

Sharon Historical Society

NEWSLETTER

July ★ August 2026

Sandra Manko,
Editor



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Everyone loves a parade, and Sharon Springs has certainly had its share over the years! In this issue, we celebrate many of the community's memorable parades and hope they bring back fond memories.

Work is once again moving forward at the Sharon Historical Society. Thanks to the success of four recent grant awards, we are making exciting improvements to our museum campus. Visitors will soon be able to view every museum vignette through new protective plexiglass barriers, while interactive push-button audio exhibits will bring the stories behind our collections to life. We are also replacing the old lead water and sewer lines serving our new museum, an important milestone made possible through grant funding and the generosity of one of our members. Our next major goal is the installation of a three-story ADA-accessible elevator, a critical step toward completing the renovations and opening the building to the public.

There has never been a more exciting time to become involved with the Sharon Historical Society. Whether you volunteer your time or make a financial contribution, your support helps preserve and share our community's history for future generations. If you'd like to help, please contact us at sharonhistoricalsocietyny@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing you at the museum!



Sharon Historical Society President Ron Ketelsen drives his 1901 Oldsmobile Horseless Carriage in the July 4th parade in 2018.

★ INSIDE THIS ISSUE ★

Message from Our President	1
Everyone Loves a Parade	2-5
Remembering the 4th	6-7
Tribute—Larry McFee	8-9
James Bowmaker	10-13
Upcoming Programs	14
SHS Recent Events	15-16
Membership Form	17



★ Sharon Springs Floral Parade, Main Street, 1915 ★

EVERYONE LOVES A PARADE!

Floral embellished buggies on Main Street created quite a spectacle for the throng of parade goers. This photo shows the beautiful turnout of Viola and Jennie Coons in a floral parade in 1915, featuring many handsome decorated floats and one and two-horse conveyances.

★

EVERYONE LOVES A PARADE!

★



This rare photo of an early Sharon Springs parade was taken in front of the Sanatorium Hotel (later called the Park View Hotel) at the corner of Main Street and Pavilion Avenue in the early 1900s. The sign, "Entrance to Baths" can be seen in the middle of the photo. The Park View also had many other names during the years i.e. Park House Hotel and Cafe, Park Hotel, and Annex Hotel.

Note - the street isn't paved yet.



This drum was donated to the Sharon Historical Society by Garth Roberts.



★

CIRCA
1915

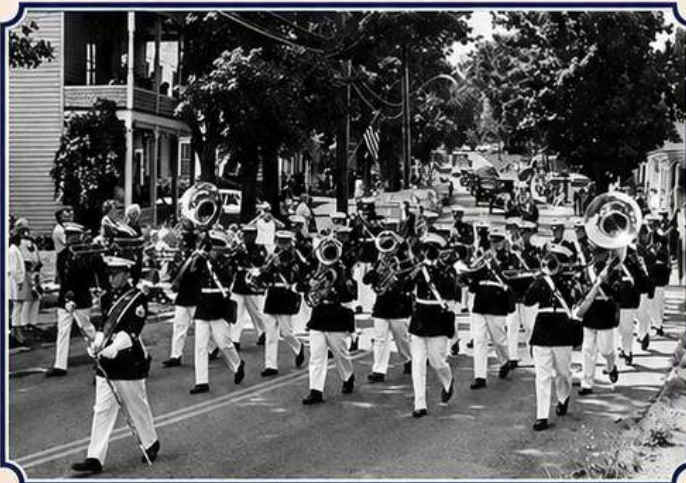
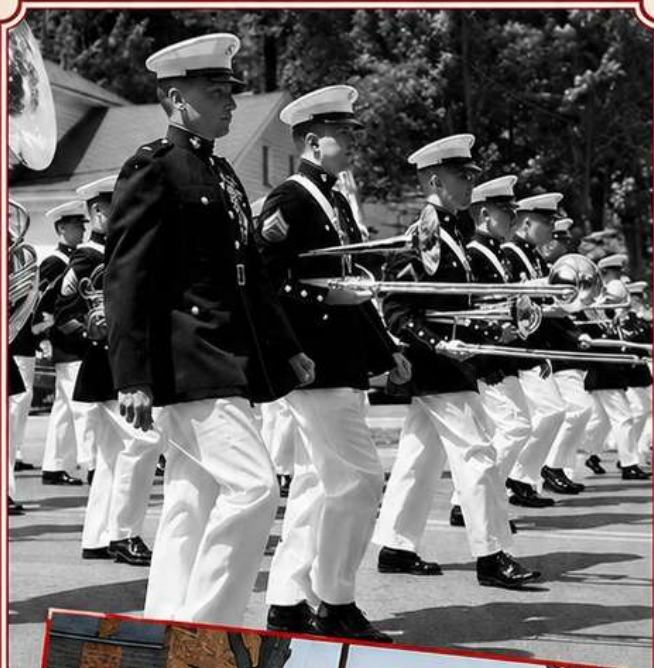
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SHARON SPRINGS STAGECOACH
IN A 1915 PARADE.



