

Celebrating 217 years of rich history!

The land now called Warsaw was first settled in 1803. Milling and farming of the fertile valley lands contributed to Warsaw's early economic development. Warsaw became County Seat of the newly formed Wyoming County in 1841 generating a robust economy.

Warsaw's growth and appearance were especially influenced by the salt industry. Served by two railroads, it became the nation's largest producer of table salt between 1878 and 1894. Expecting the demise of salt-making chiefly caused by over-production, adept leaders attracted new industries ultimately making Warsaw a competitor in regional and national markets.

Ideologies

Warsaw was not only the center of trade but also an early stronghold of abolitionism.

Leaders raised \$1,000 for an anti-slavery newspaper and at the Presbyterian Church organized the *Liberty Party* in 1839. Its sole plank, abolition of slavery, would become the law of land. Congressman Augustus Frank co-sponsored passage of the *13th Amendment* forever abolishing slavery in 1865.

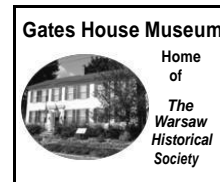
The *Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument* (1878) on North Main memorializes Wyoming County's devotion to preserving the Union during the American Civil War.



In 1891, Susan B. Anthony galvanized Warsaw's women to organize the "Warsaw Political Equality Club." Warsaw's own Ella Hawley Crosssett became President of the N.Y. State Suffrage Association (1902-1910) leading the charge for women's right to vote.

I would like to support The Warsaw Historical Society's preservation efforts. I'm sending my check with this form . . .

Dues are only \$10 . . .
—All donations are tax deductible.



Name _____

Address _____

Town/Village _____ Zip _____

Home phone: _____

Email: _____

Please indicate your interest in any of the following activities . . .

- I would like to be informed about volunteer opportunities.
- I may have a historic contribution for The Warsaw Historical Society.
- I am interested in lifetime membership.

Please return this form with membership dues to **The Gates House** at the address below.

The Warsaw Historical Society
15 Perry Avenue
Warsaw, NY 14569

Email: gateshouse1@frontier.com
Phone: 585 786-5240
Website: www.warsawnyhistory.org
Hours: 10 to 2— weekdays

The Warsaw Historical Society & Gates House Museum

Presents

The Gates House Museum



CA. 1824-1843

Preserving local history . . .
www.warsawnyhistory.org

Seth M. Gates

Seth Gates (1800-1877) deliberately sparked controversy by promoting an immediate end to slavery. The strident abolitionist was born in 1800, grew up in Sheldon and was educated at the Middlebury Academy in Wyoming. The former Assemblyman from LeRoy NY won election to Congress as an anti-slavery Whig in 1838. He repeatedly angered his Southern colleagues.



Fearing Texas would become a slave state, Congressman Gates prominently authored and helped secure a national “right to petition” to protest the expansion of slavery. In another action, Mr. Gates mailed proceedings of the 1840 Anti-Slavery Congress to governors of southern states. One enraged Georgia slave owner offered \$500 for Gates, dead or alive.

After anti-abolitionists destroyed his LeRoy home, Mr. Gates and his family moved to their new home in Warsaw around 1844. While engaged in several business enterprises, he joined other abolitionists to help runaway slaves. His home was believed to be one of several stations of the Uunderground Railroad in Warsaw.



For more stories of Warsaw’s distinctive history and dozens of vintage photos, log onto www.warsawnyhistory.org.



The Gates House

One of the most important historical buildings in Warsaw is the *Seth M. Gates House*. It was constructed in 1824 by Horace Hollister who established the first carriage and sleigh factory here. It is a splendid specimen of early architecture and has been the birthplace of a dozen civic and philanthropic organizations.

After the deaths of Mr. Gates in 1877 and his wife in 1893, their home was purchased by *The Society of the Village Work*. Members helped Warsaw’s poor families for the next 40 years while also operating an industrial school for many of those years. Among activities, girls were taught sewing while boys carpentry Warsaw’s first, public school kindergarten was also taught in the House in 1894.

Over the years, the *GAR*¹, *DAR*² and the Red Cross were headquartered here. Space was also made for a public health office and a nurses’ dormitory for the Wyoming County Hospital.

After *The Society of the Village Work* dissolved, the House was gifted to the *DAR* and The Warsaw Historical Society during the 1930’s.

Being in poor condition and slated for demolition, it was saved by the *Civil Conservation Corps* during the depression. Much needed repairs were made as part of a work relief project directed by Henry Ten Hagen, Sr.

In 1976, the *DAR* deeded the historic building to The Warsaw Historical Society.

1 Grand Army of the Republic—fraternal organization of Civil War veterans

2 Daughters of the American Revolution

The Warsaw Historical Society (WHS)

The **WHS** was first shaped in the historic, ca. 1850 home of U.S. Congressman Augustus Frank on North Main during the 1880’s. Recollections of Warsaw’s pioneering spirit were had at various locations thereafter.

In 1938, the Society formally organized in the former residence of the Hon. Seth M. Gates . The NYS Education Department recognized the Society’s commitment to preserving Warsaw’s past granting a charter in 1946.

The Society’s mission is to accept, preserve and exhibit historical materials related to the past, present and future of the Town and Village of Warsaw, to conduct historical programs and exhibits, and promote the study, sharing and dissemination of local history.

In 2019, the Regents chartered the Gates House Museum.

The Gates House Museum

Collections include displays showcasing aspects of Warsaw life from the 1830’s to the present. Rare artifacts also complement displays of Warsaw’s business, manufacturing and agricultural history. Special exhibits highlight the Underground Railroad, Civil War and Suffrage movement. Also housed is a comprehensive research library of rare maps, newspapers, thousands of photographs and documents. Most have been digitalized for easy access.



The Gates House is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and The Heritage NY Underground Railroad Trail