Meeting of the Local History Room Advisory Committee
September 1, 2015

Present: Kanauer, Braman, Bundschuh, Riley, Salmon, Thompson, Wise, Town Board Liaison Kohl

Open House Featuring New Kitchen Display. The Open House will be Sunday October 18 to celebrate Jan’s completed of the new floor display. It was suggested that we have a speaker to discuss the important role of women in cooking in the 1920’s and 30’s. Kathy said she and Jan could do this. Jan recently finished the new display. Its brightly colored green and black floor immediately catches a visitor’s eye. The committee admired the stove, the dry sink, and the cabinet with appropriate accessories. Jan was congratulated on another excellent display. Kathy has placed several pieces of green jadite ware on the wall shelves to complement the display.

Penfield Assessment Records The assessor’s office gave the LHR four crates of old assessment records. The committee discussed whether the records were useable since they are arranged by assessment numbers, rather than alphabetically by streets or property owner names. We will try to make use of them by street name.

Pioneer Certificates The certificates started as a project of the LHR in 1985 at the time of Penfield’s 175th anniversary. Persons were eligible who could trace their family history in Penfield prior to 1885. Because each applicant was required to provide his/her genealogy to the Room, the project provided us with a large amount of family history for our files. Originally there was a $5.00 charge for each certificate, part of which was paid to a calligrapher who completed each certificate. Later the charge was $10. A volunteer committee of four women, each of whom was knowledgeable about genealogy, checked the accuracy of the background information of each applicant.

The question was whether we should continue the project. In the past few years, there have been few applications. Nor has it been advertised. We have recently received an application from Dennis Dever. Kathy said she would be able to check the applicant’s information as long as there are only occasional requests. Margie Salmon was asked if she could complete the certificates, as she has very fine handwriting. With both Kathy and Margie willing to participate, the committee decided that we should accept new applications based on the original requirement of having ancestors living in Penfield prior to 1885.
Acquisitions
David and Grace Strong have donated three attractively framed prints of Penfield homes from the History of Monroe County. The committee agreed that we should accept the prints. They could be hung in the Town Hall auditorium or in one of the Town Hall offices.

Timothy Denee, now living in Maryland, donated
1. Photo of a 1920’s Penfield High School Class
2. Title abstract for land in Lot 15, 1898
4. 27 more items (receipts, accounts, invoices, promissory notes related to Harvey Whalen, as Commissioner of the Poor, etc., 1840-1880
5. Masonic apron presented to the “Right Worshipful” George E. Petrie, Grand Steward of the Penfield Union Lodge on the lodge’s centennial, 1949.

Coming Events
Sept 13 Penfield Heritage Assn picnic
Sept 14-19 Penfield Public Library Used Book Sale
Sept 18 Oakwood Cemetery Walk – Part 2
Sept 26 Second annual Road Rally and Workday at Smith Cemetery
Oct 18 LHR Open House to feature new kitchen display
Oct 23 Ghost Walk – Linda Kohl said she and her husband, Ken, would again be guides.