

Sharon Historical Society Newsletter

Free Webinar Programs Scheduled through July 2022

- 02/14/22 "The Many Fires of Sharon Springs"
02/28/22 Big Trees and Old Forests of NY
03/14/22 Favorite Tales from Underground Empires: Two Centuries of Exploration, Adventure and Enterprise in NY's Cave Country
03/28/22 Famous Decedents 1692 Salem Witchcraft Trials
04/11/22 If Streets Could Talk - The History of Sharon Springs, NY
04/25/22 General North - He Knew People You HAVE Heard Of
05/09/22 The History of Hops Farming
05/23/22 The Forgotten History of Blacks in Schoharie County
06/13/22 Women Who Served Our Country with Connections to Schoharie County
06/27/22 Notorious RBG: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg
07/11/22 America's Quilting History, Quilt Styles and Quilting Myths
07/25/22 Jo. Sykes at Sharon Springs: A History of the Pavilion Hotel

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For appointments-call 518-860-5513

February 2022

A Message from the President

Hello Members, Friends, and Neighbors,

There are many wonderful and exciting things happening with the Sharon Historical Society. We have made tremendous progress on many of our new projects. One of the most exciting things is that we were able to secure funding to purchase the property next door to the museum. (More on this in our next newsletter.) This was made possible with a very generous donation from the Nicholas J. Juried Foundation. Purchasing this property was the first important step in our three-phase project. There are seven buildings on that property. We plan to make a small "village" out of those buildings.

Once the weather starts warming up, we will begin working on the buildings and the landscaping. We definitely will be looking for volunteers to assist us! Here is your chance to get involved.

Our new website launched on January 1st. We have tons of information on the website. We have added 71 years' worth of high school yearbooks. We are also adding cemetery records from 75 cemeteries in Sharon and the surrounding areas. There are many reference links and ways to find information on the website. Check out the new website at www.sharonhistoricalsocietyny.org.

We would like to welcome two new members to the Historical Society Board of Directors. Joyce Slater, who grew up in Sharon Springs has been appointed as the Village of Sharon Springs representative. Michelle McCallion has lived in Sharon Springs for many years and is an avid antique and history buff. We are excited to welcome these two individuals to our Board!

We have added 24 programs to our Sharon Historical Society Free Webinar Series this year. To the left, you will see a listing the first half of the year. We hope you will be able to join us for these programs.

There has been a tremendous growth in our membership this past year. We are hoping that our new members will volunteer to join us as we undertake many more new projects. As soon as it warms up, we plan to open the museum. We need assistance with staffing the museum, working on each of the "village" vignettes, help with website content, assist with digitalizing our photo collection and a variety of other projects. You can fill out a volunteer form on our website at www.sharonhistoricalsocietyny.org/volunteer. Help us to "Keep the Past Present!"



Ron Ketelsen,
President



This wonderful donation to the museum was given by the Village of Sharon Springs. It came from the Jewish Synagogue on Willow Street and hung above the altar. It reads, "Donated by Tzvi Wasserman." That translates into Harry Wasserman, the owner of The

Roseboro Hotel. The Wasserman family donated the funds to build the synagogue. It has recently been sold and will become an artist studio. As part of our new museum expansion project, we are building a mini-synagogue display as part of the new village we are creating.

New Publication—"The Many Fires of Sharon Springs-With a Tribute to Sharon Springs Fire Department"



This is a book which is long overdue. The sheer number of fires in the Village of Sharon Springs is disconcerting to people who have lived here for years and witnessed not only the destruction and financial losses, but the vanishing architecture as well. The intent of this book is to document the fires and the loss of historic buildings. The book gives credit to the many volunteers of the Fire Department, Auxiliary, and Rescue Squad who have served the community and continue to serve us every day. Price is \$16.00. Locally, the book is available for sale at NBT Bank in Sharon Springs. They will be available on our website very soon at www.sharonhistoricalsocietyny.org.

(Below is Chief Ivan Van Schaick who served 1934—1954 and Chief Bill Barbic Jr.—currently in office.)



Eric Adler Family Visits the Former Adler Hotel

Eric Adler and his family, who now live in London, visited Sharon Springs in late-December 2021 to visit the Adler Hotel that was built by his great-grandfather, Louis Adler. Eric provided the home movie from the early 1930s which was shown in a recent presentation by Ron Ketelsen, "The Adler Hotel, From Heyday to Present Day." Eric had visited the hotel many years ago when he was a small child. He was quite shocked to see the hotel now in its current state of deterioration.



