Sharon Historical Society

238 Main Street, P.O. Box 363, Sharon Springs, NY 13459

Sandra Manko, Editor

May 2023

It's spring! It is hard to know for sure the way the weather goes from almost 80 degrees one day to snowing the next. Crazy weather! However, the weather has not slowed our Expansion Project (the new historic village) down at all. (Check out the photos on the next page.) The General Store and Post Office are almost complete now. They just need to be painted on the inside and some touch-ups on the outside. The Doctor's Office is not far behind. It has a new roof now and all of the windows are in place. The drywall is all up and almost ready to be painted inside. The outside has been scraped and ready for its final coat of paint. This week, we are starting on the Dress/Millinery Shop and the Print Shop. The new sidewalks will be poured in the next two weeks followed by the fences and gardens. It is our goal to have the Historical Village completed by early fall.

One of our major fundraisers is our Garage Sale which will be held on July 22nd and 23rd and again on September 16th and 17th. We raised over $5,000 last year at the sales. However, we need your help! If you would like to donate items to the Garage Sale, please call our Museum Curator, Michelle McCallion at (518) 414-1246 or email us at sharonhistoricalsocietyny@gmail.com. We are seeking good quality items that we can sell at the garage sale. Since we are a 501c(3) non-profit organization, your donation may be tax deductible.

Our museum will open for the year on Memorial Day weekend and will be open each weekend through Labor Day. It is open on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 1 PM to 4 PM or by appointment by calling (518) 860-5513. We still need Receptionists for some weekends, so please call Pauline Brown at (518)284-2687.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Museum soon!

Ron Ketelsen, President

The Wilds

The Lodge of the Wilds was located in Sharon Hill, south side of Route 20 on property currently owned by MacFadden & Sons. The Wilds offered the thrill of seeing creatures that lived 285 million years ago. The tourist attraction offered camping, cabins, ice cream, food, and Atlantic gasoline. The Wilds moved to Springfield Center in the 1940s, and was then advertised as Petrified Creatures to the curious public.

Ron Ketelsen, President

Upcoming Programs:

May 8th "From the Ground Up—Metal Detecting Finds"

May 22nd "Anne Frank's Europe: Before, During and After Her Diary"

June 12th "Preserving Family Photographs & Documents"

June 26th "Nice Women Don't Make History"

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Progress on Our Historic Village

Honoring the Past, Inspiring the Future

The General Store is all ready to be painted inside.

The General Store ceiling has been painted and new floor installed.

A sample of how the General Store will look once it is furnished.

The Doctor's Office is scraped and ready for the remaining sides to be painted.

The image above is similar to how the Doctor's Office will look. We have accumulated medical items from local physicians plus additional lab and medical items which have been donated.

A lion head fountain will be installed in the gardens where visitors will be able to partake in sulphur water as they used to in Sharon Springs in years past.

Board planks are used to walk through the muddy areas until the new sidewalk is poured in mid-May. The General Store is in the background behind the new gazebo.

A white scalloped fence and an arbor will be installed on the Main Street side of the Historic Village. New gardens with rose beds will be planted throughout the new village.

A mini-synagogue will be built in the first long building using the items from the original synagogue that was on Willow Street. The two following buildings will be converted into a barbershop and an ice cream shop.

Make a Donation To The Sharon Historical Society

Honoring the Past, Inspiring the Future

Tremendous things are happening at the Sharon Historical Society! We are building a new Historical Village, expanding the museum by more than 6 times and adding a Visitor's Center and Gift Shop!

The history of Sharon Springs is extremely important to preserve and we will be doing just that by building a new historical village on the property next door to the current museum. This village will show what a small village might have looked like in the 1900s. It will include a General Store, Post Office, Dress/Millinery shop, Print shop, a Synagogue, Barbershop, an Ice Cream Store, and a Church. The Historical Society is also purchasing the Ganz House next door to the museum and will be expanding our museum complex to include a new four-story museum. Here is your opportunity to make a lasting contribution to the history of Sharon and Sharon Springs!

