous Slices of History include:

Entertainers for Justice (8/3/2019)

(<http://greenburghny.com/Documents/Microsoft%20Outlook%20-%20Memo%20Style2.pdf>)

Hidden History: The Story of Fairview Fairgrounds Part I (7/27/19)

<http://greenburghny.com/Documents/Fairview%20Fairgrounds.pdf>

Beyond Heritage Versus Hate Toward Hope and Reconciliation: The story of Mount Hope Cemetery and its Confederate Monument (7/13/19)

<http://greenburghny.com/Documents/Mt%20Hope%20Cemetery.pdf>

Abandon Ship!!! The Story of United Nuclear Corporation and their Short-lived Elmsford Facility (6/28/19)

http://greenburghny.com/Documents/Microsoft%20Outlook%20-%20Memo%20Style_Redacted.pdf

“Like a long lost friend”: The story of how summer recreation has evolved in Greenburgh (6/7/19)

<http://greenburghny.com/Documents/Slice%20of%20History%20-%20Recreation%20Part%201.pdf>

From Farmland to Shopping District: The Rise of Central Avenue

(5/25/2019) <http://greenburghny.com/Documents/Microsoft%20Outlook%20-%20Memo%20Style.pdf>

Irvington in Chains and our Process A History of Slavery in Irvington and A look at how Slices of History are made (and our interview with historian Robert Marchant) (5/11/2019)

<http://greenburghny.com/Documents/Mail%20-%20jlucasey@greenburghny.com6.pdf>

There is no church here, but “the brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated” this ground: The Story of The Little White Church Cemetery (4/27/19)

http://greenburghny.com/Documents/Memo%20Style_Redacted.pdf

From Fixing Cars to building Infrastructure: How Massaro Park Got its name (4/13/2019) <http://greenburghny.com/Documents/History.pdf>

From Chasing Rabbits to Setting Records: The Amazing Story of Larry James (4/7/2019)

<http://greenburghny.com/Documents/Mail%20-%20jlucasey@greenburghny.com5.pdf>

Greenburgh Under the Hollywood Lights: The TV shows and Movies Filmed in Greenburgh Part II (3/29/19)

http://greenburghny.com/Documents/Mail%20-%20jlucasey@greenburghny.com_Redacted2.pdf

From Insurance to Symphonies: The Home of Charles Ives

(3/16/19) http://greenburghny.com/Documents/Mail%20-%20jlucasey@greenburghny.com_Redacted1.pdf

Oh, The Places Your Mail has Gone: A History of The Hartsdale Post Office

(3/9/2019) http://greenburghny.com/Documents/Mail%20-%20jlucasey@greenburghny.com_Redacted.pdf

Greenburgh Under the Hollywood Lights: The TV shows and movies Filmed in Greenburgh Part I (2/23/19)

<http://www.greenburghny.com/Documents/Slice%20of%20History%202-23-19.pdf>

The Power of Wealth and Humility: A Reflection on Two Highly Influential African Americans (2/18/19)

www.greenburghny.com/Documents/Mail%20-%20jlucasey@greenburghny.com4.pdf

A Beautiful View for the Perfect Event: The Belvedere Estate (2/9/19)

<http://www.greenburghny.com/Documents/Mail%20-%20jlucasey@greenburghny.com3.pdf>

An Unspoken Promise of Redemption: How Hartsdale Got its Name (1/31/19)

<http://www.greenburghny.com/Documents/Greenburgh%20is%20one%20of%20the%20few%20communities%20anywhere%20that%20provides%20resi>

[dents%20with%20frequent%20history%20bytes%20about%20their%20community.pdf](#)

Lost History: The Tragedy of Malkasten (1/26/19)

[http://www.greenburghny.com/Documents/Mail%20-%20jlucasey@greenburghny.com2.pdf](#)

The Intersection of Banking, Ballet, and School: Greenburgh's Warburg Estate (1/18/19)

[http://www.greenburghny.com/Documents/Memo%20Style2.pdf](#)

A Small House, an Important Meeting, a Huge Victory: The Story of the Odell House (1/12/2019)

[http://www.greenburghny.com/Documents/Mail%20-%20jlucasey@greenburghny.com1.pdf](#)

The Guardians of History: Greenburgh's Historical Societies (1/6/19)

[http://www.greenburghny.com/Documents/Mail%20-%20jlucasey@greenburghny.com.pdf](#)

