

*Washington County Advisory Council
on
Historic Preservation*

The Washington County Advisory Council on Historic Preservation was formed in 1977 by a forward-looking Board of Supervisors. It was one of the first county level organizations in the nation devoted to recognizing and publicizing our rich heritage of local history, particularly as expressed in architecture.

The Council is comprised of members appointed by the Board of Supervisors to represent the seventeen towns in Washington County.

The Council meets monthly throughout the year to discuss activities in the various towns of the County that affect historic preservation, to report on progress in the field and to consider legislation that may influence Council activities.

The Council maintains a listing of craftsmen skilled in and sensitive to the various areas of historic preservation work, and has published a Directory of Historic Preservation Craftsmen and Professionals in order to furnish this information to the public.

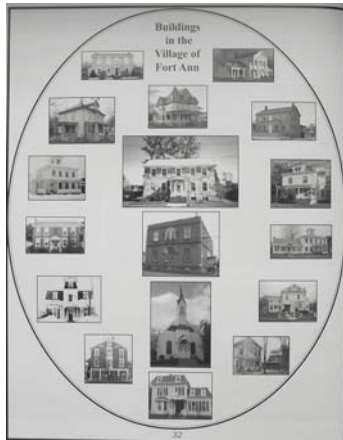
The Council annually holds an awards presentation ceremony at the May meeting of the Washington County Board of Supervisors, at which time persons who have furthered the cause of historic preservation are given awards in recognition of their achievements. So far, 340 awards have been made.

Members of the Council give talks and slide presentations on historic preservation to interested groups and are available for consultation on historic preservation concerns.

The Washington County Historical Society and the Council co-sponsor an annual lecture series in honor of James R. Cronkhite, a former County historian.

If you would like more information about the Advisory Council please visit:

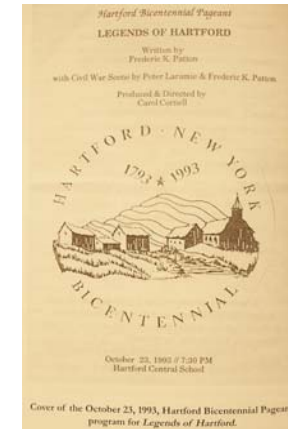
http://www.co.washington.ny.us/Departments/planning/Hist_Pres.htm



BUSKIRKS BRIDGE
 25 Dollars Fine for Driving on this Bridge Faster than a Walk.



NEW YORK
BUSKIRK'S RED COVERED BRIDGE
 REHABILITATED IN 2004. BUILT CIRCA 1850 TO REPLACE A PREVIOUS BRIDGE BUILT IN 1804. THIS CROSSING SERVED THE GREAT NORTHERN TURNPIKE BEGINNING IN 1799.
 ERECTED 2004



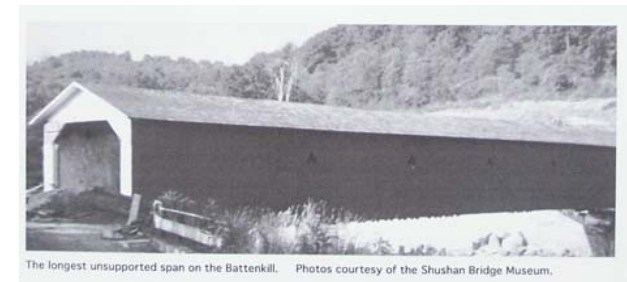
New pier after 1938.



Map of the Hartford Patent (1764) by Archibald Campbell
 (Courtesy of the New York State Bureau of Land Management)
 Note that north is on the left and on the south is on the right, river or brook.



Old stone pier and dam, before 1927.



The longest unsupported span on the Battenkil. Photos courtesy of the Shushan Bridge Museum.

All pictures taken from the books that received awards.

