

It is finally official, registered, and recorded with the State of NY Board of Regents, The Bristol Hills Historical Society fully replaces both the Bristol and South Bristol Historical Societies to become one organization. Thanks to the diligent efforts, over a two year period, by our President Ann Jacobs!

A letter from Board Member John Holtz

Dear Members and Friends-

The board of the Bristol Hills Historical Society had a meeting where I presented to them the idea of contracting with the artist Anna Overmoyer, raised in Bloomfield and now living in Rochester, to illustrate a book that would show "magic" spots in the Bristol Hills. The concept is for a book that could be called a children's book. This is mostly because of the fanciful aspect to the illustrations, as you will see.

Famed author Arch Merrill in his book *The Lakes Country* wrote, "The hills that gird the Bristol Valley certainly have enough beauty and lore and mysticism of their own..." We are living in an area with reputation for magic and old stories, and I hope we can bring that back.

Of course, the definition of magic depends on each individual's use of that term. These spots of magic could be a dramatic waterfall, a simple stack of firewood next to a tree, a stone wall, a view where mist rises up off of a pond, or a field where you spot deer in the moonlight. You know your land and you know what spot grabs your heart when you look at it. Those are the spots we want to share with the world in this book. If you are living here on property you do not think is what the book is calling for, then may I suggest that you consider some of our public places. We have the Overlook, the Jump-Off, Stid Hill, our Veterans Garden and Cummings Nature Center. Your contracting for a painting will be a great help towards completing the project.

A unique aspect of the paintings will be the inclusion of one of Anna's

members of "her world" in the painting. The members of Anna's world can be found by looking at her website : www.AnnaSketchStudio.com. All the paintings will have this incorporated in, unless, you can relate something to Anna that you believe exists there now, at your spot, such as the Green Man in the painting I had commissioned depicting my piece of Berby Hollow.

In addition to the illustration showing the spot you choose, we want to incorporate your thoughts and feelings about your land and the story you want to tell about the magic here. these feelings will accompany the painting in the book.

All the area in the Bristol Hills has, in the past, been a setting for stories rooted in Seneca lore. This would allow for a historical representation to be painted too, for example, the "flaming heads" that swept through the forest. Members might choose this historical option for their painting if they do not want one of the fanciful images on the painting they commission.

If you agree to explore this idea, then you can be one of the historical society members that have a unique opportunity to have a spot on their land painted and to be memorialized in this book that could easily become a cherished family heirloom, and a community treasure.

How many images make up the right size for a book? After talking to Anna, who is also a professor of illustration at RIT, she thinks around 15 images would be good. So, there is indeed a limited opportunity here and if not, enough members sign on board, then we will open this up to the community living in our Bristol Hills.

The members agreeing to go forward would contract with Anna for the image, and keep the original. You would however give the BHHS the right to the image for publication. Costs will be discussed at the meeting.

If I have piqued your interest, please get back to me by contacting me

via email or phone. Please be sure that you have a photo of the place you want painted!

If you do not have the scene you want, then this is a great time to go out and capture it.

I will set a meeting soon, of interested parties, with Anna and members of the BHHS board, to try and put this project together. This has the potential, I believe, to be a major fund raiser, as well as a fun and interesting project for all of us.

I hope to hear from you. - John Holtz - BHHS board member

Email: berbyacres@msn.com

Phone: (585)229-4833

Although BHHS events have been canceled for the remaining months of 2020, our board is still meeting and doing planning for 2021 on a regular basis.

We have 3 BOARD seat vacancies, and we are looking for BHHS members to become more involved in the months ahead. If you are interested in serving on the Historical Society Board, please contact BHHS President Ann Jacobs via email at: jacobs1924@yahoo.com

Bristol Hills Historical Societies



Bristol Historical Society and South Bristol Historical Society have merged!!

Joint website: <https://www.bristolhillshistsoc.org>

Joint Email: BristolHillsHistSoc@gmail.com

We Are Collaborating To Serve You Better--Join One-- Get Membership In The Other FREE!

More programs, new projects, & fun social events in our beautiful Bristol Hills

Historical Society Membership Form Application Date _____ (Jan.-Dec.)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email: _____

Cell Phone/Text _____ Home Phone _____

(Circle one) Single \$10 Family \$25 Partner \$40 Patron \$50 Benefactor \$100

Additional Donations for:

\$ _____ Emergency Roof Replacement on Grange Building

\$ _____ Finger Lakes Barn Quilt Trail

Make all Checks Payable to: Bristol Hills Historical Society

Attn: Spence Parsons (Treasurer)

6412 Co. Rd. 32

Canandaigua, NY 14424

Circle how you can help us to improve: a) Social Events b) Booking Programs c) Genealogy d) Preservation projects

e) Displays f) Research g) cataloguing and inventory h) leadership role i) Presenting j) Grant Writing k) articles

Contact: Beth Thomas- Bristol and South Bristol Town Historian at 585-229-2400 or beththomas1015@gmail.com

**Please renew your membership in the
Bristol Hills Historical Society**

by mailing in your membership form. "Screen shot" one from here or
you can download a form from our website at
www.bristolhillshistsoc.org