

Sharon Historical Society

NEWSLETTER

March—April 2026

Sandra Manko, Editor

Message From Our President



Ron Ketelsen
Board President

Spring is just around the corner, and there's a lot of exciting activity underway at the Sharon Historical Society. As the weather warms, we're preparing to complete the historic village exhibit at the museum. Thanks to a very generous donation from one of our Lifetime members, we're now able to finish the viewing insets in each of the village shops. These insets will allow visitors to step inside each shop to see the carefully recreated interiors—bringing the village scene even more vividly to life.

Our next goal is to raise \$6,000 to install an interactive audio system for each vignette. With immersive audio, a single touch will unlock voices, stories, and sounds that transform each display into a vivid journey through history. Imagine artifacts speaking, shopkeepers sharing their stories, and visitors experiencing the past in a deeper and more memorable way. If you would like to help us bring this exciting new feature to life, we would be grateful for your support. Please contact us using the information at the bottom of this page.

Late this March, we'll also be releasing the Sharon Springs Historical Landmark Coloring Book—a 100-page collection filled with beautifully detailed drawings of many of the Village's historic landmarks. While it's designed with adults in mind, it's truly a book the whole family can enjoy. As you add color to each page, you'll rediscover the buildings and places that make Sharon Springs so special. The illustrations are detailed enough that many people may even want to frame their finished pages and display them at home. Each drawing is paired with a short description that shares the story behind the landmark.

We're also creating a Children's Edition Coloring Book with simpler drawings and fewer pages. This version will be given free to children who visit the museum this summer, helping them connect with the history of Sharon Springs in a fun and creative way. Keep an eye out—the coloring books will be arriving soon.

As we get closer to opening the museum for the season on Memorial Day weekend, we'll also be looking for volunteers to help us get everything ready. If you enjoy painting, cleaning windows, light carpentry, landscaping—or just lending a hand—we would love to have you involved. Please email us at sharonhistoricalsocietyny@gmail.com or call (518) 860-5513.

We look forward to seeing you at the museum soon!

Scene on Duck Farm, Sharon Springs, N. Y.



The house on the postcard was once the Usyk house - burned in 1970s.



Inside this issue:

Message from President	1
Ball Cemetery Rosenberg Cemetery	2
Did you know?	3
Sharon Springs A to Z	4-6
Women's History Month	7-8
Sharon Spgs Record Newspaper	9-10
Murders in Sharon Springs?	11
Upcoming Programs	12-13
Alex Knopping Ice Cream	13
Coloring Book Coming	14
History of St. Pats Day	15
Membership App.	16

Ball Cemetery



The Ball Cemetery was located on what was called the old Duncan Brown farm between Sharon Center and Sharon Hill on the north side of Route 20.

In 1947, eight graves were moved to Slate Hill Cemetery,

Lot # B03:
Kilts, Catherine
Ball, Elizabeth
Ball, Peter M.
Ball (Infant)
Ball, Adah
Ball, Libby
Ball, Elizabeth M.
Ball, George

Stone reads:
*Elizabeth M.
Wife of George F. Ball
Died June 15, 1862,
Aged 32 Years, 2
Months, 29 Days*



Rosenberg Cemetery

To reach the Rosenberg Cemetery, from intersection of Route 10 and 20 in Sharon Springs, go west on Route 20 for .1 mile to Chestnut Street. Continue on Chestnut Street for 1.0 mile and go left on Engleville Road. Go 2.5 miles to Lane Cross Road and continue west for 1.5 miles to Rosenberg Road. Turn left (east) on Rosenberg Road for .1 mile. Cemetery is on the north side (left), approximately 1,000 feet back, directly behind a pond in a wooded area. This is private property.

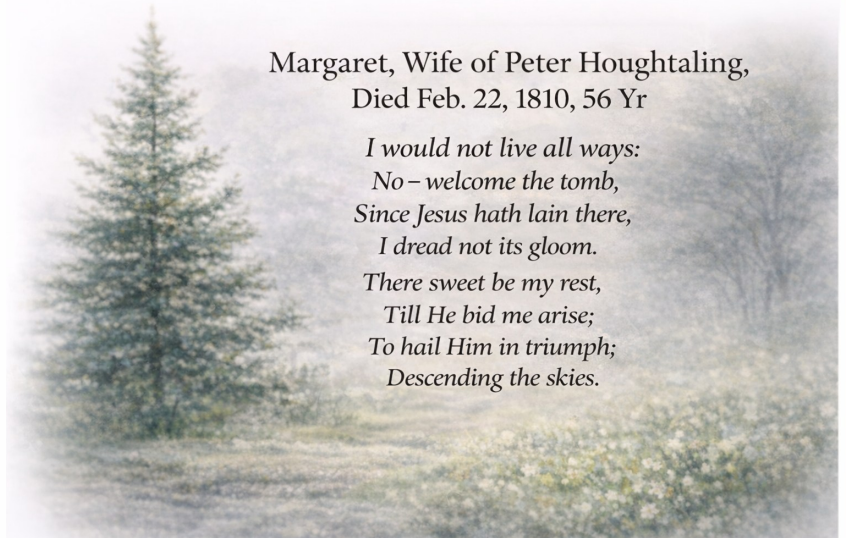
Margaret Houghtaling and Anna Maria Rosenberg are buried here. There is one large white slab, which doesn't have any-

thing written on it. One large stone only has the name of the monument company, that of Z. I. Brown, East Cobleskill.



Margaret, Wife of Peter Houghtaling,
Died Feb. 22, 1810, 56 Yr

*I would not live all ways:
No - welcome the tomb,
Since Jesus hath lain there,
I dread not its gloom.
There sweet be my rest,
Till He bid me arise;
To hail Him in triumph;
Descending the skies.*





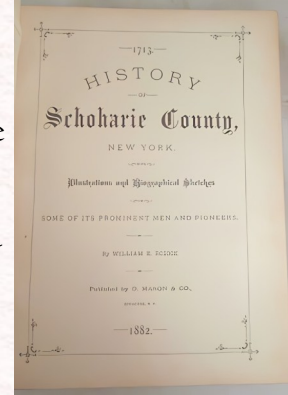
did you know?



