### NUNDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# Programs & <u>Events</u>

- March 14 Women on Wheels
- April 11 What Will They Think of Next?
- May 9 Remembering Nunda Businesses, Part III
- May 19 Historic Dowling Family Tea
- June 13 Annual Picnic & Songs of WWII
- July 17 Summer Tour to Geneva, NY
- July 21 History of Once Again Nut Butter
- Aug. 5 This is Ragtime: 1919 at the Movies with Dennis James
- See Schedule on pg 6 for details and additional programs/ & events

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### Volume 8 Issue 1

Historic Nunda

e 8 Issue 1

Spring 2018

# Nunda Historical Society - Celebrates 35 Years The Beginning

At 7:30 in the evening of Tuesday, June 7, 1983 a group of local residents gathered at Dorothy Wedderburn's home at 17 North Church Street, (now the Peter Piraino family home) "for the purpose of organizing a Nunda Historical Society."

This wasn't the first try at creating a local historical society. There was an attempt in 1937 to form such a group that would encompass Nunda, Portage, Granger, Grove, Ossian, West Sparta and Mt. Morris. Almost forty years later, during America's Bicentennial, a press release in the Nunda News by the "Committee to Form a Historical Society" called for interested people to help form a local historical society. Neither

attempt was successful. Now another group would give it a try.

According to the minutes of that meeting, there were eleven "historically minded people" who gathered that night: Lucille Beardsley, Barbara Galbraith, Dorothy Hall, George Lucas, Ivan McColl, Bud McMaster, Lenora McMaster, Marjorie Ostrum, Ruth Walker, Dorothy Wedderburn and Nancy Willard. Most had spent all or most of their lives in Nunda. All had a deep appreciation for the history of the town and a desire to preserve it. All were determined to make it happen.

Several of them were active members of another group called the "Reunionists." That group had its beginnings in 1939, when members of the Class of 1896 decided to begin having annual reunions. As years passed the gathering grew as more alumni and local folks started to attend. Around 1955 they officially organized as the "Reunionists", electing officers and maintaining a treasury.

By the early 1980s the Reunionists had become interested in preserving the area's local history. They began to collect old photographs donated by their members, and talked of publishing some of the writings of the Town Historian, Marjorie Frost. Once the book project started, it became clear that the Reunionists, not an official organization and with only one meeting a year, was not an appropriate group to carry out their preservation and publishing plans.

So, two of the Reunionists, Dorothy Wedderburn and Ruth Walker, after careful preparation, arranged the June meeting. It is not known how many were originally invited to this organizational meeting, but it is clear that the right people were in attendance.

Dorothy began the meeting by outlining the purpose of the proposed historical society.

Nunda Historical Society Museum & Rose Shave Gallery

are open 10 am - noon on Tuesdays,

2-4 pm, on 1st Sundays

March through October,

and at other times by arrangement.

Call 465-0971 or 476-2354

According to the minutes, "the most important reason being that, a historical booklet in the process of research and editing to have ready for sale at the upcoming meeting of the Reunioists, requires a sponsoring

Continued on pg.2

Wedderburn Home - Drawing by Roger DeMuth

#### Volume 8 Issue 1

# **The President's Corner**

Our cover story tells of the June 1983 meeting that was "The Beginning" of the Society. By the end of the evening the newly formed organization, led by its first president, Ivan "Chief" McColl, was ready to embark on its mission to preserve, present and promote the history of the Nunda area. Over the next few months they published Town Historian Marjorie Frost's "Early Years," started a series of monthly historical programs and began collecting photographs and artifacts from Nunda's past.

Thirty-five years later the Nunda Historical Society continues the mission established on that June night long ago. Our Society has grown to about 200 members and maintains a historical building that contains the Nunda Museum, Rose Shave Gallery, meeting space, and an ever-growing

number of local artifacts. Our members have written several books on various aspects of local history and we have, over the last ten years, published an annual calendar full of historical photographs and information. Several more books are in the planning stage.

