



315-785-2380 / 2570

315-785-2574 (fax)

e-mail: tughill@tughill.org

website: www.tughill.org

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CONTACT: Katie Malinowski, Executive Director
(315) 778-4193, katie@tughill.org

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**“The Little Voices by Lee Wasmuth: Tug Hill’s Forgotten Author” – History Webinar
November 19**

WATERTOWN, NEW YORK – Portraying daily life and a burgeoning romance set in Tug Hill Country, *The Little Voices* depicts the mostly-autobiographical life of Lee Wasmuth, a Tug Hill native whose early childhood was spent in the Page community along the Glenfield & Western Railroad. Starting in Fall of 1933, twenty-five segmented chapters of *The Little Voices* were printed in installments across issues of the Watertown Daily Times. In the telling of Wasmuth’s story, the reader is invited to experience the characters based on real people and many familiar places named on Tug Hill through the lens of the fictional protagonist, Allan Hargrave. The story of the *Little Voices* and of Lee Wasmuth are brought to life by Jill Markham O’Hara, Wasmuth’s great niece.

O’Hara’s grandmother, Evelyn Wasmuth Markham, dutifully saved the newspaper clippings of the segmented story chapters from the Watertown Daily Times, assembling the full story in a cut-and-paste book. With a little help from archival records at the Watertown Daily Times to supplement sections that were worn and illegible from age, O’Hara was able to compile and restore a manuscript of Wasmuth’s original story in full. While the story of Allan Hargrave was restored, some questions remain. Why did Wasmuth concoct and seek to publish what was principally a romance story? Why did he select the setting of Page and the overall eastern Tug Hill region? How closely does Allan Hargrave’s story mirror Wasmuth’s own life? Were there inconsistencies between Hargrave’s story and Wasmuth’s lived experiences, and are those inconsistencies in part a homage to Wasmuth’s brother, Leslie, who passed as a result of WWI? Was Allan’s love interest, Helen, based on a real woman from Wasmuth’s life, or was she a figment of his imagination?

Learn more about the possible answers to some of these questions, the rich story of *The Little Voices*, how Allan Hargrave’s fictional life relates to Wasmuth and his family, and what life was like on Tug Hill at that time through Jill Markham O’Hara, Wasmuth’s great niece. “The Little Voices by Lee Wasmuth: Tug Hill’s Forgotten Author” is scheduled for Tuesday, November 19, 2024,

Helping local governments and citizens shape the future of the Tug Hill region.

beginning at 6:00 p.m. This history presentation will take place solely online via Zoom. The event is free of charge, but pre-registration is required. Please register at www.tinyurl.com/tughilllittlevoices, or email tughill@tughill.org, or call the Tug Hill Commission at (315) 785-2380 with any questions.

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The New York State Tug Hill Commission is a non-regulatory state agency charged with helping local governments, organizations, and citizens shape the future of the region, especially its environment and economy. The commission uses a grassroots approach to build local capacity and provide technical assistance in land use planning, community development, and natural resource management.