July 10, 1781 1797

The Battle of Sharon on July 10, 1781 was the last large engagement to take place in Schoharie County during the Revolutionary War. This was the only battle fought within the Town of Sharon.

Publication date of William E. Roscoe's *History of Schoharie County with illustrations and biographies.*



\$1.04

The cost of a horse and rider to go through the toll gate on the Great Western Turnpike at Leesville in 1829.

July 6, 1866

Slate Hill Cemetery was incorporated.



The width of the Engleville grist mill was 6 feet wide with a diameter of 32 feet.



18

Number of students who attended the Leesville one-room schoolhouse for the 1928-29 school year.

It is our job to keep Sharon's unique history alive through research, genealogy, documentation and by teaching the next generation.



1796

The Sharon Dutch Reformed Church of Dorlach was built on Route 10 South.



21,000

The number of fans who attended the 1st season of the Sharon Raceway in 1952.

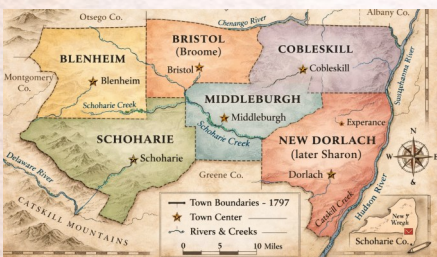


1797

In 1797, Schoharie County was subdivided into six towns: Blenheim, Bristol (Broome), Cobleskill, Middleburgh, Schoharie, and New Dorlach, which was renamed Sharon at that time.

\$1.25

Cost of admission to the Sharon Raceway in the 1950s for an evening of thrills, spills, and excitement!



(Broome), Cobleskill, Middleburgh, Schoharie, and New Dorlach, which was renamed Sharon at that time.

Sharon Springs-from A-Z

A* Amish Auction

We thank our Amish friends for auctioneering at our Bottle Auction in Sept 2025 held at Sunnycrest. It was great fun. Ron Ketelsen is the auctioneer's "assistant."



B* Bee Hive

The Bee Hive Millinery Shop was on Main Street to the right of Sticht's Drug Store. The Bee Hive burned in the fire of 1926.



C* Calendars



The 2026 Mighty Men of Sharon Calendar was a big hit! Hope you got one when they were hot off the press!

D* Davis View Cabins

Davis View Cabins on Rte. 20 offered sleeping accommodations to the weary traveler in the 1940s-50s, later renovated into a motel and became Skyline View Motel.



E Empie

Lt. Andrew C. Empie, US Army Air Corp, born 1920, SSCS Class of 1938. First reported missing in action over Lae, New Guinea. Now known he was shot down by enemy fire on Sep 29, 1944. A memorial service was held in his honor at Sharon Methodist Church. Might possibly be interred at Fort William McKinley, Manila, Philippines. A plaque hangs in the Library Community Room in remembrance.



F* Festival

The Harvest Festival is a huge success each September. The weather always seems to cooperate and the food is great! It's also a great opportunity to show off our Museum!



G Goat Poop

Beekman Goat Poop makes a great gift at Christmas time—it's for those who are both naughty or nice.



H Health Pageant

A "Miss Health" Pageant was held on the steps of the Imperial Bathhouse in 1939.



Sharon Springs I~Q

I Imperial Bathhouse

The Imperial is one of Sharon's architectural gems. Built in 1926, the baths capitalized on Sharon Springs' naturally occurring Sulphur and magnesium-rich waters.



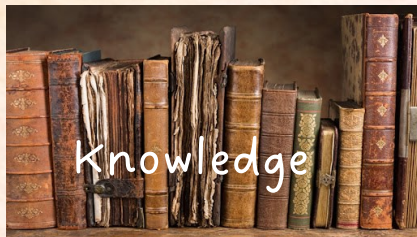
J Austin Jetton

Austin has one of the "best" singing voices in our community and also makes the best chocolate—Austintacious!



K Knowledge

There's no time like the present to increase your knowledge of Sharon's history. You should read all of the books.



L Lincoln Hotel

The Lincoln Hotel was damaged in the 1926 fire. The postcard at the left shows the hotel after the renovations. It burned again beyond repair in 1966 and was later torn down.



M Mansion House



The Mansion House which burned June 23, 1936, catered to both local residents and summer guests. The character of this establishment changed during the

years of Prohibition when "private parties" were held in the back!



N National Register

In 1994, approximately 180 buildings in the lower village were surveyed and granted recognition as an Historic District and placed on New York State's Register of Historic Places and also the National Register.



O Octagonal White Sulphur Temple

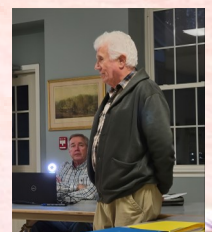


There are eight arched openings between the Corinthian columns of the octagonal White Sulphur Temple.



P Programs

Do we have great programs or what? At right is Dana Cudmore on Sept 8, 2025 telling us about the tragedy at Howe Caverns. Ron is at his laptop. Ron's the one who makes all our Zoom programs possible.



Dana Cudmore



Q Quote

"Three things in human life are important: the first is to be kind; the second is to be kind; and the third is to be kind."





Sharon Springs R~Z



★R★ Robbery



Who can ever forget the robbery at Central National Bank on Dec 17, 1982? Ski masks! Get-away car! \$17,000 heist! And how did they get caught? A “local” remembered seeing a toy beagle in the back window of the get-away car! Not a high tech arrest!



★S★ Ski

A 900-foot ski tow and ski shop accommodated skiing and sleighing enthusiasts of the 1930s and 1940s. Due to peculiar climatic conditions at Sharon Springs, snow is plentiful here at times when the slopes of the surrounding countryside are quite barren.



★T★ Twin Maples



Tinas Pynneo, Sharon's first Town Supervisor, built this Federal-style house in Sharon Hill, used as an inn. It was

purchased in 1916 by Jeremiah and Eva Cross who opened the house to summer boarders and called it “Twin Maples.”