The NHS also continued the tradition of presenting and promoting our local history through a variety of historical programs and activities, as demonstrated in our 2018 schedule found on page 6 of this newsletter. Several of these activities, such as our biennial History Days, are designed to bring Nunda history to our local youth. Although not listed on this public schedule,

Our Mission

The Nunda Historical Society collects. researches, preserves, interprets, and promotes the history, heritage, and culture of that area of western New York in and around the Town of Nunda and educates the public through its collections and programming.

members present programs in local schools, provide history programs for youth participating in Nunda's Summer Recreation Program, and host classroom visits to our building each year. We also reach out to the general community by participating in Nunda Fun Days, Christmas in Nunda, and other events.

I believe the Society's success is due both to the firm foundation laid long ago by the Society's founders and to the many "historically minded people" who have contributed their time and talents to the Society over the past thirty-five years. We have also benefited from the individuals, families, and local businesses who have supported our efforts through donations of local artifacts and much needed funds. Community organizations have been supportive, along with our town and village governments. NYS Legislative Grants have also provided much needed financial assistance as we renovated our historical building. All these things have helped make the Society what it is today and we are confident in a bright future.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter and join us as we celebrate another year of preserving, presenting, and promoting the history of the Nunda area! As always, if you have and questions or concerns, you can contact me at 585-465-0971 or tscook@rochester.rr.com. Tom Cook

## **The Beginning** continued from Pg. 1

business group to authorize the publication". Then she and Ruth Walker shared the research they had done into other historical societies, handing out samples of constitutions and by laws they had gathered. A constitution and a few basic by-laws, mostly based upon those of the Pultneyville Historical Society in Schuyler County, was drawn up and approved.

The new "Nunda Historical Society" would meet monthly, except in July, with the Reunionists gathering in August serving as that month's meeting. Dues were established (single Membership \$3.00, family \$5.00,) and a Board of Directors established which included elected officers.

Ivan "Chief" McColl was elected the first president, while Town Historian Marjorie Frost was named honorary president in recognition of her years of work in local history. Other officers included Vice President George Lucas, Secretaries Dorothy Hall and Leonora McMaster, and Treasurer Nancy Willard. The first librarians would be Ruth Walker, Hope DePuy and Dorothy Wedderburn. Lucille Beardley and Marjorie Ostrum were named clerical assistants and Barbara Galbraith would handle the new group's publicity. The group then discussed the need to pursue both an official charter and taxexempt status and made the decision to look at the Bell Memorial basement as a possible storage for archives and records.

The rest of the evening focused on completing the publishing project started by the Reunionsists. Wedderburn and several others present at the meeting had already been working closely with Marjorie Frost for several months on the project, selecting a history of the town that the Town Historian had written for the Nunda News in 1954 to be the heart of the new book to be called "Early Years". Since it was hoped the new book would be ready for the Reunionists gathering in August, the newly formed Historical Society had to act quickly. They decided on the format of the work and to have it printed in Dalton at Burt's Printing. Bud McMaster, with the help of George Lucas, was assigned to raising the necessary funds.

Finally, after proof reading the new Constitution and By-Laws and setting the date of a July meeting, the motion to adjourn the meeting was passed and the "founders" headed home with the hopes that their efforts would not be in vain.

They weren't. By the time the Reunionists met in August the new book "Early Years" was available for sale for \$5 a copy. President McColl's description of Nunda's new historical society was well received by the 146 people in attendance. That fall they began a series of public historical programs with Marjorie Frost's presentation, "Some Fascinating Folk of Yesteryears." (This tradition of monthly programs continues to this day.)

By the end of the year it was clear that the new organization had taken root in Nunda. There was still much to do, including obtaining a permanent charter, finding a home, and managing an ever-growing collection of artifacts. But thanks to the strong foundation that was started on that June evening thirty-five years ago, the Nunda Historical Society continues to flourish today.



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# Fall 2017 Programs/Events



Pittsburg, Shawmut & Northern RR Program Sept. 13th

Exploring Local History Tour Oct. 8th



Other events included our Fall Yard & Bake Sale

and a Mountain Dulcimer Concert with Susan Trump,





Our most popular program this Fall was "Queen of the Bremen - The True Story of an American Child Trapped in Germany during World War II " by Marlies Adams DiFante on Nov. 8th. See above photo and photo of Marlies at left.

