

October 2025

Display: “From Main to the Kicking Tree: Daily Walks in Aurora Circa 1905” was celebrated at an Open House at Patrick Tavern October 4th. About twenty-one attended, in addition to more than ten for the “soft opening” preceding it. This display was a cooperative effort with four Wells alumnae who are members of the ALHS.

Preservation: Continued to gather additional documentation on the Walter Wood Law Office and to work with preservation architect, restoration contractors, and others on the technical aspects of saving this important 1795 building.

Wells College Archives: I contributed an affidavit to the materials before the Cayuga County Supreme Court with expert knowledge of the Wells Archives and the Village of Aurora historic documents, files, books, etc. therein. In connection with this I worked on a query regarding Cleveland Hall, which was the original Wells library. It was one of just three academic libraries in NYS that was funded by Andrew Carnegie.

Additional queries related to the contents of the Wells Archives included Dr. Leffingwell’s gift of his diaries to the Wells library and two important notes in the Alumnae News by Temple Hollcroft regarding other such gifts.

Research into one of the postcards in the display (see above) led to further study of the distinguished and well-remembered Wells alumna Tano Jodai, ’17 (MA). The display also has elicited discussion of the Kicking Tree itself, an elm lost to Dutch elm disease along with the rest of Aurora’s elms. Opinion is divided whether its location was marked by a round, recessed marker in the new sidewalk which has since disappeared, or whether such a marker was only planned but never installed. Study ongoing.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Schwab, PhD
Village Historian