- Become a Member of the Sharon Historical Society.
- Donate historical items to the Museum. It can be items either from Sharon Springs or historical items that will be put on display in one of our historical shops or in an exhibit at the museum.
- Make a lasting financial contribution. You can sponsor a shop in the village or make a donation towards our endowment fund to keep the museum complex funded. All donations of $50 or over will be added to our donor board on display at the museum complex. We are a 501c(3) and your donation may be tax-deductible.

For more information, please contact the Sharon Historical Society by calling (518) 860-5513 or emailing us at *sharonspringshistoricalsocietyny@gmail.com*. Please check out our website at *www.sharonhistoricalsocietyny.org*.

Make A Donation

☐ $1,000 ☐ $_____
Fill in an amount

☐ $500

☐ $250

☐ $100

☐ $50

How would you like your donation applied?

☐ Historic Village Project

☐ New Museum Project (Ganz House)

☐ General Fund (Operating costs)

☐ Endowment Fund

☐ Use as Needed

Is this a Memorial or Honorary Donation? ☐ In Honor of ☐ In Memory of

Memorial/Honoree Name _____

Join The Historical Society

☐ Individual Membership $20 ☐ $Lifetime Membership $100
(One year membership)

Sharon Historical Society and Museum
Located in Sharon Springs, NY

Checks can be made to the Sharon Historical Society and mailed to PO Box 363, Sharon Springs, NY 13459.

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____ Phone Number _____

Credit Card Number (if paying by CC) _____ Expiration Date _____ 3 digit code on back

Things every Historical Society Member Should Know About Sharon Springs

1. Name four different kinds of mineral waters in Sharon Springs.
2. (Multiple Choice) When patients received the pulverization treatment using mineral waters: a) The water was atomized by steam or compressed air and forced through pipes into the rooms and breathed into the lungs. b) The water was scented by Pine Needle Extract and applied to their armpits. c) A cone was placed over the nose and the patient inhaled deeply.
3. What was the name of the cult movie made in Sharon Springs in the 1960s?
4. (Multiple Choice) A beauty contest was held on the steps of the Imperial Bathhouse in 1940. It was called a) Miss Mineral Water b) Miss Beauty Contest c) Miss Health
5. (Multiple Choice) Which bath treatment is described as when chemical pellets were added to the bath water causing a carbonated effervescent action and given to those suffering from chronic heart disease? a) Sulphur-Magnesium Bath b) Pine Needle Bath c) Fango Bath d) Nauheim Bath
6. What famous person worked one summer waiting tables at the Adler Hotel and later wrote about it in his book?

(Answers on Page 8)

American Legion Post 1269 of Sharon Springs—How Proud We Are!

How well do you know our Veterans? As Memorial Day approaches, it's an opportune time to think of those who have given so much.

The next 3 pages show photos of some of Sharon's Veterans. Below is an alphabetical list of the photos. You'll see some familiar faces. How many can you match up?