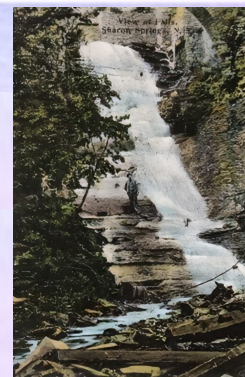
★U★ u.s. LaVallee

The Commodore was built by Ulric S. LaVallee (commonly known as U.S.) and opened for business May 30, 1930 on old Route 20. When Route 20 was re-routed, U.S. had the structure moved in 1938 so it was located on the new highway.



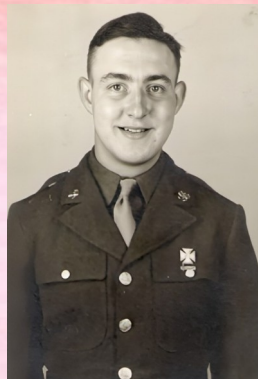
★W★ Waters

Sharon Springs is famous for its mineral waters—Sulphur Water, Chalybeate Water, Blue Stone Spring Water, and of course—if you have a tummy ache, there is Magnesia Water.



★V★ Vrooman

Pfc. Arden Vrooman, WWII, served in the US Army Nov 16, 1942-Oct 19, 1945, fought in battles of Ardennes, Central Europe, Normandy, Northern France, and Rhineland, D-Day, Battle of the Bulge, born 1923, died May 1995. Thank you for your service.



★Y★ Yarn Do you have a yarn to tell? Keep good records and think like an Historian. Are there family names and dates you want remembered? Write it down to make it easier for your family and future historians. Remember we want your stories and memories of Sharon. A new book is in the works and we want you to be in it! Don't you want to be a “character” in our book? Contact us at sharonhistoricalsocietyny@gmail.com.



★X★ Cross Stitch

Janet Lynk was a member of the Historical Society and did beautiful cross stitch. Some people are lucky to have one of her beautiful pieces.



★Z★ Zoom

Have you tuned into any of our Zoom Programs. They've been great—and what a learning experience—everything from David Brooks who told us the History of the Erie Canal to Ron Ketelsen and “The History of Santa Claus.”



MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH— 3/1/26 TO 3/31/26

Women's History month is an annual observance to highlight the contributions of women to events in history. Below are four local women who have helped shaped our local community as we know it.

Emma McFee 1892—1964

Emma McFee was born in Schoharie but lived most of her life in Sharon Springs. She began teaching in the Sharon Springs School District in 1914, married Joseph McFee in 1917, and taught at Sharon Springs for 45 years. She was a member of the Berean Class and United Methodist Women, a charter member of the American Legion Auxiliary, and president of Twentieth Club.

All of her life, Emma documented important events, both in the Village of Sharon Springs, the Town of Sharon, and Schoharie County. She shared that information with her school classes and the community—and ultimately to the Sharon Historical Society. She was the Town Historian before there was such a position and title. Emma lived her life with dignity and grace and the Sharon Historical Society is thankful for her valuable contributions.



Jean Bakkom 1924—2024

Although Jean Bakkom was born in Wisconsin and spent many years in the military, she spent a great deal of her life in Sharon and made it her home. Jean earned a bachelor's degree in physical education and psychology from LaCrosse State Teachers College in 1946, and a master's degree in education from Colorado State. Jean enlisted with the Women's Army Corps or WACS, a noncombat unit, in July 1953 as a 1st Lieutenant. She retired from active duty 11 years later with the rank of Major and then reverted to Reserve duty. She remained in the Reserves until retiring in 1981 as a Colonel. Jean taught at Sharon Springs Central School until she retired in 1982. She was a member of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Sharon Historical Society, 20th Century Club, Silver and Gold, Sharon Springs Free Library, and both the local American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary. She was also a member and chairperson of the Sharon Town Planning Board and helped this group become a viable part of the community.

Jean was active with this board for 30 years. Much credit can be given to Jean for the creation of the Sharon Historical Society and Museum in 1973. She played a strategic role in getting the one-room schoolhouse moved to the museum property in 1989; she then chaired the huge task of restoration of the structure. Jean co-authored two books for the Sharon Historical Society. She chaired a renovation project for the Library, and as a result the community now has an enlarged Library, community room to hold meetings and new accommodations for both the Village and Town offices. Jean's name is on a long list of community-minded organization memberships. But, the impressive part is that she just didn't accept a membership, she took an active role and became involved with each organization's goals and followed them through to completion. Jean was a moving force to the preservation and betterment of the community of Sharon Springs for over 40 years. Because of Jean's persistence in her volunteer work, the Sharon community is a better place.

MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH (Continued)

Dorcas Comrie

Dorcas generously gave of her time, talent and knowledge to the Village of Sharon Springs and the Town of Sharon for decades. Her energy and passion for the history of the community has been a valuable asset. She was the Museum's curator and worked tirelessly to catalogue and display the museum's existing treasures and new acquisitions. Dorcas was the "go to person" for years when it came to questions about genealogy and ancestry. Dorcas spent 40 years working to promote the history of the Town of Sharon and Village of Sharon Springs.

In the 1970's, she worked tirelessly with a small group to establish a museum in the lower Village. Initially that included procuring a building, renovating it for a museum, and requesting donations. Once that initial goal was completed, she diligently worked to acquire artifacts from the historic spa area of Sharon Springs, as well as the rural farming community. In 1989, she worked with others to move a one-room schoolhouse to the museum property. This was done by asking for donations and again working determinedly to renovate the schoolhouse and get it open to the public. She approached hotel owners and boarding house proprietors to request desk registers and ledgers, and other memorabilia for the museum, such as mineral water bottles, brochures, letterhead, mailbags, silverware, dinnerware, and photographs. Thanks to Dorcas, those items are on exhibit to be enjoyed by the visitors to the museum. The Sharon Historical Society as well as the entire community are appreciative to Dorcas for her dedication to preserve our history. She is truly a treasure.