We ended the year with Jim Kimball, Karen Canning & Friends with "Winter Tunes & Traditions in Old New York"

# Take a Walk Through History

No Photos, but here is an ad from one of the former Nunda Businesses on our Oct. 11 program

ARTHUR BRINK DAIRY

MILK & CREAM

"It's Safer" JUST PHONE 25-F-12

Careful Mothers use our Milk

Build Sturdy

oundate

MILK SUPPLY

Wholesome & Pure the Best to buy.

with our



Thee Nunda Historical Society, in partnership with the "Be Well in Livingston County" initiative, has created a new historical walking tour of the village. The walk, which **officially opens on March 18**, is designed to promote both healthy exercise and an interest in our local history. See calendar on page 6.

The 1 1/2 mile walk begins at the Historical Society pavilion where participants can pick up a brochure that includes a map and information about each of the 17 stops along the way. In addition, walkers with smart phones can see historical photographs and additional facts through a special page on our website, <u>nundahistory.org</u>.

Work on the project began last fall when June Webster of the Livingston County Health Department and a member of the Be Well Committee, approached the Society with the idea of establishing a local walking trail that could include local historical buildings and sites. The tour was developed by adapting an historic tour created by Joan Schumaker for Nunda's 2008 Bicentennial. A grant obtained by the Be Well Committee paid for the signs, poles and the printing of the brochures. The signs were produced by Don Hooker at Don's Brush Art and Vinyl Effects and the poles were made by Bob Piper. The Society would also like to thank the Town and Village of Nunda, Nunda Family Pharmacy, Enchanted Ink, Keshequa Central School, Nunda Methodist Church, Bell Memorial Library, the Pizza Corner, Baldwin's Business Service, The Seager Werner American Legion Post, Seating Inc, Darren Snyder, Jim George, the Axtell family and Michael Andazola for allowing signs on their properties. We also thank June Webster and the Be Well in Livingston Initiative for making the historic walking tour possible.

# Travel with the Society to Geneva – July 17, 2018

We have an exciting day planned for our visit to Geneva, NY. Join us and spend the morning with the world's largest herd of white, white-tailed deer, at the former Seneca Army Depot. We will learn the fascinating story of the deer and see the intriguing remains of the U.S. Army's former weapons storage facility on our 90-minute bus tour of the world beyond the fence.



After leaving Nunda at 8 am, our tour to see white deer, other wildlife, and relics of 60 years of secret weapons storage begins at 10 am. We will visit one of the 519 earthcovered concrete igloos that stored everything from pistol cartridges to tactical missiles, from conventional bombs to nuclear warheads. Walking is limited to this visit to a bunker. For more information see: www.senecawhitedeer.org/





delicious Luncheon Buffet at Café Toscana at Ventosa Vineyards. On the menu:



A Carriage House has exhibits about the families that lived on the Rose Hill property before the Swan family, including the Rose family and the enslaved workers that they brought to New York from Virginia. A restored 1916 Model T that belonged to a descendent of the Swan family is also on display.



After our visit to the Johnston House we leave for Nunda, but have one more stop in Bloomfield at Shark's for Ice Cream. We will arrive in Nunda about 6:30 pm

The cost of this tour is \$100 for members and \$110 for nonmembers. Reservations and payment must be made by July 6. Additional tour details and Reservation Forms will be available in May on our website or at the NHS Museum Questions? Call Fran Ludwig at 476-2749.

Mixed greens salad, Pizza Toscana, Kettle chips, Prime Rib Panini, Chicken Salad Wraps, and beverages.

From 1:30 - 3:15 pm we divide into groups of 15 for guided 1-hour tours of Rose Hill Mansion, a property of the Geneva Historical Society and one of the top-rated attractions in the Geneva area. Built in 1839, the elegant Greek Revival house was the center of a busy and productive farm.