1. Ashworth, Eric (Vietnam Era & Persian Gulf War)
2. Bakkom, Jean (Vietnam Era)
3. Baxter Bob (WWII)
4. Belfance, Jason (Operation Enduring Freedom)
5. Bell, Edith (WWII & Korean Conflict)
6. Blothenburg, Dale (Vietnam Era)
7. Blothenburg, Otto (Korean Conflict)
8. Bowmaker, George (WWII) & Patty Neale
9. Buttery, Richard (Korean Conflict)
10. Comins, Bob (Korean Conflict)
11. Comins, Warren (Korean Conflict)
12. Cousineau, Joe (Korean Conflict)
13. Cousineau, Nel (Korean Conflict)
14. Cousineau, Omer (Korean Conflict)
15. Cummings, Art (WWII)
16. Cummings, Bernice (Korean Conflict)
17. Cummings, Fran (Korean Conflict)
18. DiPace, Anthony (WWII)
19. Edwards, Roger (Korean Conflict)
20. Empie, Andrew (WWII)
21. Farro, Babe (WWII)
22. Farro, Larry (Vietnam Era)
23. Herman, Erwin (WWII)
24. LaGuardia, Dick (WWII)
25. Istle, John (Vietnam Era)
26. Jackson, C.J. (Operation Enduring Freedom)
27. Jankowski, Justin (Operation Enduring Freedom)
28. Kaido, Sam (WWII)
29. Kelly, Ken (Operation Enduring Freedom)
30. Kettler, Floyd (WWII)
31. Lane, Alvin (WWI)
32. Lane, Jesse (WWII)
33. Lane, Lauren (Vietnam Era)
34. Lape, Andy (Operation Enduring Freedom)
35. Lape, Chris (Persian Gulf)
36. Lynk Mac (WWII)
37. McFee, Larry (WWII)
38. Mallery, Keith (Korean Conflict)
39. Nirschl, Allan (Vietnam Era)
40. Nirschl, Richard (Vietnam Era)
41. Nirschl, Robert (Korean Conflict)
42. Nolette, Ben (Operation Enduring Freedom)
43. Nolfo, Ron (Korean Conflict & Vietnam Era)
44. Olsen, Andy (Vietnam Era)
45. Olsen, Harry (Vietnam Era)
46. Olsen, John (Vietnam Era)
47. Oppici, Chris (Operation Enduring Freedom)
48. Osterhoudt, Gus (WWII & Korean Conflict)
49. Osterhoudt, Kyle (Operation Enduring Freedom)
50. Parsons, Andy (Operation Enduring Freedom)
51. Parsons, Dustin (Operation Enduring Freedom)
52. Parsons, Ernie (WWII)
53. Parsons, Tom (Vietnam Era)
54. Sall, Walter (WWII)
55. Slater, Howard (WWII)
56. Spofford, Joe (Vietnam Era)
57. Stephens, Lawrence (WWII)
58. Ullman, Art (Korean Conflict)
59. Ullman, Jeff (Vietnam Era)
60. Ullman, Wes (Vietnam Era)
61. Van Dyke, Bob (Vietnam Era)
62. Vrooman, Arden (WWII)
63. Vrooman-James Jr., Douglas & Mark (Vietnam Era)
64. Vrooman, Chester (Buster) (WWII)
65. Vrooman, Jim (Korean Conflict)
66. Vrooman, Mark (Vietnam Era)
67. Vrooman, Jim Jr. (Vietnam Era)
68. Wilday, Jarry (Persian Gulf)
69. Winnie Zachary (Operation Enduring Freedom)
70. Wright Brothers-Sidney, Fred, David, Donald & William (Korean Conflict)

Some of Our Veterans

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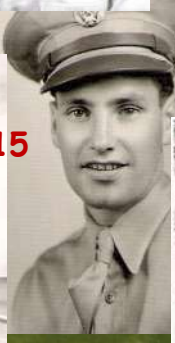
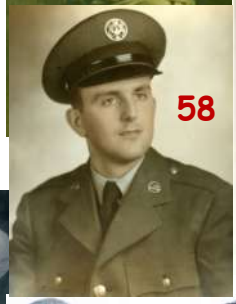
Some of Our Veterans