Armandine Handy 1918—2012

Armandine Handy was a valuable member of the community and her research and documentation is invaluable. She was born in Elsmere and lived most of her life in Sharon Springs. She graduated from Sharon Springs Central School in 1935, received her bachelor's degree from Syracuse University in 1940, and her master's degree from SUNY Oneonta in 1960. She married Edgar Handy in 1942. She taught Home Economics at several schools but her last 29 years of teaching were at Sharon Springs Central School. Armandine was a dedicated advisor to the Future Homemaker's of America youth leadership organization.



Armandine was a member of the New York State, Schoharie County, and Sharon Springs Historical Societies, the Town Historian for 30 years, member of the Order of Eastern Star, Twentieth Century Club, and honorary life member of the Sharon Springs Free Library Board of Trustees. Armandine's most valuable contribution to the people of the Town of Sharon was her dogged determination to research and document the history of Sharon including ancestry and genealogy data. Thank you Armandine.



Sharon Springs Record Newspaper - excerpts as written in 1971 by Charles L. Ryder, Publisher— looking back to 1917



Looking over a copy of the first issue of the *Sharon Springs Record* dated Mar. 24, 1917, is Mrs. Shuble D. Foote (Lolita), one of the original subscribers to the paper in which she and her late husband displayed considerable interest as the newspaper appeared. It was started new by Charles L. Ryder as editor and publisher who is shown in this photo. The friendly interest of people in the community and surrounding area helped the young publisher fill its news columns.

The following are excerpts taken from a newspaper article “Sharon Record Appeared As War Clouds Gathered” written by Charles L. Ryder, Publisher of the *Sharon Springs Record*. Just as the U.S. was about to enter World War I, I left my position as editor-printer at the D. M. Green Printing Plant in Cherry Valley and came to Sharon Springs to start up a brand new newspaper.

The plan was to have my paper printed at the Cherry Valley plant which was being continued by Mr. Green as a commercial printing business, thereby providing extra business and a close-by arrangement for me as I ventured out as editor and publisher of the *Sharon Springs Record*.

This was in March 1917, War clouds were gathering fast but in zeal to have my own paper, I paid little attention. I was unable to obtain an office location and for several weeks I held forth in the lobby of the present movie theatre on a rental arrangement with the Masonic Lodge which owned the building. Naturally doubts were expressed as to the wisdom of starting up a newspaper and there were some chuckles. But after bringing out a few issues, doubts disappeared and, best of all, a vacant former law office was made available at the corner of Main and South Streets, occupied by former District Attorney Coons, the house later being greatly enlarged as a hotel which was razed in 1964.

Although support came rapidly for the new *Sharon Springs Record*, competition was intensified on the part of the *Cherry Valley Gazette* as Mr. Sawyer had always regarded Sharon as a valuable part of its territory as to circulation, advertising and printing. So Mr. Sawyer instructed the local *Gazette* representative, who conducted a Main Street barbershop, to “leave no stone unturned” to provide competition through greater efforts on the part of the *Gazette*.

Mr. Sweet displayed a large printed sign at his barbershop indicating that this was the “Office of the *Gazette*.” I noticed one day that some of my apparent friends had removed the sign and fastened it on the wall of the men’s room at the Mansion House. Somehow I had the feeling that I was making good headway.

Without a circulation of any kind, I began mailing copies of the *Record* to all obtainable names and in compiling this list of prospective subscribers, I was given considerable help by various people. When the weather improved, I began what today would be regarded as a health program. I walked up and down the highways, making personal calls for subscriptions. The introductory rate was certainly something. For only 25 cents in coin, I would mail them the *Record* for a full three months.

Although I had pronounced ideas on newspaper make-up and made the *Record* “really look like a newspaper”, I definitely lacked technique when it came to selling advertising. For example, in calling on J. Spencer Hyney who conducted a general store in the building housing the former Shockley drug store, I made the great mistake in psychology. When asked by Mr. Hyney for advertising rates, I quoted him a ridiculously low rate of so much per inch. My reply was probably around 14 cents per column inch instead of pointing out a nice double column space which I should have done. He readily consented to run one inch of space. But give him credit. He ran the ad without interruptions.

Sharon Springs Record Newspaper - excerpts as written in 1971 by Charles L. Ryder, Publisher - looking back to 1917 - continued

Frequently people would hand me money on the street and very frequently they would come in to the office to subscribe and pay the full rate of \$1 per year for a year's subscription. Some people sent subscriptions to relatives in other locations.

It is impossible in reminiscences to include all my good friends, but I definitely recall Ed Sticht who ran a drug store down the street which served the dual purpose as community headquarters where Mayor William H. Craig and his daughter, Marion, who operated the famous White Sulphur baths and Pavilion Hotel, the sisters, Jennie and Olah Coons, Father Armstrong of the Episcopal church, two physicians, Dr. Odell and Dr. L. O. White, Attorney Elmer L. Smith, the Eigen brothers, Shuble D. Foote of the power corporation and Mrs. Foote, Peter Sharpe of the Mansion House, Eugene and Harry Smith and a host of others.

In those days the downtown section of Sharon Springs comprised a fairly good number of business places apart from the summer resort angle of the community.

There was the bank (now Central National), Samson's Grocery, Smith, Empie & Smith general store across the street, meat market, two handy refreshment places besides the one at the Mansion House, law office, bakery, Handy's Garage and a ladies' apparel shop besides a bowling alley at the Casino. The Rockville section of the village was much the same as now and it was many years before the present route 20 was modernized and the present central school constructed.

The railroad station part of the village was also a neighborhood somewhat by itself with three round-trip runs being made by the Cherry Valley branch of which I was a steady patron going back and forth to the plant at Cherry Valley.

What did I do by way of a staff?, someone asked. I did the entire job myself, gathering the news in person and by phone, rustling the ads and in this working Cobleskill and Canajoharie beside the local business places, and spending about a day a week in landing subscribers.

I did not even have a mailing machine. On Wednesday evenings, I would copy off the names by pencil on each copy for mailing the following morning.

The weeks went by rapidly as they do today. Summertime visitors poured in, filling the resort hotels and bathing in the healing waters for which the White Sulphur Baths were then and are now known far and wide.

Their healing properties could not be exaggerated as with the proper prescription, a patient could actually throw away his cane or crutches. A specific case was my own father who used a cane for some time with a knee ailment and after treatments at White Sulphur, actually discarded his cane. No question about the healing waters at Sharon!