How a Flat Tire led to a Happy Escape: The Story of Carvel in Greenburgh (12/11/18) [http://www.greenburghny.com/Documents/Carvel%20History.pdf](#)

A Thousand Words Which You Never Knew: The Forgotten Story of the Seal of Greenburgh. (11/17/18)

[http://www.greenburghny.com/Documents/Slice%20of%20History%20-%20A%20Thousand%20Words.pdf](#)

"The Disappearing Railroad Blues" in Greenburgh: The Fate of the Putnam Railroad Line and the old Putnam Trail ((11/6/18)

<http://www.greenburghny.com/Documents/Slice%20of%20History%20-%20%20Railroad%20Blues.pdf>

A Different Kind of Rebel: Greenburgh's Contributions to the Underground Railroad (10/27/18)

<http://www.greenburghny.com/Documents/GREENBURGH.pdf>

Greenburgh at The Great American Crossroads: Greenburgh's Civil War Story (10/19/18) <http://www.greenburghny.com/Cit-e-Access/news/index.cfm?NID=47461&TID=10&jump2=0>

Greenburgh's Hall of Heroes: Ferncliff Cemetery Where Memories Live Forever (10/12/18) <http://www.greenburghny.com/Cit-e-Access/news/index.cfm?NID=47403&TID=10&jump2=0>

A Final Resting Place for "Man's Best Friend": The Peaceable Kingdom (9/29/18) <http://www.greenburghny.com/Cit-e-Access/news/index.cfm?NID=47331&TID=10&jump2=0>

Greenburgh and The Arts (9/22/18) <http://www.greenburghny.com/Cit-e-Access/news/index.cfm?NID=47278&TID=10&jump2=0>

Greenburgh's BROTHERLY LOVE, RELIEF AND TRUTH: A History of The Freemasons in Greenburgh (9/12/18) <http://www.greenburghny.com/Cit-e-Access/news/archnews.cfm?NID=47212&TID=10&jump2=0>

About the Authors:

We are both Assistant Town Historians at Greenburgh Town Hall and we are engaged to be married and are currently looking for permanent employment.

Riley Wentzler:

I was born and raised in a small rural town in central Pennsylvania. In high school, I took every honors course available including four years of Spanish. I received A's in all of them. I graduated third in my class of 146 students. This brought me to Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. Once there, I continued my trend of academic excellence. I graduated summa cum laude in Political Science with a minor in Spanish and a Master's in Communication Studies, with a G.P.A of 3.94. It was also there that I met my lovely fiancée, Felicia Barber. My Master's in Communication has promoted public speaking, teamwork, and customer service. My Political Science degree has developed my research skills using computer-based tools and provided me with experience using the Microsoft Office products. My minor in Spanish has facilitated my bilingual capabilities. During my internship at Greenburgh, I created the petition for the State Roads project using website tools. My diverse education and areas of interest have provided me with a wide range of skills. I look forward to finding a career opportunity in business or government. **To suggest a topic for next week's article, you can contact me at assistanthistorian@greenburghny.com, or to help me find employment, you can contact me at rjwentzler413@gmail.com**

Felicia Barber:

I was born in New York City and raised in Hartsdale, New York. I graduated from Ardsley High School. I recently earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Graphic Design at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. It was here that I met my fiancé, Riley Wentzler. As a result of my academic excellence, I won a scholarship every year. I learned and applied many graphic design skills to projects during my summer internships and at school. I am proficient in using Adobe graphic design applications including Photoshop, Illustrator and InDesign. For my Identity/branding course at Edinboro, I created logos to appear on the tee-shirts of Physical Education majors. For a veteran's upcoming event, I used a typeface to focus the reader to the soldier in the poster. For the State Roads Legislative Campaign project, I created the embedded graphic-photo that accompanied the petition I am looking for a job to utilize my skills as a Graphic Designer in an agency, print shop, company or government **To suggest a topic for next week's article, you can contact me at assistanthistorian@greenburghny.com. To learn more about my artwork or to help me find employment you can contact me at feliciadbarber@gmail.com.**

Two Interviews with the authors:

<https://riverjournalonline.com/around-town/a-love-of-history-and-each-other/13708/>

<https://wchs880.radio.com/articles/news/stories-main-street-couple-cerebral-palsy-brings-manytalents-town-greenburgh>

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