FLORAL PARADE ON MAIN STREET
IN LOWER VILLAGE CIRCA 1915



The Village of Sharon Springs was honored to host the United States Marine Corps Band on July 17, 1971 to celebrate the Village's Centennial.



Left: Pete Doherty with his sheep in a parade.



From left: Al Doig, Beulah Waid, Behind flag-unidentified, Joe Vacca, Helen Bowmaker

Left! Right! Left! Right!



Marching in a Memorial Day Parade in the 1960s from left:

Clayton Bullock carrying the gun

Bob Fitch in middle

George Jackson at right

Malcom Lync's Service Station in the background.

Americana
AT ITS FINEST!



Directed by Drum Major Tara Haymer, the Sharon Springs Central School marching band sets the pace for Saturday's Founder's Day Parade in June 1986. The marching Spartans took first place for best marching band, best drum major, and best color guard in the band competition. *Photo by Jim Poole, Times Journal, June 11, 1986.*



They were great! Dressed in red, white and blue. Doug Plumber and Maureen Lodes emceed the parades in style—and also added a little humor!



"Give me a W" - Paul Jameson, a Receiving Operations Manager at Wal-Mart leads other employees in the Wal-Mart cheer. *Photo by Trisha Miller, Times Journal June 12, 1994.*



Harold Hall driving the Booster Club Float.



Ladies of the Sharon Historical Society - Caroline Bade, Barbara Cousineau, and Pauline Brown ride in a horse-drawn surrey during a 4th of July Parade.



Marching in the 2005 Memorial Day Parade from left are: Gloria Santillo, Rebecca Cross Zarski, Anthony Desmond, Michael Desmond, and Tom Tillison.



Ted Shuart, Schoharie County Historian and reenactor participating in Memorial Day Ceremony.



Left: Al Doig, Beulah Waid, others unidentified.



Gus Osterhout, James Hall, others unidentified.



July 3, 1976 Bicentennial Parade—Stanley & Sylvia Lane, Frank & Ruth Janicki in a 1926 Model T.

Left: Marge Parsons and Beulah Waid selling poppies at a Memorial Day Celebration.



Tim Spofford of Clausen Farm Bed & Breakfast used one of his llamas to carry his golf clubs in the Founder's Day Parade in 1992.

Remembering —★ on the ★— *4th!*

We typically think of the 4th as a time to kick back and relax with family and friends. Many of us celebrate the holiday with a cookout or attend a parade. Most times we give little thought to the reasons for the holiday. Please take a few minutes and reflect on the sacrifices our military personnel have made

We all remember those years when we were in school and studied American History. We memorized facts about the wars: Revolutionary War, Civil War, World War I, and the rest. We filled our note books with the critical dates and wrote essays about the causes, distinguished leaders, winners, and losers. Years later we remember little of the facts. We might remember phrases, such as “Remember the Maine,” “Over There,” and “Make Love not War,” but we don’t remember the details and what they all mean. More unsettling is the fact we still don’t understand or really know why we went to war.

Every year on the 4th of July, we celebrate the American colonists’ courageous declaration of independence and their willingness to fight and die for their freedom. It’s difficult for today’s youth to comprehend the true meaning of liberty since they’ve never had to fight for freedom to go to school or for freedom of religion. Looking back through the history books, it seems America was always fighting. Sometimes we fought ourselves as in the Civil War. Sometimes we fought others for a variety of reasons, as in World War I and World War II. The bottom line is, as a nation, we fight. Sometimes we win and sometimes we are defeated. We quit only when “someone” in a key role makes a decision the losses are too great. The decision is undoubtedly based on what has happened in previous wars and what is imagined will transpire in the current war. We look to our leaders and hope their decision is the right one.