As the summer months waned and September appeared, I noticed a letter in my mail postmarked Schoharie, N.Y. It was a draft call.

So after some of the most enjoyable months and meeting some of the finest people ever, I was obliged to terminate my affairs in Sharon and prepare to leave for Camp Devens, Mass. This I did in company with some 50 others answering the call from Schoharie County and landed in that unsightly spot late in the evening on Oct. 7, 1917.

As word spread of my draft call which happened to be one of the first numbers listed in a lottery similar to the plan used now, people in Sharon community began to discuss ways of keeping the paper going until I returned from service. Despite a noble effort, this proved impractical after bringing out one issue entirely through volunteer help comprising Attorney Smith, Dr. Odell and High School Principal William E. Seely, the latter having had newspaper experience.

So, the *Sharon Springs Record* folded and upon my purchase of the *Cobleskill Times* in August 1919, only a few weeks after my return from 18 months in France, the *Record* again appeared as part of the *Times* and in recent years has been expanded considerably in a section known as *Sharon Springs Record-Cherry Valley Gazette*, thereby bringing together two names of papers with tremendous sentimental value and many years of friendly association together to form what we now refer to as an area newspaper.



Murder In Sharon Springs???

November 3, 1824 American For the Country, NY, NY From the Schoharie Republican

At the Circuit Court held by Judge Duer for this county last week, Jeremiah Slingerland, a half-blood Indian, was found guilty of manslaughter and sentenced to imprisonment in the state prison for fourteen years. We provide little public interest—Slingerland, who is a poor ignorant fellow, confessed in the state prison also appeared to excite but very little interest—Slingerland, who is a poor ignorant fellow, confessed in substance, at the time he was apprehended, nearly all the circumstances, sent that have been passed in court against him. He says that while in a drunken frolic, at his hut, or wigwam, in the town of Sharon, a quarrel arose between him and his wife, and that being considerably intoxicated himself, he beat her very severely with him, she died a few days after. It was proved by a black woman, who assisted in laying out the corpse, that part of the body was beat to a pulp. Twelve or fourteen days after the ??? she had been murdered, a coroner's inquest was a substance, at a effect of willful. Slingerland never attempted to escape, but suffered himself to be apprehended and committed without the least resistance, regretting the death of his wife in the most penitent manner. On several occasions he has expressed the wish to hang, as he thought in case, he should be cleared and should again mingle with other Indians, they would assuredly do so. The same on the part of the people was ably, though has suret ingeniously and eloquently defended by H: Hamilton and D.F. Saeia, Esqrs, assigned as council for the prisoner by the court.

— 1824 Cabinet, Schenectady, NY —

— SUMMARY: —

Murder.— A half-blood Indian by the the name of Slingerland, (says the *Schoharie Republican* of July 21,) has been committed to jail of this county for the murder of his wife. Since his confinement, we find he was intoxicated, beat her very severely, which he supposed to be the cause of it.

*Schoharie
Republican
Nov 3, 1824*

These newspaper clippings were taken from a book written by Karen Cuccinello in 2012 *Murders & Funky Stuff in Schoharie County*.

SHOT HIS WIFE AND HIMSELF.

Vrooman Could Not Persuade His Wife to Return to Him.

Canajoharie, N. Y., January 29—Norman Vrooman, aged 40 years, shot and killed his wife to-day at the residence of Henry P. Bellinger, a farmer at Sharon Springs.

Vrooman and his wife had not lived happily together and had separated three times, the last time about two weeks ago. Mrs. Vrooman had decided to go to her old home in Canada and was staying at Mr. Bellinger's house temporarily. Vrooman had tried many times alone to persuade his wife to return to him, and this morning he drove to the house, called her to the door, and after a few minutes' conversation, drew a revolver and shot her twice in the breast. She expired soon after. Vrooman also shot at Mr. Bellinger, who came into the room; but the bullet lodged in the panel of the door. Vrooman got into his sleigh and escaped. The country was roused; the enraged neighbors and Vrooman was found at the house of his father, Nelson Vrooman, in a dying condition. He had shot himself in the breast, but it is said he had aimed for his heart. He is now unconscious and cannot recover.

January 30, 1898 Brooklyn Daily Eagle

July 6, 1922 Cobleskill Times

CRAZED BY LOVE, THREATENS LIFE OF PRETTY GIRL.

Sharon Boy Gives His Sweetheart 48 Hours to Marry Him Under Threat to Kill.

SHARON SPRINGS, July 5—

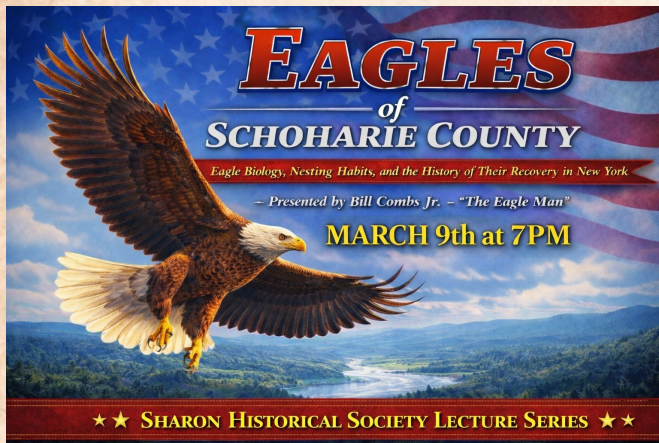
Charmed and infatuated as if mad by a pretty country girl, Hobart McKinley Pollock, 14, threatened the life of Margaret L. Decker, 18, upon her failure to marry him on 48 hours' notice and as a result became entangled in legal difficulties and is now under \$500 bonds to keep the peace.

Pollock for one year had been employed as a farm hand by Stephen L. Decker, an insurance farmer, one mile east of this place. He claims the daughter of his employer had promised to marry him.