Want to Donate an Object to the Sharon Historical Society Museum?

When we add to the Sharon Historical Society Museum's collection, we're not just accumulating objects, papers or artwork. We're also collecting stories about each artifact.

This is one of the main principles of collecting at the Museum. And it's something to keep in mind if you're ever thinking of offering something for donation.

How do you donate? E-mail or call us!

Most donations to the Sharon Historical Society Museum start with an e-mail to us at sharonhistoricalsocietyny@gmail.com or call (518) 860-5513. Maybe someone's cleaning out their attic and found a collection of old political campaign buttons. Maybe a general contractor is working on a building and wants to preserve some historical element that is being removed. Maybe someone's great-grandmother has passed away and they're cleaning out her house and her (possibly) priceless art.

Whatever the reason for the outreach, we ask for a photo and a brief description of the artifact with some sense of its story and background.

Before you write about your heirloom, however, keep in mind that there are a couple of things we can't do. First, we can't do appraisals or in any way help you estimate what an object is worth. And second, we can't help you authenticate a piece. Think your aunt's oil-on-canvas is a genuine Thomas Cole? We can't help you there!

If a donation is what you have in mind, we will reply to your initial message and ask for more information. We are trying to determine several things:

- What kind of condition is it in?
- Do we have the expertise and resources to conserve, maintain and store it?
- Can we exhibit it in the future?
- Does the object tell a story about our past or present?

We don't have the resources to accept certain objects, and we never take anything that we don't think we can take care of properly. We generally say "no" to exceedingly large arti-

facts—like pianos or big architectural elements—because we don't have the storage space or facilities to exhibit them.

And once we decide to accept your item, it becomes official. The donor fills out a deed of gift, and we formally take it into our collection.

What does the donor get in return? They can pick the object's credit line—either their own name or in honor of someone—so the piece always has that association. But more importantly, they have the satisfaction of knowing that a treasured object—and the story that goes with it—will be preserved for generations to come.



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Sharon Springs Baseball Team—early 1930s. Photograph donated by Joe McCallion

Back row from left: Lawrence Farro (Babe), Judd Blodgett (Cobleskill), George Miller, John Kaido, Wendell Ethington, Pete Farro, Clayton Spraker, Leon Lappeus-Sponsor.

Front row from left: Duane Neale (Doc), Joel Ullman, Robert Neale, Bob Beveridge (Manager), Bob Hooker, Sid Sitterley (Canajoharie), Fred Wayne, Leland Haig.

Seated from left: George Bowmaker, Archie Kaido

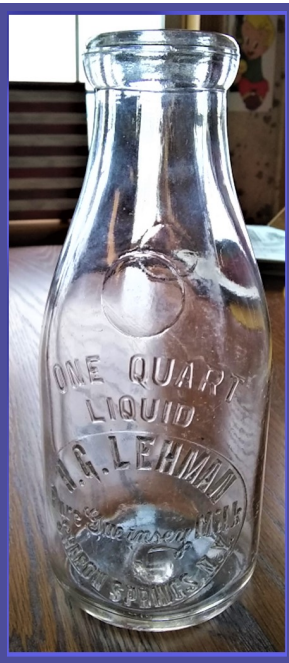


The image at right is Brent Ridge and Josh Kilmer-Purcell standing in front of the Beekman 1802 Mercantile "Kindness" sign. NICE!



Old Maid's Hole

What we commonly call today, the Old Maid's Hole, was previously known as Best's Cavern and the Tyler Hole. Old Maid's Hole is located on the south side of Route 20, just to the west of the motel. It was called Best's Cavern because it was located on the Best farm. The underground stream goes under Route 20 and heads in a northeast direction until it spews out of the hillside "downstreet" just to the south of the present-day Beekman 1802 Mercantile by the old Klinkhart homestead. Through the years, people have explored the underground chasm, and on occasion, it is said ducks were put in the hole by the Route 20 crevasse to see them come out of the hillside where the water surfaces. The water is an overflow from Bowmaker's Pond and drains through the school property. Several times over the years, dirt, debris, and silt have blocked up the above-ground entrance which has caused flooding of Route 20 in front of Sharon Springs Central School. Today, the Village and the New York State Dept. of Transportation have the responsibility of keeping the opening clear to avoid flooding.