We used to think war was a rare occurrence, but it’s not. It seems this country has lots of wars: American Revolutionary War (1775—1783), War of 1812 (1812—1815), United States-Mexican War (1846—1848), Civil War (1861—1865), Spanish-American War (1898—1902), World War I (1914—1918), World War II (1939—1945), Korean Conflict Era (1950—1953), Vietnam (1964—1975), Persian Gulf War (1990—1991). One right after another, most times with no more than 20 years in between. And that’s not to mention minor skirmishes in places like the Dominican Republic (1965), Grenada (1983), Panama

(1989), and Somalia (1992-1994), not grand enough to warrant the official label of war, but enough to keep us on alert and on edge. And the war on terrorism is still a very real thing (2001—present). And, of course, the latest conflict in Iran. When, where, and how does it end?

Were all those wars imposed on us and entered into reluctantly? Most of us are not qualified to answer, but it does seem a very busy record for people who claim they are not inclined to go to war.



Freedom is everybody’s job—whether it means standing and reciting the Pledge and meaning it from your heart or setting a good example by being loyal to our country. It is up to each and everyone of us to keep alive the memory of the men and women who gave so much to protect our freedoms.



Remembering —★ the ★— *4th!* —★ continued ★—

There are a lot of veterans in this country—about 23 million—or about 7% of the population, which is something to think about this 4th of July. There are over 5,000 veterans just in Schoharie County. Statistics state that 848,000 American military have died in combat in our history and the number becomes 1.3 million when you count soldiers who died from non-combat causes. The American Civil War is the deadliest war in United States history, when some 625,000 soldiers died, North and South, the majority from non-combat causes. It caused more American casualties than World War I and World War II combined.

The greatest number of actual combat deaths occurred in World War II, when over 291,000 American soldiers were killed. These are morbid statistics to introduce as we celebrate a holiday, but war is a morbid business. The flag-waving comes later, along with the brass bands, speeches and the parades.

Some of these veterans are people who lived in Sharon. Many weren't well known outside of our local community. They lived and worked among us and were simply ordinary men and women who did extraordinary things. They did what had to be done at the time. They gave up their young lives to serve our nation. We honor the individuals of all ages and backgrounds who have served the United States armed forces since our nation was born. They are the true heroes who risked everything to protect and defend the freedoms that we so often take for granted.

America is not perfect. We all know it isn't. However, what we do have is freedom. We have the freedom to criticize our country. Compare our life style with those throughout the world and know how fortunate we are. We live in the greatest country in the world!

Because of all the soldiers and service personnel who have fought through all the wars, from the Battle of Sharon in the Revolutionary War, Civil War, world wars, Vietnam, and so on, today we are free to go to ball-games, attend whatever church we want or not, and go to movies; all those things we take for granted. They gave their lives so that we could all be safer, freer, and at peace. Our lives are better because of their dedication. It takes incredible courage to place the safety of others ahead of one's own. Every day, members of our state and nation's armed forces put on their uniforms and unflinchingly head toward danger. Our Veterans exemplify dedication, patriotism, and sacrifice—and we owe them a debt that can never be repaid.

On this 4th of July, please take a few moments away from celebrating the holiday, entertaining, or cooking out, or attending a parade—and reflect on the sacrifices our military personnel have made for our nation. There is no greater service a citizen can offer than to place his or her life on the line to protect our freedoms and democratic principles. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts to these very brave, unselfish men and women. We can not imagine the experiences and horrors that you have endured. We do not take you for granted. Whether you served in peace time or war time, you have made a difference.

A Tribute to **Lawrence McFee**

★ ★ (November 5, 1922—January 18, 2005) ★ ★

Larry McFee was a Lieutenant in the United States Air Force. As a B-17 pilot, he was shot down over Italy during World War II, and was captured by the Germans and transported to Barth, Germany. He was a prisoner of war at the Stalag Luft 1 prison camp for five months. It was only five months because the camp was liberated in May 1945. He stayed in the Air Force Reserves and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel.