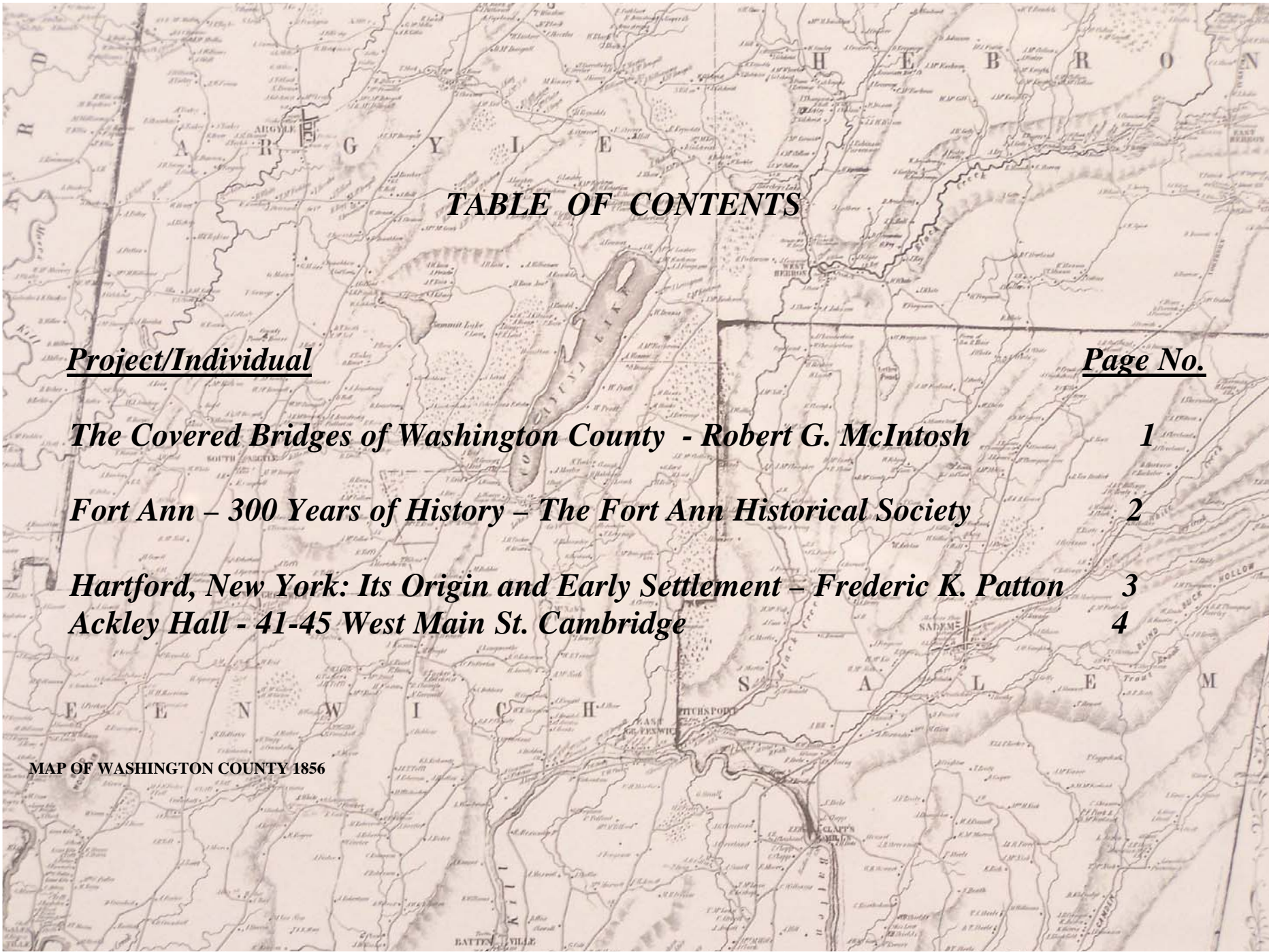


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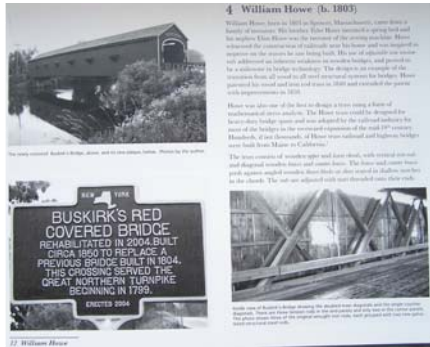
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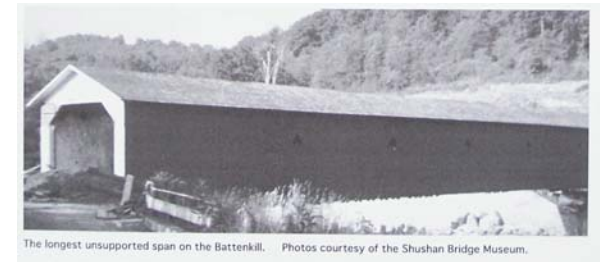
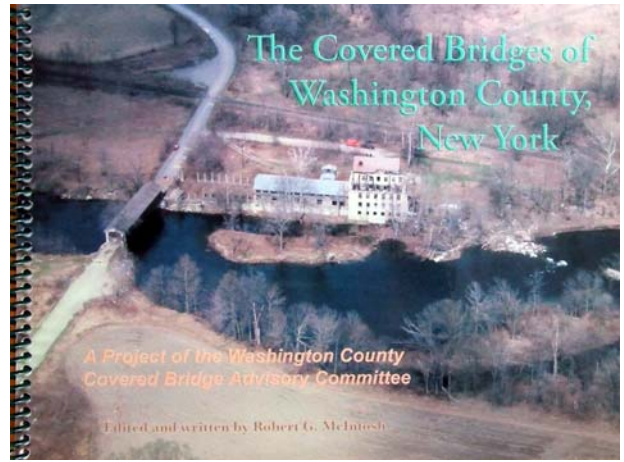
MAP OF WASHINGTON COUNTY 1856