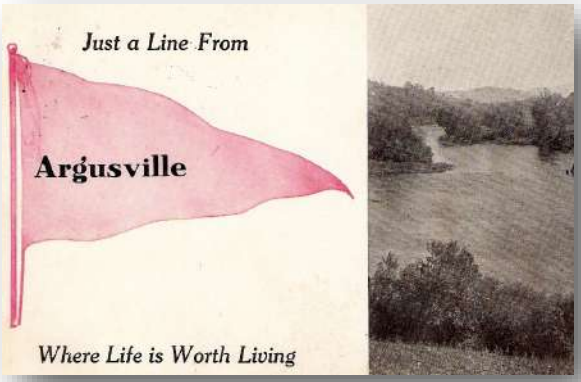


Some of Our Veterans

Answers to Test from Page 2—Historical Facts About Sharon Springs

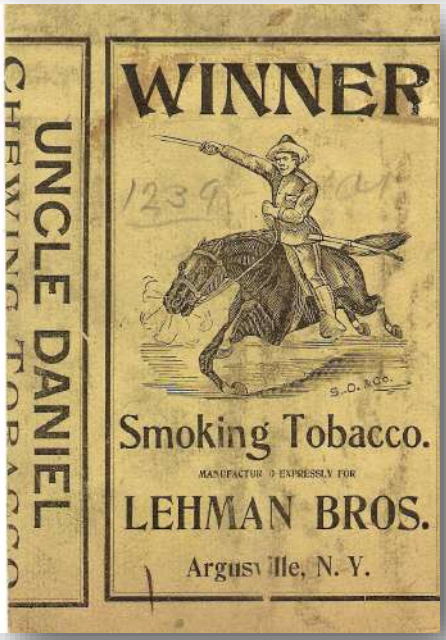
1. Sulphur, Magnesia, Chalybeate, Blue Stone (or Eye Water)
2. a)
3. "I Drink Your Blood" about a small town overrun by rabies-infected members of a satanic cult.
4. c)
5. d)
6. Ed Koch—later to be Mayor of NYC

Argusville Remembered



In 1834, when the official Post Office was established in the hamlet, the name Argusville was chosen in honor of the *Albany Argus*, a newspaper with a large circulation among the hamlet's predominantly Democratic residents. In 1872, there were 38 dwellings and 175 inhabitants. Most communities around 1872 were self-sufficient and independent. Argusville was more prosperous than most. Argusville, around 1872, consisted of 3 hotels, a dressmaking shop, tailor, millinery, wagon shop, tin shop, three tanneries, foundry, carriage and wagon manufacturer, glove manufacturer, cheese factory, cheese box manufacturer, cider mill, shoemaker shops, feed mill, grocery store, grist and sawmill, undertaker, and blacksmith shops. Some additional occupations included a physician, Justice, photographer, painter, merchant, carpenters, horse dealer, machinist, mason and builder, farmers, and hops growers.

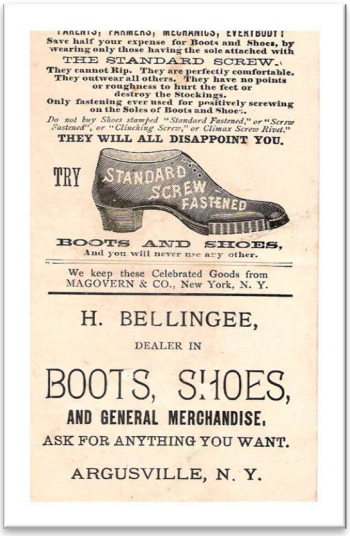
The postcard at the left, dated 1911, shows Lehman Bros. Store, residence, and post office (building at right), which were located prominently on the corner in the middle of Argusville. Lehman Bros. Store sold smoking tobacco as well as groceries, dry goods, wallpaper, and hardware. Argusville had its own post office from March 1, 1834 to March 31, 1954. These buildings burned around 1950. Note the plank sidewalks at the right and the fence in front of Orville Hodge's residence, one-time Argusville postmaster.



The Argusville Silk Mill, built in 1889, was located on the east side of Sawmill Hill (now County 5A) near the creek. The life of the silk mill was short-lived as it burned in 1893.

Argusville Remembered (Cont'd)

The quaintness of small community life is portrayed in this postcard of 1912.



The advertisement from Bellingee Store in Argusville reads, "All us school girls wear standard screw fastened boots and shoes. They are so nice."