Sharon Springs Milk Bottles

The bottle on the left is a Lehman milk bottle. Lehman's bottled milk on Kilts Road. The bottle in the middle is Moineau—which was located across from the current Library building. The bottle on the right reads Sharon Springs Creamery which may have come from the creamery behind the Railroad Depot.



Rabbit Goody, of Thistle Hill Weavers

... is a local mill owner and internationally known textile historian, researcher, lecturer, and teacher. Although technically she resides in the Town of Cherry Valley, we consider her a Sharon-ite. Rabbit recently assisted New York State Museum staff with identifying and re-housing its coverlet collection. There are 56 coverlets in the Museum's collection ranging in date from 1750 to 1880. Pictured is a double woven coverlet dated 1844 from Schoharie County. How proud and fortunate we are to have Rabbit.



Hollywood Hotel—1930s.



The match cover at the right is from the Hollywood Hotel when operated by Spraker & Miller ca. 1940.



The post card at left shows the Hollywood Hotel with Roy Coleman's Gas Station to its left before it was Lynk's Service Station. Herbie Vrooman ran the service station for many years before Stewart's Shops took over.

Hollywood Hotel Demolished

Stewart's Shops, next to the Hollywood Hotel on Route 20, bought the Hollywood property in order to demolish it and enlarge the store and parking lot. Built in 1929, the Hollywood Hotel on the Cherry Valley Turnpike had many owners over the years. During its peak popularity it was owned by the Miller's and then Leon and Virginia Sherwood, and later James Bowmaker. For Sunday dinner, it was the "place to go." Later owners changed the name to Perillo's, Hollywood Too, Black Pearl Inn. A fire in 2004 damaged the building when an accidental blaze was sparked by a blowtorch being used for roof repairs.

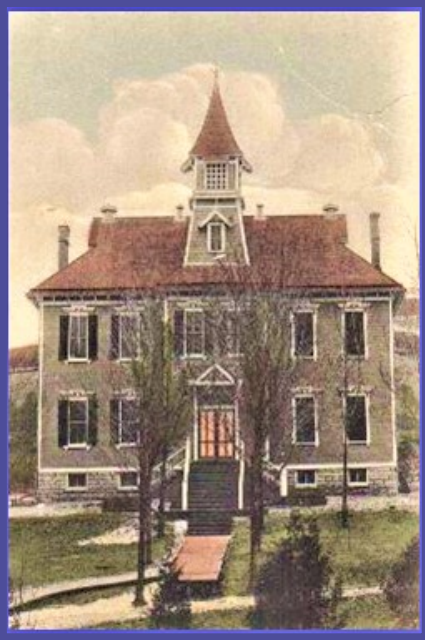


The Hollywood as it looked on January 18, 2004. Photo by Edward Munger, Jr. Gazette reporter.



The Gazette photo by Edward Munger Jr. shows the damage at the rear of the hotel.

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Union High School was located at the end of Academy Street on land half way down the rock cut between Rockville (upstreet) and the Springs district (downstreet). The two-story school opened in 1885 and closed in 1930 when the new centralized school open. It was torn down in the 1950s.



The Broom Drill (above) was performed by the girls of Sharon Springs at a Union School entertainment in Klinkhart Hall in 1888. From left: Viola Coons, Emma Sticht, Eva Feathers, Jane Becker, Jennie Coons, Gertrude Sticht, Carrie Bowmaker, Ella Batcher, Gertrude Hard, May Hitchman, Angelique France and Grace Banta.

COMMENCEMENT
EXERCISES
OF THE
Sharon Springs
Union School,
KLINKHART HALL,
TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 1898.

Programme.

PRAYER.
MUSIC—"Merry June,".....LADIES' CHORUS
ESSAY—"Japan,".....VERGIE HILL
MINUET.....PRIMARY GIRLS
RECITATION—"The Polish Boy,".....LILLIE HECHT
ORATION—"For Free Cuba,".....SETH A. MITCHELL
FAN DRILL.
ESSAY—"The North American Indian,".....GERTRUDE M. HILLER
ORATION—"The Stars and Stripes,".....CLARENCE J. PLANCK
DUET—"Blow, Soft Winds,".....MISS FETHERS
MR. JUMP
ORATION—"Liberty,".....LEWIS W. SMITH
SOLO—Selected.....MR. CALHOUN
Presentation of Diplomas.....REV. E. M. TENBROECK
PROPHECY.....CHARLES S. MERENESS
MUSIC—"The Hunter's Call,".....MALE QUARTETTE
TIMES PRESS, COLESKILL.