Mr. McFee was born and raised in Sharon Springs. He graduated from Sharon Springs in 1940, attended Cortland State Teachers College (now SUNY at Cortland), left to enlist in the military after two years, but returned in 1947 to finish a B.S. in Science. While attending Cortland, he met his future wife, Henrietta (Hank), who was a teacher at Sharon Springs Central School for 17 years. They have four children: Margaret, Nancy, Edward, and Laura. They are all graduates of Sharon Springs Central School. Larry's mother, Emma McFee, also taught for 40 years at Sharon, and his father, Joseph McFee, was the Mayor of Sharon from 1957 to 1960.

As part of the Army Air Corps (USAAC) - later the Air Force—99th Bombardier Group—Larry flew B-17's over the northern Alps, just a few thousand feet above Axis anti-aircraft guns.

Larry told Patsy Nicosia in an August 1995 interview for the *Times Journal*, "The trick was to fly where there was no anti-aircraft, but the information we had wasn't always accurate." Also, he said, there were times when the fliers' navigation was off.

Mr. McFee was not sure which was the case on December 29, 1944, when their target was Brenner Pass in Southern Austria. Shots fired at the B-17 that day were particularly heavy and accurate, with direct hits and flak (aircraft-defense cannon) smashing both windshields and taking out one engine.

With the plane entirely in flames, all 11 crew members bailed out. Crew members lost contact before they hit the

ground. It was only later that Mr. McFee and the rest of the crew learned all had landed safely and that news came when a handful of them ended up in the same prison camp.



15TH AAF IN ITALY—1st Lt. Richard J. Barthel, left, R. D. 2, Vermilion, Ohio, pilot of the record-breaking "Dinah Might," lights the cigarette of 2nd Lt. Lawrence E. McFee, right, of Sharon Springs, the co-pilot. Their B-17 Flying Fortress has completed over 85 consecutive long-range bombing missions without an early return. — Photo by T/Sgt. Eugene Sullivan.

Lt. Lawrence McFee Missing in Action

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph McFee of Sharon Springs have received word from the War Department that their son, 1st. Lieut. Lawrence McFee is "missing in action" since December 29th over Austria.



A Tribute to **Larry McFee** (Continued)



Larry said when he was coming down he could see a group on the ground with guns. He landed in a growth of trees, hanging upside down and wrenching his leg, freeing it about the same time the soldiers arrived. He felt they were more curious than hostile. Over the next few days the soldiers moved him down the Alps tending to his leg and feeding him, but not mistreating him.

Larry was questioned but he couldn't and didn't tell them anything, just name, rank, and serial number. He was locked alone in a room in Balluno, Italy for three days in solitary confinement. After taking him to a hospital and determining his leg wasn't broken, the Germans transported him and two other prisoners to a POW camp.

He spent the next week in a camp confined to a cell with absolutely no light. He was interrogated and was amazed at what the Germans knew about him, including the details about his parents, home, and the men he had trained with. He traveled by train and the last stop was Stalag Luft 1, Compound North III, Block 9, Room 10 at Barth Germany, north of Berlin on the Baltic Sea. Larry remembered that he was cold, and because it was near the end of the war, there wasn't much food. One of their meal mainstays was alfalfa "stewed up like spinach." It took away some of the hunger.

In 1944-45, Larry McFee shared a 16' x 24' cell with 23 other airmen in Barth, Germany, all Prisoners of War. There wasn't as much abuse or violence as with other camps—probably because of the number of officers there. Larry told Patsy Nicosia in the 1995 *Times Journal* interview that he's no hero. His biggest fears as a POW were hunger and the cold. He said that it was the mental weight of being a POW, not knowing if or when they'd ever be freed and whether family at home knew that they were alive, that was the most taxing. "I knew I was okay, but I didn't know if my folks did," he said. "I think that was the hardest on everyone."

Years later, Larry and his wife got together many times with other ex-POW's from Barth. Larry wrote letters to contact cellmates and coordinate their reunions. In April 1995, it was the 50th anniversary of freedom. They traveled to San Diego, California, where they met with some of the 24 airmen who shared the same small room in the POW camp. Twelve of these former POW's and their wives came from all parts of the U.S.



Larry McFee 1995 (Photo
by Patsy Nicosia)

We've all heard that saying that angels live among us and around us. They go silently into our community to make it a safe, educational and healthy, happy place to live. There are indeed those who have influenced and changed our lives for the better because they happened to live in our little town. Remember the military who fought for freedom around the world. They go into dangerous territory to protect us. Larry was an angel among us. Larry didn't think he was a hero—we don't agree—we think he was.