The tour focuses on the Swan family, who lived in the house from 1850-1890. Twenty rooms are restored and furnished in the Empire Style, popular from the 1820s to 1850s.

The Visitor Center features children's games and toys from vesteryear. There are also historic books and reproduction prints for sale, along with unique handmade items, and many products made in the Finger Lakes region.

For those with free time, there is also a Café for Wine Tasting.

From 3:30- 4:15 pm we visit nearby Johnston House and the Mike Weaver Drain Pipe Museum for self-guided tours. These are also properties of the Geneva Historical Society.

Built by Scotch immigrant John Johnston in 1822, the house originally sat on an important farm where Johnston became a well-known advocate of improved farming techniques. He was the first American farmer to use agricultural drain tiles to increase productivity on his farm, and it became one of the most famous farms in 19th-century America.

For more info: See www.genevahistoricalsociety.org

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# The Society's Fall 2017 Tour to Corning

October 26<sup>th</sup> found thirty members and guests enjoying a great day visiting the Corning Museum of Glass, lunching at Sorge's, touring the Rockwell Museum, and perhaps shopping in Corning's Gaffer District.

The first museum exhibit of *Tiffany Glass Mosaics* at the CMOG was a highlight of the day. Another major attraction was the **Daily Hot Glass Show.** Julie Piraino, one of our tour participants, actually found time to join a workshop where she created her own glass masterpiece.





Houses by Gail Diemoz

Over time, houses evolve. Porches are removed, added or made smaller; windows are enlarged or covered; "bumpouts" or bay windows are attached; shutters are put on or tak-

en off; "gingerbread" trim is removed; roofs are raised and dormers suddenly appear on upper stories. Can you think of other ways houses change?

Some Nunda houses just disappear and are forgotten or unknown to later generations. Fortunately, the Historical Society has photographs of some of these changed or lost homes. Here are Then and Now images of a Nunda house from our collection. If you have similar photographs of houses in the Town of Nunda, please share them with us.

### Changes at 8824 Creek Road



At one time, this house near Coopersville had a very unique feature for a farm house - a square tower atop a lower roof. Did it have a purpose or was it just decorative? Whichever, the tower has been removed and major changes made to the front porch area, leaving the house with a much plainer look today.

# **Volunteers** Needed

The Society is looking for volunteers to help transcribe a variety of documents and other resources into digital form so the material can be placed online. This

can be done at the Historical Society building or at your own location using copies. We also need people to help with creating a digital file of our Collection. This would require data input on the Society's computer at the building. To find out more or to volunteer, please contact Tom Cook at 585-465-0971 or tscook@rochester.rr.com.

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# Nunda Historical Society 2018 Programs & Events

Note: Programs, unless noted otherwise, meet at 24 Portage Street in Nunda (March – December). Programs are not being scheduled in January and February, but additional programs/events have been added in the spring, summer, and fall months. From March through December, regular programs are usually the second Wednesday of the month at 7 pm unless otherwise noted.

\*Wednesday, March 14 7 pm - " *Women on Wheels: How Gilded Age Women Found Freedom Through Bicycling, Fought Against People Who Tried to Stop Them, And Why it Matters Today*" by Professor Ellen Gruber Garvey, Professor of English, New Jersey City University.

Sunday, March 18 1 pm - Official opening of the new Nunda Village Historical Walking Tour
Wednesday, April 11 7 pm -"What Will They Think of Next? Ten Innovations that Changed Life in Nunda and Portage, 1850-1950" by Tom Cook

Wednesday, May 9 7 pm - "*Remembering Nunda Area Businesses Part III*" Part of a Series of talks by local residents sharing memories of businesses that are no longer found in Nunda.

The Silk Mill, W D Burt Seed Company, and Burt's Printing Service will be featured this year.

Saturday, May 19 - NHS Biennial Tea – Historic Dowling Family Tea, 1 pm seating - Holy Angels Church Parish Center, 21 Mass. Street, Nunda See Below

Thursday, May 31 - Saturday June 2nd Visit our Booth at Nunda Fun Days!