The program above is Commencement Exercises held at Klinkhart Hall on June 21, 1898.

Program.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Orchestra | Selected. |
| 2. Invocation | Rev. E. R. Armstrong. |
| 3. Barcarolle | "Tales of Hoffman,"
High School Chorus. |
| 4. Essay | Our Debt to the Indians.
Harold V. Townsend, (excused) |
| 5. Orchestra | Selected. |
| 6. The Purple and the White | H. V. Townsend. |
| 7. Class Oration | Better Farming.
Seth G. Parsons. |
| 8. Valedictory | Seth G. Parsons. |
| 9. Orchestra | Selected. |
| 10. Mission of A Rose. | Bingham.
Hilda Smith |
| 11. Address and Presentation of Diplomas, | W. D. Johnson, State Dept. of Education. |
| 12. Voices of the Woods | Rubenstein.
High School Chorus. |
| 13. Orchestra | Selected. |

At left is the Sharon Springs High School (Union School) Commencement Program of June 23, 1913. Invocation by Rev. E. R. Armstrong and Class Oration by Seth G. Parsons.

13 F. Merrill Schoharie 11 Luckey Schoharie 23 G. E. Miller Middleburg 26 W. Elsbree Middleburg 25 W. Cornwell Middleburg 26 Hallenbeck Cobleskill 28 Hunt Cobleskill 35 Van Schaick Cobleskill 45 H. Bradley Sharon Springs 46 J. Smith Sharon Springs 44 S. Parsons Sharon Springs Won by 1. Second 1.3 Third 2.1 Time 4.10	<p>SCHOOL COLORS</p> <p>Cobleskill..... Red and White Middleburgh..... Green and White Richmondville..... Orange and Black Schoharie..... Blue and White Sharon Springs..... Purple and White</p> <p>COUNTY RECORDS</p> <p>75 Yard Dash—Wharton, R. H. S., 1911, 8 seconds.</p> <p>Standing Broad Jump—Vroman, M. H. S., 1912, 9 ft. 5 1/2 inches.</p> <p>Running High Jump—Rallison and Wharton, R. H. S., 1909, 5 ft. 5 inches.</p> <p>Half Mile Relay—Bierck and Van Voris, C. H. S., 1911, 1 min. 54 3/5 sec.</p> <p>Hammer Throw—M. Shafer, R. H. S., 1909, 117 ft. 6 inches.</p> <p>Running Broad Jump—B. Vroman, M. H. S., 1912, 18 ft. 5 1/2 inches.</p> <p>Pole Vault—D. Frisbie, M. H. S., 1912, 8 ft. 10 inches.</p> <p>One Half Mile Run—Bierck, C. H. S., 1911, 2 min. 17 1/2 seconds.</p> <p>100 Yard Dash—D. Frisbie, M. H. S., 1912, 10 1/4 seconds.</p> <p>Shot Put—Lucky, S. H. S., 1912, 38 ft. 4 inches.</p> <p>Standing High Jump—Wharton, R. H. S., 1912, 4 ft.</p> <p>One Mile Run—Geo. Tingle, C. H. S., 1911, 5 min. 14 1/5 seconds.</p> <p>220 Yard Dash—Wharton, R. H. S., 1911, 25 seconds.</p> <p>Field Day Dance at Commercial Hotel To-night.</p>	<p>PROGRAM</p> <p>—THE—</p> <p>INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION</p> <p>—OF—</p> <p>SCHOHARIE COUNTY</p> <p>ATHLETIC MEET</p> <p>MAY 30, 1913</p> <p>Fair Grounds</p> <p>Cobleskill, N.Y.</p> <p>President..... Seth Parsons Vice-Pres..... Thomas Clay Cor. Sec'y..... Fred Merrill Rec. Sec'y..... Francis Van Schaick Treasurer..... T. Leslie Sullivan</p> <p>Price - - - 5 cents</p>	<p>CAPTAINS OF TRACK TEAMS.</p> <p>Richmondville..... Earl Van Voris Schoharie..... Jacob H. Dietz Middleburgh..... Clarence E. Miller Cobleskill..... Francis E. Van Schaick Sharon Springs..... Harold V. Townsend</p> <p>TRACK OFFICIALS.</p> <p>Referee..... Dr. H. J. Wright Starter..... Mr. Knobl Judges—Frederick Hall, Prof. J. P. Frewen, Prof. Davis, D. Moore, Warren Badley. Inspectors—L. G. Spaul, B. Baxter, Otis Bouck A. C. Dana, Fred Silson. Clerk of Course—Frederick Cornell. Time Keepers—Bennett Vroman, E. Cushing, S. Patrick. Announcer..... Reed Gordon</p> <p>POINTS.</p> <p>First..... 5 Points Second..... 3 Points Third..... 2 Points</p> <p>Richmondville..... 22 Schoharie..... 21 Middleburgh..... 8 Cobleskill..... 2 Sharon Springs..... 28</p>
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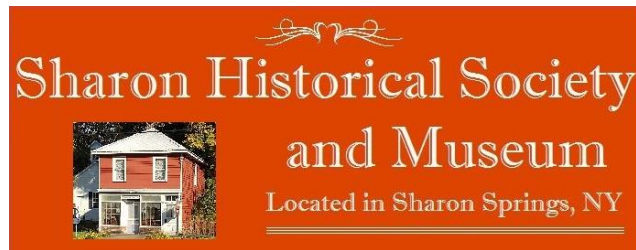
The photo above shows Seth Parsons pole vaulting.

