

# Sharon Historical Society



## October 2022

### Upcoming Programs

- **How to Re-glaze and Preserve Vintage Windows-**  
October 10th
- **Paranormal Activity 101 with NYC's Morris-Jumel Mansion -**  
October 24
- **Ballads of the Schoharie Creek Drownings -**  
November 14
- **Amazing Caves Around The World -**  
November 28th
- **The History of Santa Claus -**  
December 12th



### Inside this issue:

Greetings from President	1
Thank you Nick!	
Stewart's Ribbon Cutting	2
Museum Work Day	
Museum Clean-Up	3
Expansion Project Update	4
New Treasurer	
Eateries—Sharon Gone By	5-6
Rockville Cafe	7
My Sister's Café	6
Sharon's Veterans	9-12

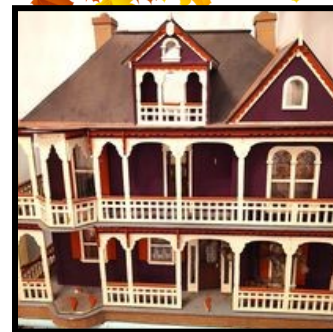
## Message from the President

Happy Fall! We have so much to do on our Expansion Project before the snow flies. We have made a lot of progress on our little village project and will continue until the weather makes it impossible for us to work outside. We are starting with the General Store first which needs some roof work, new paint, windows and doors. The cabins have been completely cleaned out and are ready for us to convert them into our village vignettes. We took three dumpsters full of junk out of those cabins! Thanks to the many volunteers who have helped so far with the project. Also, a special thank you to Mike McCallion and his crew for not only helping with the cabins, but also bringing his excavator to clean up all of the brush and overgrown trees around the museum property. There are still lots of opportunities to get involved, so give me a call or email me (below) and we will put you to work!

Our Annual Membership meeting is **October 17th at 6:30 PM** at the Community Room at the Sharon Library. Everyone is welcome. We will be electing our Board of Directors at that time as well as voting on some bylaw changes. It will be a great opportunity for you to hear about the future plans we have for the museum and the Sharon Historical Society. We hope to see you there!

Ron Ketelsen, President

**HUGE THANKS** go out once again to **Nick Juried** for coming to our rescue. Mr. Juried sent the Sharon Historical Society a check for \$65,000 for the expansion project. The money will be used for renovations on the cabins to create an historical village vignette.



The dollhouse above was part of Ron Ketelsen's collection on display at the Roseboro Hotel during the Harvest Festival.

## Local Dignitaries attend Grand Re-Opening and Ribbon Cutting of new Stewart's Shop 8/26/22



Pictured above from left: Carl Ullman (Town Council) David Cross (Town Council). Barb Handy (Teacher-SSCS), Tom Yorke (Superintendent-SSCS), Alan Edstrom (Beekman 1802), Sandra Manko (Sharon Town Supervisor). Doug Plummer (Sharon Springs Mayor), Stewart's Rep (unidentified) , Ron Ketelsen (President Schoharie County Chamber of Commerce), a Stewart's PR personnel, Pete Bardunias from the Capital District Chamber and the Stewart's cow.



### Museum Work Day 9/10/22

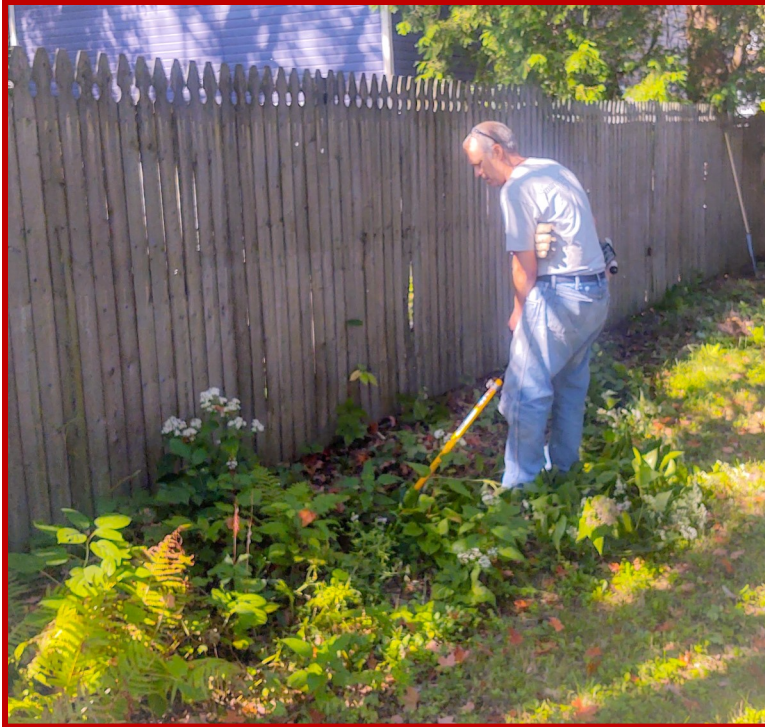
Barbara Cousineau  
and Carol Vacca are  
checking inventory  
at the Museum.