The Covered Bridges of Washington County

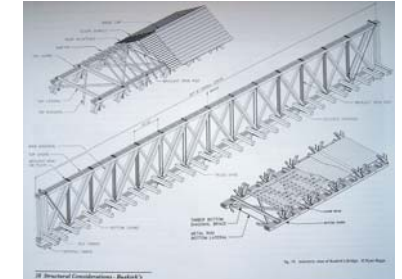
Recipient: Robert G. McIntosh



The flood of 1977 almost destroyed the Eagleville Bridge. Quick action by County DPW diverted the river and saved the bridge. The flood waters ero the east abutment. The west abutment rests on bedrock and was unaffec
Photos courtesy of the Washington County DPW.



The longest unsupported span on the Battenkill. Photos courtesy of the Shushan Bridge Museum.



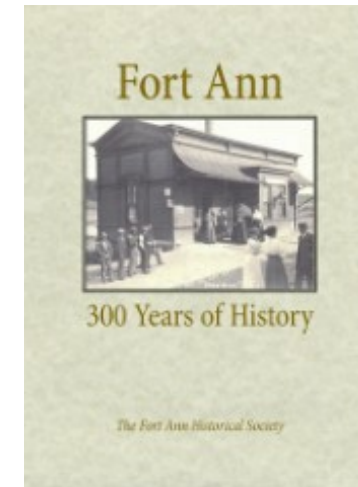
Robert G. McIntosh (Robbie) was inspired by his work with the Washington County Bridge Advisory Committee to write a book informing people about the seven-year effort of this committee in preserving three treasured covered bridges in Washington County – Buskirk, Eagleville and Rexleigh. The history of these bridges (and others) is told in detail with photos from the past and isometric views of their construction.

Robbie points out the prominent role these bridges have played in the lives of the people who have depended on them from the 1800s. Many of the pictures (some from postcards) are presented showing the bridges at various points over their history. The book contains (1) history of each bridge and the bridges relationship to the communities in which they were located and (2) description of the bridge's rehabilitation.

This book is a one-of-a-kind treasure not to be missed by Washington County citizens and all who are “lovers” of covered bridges and dedicated to their preservation.

Fort Ann – 300 Years of History

Recipient: The Fort Ann Historical Society



A group of sixteen members of the Fort Ann Historical Society gathered together for six years researching, writing, and gathering information and photos to write this history of Fort Ann. The book includes Fort Ann's important early history, information on twelve different communities, the churches, cemeteries, lakes and mountains, schools, forms of transportation, organizations, businesses, industries and agriculture. It contains over 350 pages of old and new photos, maps, historical prints, interviews with long-time residents and paintings by local artists. The chronology of the community's history dates back to 1609.

Information came from the Hill Collection at ACC, the Washington County Historical Society and the Washington County Historian. The individuals responsible for deciphering this information and putting it into a beautiful publication are Pat Cantanucci, Bernie Cook, Patrick Kelly, Maureen Barber, Ruth & Don Baker, Sue & Gary Allen, Craig Carpenter, Dale & Coral Grinnell, Arlene Bolster Joan Degener, Fred Norton, Mary Lutz and Carolyn Ouderkirk. In order to produce the book, these members held bake sales and garage sales, sold calendars, notepaper and CDs, and taught themselves to fill out grant applications.

This beautiful hard-cover book is available by contacting the Fort Ann Historical Society. Proceeds from the sale of the book are being used for conservation and preservation of the artifacts collected during the project.