James Bowmaker

(1915 - 2011)

THE STORY OF "JAMES"

*(Background information taken from a
bio written by James in 2011)*

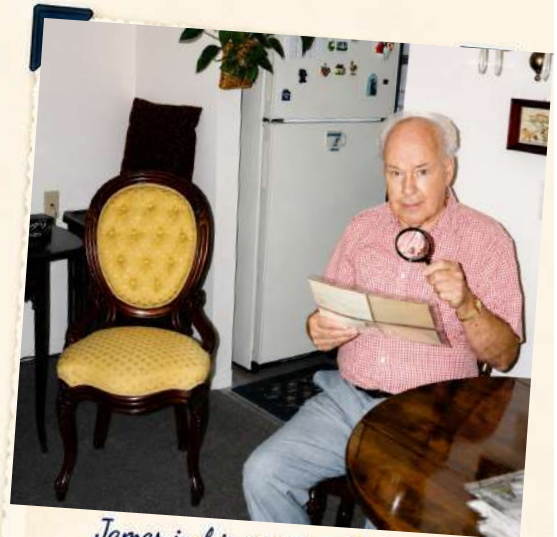
James Bowmaker was a one-word icon to all who knew him—like Liberace, Cher, Madonna, and Prince. He was known simply as “James”. If someone mentioned James, there was no mistaking whom the person was talking about. There was only one . . . and as the saying goes, “To know him was to love him!”

James was born September 30, 1915, in his grandfather James Bowmaker’s farmhouse, along what is now Route 20 in Sharon Springs, NY. Back then it was simply the family farm, surrounded by fields, horses, ponds, and the quiet routines of country life. His parents were Elizabeth Miller Bowmaker and Louis Bowmaker, and he grew up with brothers, Francis, George, and Paul. Like many boys growing up in Sharon Springs during those years, his childhood was tied closely to family, work, and the changing seasons of the village.

James’ grandfather was a farmer and a respected man in the community. He owned Bowmaker’s Pond, and some of James’ earliest memories were of wintertime ice harvesting there. Before refrigeration became common, ice was one of the most important commodities around Sharon Springs. Men cut huge blocks of ice from the frozen pond and hauled them away by horse and sled. First the creamery received its share, then the hotels, and finally the local farmers. James worked cutting ice himself as a young fellow, and every now and then someone would slip and plunge into the freezing water. It was hard work, but in those days, hard work was simply part of everyday life.

James’ grandfather also had two magnificent black horses which everybody in town seemed to admire. They were smart animals too. If they ever got loose downtown, they somehow always found their way back home again. Folks in Sharon Springs remembered things like that. Back then, everyone knew one another’s families, farms, horses, and stories.

Not all James’ childhood memories were happy ones. His younger brother, Paul, was killed at only fourteen years old while riding in a stolen car taken from a local garage.



*James in his apartment at
Spring Meadows. The yellow chair
came from the Pavilion Hotel.*

*“He will always be
remembered as simply...*

James.”



James Bowmaker *(Continued)*

Losing him left a sadness over the family that never entirely disappeared. In small towns, tragedies touched everybody because everyone knew each other personally.

James attended the old Sharon Springs Union High School. School days were divided between morning classes, lunch at home, and afternoon lessons that lasted until four o'clock. James said he respected his teachers greatly, especially Lillian Pierce, his first teacher, and Principal Vivian Peckham. The schools expected discipline and proper behavior in those days. James said he could still remember George Clausen saying children should walk to school because getting a ride spoiled them. That was the thinking back then.

James never actually graduated from high school. At the time, the World's Fair in Chicago seemed far more exciting than finishing school, and James chose adventure instead of a diploma. Looking back, he laughed at that decision. Still, education remained important to him, and afterward he attended Albany Business School for about six months studying Business Administration.

For awhile, he considered office work. Beech-Nut was paying \$21.00 a week for office positions, which seemed decent money at the time. He had spent years watching chefs work in the kitchens at the Mansion House and other hotels around Sharon Springs. He learned early that a person could learn a tremendous amount simply by watching carefully. Cooking interested him far more than bookkeeping, and he realized chefs could earn better money, too. So he decided to follow the kitchens instead of the office desk.