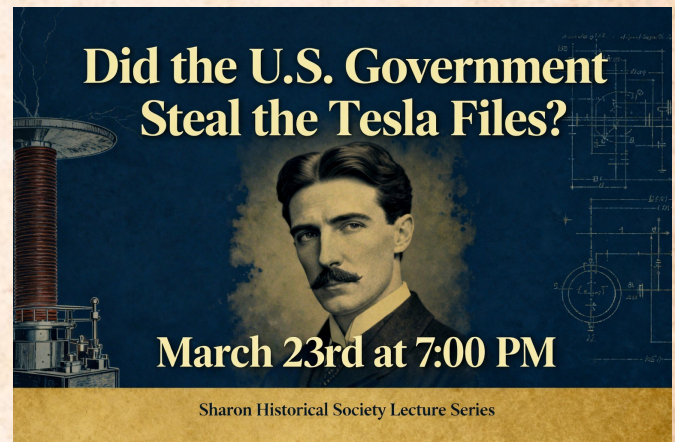
Our Upcoming Historical Lecture Series Presentations

March 9th



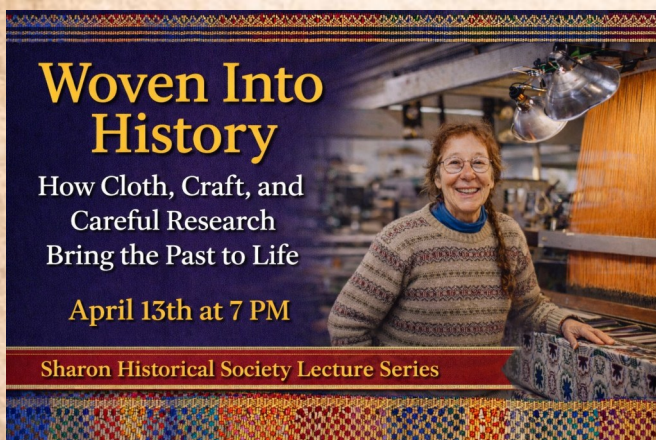
America's national symbol nearly disappeared—but today it's thriving right here in Schoharie County. Join the Sharon Historical Society on March 9th at 7 PM at the Sharon Public Library (or via Zoom) for *Eagles of Schoharie County*, presented by Bill Combs Jr., known locally as "The Eagle Man." From the bald eagle's historic selection for the Great Seal in 1782 to its dramatic recovery from near extinction, Bill brings the story full circle with firsthand accounts of more than 25 active local nests, the growth of this year's eaglets, and the launch of the Schoharie County Eagle Trail. With stunning photography, fascinating nesting insights, and stories of famous local eagle pairs that made national headlines, this program offers a rare chance to connect American history with the magnificent birds soaring over our own communities today.

March 23rd



Did the U.S. government really steal Nikola Tesla's files—or is that one of history's most persistent myths? When the brilliant inventor died in a New York hotel room in 1943, federal officials quickly seized dozens of trunks filled with his papers, sparking decades of speculation about hidden weapons and suppressed technology. This program dives into the dramatic wartime context, the legal battle over his estate, and the technical review that examined his most mysterious ideas. We'll separate documented fact from sensational storytelling and explore why the legend of Tesla's "missing files" refuses to fade. Join us for a fascinating journey into science, secrecy, and one of the greatest unanswered questions of the 20th century.

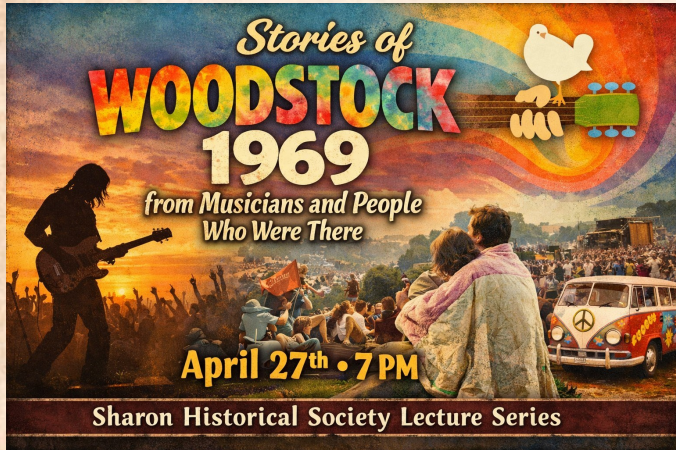
April 13th



How does fabric help us understand history—and how does it quietly shape the stories we see on screen? National-ly recognized textile historian Rabbit Goody will explore how the weave, weight, color, and texture of cloth reveal the daily lives, technologies, and economies of earlier centuries, and how her Cherry Valley mill recreates historically accurate textiles for museums, historic homes, and select film productions. Drawing on decades of scholarship and hands-on expertise with restored early American looms, Goody shows how authentic fabrics bring depth and credibility to period storytelling, proving that something as ordinary as cloth can carry extraordinary historical meaning.

*Our Upcoming
Historical Lecture Series Presentations cont.*

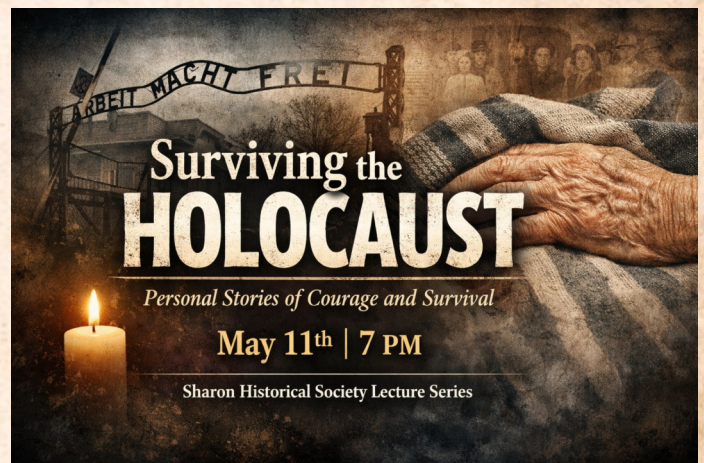
April 27th



Few events in American history capture the spirit of a generation quite like the Woodstock Music and Art Fair of 1969. *Stories of Woodstock 1969 from Musicians and People Who Were There* brings the legendary festival to life through firsthand accounts from performers, attendees, and others who experienced the historic weekend. Through their memories, audiences will hear what it was really like to be there—from the music and the massive crowds to the unexpected challenges and moments of unity that defined the event. These personal stories offer a vivid look at how Woodstock became a lasting symbol of peace, creativity, and cultural change.