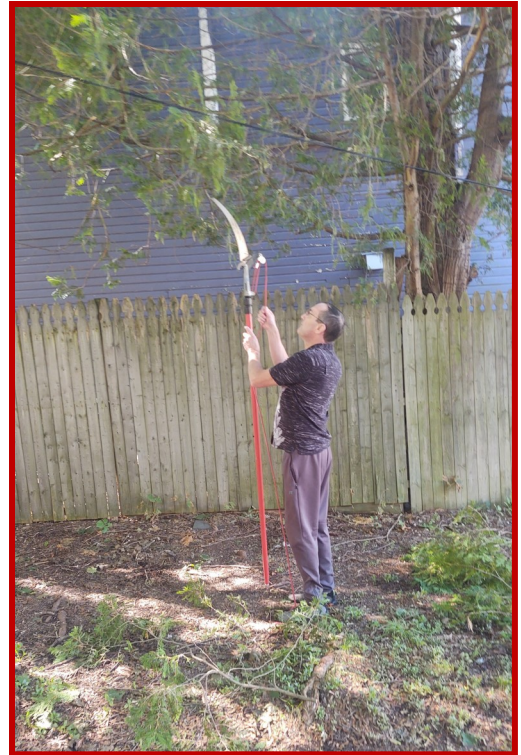
Caroline Bade, Nicole McNamee Wicks, Joyce Slater, and Michelle McCallion sort through items to be sold at the Thrift Boutique (a high class name for Garage Sale) over Harvest Festival weekend.



## *Clean Up Day at the Museum*



Steve Andersen helped with raking and weed-whacking.



David Cousineau assisted with some tree trimming.



Karen Cuccinello helped with sweeping up around the front of the museum and weeding in the garden.



Mike McCallion brought his excavator to clean out all of the brush behind the cabins.



## Expansion Project Update

Nick Juried Donation—We received a check for \$65,000 from Nick Juried. WOW! The monthly Board of Directors' meeting was just finishing up on 9/19/22 when Nick's e-mail came to Ron Ketelsen. There was a lot of whooping and hollering to celebrate the excitement of the windfall. The money will be deposited into the Expansion Account at Community Bank. That will give us a balance of \$83,448.48 in the Expansion Account.

Painting—Tremendous progress has been made at the museum. On Saturday, 9/24/22, Michelle McCallion, Pauline Brown, Nicole McNamee Wicks and Ron Ketelsen scraped the bottom of the museum and schoolhouse. Much of it is painted. We just need more warm sunny days with no rain.

Cabins Cleaned Out—Mike McCallion, along with his crew, Steve Andersen, and Ron Ketelsen thoroughly cleaned out all of the cabins of junk and stripped the walls of drywall. They are now completely empty shells. Three dumpsters worth of junk!

Roof—The next step will be to work on the roof of the General Store and Post Office (the first cabin). It is sagging and we need to find out why. The plan is to go building by building and complete one at a time. Work has begun to repair the roof.

Trees—A number of trees have to be taken down on the 236 property because they are on the roofs of some of the buildings. We have received a number of bids and will have the four main trees taken down from October 14th—19th. We will get a 2nd quote for the remaining trees on the property that need to be removed. New landscaping and trees will be planted in appropriate spots.

Doctor's Items—We purchased a ca. 1900 doctor's exam table (it even has a sink in it), lots of medical equipment, a large framed photo of a doctor working, a doctor's bag full of tools, and a box of glass jars for medical tools—for \$250 which is a real bargain. We bought them from a lady in Hampden MA, whose father was a country doctor. All the items came from his office.



Next Steps—We are working on the General Store first. The store will receive a fresh coat of paint. We have purchase old windows to go into the store front and will be working to button up the place before winter.

## New Historical Society Treasurer

Nicole McNamee Wicks has signed documents at Community Bank so she can take over the Treasurer's job. Thank you, Nicole!

A few dollhouses on exhibit during Harvest Festival.