James first worked as a waiter at the Park View Hotel before becoming chef at the Twin Pines Restaurant when he was nineteen years old. He stayed there nearly nine years. The restaurant business fit him naturally because Sharon Springs during those years was alive with visitors, hotels, restaurants, entertainment, and constant activity. The village bustled from spring through autumn. The hotels filled early in the season and stayed crowded with visitors seeking the famous mineral waters.

One customer James never forgot was Mrs. Clausen. Whenever she planned to come in, she telephoned ahead and would simply say, "you know what I want." Of course, he did. She always ordered ham, eggs, and fried potatoes, and heaven help the cook if there was even the slightest brown spot on those eggs. Some customers become unforgettable that way.



Chef Bowmaker at Belvedere Restaurant

James Bowmaker *(Continued)*

Over the years, James owned and operated several restaurants, including the Belvedere Restaurant and later the Hollywood Restaurant, which became the final business he operated before retirement. He also worked at the Stone Lodge in Palatine Bridge and spent some time as steward-manager at the Oneonta Country Club. The restaurant trade brought him into contact with all kinds of people and created many lifelong friendships. One employee, Elizabeth Whitbeck, worked for James for thirty-two years. James said, "Loyalty like that one of life's greatest blessings."

The Hollywood Restaurant became something of a gathering place in Sharon Springs. On Monday nights after bowling at Sharon Lanes, James' brother George, Babe Farro, Art Ullman, and the rest of the bowlers would come in to eat, play cards, and tell stories late into the night. Sometimes Babe would overdo it a little and end up asleep on the dining room sofa while the rest of them laughed about it. Those evenings captured the spirit of small-town Sharon Springs perfectly.

As a boy, James remembered Sharon Springs as a thriving resort town full of life and elegance. Smalley's Theater showed first-class motion pictures, and all the school graduations were held there on the stage. His favorite movie was *Gone With the Wind*. Downtown businesses stayed busy and tourists crowded the streets during the season. There always seemed to be music, lights, and people moving through the village.

James' mother, Elizabeth Bowmaker, played her own small role in village history as Sharon Springs' first telephone operator. She worked in the back room of Samson's Store downtown. One story always amused James. A customer once asked Mr. Samson where James' mother was, and he answered that she was "in the back room picking fly specks out of the pepper." James said that was old-time country humor.

He remembered many weddings at the old stone Episcopal Church, lit beautifully with candles in the evenings. The church held a special dignity and beauty that stayed with James for years. His brother George was married there, and so were many others whose names people in Sharon Springs would still recognize.

Automobiles became one of James' passions as he got older. Sprakers Garage was his favorite dealership in Sharon Springs, and over the years he bought seven Packards from them because he believed Packards were the finest cars ever made. Later on, when James and his mother traveled to Florida, he drove a shiny black Buick Roadmaster that attracted attention wherever they went. One motel manager even telephoned their room just to ask about the car parked outside.



Elizabeth Whitbeck



James Bowmaker (Continued)



**James marching in a Parade.
He was Mayor of the Village 1975-1976.**

James said, "People today can scarcely imagine how much money once flowed through Sharon Springs during the resort years. Wealthy families vacationed here, investors came through town, and there was always talk of fortunes being made. I once heard a story that General Motors needed ten million dollars and borrowed it from the Wasserman family in Florida, who had ties to Sharon Springs. Whether entirely true or not, stories like that reflected the wealth and prestige people associated with the village during its peak years."

As the years passed, James became more involved in village life itself. He belonged to the Sharon Springs Development Corporation alongside Homer Spofford and also supported

the Sharon Historical Society. Eventually he served the village as trustee and later as mayor for one year. By then he had watched Sharon Springs change from a bustling resort village into a quieter small town holding tightly to its memories of grander days.

James' mother lived to be over one hundred years old, something that amazed everyone who knew her. By 2011, when James was writing these memoirs, he was nearing ninety-six years old and had spent nearly all his entire life in and around Sharon Springs. Looking back, he realized his memories were really the story of the village itself—the hotels, the restaurants, the ponds and ice harvests, the old theaters, the bowling night, the Packards, the crowds, and the people who made Sharon Springs such a remarkable place to grow up and live.



**James with his friends at Clausen Farms,
the Jozifek family—Mildred, Walter &
Joan Jozifek.**



**James with Sylvia Lane. They liked
to play cards together.**

OUR NEXT

HISTORICAL LECTURE SERIES

MORE OLD FARMS ETC.