Sharon natives have kidded for years about the Argusville Carnival, thinking it was a joke. However, at one time, the Montgomery County Fair was held in Argusville. People had strong ties to the church and much of the socializing revolved around their religious life, but one highlight of the summer months was the carnival. Long-time resident of Argusville, Margaret Kettler, remembers her husband, Floyd, telling her about the large tent which was put up in the middle of Argusville. Going to the fair was a big family event as described in this poem:

Come, wife, let's take the children,
And go to the County Fair;
For there are things of interest
To see when you get there.
There's cows and pigs and poultry,
Flowers and fancy work galore;
And a better ring performance,
Than they have ever had before.
So get the children ready,
If you can get away;
We'll pack up our lunch and hook-up Betsy,
And go and spend the day.

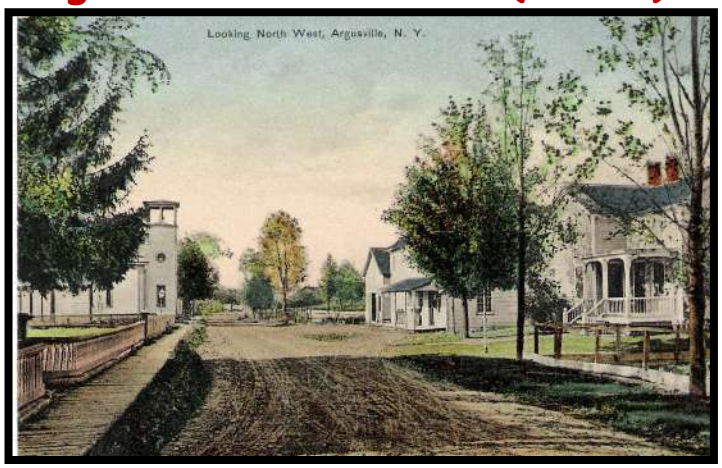
Author Unknown

Argusville Remembered (Cont'd)

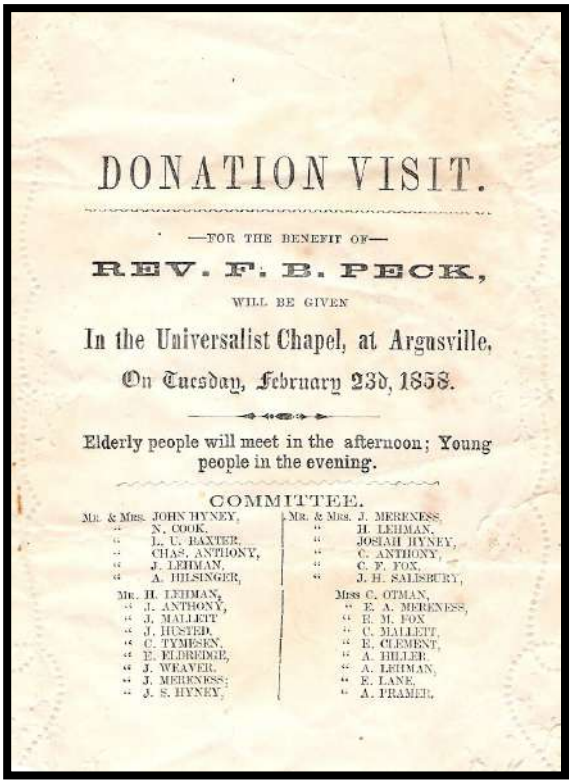
D. H. Finkell's Sawmill, at left, circa 1920, was located on the east side of Sawmill Hill (now County Route 5A) near the creek. The postcard at right, postmarked 1912, shows how the old mill on Hyney's Pond looked at the time.

The postcard at the left shows Argusville Public School District # 7, located in the Town of Carlisle. The photograph at the left shows students from the Montgomery County Joint School District. Mabel Lattimer is the teacher, circa 1897. Leland Button is the student holding his hat.

Argusville Remembered (Cont'd)



This Main Street image of Argusville looking west, circa 1898 shows the Methodist Church and plank sidewalks on the left. The Methodist Episcopal Church of Argusville was organized in May 1874 with first pastor Charles Heath. Services were held at the Universalist Church for several years at a yearly rental fees but it is not certain when it closed.



DONATION VISIT.