Wednesday, June 13 6 pm - Annual Picnic followed by "Songs of WW II" by Geoff Clough at 7 pm

 Tuesday, July 17, 8 am – 6:30 pm NHS Summer Bus Trip to Geneva- includes Seneca White Deer, Rose Hill Mansion, Johnston House and the Drain Pipe Museum. Register by July 6 See page 4
Sunday, July 21 2:30 pm - "History of Once Again Nut Butter" by Gael Billyard Orr

# Sunday, August 5, 2:00 pm "THIS IS RAGTIME: 1919 AT THE MOVIES featuring Miss Lillian Gish in "TRUE HEART SUSIE." A Silent Film with Dennis James at the piano.

Wednesday, September 12, 7 pm - "*Keshequa Central School 50th Anniversary Program*" by Sandra Bonadonna with panel of former teachers and students from the merger era.

#Wednesday, September 19 & Thursday September 20 9 am - 3 pm - Nunda History Days

Saturday, October 6, 9am – 3pm - Annual Yard & Bake Sale Watch for detail on how to donate items for the yard and bake sale and plan to come and shop.

Wednesday, October 10 7 pm - "The Forgotten Cheese Factories of Livingston County" by Jane Oakes

Sunday, November 11 2:30 pm - 100th Anniversary of Veteran's Day Commemoration

Wednesday, November 14 7 pm - "Nunda in 1918: The War, The Homefront, The Spanish Flu, and The Vote" by Nunda Historical Society Members

Saturday, December 8 12 - 5 pm - "Christmas in Nunda" - Local history talks, exhibits, & Music Wednesday, December 12 7 pm - Annual Show and Tell

\* This program is made possible through the support of Humanities New York 's Public Scholars Program. # This performance is made possible with funds from the Decentralization Program, a re-grant program of the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Council on the Arts and administered by Livingston Arts, home of The Genesee Valley Council on the Arts.

This year the theme of our <u>Victorian Tea</u> is Nunda's Dowling Family, documented in the new publication, *Elmwood.* The Tea is Saturday, <u>May 19 with one seating at 1:00 pm at the Holy</u> Angels Church Parish Center, 21 Mass. St., Nunda. This was the home of Chauncy Sanders, founder of the Nunda News, our local newspaper from 1859 to 1983. Featured will be a variety of teas, finger sandwiches, and desserts, with many dishes made from original Dowling Family recipes, **Reservations required since seating is limited**. **Call Fran Ludwig at 585-476-2749 Adults \$12, children under 8 free**, with payment to the Nunda Historical Society, PO Box 341, Nunda, NY 14517

Note: The book "Elmwood", the story of the Dowling Family and their home in Nunda will be available

## Membership News - Renew or Become a New Member

The Society's membership year is from September 1 through August 31. We announced this year's membership drive in our Fall 2017 newsletter and **2017-18 Members are listed below**. Names in **bold** indicate a total membership/donation of \$100 or more. **THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT.**.

However, we are missing some of our regular members. Perhaps you set the membership info aside to do later or we may have missed getting the newsletter to you. We apologize if we failed to contact you or if you renewed and we need to correct our records. In either case, please let us know.

For those who have yet to join us for 2017-18, please renew or become a new member by using the enclosed envelope or the membership form on our website. Your financial support is most important to the success of the Society and is very much appreciated. *Thank You!* 

### **2017-18 Members**

Marcia Ayers Gerald & Margaret Barkley \*Mary & Ron Bennett **Barbara Bernstein** Audrey DeVinney Blakley Catherine Biven George Blood Sandra Bonadonna Alberta Brown Lois Buchinger William D. Burt Thomas & Barbara Byrnes \*Darryl Carpenter Ron & Virginia Chasey Jo Kirk & Chuck Strickland Jerilyn Clark \*Joe & Millie Colombo Tom & Anne Cook Patrick & Margaret Cosentino. Philip & Avis Cox John & Judy DeGrood Gail Diemoz Stephen & Nancy Diemoz Timothy & Kathy Diemoz Julia Donovan Robert & Michele Donovan Robert & Peggy Ellsworth Alberta Essler Barbara Essler Richard & Mary Essler Frank & Linda Foley Marge Foose