The program at the left shows the various events held at Cobleskill Fairgrounds, which the team participated in: standing broad jump, 75 yard dash, running broad jump, pole vault, 100 yard dash, shot put, half mile relay, running high jump, 1/2 mi. run, standing high jump, 200 yard dash, one mi. run, cross country run.

<p>EVENTS</p> <p>STANDING BROAD JUMP.</p> <p>1 Clay Richmondville 2 Van Voris Richmondville 10 E. Rutland Schoharie 11 C. Luckey Schoharie 12 F. Merrill Schoharie 21 E. M. Van Voris Middleburg 22 Deckerdt, Warner, Middleburg 37 G. Warner Cobleskill 32 Carr Cobleskill 42 Walker Cobleskill 44 Seth G. Parsons Sharon Springs Won by 1. Second 1.3 Third 2.1 Distance..... ft. 11 1/2 inches.</p> <p>75 YARD DASH.</p> <p>1 Clay Richmondville 3 Me Mahon Richmondville 2 Van Voris Richmondville 11 C. Luckey Schoharie 12 F. Merrill Schoharie 10 E. Rutland Schoharie 23 Clarence E. Miller, Middleburg 24 F. L. Sullivan Middleburg 25 W. D. Cornwell Middleburg 36 Hallenbeck Cobleskill 42 Walker Cobleskill 35 Van Schaick Cobleskill 45 H. Bradley Sharon Springs 46 J. Smith Sharon Springs Won by 1. Second 1.3 Third 2.1 Time 9.15 sec.</p>	<p>RUNNING BROAD JUMP.</p> <p>1 Empe Richmondville 2 Van Voris Richmondville 10 E. Rutland Schoharie 11 C. Luckey Schoharie 12 F. Merrill Schoharie 21 E. M. Van Voris Middleburg 22 Deckerdt, Warner, Middleburg 37 G. Warner Cobleskill 32 Carr Cobleskill 42 Walker Cobleskill 44 Seth G. Parsons Sharon Springs Won by 1. Second 1.3 Third 2.1 Distance..... ft. 11 1/2 inches.</p> <p>POLE VAULT.</p> <p>1 Clay Richmondville 2 Van Voris Richmondville 10 E. Rutland Schoharie 11 C. Luckey Schoharie 12 F. Merrill Schoharie 21 E. M. Van Voris Middleburg 22 Deckerdt, Warner, Middleburg 37 G. Warner Cobleskill 32 Carr Cobleskill 42 Walker Cobleskill 44 Seth G. Parsons Sharon Springs Won by 1. Second 1.3 Third 2.1 Height..... ft. 8 1/2 inches.</p> <p>100 YARD DASH.</p> <p>1 Clay Richmondville 3 Me Mahon Richmondville 2 Van Voris Richmondville 11 C. Luckey Schoharie 12 F. Merrill Schoharie 10 E. Rutland Schoharie 23 Clarence E. Miller, Middleburg 24 F. L. Sullivan Middleburg 25 W. D. Cornwell Middleburg 36 Hallenbeck Cobleskill 42 Walker Cobleskill 35 Van Schaick Cobleskill 45 H. Bradley Sharon Springs 46 J. Smith Sharon Springs Won by 1. Second 1.3 Third 2.1 Time 9.15 sec.</p>	<p>48 H. Townsend Sharon Springs Won by 1. Second 1.3 Third 2.1 Time 4.10</p> <p>SHOT PUT.</p> <p>1 Empe Richmondville 2 Van Voris Richmondville 10 E. Rutland Schoharie 11 C. Luckey Schoharie 12 F. Merrill Schoharie 21 E. M. Van Voris Middleburg 22 Deckerdt, Warner, Middleburg 37 G. Warner Cobleskill 32 Carr Cobleskill 42 Walker Cobleskill 44 Seth G. Parsons Sharon Springs Won by 1. Second 1.3 Third 2.1 Distance..... ft. 38 1/2 inches.</p> <p>HALF MILE RELAY.</p> <p>1 Clay, 1 Empe, Richmondville 2 Van Voris, 2 Me Mahon, Richmondville 10 Rutland, 12 Merrill, Schoharie 11 C. Luckey, 14 J. Parsons, Sharon Springs 24 Sullivan, 23 Miller, Middleburg 25 Elsbree, 25 Cornwell, Middleburg 36 Hallenbeck, 35 Van Schaick, Cobleskill 37 Warner, 38 Hunt, Cobleskill 46 J. Smith, 45 H. Bradley, Sharon Springs Won by 1. Second 1.3 Third 2.1 Time 4.10</p> <p>RUNNING HIGH JUMP.</p> <p>1 Clay Richmondville 3 Me Mahon Richmondville 2 Van Voris Richmondville 11 C. Luckey Schoharie 12 F. Merrill Schoharie 10 E. Rutland Schoharie 23 Clarence E. Miller, Middleburg 24 F. L. Sullivan Middleburg 25 W. D. Cornwell Middleburg 36 Hallenbeck Cobleskill 42 Walker Cobleskill 35 Van Schaick Cobleskill 45 H. Bradley Sharon Springs 46 J. Smith Sharon Springs Won by 1. Second 1.3 Third 2.1 Height..... ft. 5 1/2 inches.</p> <p>220 YARD DASH.</p> <p>1 Clay Richmondville 3 Me Mahon Richmondville 2 Van Voris Richmondville 11 C. Luckey Schoharie 12 F. Merrill Schoharie 10 E. Rutland Schoharie 23 Clarence E. Miller, Middleburg 24 F. L. Sullivan Middleburg 25 W. D. Cornwell Middleburg 36 Hallenbeck Cobleskill 42 Walker Cobleskill 35 Van Schaick Cobleskill 45 H. Bradley Sharon Springs 46 J. Smith Sharon Springs Won by 1. Second 1.3 Third 2.1 Time 4.10</p>
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This photograph was taken May 30, 1912 of the Sharon Springs Union School team. They participated in field days held at the Cobleskill Fairgrounds for the Interscholastic Athletic Association of Schoharie County. In back from left are Charles Hartman, Jonas Smith, Robert Linden, Herbert Bradley, and Seth Parsons. In front are Harold Townsend, Ralph Stevens, Julius Parsons, and Allyn Townsend.