—FOR THE BENEFIT OF—

REV. F. B. PECK,

WILL BE GIVEN

In the Universalist Chapel, at Argusville,

On Tuesday, February 23d, 1858.

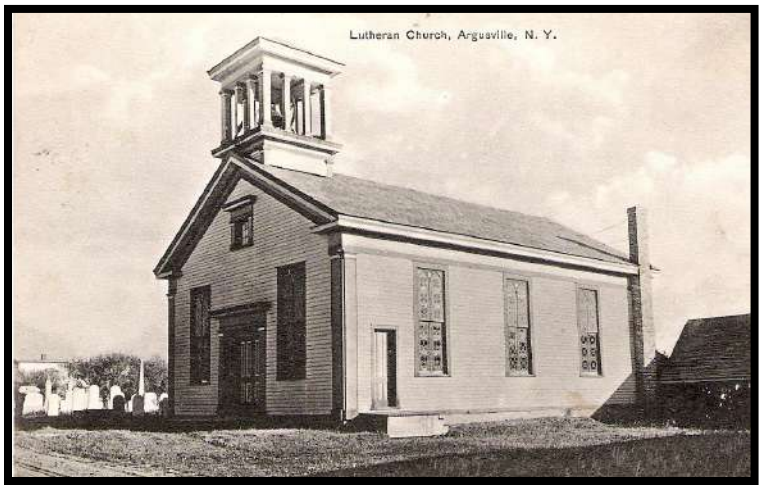
Elderly people will meet in the afternoon; Young people in the evening.

COMMITTEE.

Mr. & Mrs. JOHN HYNEY,	Mr. & Mrs. J. MERRENESS,
" N. COOK,	" H. LEHMAN,
" L. U. BAXTER,	" JOSIAH HYNEY,
" CHAS. ANTHONY,	" C. ANTHONY,
" J. LEHMAN,	" C. F. FOX,
" A. HILSINGER,	" J. H. SALISBURY,
Mr. H. LEHMAN,	Miss C. OTMAN,
" J. ANTHONY,	" E. A. MERRENESS,
" J. MALLETT	" E. M. FOX
" J. HUSTED,	" C. MALLETT,
" C. TYMESEN,	" E. CLEMENT,
" E. ELDREDGE,	" A. HILLER
" J. WEAVER,	" A. LEHMAN,
" J. MERRENESS;	" E. LANE,
" J. S. HYNEY,	" A. FRAMER,

On February 22, 1858, the Universalist Chapel at Argusville held a donation visit for the benefit of Reverent F. B. Peck. A donation visit meant the attendees were expected to give money, probably for the minister's salary.

The Universalist Church of Argusville was organized in 1852 by Reverent J. D. Hicks, the first pastor. Their house of worship was erected the same year with 20 members. By 1872, when membership had grown to 30, Rev. W. H. Waggoner was pastor. Rev. Waggoner officiated for a couple of years but the membership became too scattered and few to sustain a preacher and the church was rented to the Methodists in 1874.