— in Summit, Schoharie County, NY —

Presented by Karen McLaughlin Cuccinello

★ JULY 13TH AT 7 PM ★

Sharon Historical Society Lecture Series

★ JULY 13TH – 7 PM

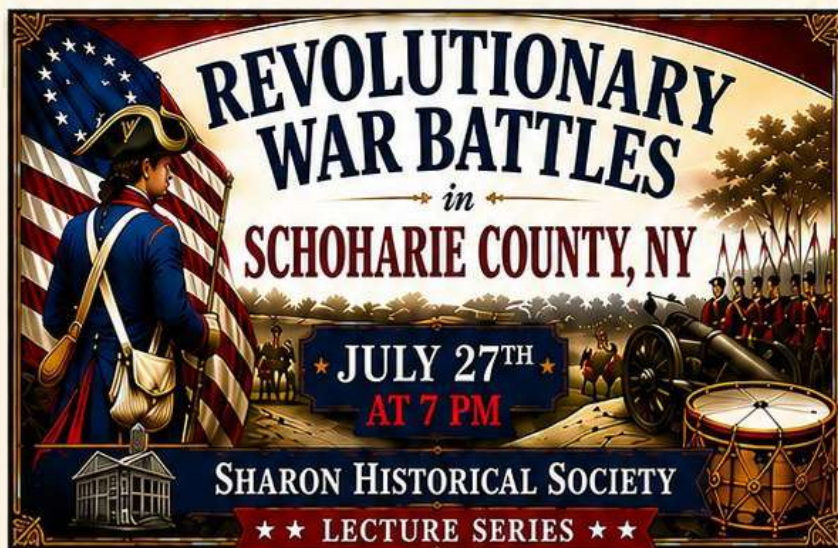
In-Person and via Zoom

Based on her recently published book, *More Old Farms Etc. in Summit*, Schoharie County, NY, Karen Cuccinello's presentation explores the stories of seventeen historic farms that helped shape the landscape and character of Summit. The program highlights farm families, their homes, barns, and outbuildings, offering a fascinating glimpse into rural life across generations. One of the featured farms remains in operation today, providing a living connection to the area's agricultural past. Whether you have family roots in Schoharie County, an interest in agricultural history, or simply enjoy learning about the people and places that shaped our region, this program promises to be both informative and entertaining.

★ JULY 27TH – 7 PM

Zoom Only

Deep in the heart of upstate New York, the Schoharie Valley was the hidden lifeline of the American Revolution — the "breadbasket" that fed Washington's Continental Army — and the British knew it. *Revolutionary War Battles in Schoharie County* brings to life the raw frontier warfare that swept through this region, where ordinary farmers and families transformed their churches into fortresses and fought back against overwhelming British-led raiding forces. Witness the defiant stand of Major Melancthon Woolsey, who refused to surrender the Middle Fort as nearly 800 enemy troops surrounded it; follow legendary sharpshooter Timothy Murphy as he hunted enemy raiders alone through the wilderness; and discover Colonel Marinus Willett, who led 150 men into a Sharon swamp ambush against a force twice their size — and won. This is the Revolutionary War you've never heard — and won't soon forget.



★ AUGUST 10TH – 7 PM

In-Person and via Zoom

Step back in time and discover the story of the Pavilion Hotel, Sharon Springs' most magnificent lost landmark, in this engaging presentation by Sandra Manko. Once known as the "watering place of the East," this grand Greek Revival resort welcomed presidents, Civil War generals, celebrated authors, industrialists, and even Oscar Wilde. Through rare photographs, postcards, menus, advertisements, and little-known stories, you'll explore the elegance and social life that made the Pavilion one of America's premier spa destinations. Learn why thousands visited Sharon Springs each summer and what led to the hotel's heartbreaking demolition in 1940. This richly illustrated presentation will bring one of the region's greatest treasures back to life.