2022 Membership Form For The Sharon Historical Society

A shared heritage and a sense of history are priceless gifts for ourselves and for generations to come. Join the Sharon Historical Society and become part of one of the most active and fastest growing historical organizations in Central New York. Your support provides more than just preservation of historic materials; it brings the unique heritage of Sharon and its people to life for audiences worldwide.

Date _____

Name _____

(Use Preferred) Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Membership Types and Rates:

1. **Individual active members**; any person interested in the purposes of the Society is eligible. Annual dues for an individual active member is **fifteen dollars (\$15.00)**.

2. **Institutional members**: any organization, board, school, or library interested in history of Sharon shall be eligible. Annual dues for institutional members are **fifteen dollars (\$15.00)**.

3. **Life members**; individuals only. Dues for a life member is a one-time fee of **one hundred dollars (\$100.00)**.

PLEASE NOTE: Membership dues are paid on an annual basis (Jan-Dec) and are not pro-rated if a member chooses to join mid-year. Membership dues are non-refundable.

Amount of Payment

- _____ Individual Membership -\$15.00
_____ Institutional Membership -\$15.00
_____ Lifetime Membership - \$100.00

Please accept my donation of \$_____ to support the Sharon Historical Society. I do not wish to become a member at this time.

Total enclosed \$ _____

Make checks payable to: **Sharon Historical Society. Mail to PO Box 363, Sharon Springs, NY 13459**

_____ **I would also like to volunteer at the Sharon Historical Museum.** (Check our website at www.sharonhistoricalsocietyny.org for more information on volunteering.)