Marianne Foote **Theron & Patricia Foote** Jeremy Galton Paul & Nancy Gebauer Cathie Gehrig Ira & Nancy Gelser Jim & Pauline Gelser Helen Gibson Karen Gibson Maureen Goho John Gordinier Family Thomas & Joyce Gormel Don & Valerie Griffing Reginald & Margaret Grosse Doris & Ray Guenther **Sharon Hagens** Sally Hall **Carolyn Hark** \*Kathleen Henry Paul Hoffman & **Jane Schryver** Janet Hughes Vera Hurd Daniel Hurlburt Joyce Hussong Valerie DePuy Jessen Betty Kemp Geraldine Kennedy Charlotte Kernahan Alice Knittel Lonnie & Bonnie Kratts Joan Larson Lynne & Clair Lawson Harold (Bud) Long

Jeff & Sue Long Terry & Connie Lowell George & Karen Lucas Gary & Fran Ludwig Kathleen & Ronald Macomber Sherry & \*Annette Marano \*Dorothy Marcy James & Linda Mc Master Mary Jane Mc Master June Blair Metro Donna Smith Miceli Mary Moore Marlene Noden Ralph Parker Alexander & Becky Pierce Family Julie Piraino Peter & Sue Piraino Family Carolyn Pollock Dick & Barb Powers Barbara Randall \*Steve & Audrey Rapp Carolisa M. Ray Vanessa Robertson Roll-N-View Farms Bob & Donna Russell Adrian Sanford Robert & Lilv Sanford Sherman & Beverly Sanford Joan Schumaker **Nedra Smith** Sue Smith Maxine Snelgrove

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Molly Snyder

\* = New Member

# **Additional Donations since Fall 2017 Newsletter**

Memorials <u>Donor/in Memory of</u> Carolyn Biven Charles Ostrum Julia Donovan Betty Weir Barbara Essler David Essler

Maureen Goho Gerald Goho Joan Schumaker Hope DePuy Alice Thompson Gerald Thompson Isabelle Weir Robert E. Weir Jr.

### **Building/Exhibit Fund**

Jerilyn Clark Ira & Nancy Gelser Sally Hall Carolyn Hark Vera Hurd George & Karen Lucas Julie Piraino Carolisa Meade Ray Nedra Smith

<u>Non Member Donations</u> John & Barbara Robinson Hark Homes

Thank You for Your Thoughtfulness

### NUNDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Phone: 585-468-5420 nhs@frontier.com www.nundahistory.org



#### 2017—2018 Board of Directors

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Newsletter Editor Joan Schumaker

Photographs by Tom Cook & Joan Schumaker

#### Keeping Nunda's History for this and Future Generations.

# Sleigh & Buggy added to Society Collection





In Fall 2017 the Society received some very special donations from Cecil Thompson of Water Cure Road. Some time ago he acquired a cutter and buggy from area estates. He carefully restored them and used them in local parades. The small, light, two-seater buggy is sometimes called a "Doctor's Buggy." The cutter is a small horse drawn sleigh sold by "Snath, White & Stanley, Geneseo NY".

A 1901description of the firm states that "Messrs. Snath, White & Stanley constitute the best known, most popular firm in Geneseo, NY. They handle carriages, buggies, spring and other wagons, cutters, harness, robes, blankets, farm implements, fertilizers and seeds....". The firm also had a store in Livonia and in 1904 made the news by selling 25 cutters in November and December of that year. Perhaps our cutter was purchased at that time!

The buggy and sleigh will be stored in our annex and used for our History Days and student visits. We will also look into using them in local parades in the future. We are very grateful to Cecil Thompson and his family for this special donation in memory of Nancy Thompson.

See www.nundahistory.org for updates on programs, additions to "Nunda's Sports History," our Gift Shop, the History Room with ways to explore Nunda's history, and more.

Visit Often—This is Your Historical Society

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