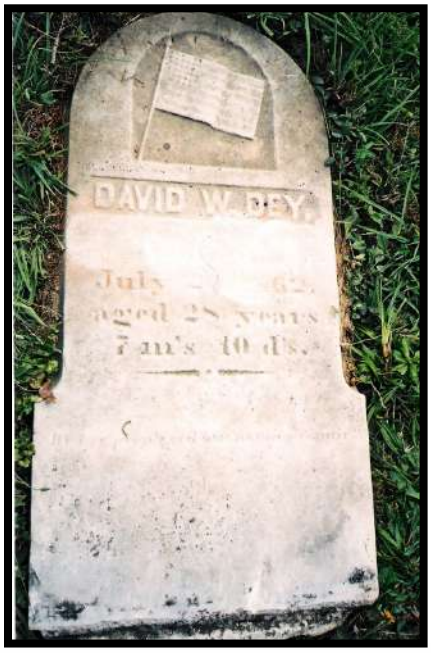
This Argusville Lutheran church postcard was written July 29, 1911. The churchyard, purchased in 1859 is now filled with time-worn, leaning gravestones. Rev. P. Wieting was the first pastor with 28 members. The Lutherans alternated with the Baptists in occupying the Baptist pulpit for church worship. By 1847, migration of many people to the western states reduced the Baptist membership to such an extent that it became impossible to meet the church expenses. The church property was sold to Nathan Seeley, who purchased it on behalf of the Baptists and Lutherans. Shortly after this the Baptist congregation stopped having worship services. Initially, only male members voted. However, in 1886, the Lutheran Ladies' Aid Society gave notice to the Church Council that if they were given the privilege of voting, they would give financial assistance toward repairs. The privilege of voting was quickly granted. Obviously the vote wasn't as important to them as the money. In the fall of 1937, the congregation endorsed a plan to re-align the congregation which united St. Matthew's Lutheran Church at Leesville with Evangelical Lutheran Church in Argusville. Although they shared a pastor, their budgets and church councils remained separate. On July 20, 1969, the Argusville Church voted unanimously to disband and discontinue services as of August 30, 1969. It was a sad day for the Argusville Lutherans when services were discontinued and the doors were closed at this beautiful structure. The wedding of Charles and Donna Olsen, officiated by Reverend Laverne Filmore, was the last big event to be held there.

Argusville Remembered (Cont'd)

At least three, and possibly four cemeteries, are in the hamlet of Argusville. Two are in the Town of Sharon and one in the Town of Carlisle.

The Argusville Lutheran Church Cemetery, no longer an active cemetery, is located in the Town of Carlisle on County Route 5A, next to the old Lutheran Church. Three Civil War veterans are buried here: John H. Hyney, David W. Dey, and John N. Grandy.

David W. Dey, NYSF, Member of Co. K. 14th Regt., Died at Fortress Mount, VA., July 20, 1862, aged 28 years, 7 months, 10 days, died from contracting typhoid fever. **John Grandy**, a member of Company F 98th Regiment NYSV, died October 20, 1964 from wounds received at capture of Fort Harrison, VA. **John Hyney** died August 13, 1864 at Fortress Monroe from wounds received at Petersburg, aged 25 years. John Hyney was the grandson of John Hyney, a prominent settler of Argusville.



Argusville Cemetery is in the Town of Sharon, located on County Route 5A heading north, just before going into the hamlet. This cemetery has not been in use since circa 1885, when the last burial was recorded.

Argusville Wives Cemetery, located on Hoyt Road in the Town of Sharon, so called because of four wives buried here. This cemetery is no longer in use.

Lydia C., Wife of William I. Gardiner, Died 1849, Age 22 Years, 3 months, 29 Days

Caroline, Wife of Albert Barns, Died 1852, Aged 33 Years, 6 Months, 22 Days

Harriet, Wife of Gilbert Gordon, Died 1850, Aged 25 Years

Susan, Wife of Henry J. Brown, Died 1851, Aged 49 Years, 4 Months, 26 Days

It is thought there might be another cemetery on Argus Acres Road but after talking to people who live in the area and searching for it, one was not found.

Check Out Our Newest Item For Sale

Comical Sharon Springs Postcard Canvas Bags

Several years ago, there was an entire series of comical postcards printed to advertise the mineral baths at Sharon Springs. We have taken a few of these postcards and printed them on high-quality canvas bags. These bags are for sale at NBT Bank in Sharon Springs for $20 or can be purchased by sending a check for $24 which include postage and handling. Proceeds go to benefit the Sharon Historical Society.

- Open main compartment with easy access
- 15" wide x 18.5" high, x 4.7" deep
- 100% deluxe cotton canvas
- Double carry handles
- Environmentally conscious and reusable
- Ideal for light grocery shopping

Care Instructions: To keep your bag looking bold, washing is not recommended.

If ordering by mail, please indicate which bag you would like and make your check payable to the **Sharon Historical Society**. Mail your order to the Sharon Historical Society, P.O. Box 363, Sharon Springs, NY 13459.