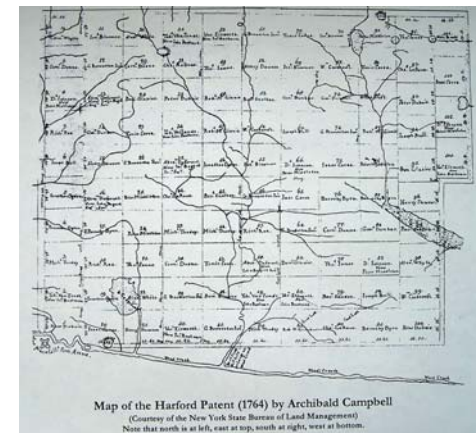
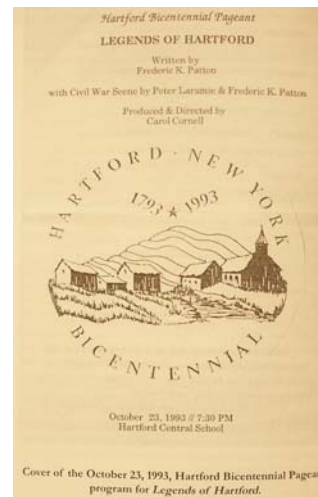
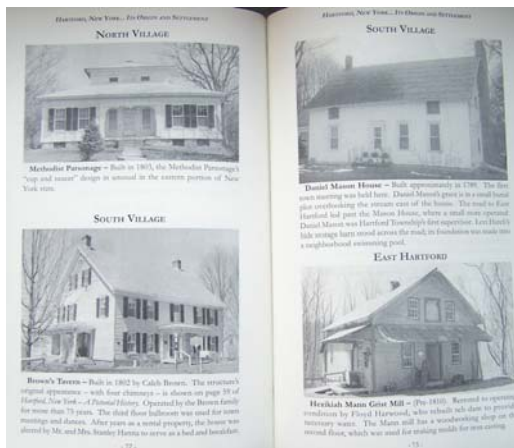
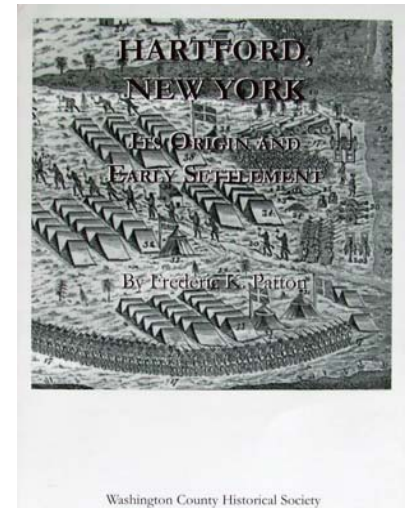
Hartford, New York: Its Origin and Early Settlement

Recipient: Frederic K. Patton

Fred Patton's aim was to bring together in one place all early documents and maps on Hartford's history. Some of these documents included a land grant petition of 1760 from 26 veterans of the French & Indian War, and the successful result of this petition, the Provincial Patent of 1764. He also located interesting documents from the early 19th century along with a modern-day listing of "century farms" in the town. The book contains nine excellent photos of historic Hartford buildings as well as maps depicting the area and its history.

On the book's interior design and cover design, Fred collaborated with Tim Tefft from the "Greenwich Journal-Salem Press". A creative writer as well as a historian, Fred closes his "History of Hartford" with the text of his play, "Legends of Hartford," first performed in 1993 as part of the town's bicentennial celebration.

In 1976, Fred was the first Chairman of the Washington County Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. Unfortunately Fred passed away prior to his work going to print. The Washington County Historical Society proudly publishes it in his honor.





Ackley Hall

Recipient: John & Christine Imhof

*Location: 41-45 West Main St.
Cambridge, NY*



In March of 1867 pharmacist Henry Ackley reopened Ackley Hall following the first great conflagration in the West End of the Village of Cambridge. The hall was used to stage plays and other performances. (Hubbard Hall would not open until 1878.) Ackley Hall also hosted “pedestrian” races ie, walking and running races over a track marked out inside the hall. In later years, roller skate races and dances were held in the hall. These races, with spirited wagering, were a highlight of local life. On December 23, 1884, the hall and many other buildings in the West End were destroyed by fire. The area where Ackley Hall stood was rebuilt with commercial space on the ground floor and apartments on the second. A portion of the building was home to Fedler’s Department store for many years.

In 2005, John & Christine Imhof purchased the building. Among the restoration work undertaken, the plate glass windows were repaired and raised to match the historic design of the building. Bricks were replaced and repointed. The historic trim was recreated and installed. Today the building has businesses on the ground floor and apartments on the second.