THE PAVILION HOTEL



Sharon Springs' Lost Landmark

★ AUGUST 10TH AT 7 PM ★

Sharon Historical Lecture Series

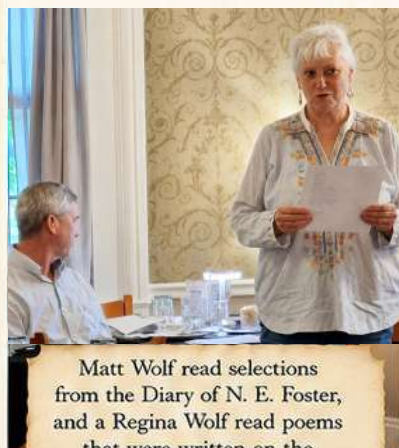
Sharon Historical Society

Recent Events



Desserts and Diaries—June 2nd

The Sharon Historical Society's Desserts and Diaries fundraiser on June 2 was a memorable evening that brought history to life through readings of authentic diaries and handwritten letters from the Society's archives. Guests were transported into the lives of earlier generations through stories of love, hardship, resilience, and everyday life, all while enjoying an outstanding assortment of desserts in the beautiful surroundings of the **American Hotel**. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Michael Palaia and Marco Braeutigam, owners of the American Hotel, for graciously hosting the event and generously providing many of the delicious desserts that made the evening even more special. We are also grateful to everyone who attended and supported this fundraiser, helping the Sharon Historical Society continue its mission of preserving and sharing the rich history of our community.



Matt Wolf read selections from the Diary of N. E. Foster, and a Regina Wolf read poems that were written on the walls of the carriage house at the Fonda Cottage.



A wonderful turnout for the Desserts and Diaries program at the American Hotel.



Steve Andersen read selections from the Diary of Jo Sykes at the Pavilion Hotel in Sharon Springs.



A wonderful assortment of desserts were provided by the staff at the American Hotel and also by our President, Ron Ketelsen.



Oliver Kindling read excerpts of a diary from Paul VanDyke, who grew up in Schoharie Valley.



Carol Vacca read a very humorous diary from Mrs. Ray F. Pollard from Sharon Springs about hops farming.



Sandra Manko read a touching story written by her mother, Sylvia Somers Lane.

SHARON HISTORICAL SOCIETY *Recent Events*

continued

THISTLE HILL WEAVERS AND HISTORIC HYDE HALL TOUR—June 26th

The Sharon Historical Society enjoyed a fascinating day exploring two remarkable historic destinations. Our visit began at Thistle Hill Weavers, where Rabbit Goody gave an engaging behind-the-scenes tour of her extraordinary weaving studio, introducing us to the artistry, history, and craftsmanship of one of the few mills in the United States still capable of weaving short runs of custom luxury fabrics on beautifully restored historic looms. Guests were especially interested to learn that Rabbit personally wove many of the historically accurate fabrics used in the restoration of Hyde Hall, creating a meaningful connection between the two destinations. After a picnic lunch overlooking scenic Otsego Lake, the group toured the magnificent Hyde Hall, where they admired many of the very fabrics they had learned about earlier in the day while exploring the mansion's impressive architecture and rich history. We extend our sincere thanks to Rabbit Goody for her outstanding hospitality, informative tour of Thistle Hill Weavers, and for graciously arranging our memorable visit to Hyde Hall. Her passion for preserving history and traditional craftsmanship made this a truly unforgettable experience for everyone who attended.



As we arrived at Hyde Hall, we were welcomed at the front entrance and enjoyed admiring the elegant antique automobile displayed in front of the mansion.

THISTLE HILL WEAVERS



Rabbit Goody, owner of Thistle Hill Weavers, welcomed our group and shared her passion for historic textiles during an informative tour of her unique and remarkable weaving facility.



A stunning piece of historic fabric being woven on one of the looms at Thistle Hill Weavers.



Guests were captivated by the detailed explanation of the historic weaving process and enjoyed seeing remarkable machinery in operation.

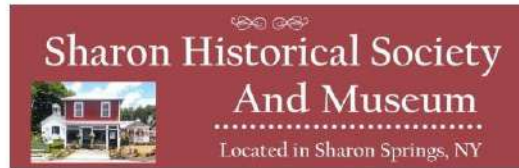


Executive Director and CEO John Maney gave our group a personalized tour of Hyde Hall, sharing fascinating stories about the mansion's history and restoration.

The carpet in this room was woven by Rabbit Goody, who we had the pleasure of visiting earlier that day at Thistle Hill Weavers.



Lunch was enjoyed by many of our group on Hyde Hall's south lawn, where the magnificent views of Otsego Lake added to the day's historic charm.



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.)