May 11th

The Holocaust left a profound mark on human history, and hearing the voices of those who lived through it brings that past into powerful focus. Hearing the voices of those who lived through it brings that history into powerful focus. *Surviving the Holocaust – Personal Stories of Courage and Survival* features firsthand testimonies of survivors describing the persecution, loss, endurance, and courage that shaped their lives. Their words offer a powerful reminder of why remembering this history still matters today. The program also highlights a little-known local connection: after World War II, the German government sent Holocaust survivors to New York for spa treatments funded through reparations, and Sharon Springs was one of the communities that received Jewish survivors seeking care.



Alex Knopping Ice Cream Parlor



Alex Knopping Ice Cream Parlor was once located to the right of the Smith, Empe & Smith building. During the 1940s and 1950s, Main Street was very busy during the summer months and this was a good place to get a cool treat for the people who worked at the hotels as well as the summer guests.



Color Your Way Through Sharon Springs HISTORY

Something new—and wonderfully creative—is coming from the Sharon Historical Society this spring. In late March, we will be releasing the Sharon Springs Historical Landmarks Coloring Book, a beautifully designed collection that invites readers of all ages to explore the village's history in a hands-on and colorful way.

For generations, Sharon Springs has been known for its remarkable architecture and rich heritage. From grand hotels and historic

homes to well-loved community landmarks, the buildings of our village tell the story of a place that once drew visitors from around the world to experience its famous mineral springs. This new coloring book celebrates that story by transforming some of Sharon Springs' most recognizable landmarks into detailed illustrations ready to be brought to life with color.

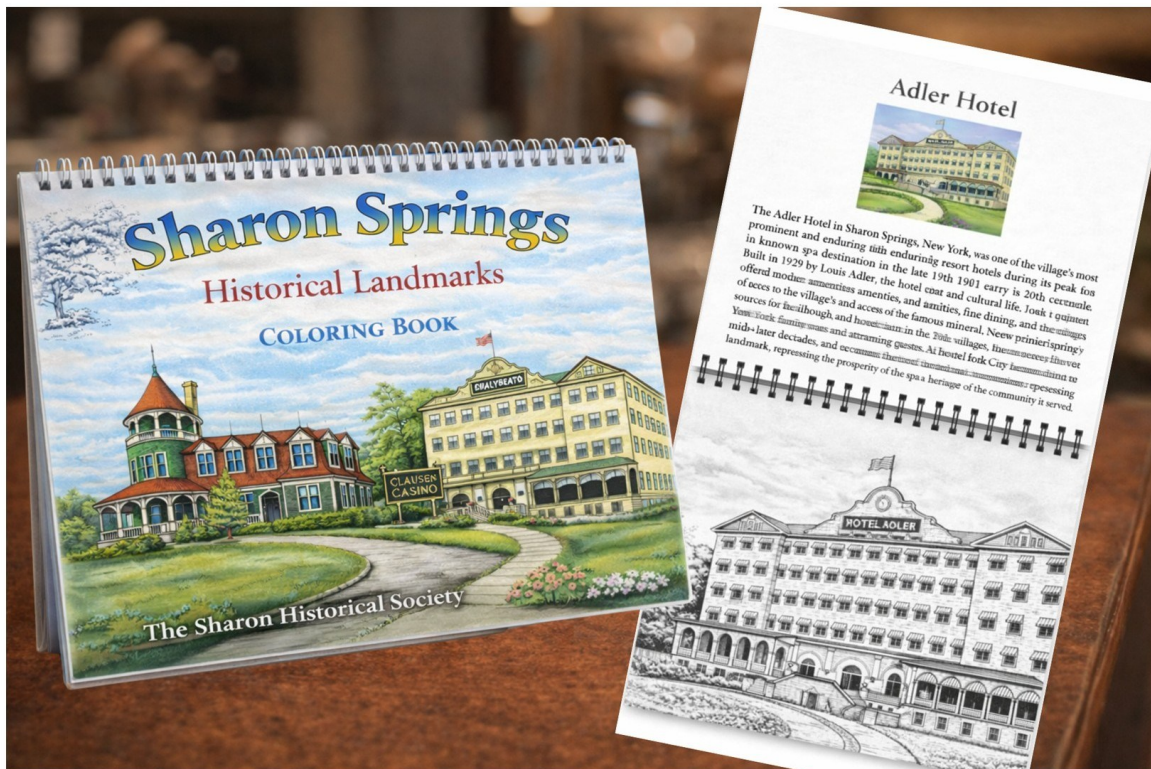
Each page pairs a carefully drawn illustration with a short historical description, giving readers a glimpse into the past while they enjoy the relaxing creativity of coloring. Whether it's the stately Adler Hotel, the charming Victorian homes that line the streets, or other notable structures that helped shape the character of Sharon Springs, every page offers a chance to connect with local history in a new and engaging way.

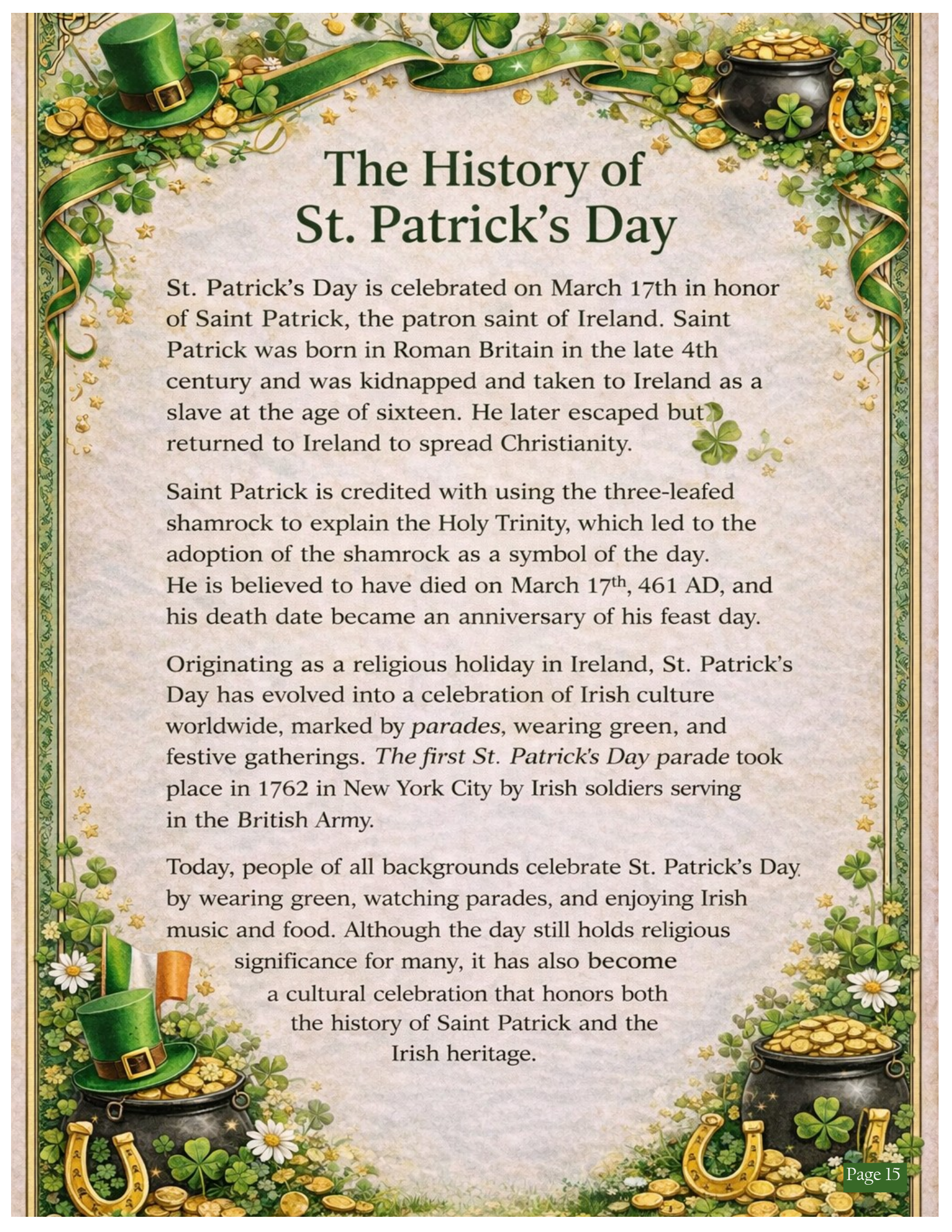
The project has been created with both learning and enjoyment in mind. Families can explore the village's heritage together, children can discover local history through art, and adults will find the detailed illustrations perfect for the growing popularity of relaxing, mindful coloring. The book also serves as a wonderful keepsake for residents and visitors alike—something that celebrates the beauty and legacy of Sharon Springs while offering hours of creative enjoyment.

Printed in a convenient spiral-bound format, the book opens flat for easy coloring and includes approximately 100 pages of illustrations and historical notes. It makes a perfect gift for history lovers, artists, and anyone who appreciates the unique charm of our village.

The Sharon Springs Historical Landmarks Coloring Book will be available in late March, and we're excited to share it with our members and the community. Keep an eye on upcoming announcements for details on how to purchase your copy and be among the first to experience this new way of exploring Sharon Springs history.

Sometimes the best way to connect with the past is simply to slow down, pick up a pencil, and add a little color to the story.





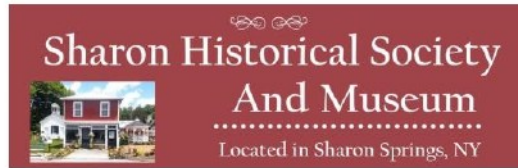
The History of St. Patrick's Day

St. Patrick's Day is celebrated on March 17th in honor of Saint Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland. Saint Patrick was born in Roman Britain in the late 4th century and was kidnapped and taken to Ireland as a slave at the age of sixteen. He later escaped but returned to Ireland to spread Christianity.

Saint Patrick is credited with using the three-leafed shamrock to explain the Holy Trinity, which led to the adoption of the shamrock as a symbol of the day. He is believed to have died on March 17th, 461 AD, and his death date became an anniversary of his feast day.

Originating as a religious holiday in Ireland, St. Patrick's Day has evolved into a celebration of Irish culture worldwide, marked by *parades*, wearing green, and festive gatherings. *The first St. Patrick's Day parade* took place in 1762 in New York City by Irish soldiers serving in the British Army.

Today, people of all backgrounds celebrate St. Patrick's Day by wearing green, watching parades, and enjoying Irish music and food. Although the day still holds religious significance for many, it has also become a cultural celebration that honors both the history of Saint Patrick and the Irish heritage.



2026 Membership Form For The Sharon Historical Society

A shared heritage and a sense of history are priceless gifts for us 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. We need your help to grow and develop the tremendous potential of this community.

Date _____

Name _____

(Use Preferred) Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Membership benefits for all levels include:

- Discounted prices on SHS publications and merchandise
- 10 free personal digital image files captured per year using SHS scanning technology
- Special invitations to Historical Society events and fundraisers
- Membership to the Time Travelers Network of reciprocal museums
- Free subscription to the Sharon Historical Society newsletter, six times a year by email
- Voting privileges at the SHS Annual Meeting each year

All Sharon Historical Society memberships are active for one year from the month of enrollment or renewal.

Membership Types and Rates:

1. **Individual active members;** any person interested in the purposes of the Society is eligible. Dues for an individual active member is **twenty-five dollars (\$25.00)**.

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

PLEASE NOTE: Individual membership dues are paid on anniversary date – your membership is good for one year from the date you join. Membership dues are non-refundable.

Amount of Payment

_____ Individual Membership - \$25.00

_____ Lifetime Membership - \$100.00

Total enclosed \$ _____

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

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.)