**The Eateries of a Sharon Gone By** In the "old" days, there were places to eat all along the Great Western Turnpike (now Route 20) as travelers whizzed through Sharon Springs on the highway. One could enjoy fine dining at the Belvedere Hotel, Hollywood Hotel or Twin Pines Restaurant, or take pleasure in a casual outing at The Commodore, Mohaven Restaurant, Eigen's Point, Davis View, Sharon Tavern, or Dairyland.

The Twin Pines was built by Duane Spraker, ca. 1929 as a restaurant and bar. Manager and Chef James Bowmaker increased the popularity of the establishment during the 1940s. Located at the corner of Route 10 and 20, the structure was torn down just prior to Central National Bank constructing their new building at that location in 1989.

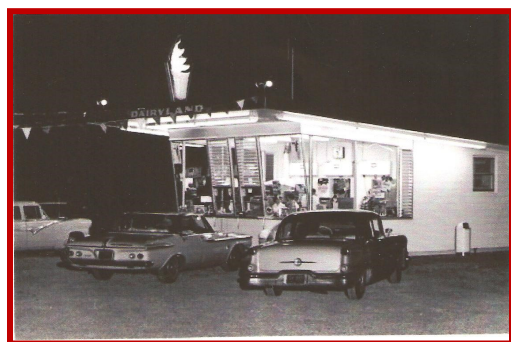
The Belvedere Hotel and Restaurant in Sharon Center was popular during the 1940s and 1950s. It offered a beautiful hilltop view of the Mohawk Valley and Adirondacks. James Bowmaker purchased the Belvedere in 1945 and operated it from 1949–1952. Chef Bowmaker's specialties



*The Belvedere ca. 1940*

for Thanksgiving in 1949 included Roast Goose, Roast Long Island Duckling, Roast Turkey Escalloped Oysters, and Creamed Onions with a choice of New England Mince or Pumpkin Pie for desert, as well as steamed fruit pudding with brandied sauce. Although still standing, the Belvedere is currently in a state of disrepair.

Built in 1929, the Hollywood Hotel on Route 20 (also known as Cherry Valley Turnpike) had many owners over the years. Some of the employees ca. 1960, for owners Leon and Virginia Sherwood were: Mary Wright, Norma Trafton, Elizabeth Whitbeck, Kate Jackson, Gloria Jackson, and cook—Bertha Benedict. There was a waiting line for Sunday dinner and new owner, James Bowmaker, maintained the popularity of the Hollywood after the Sherwood's. Later owners changed the name to Perillo's, Hollywood Too, Black Pearl Inn, etc. A fire in 2004 damaged the building when an accidental blaze was sparked by a blowtorch being used for roof repairs. The Hollywood was torn down in the spring of 2022 to make room for Stewart's Shop expansion project.

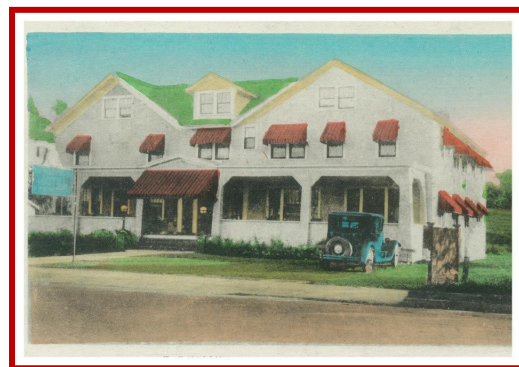


*Dairyland ca. 1965*

high quality food as well as the popular car shows on Friday night.



*Twin Pines ca. 1925*



*Hollywood Hotel ca. 1950*

Dairyland was built in 1963 by Dwight Lane and Harold Lappeus. Dairyland was one of the first roadside snack bars in this area. Dwight and Peggy Lane served burgers, fries, and ice cream to hungry summertime families for many years. There have been several owners since then but recent owners Cyle Conley and now David Hayner still open during the spring through fall and still offer that





**The Commodore ca. 1935**

Built by Ulric S. LaVallee (better known as U.S.) in 1929-1930, The Commodore opened for business May 30, 1930. Built on old Route 20 (now Sawmill Rd), Mr. LaVallee had the structure moved in 1938 so it was located on the new highway. The establishment provided gasoline, food, and rooms. The Commodore is now used as a private residence on the 2nd floor with a hair salon on the lower level.



**Mohaven ca. 1950**

in Sharon Hill at the corner of Route 20 and Route 145 was purchased by Mike and Helen Bautochka in 1958. The building was vacant for a couple of years before the Bautochka's bought it. It

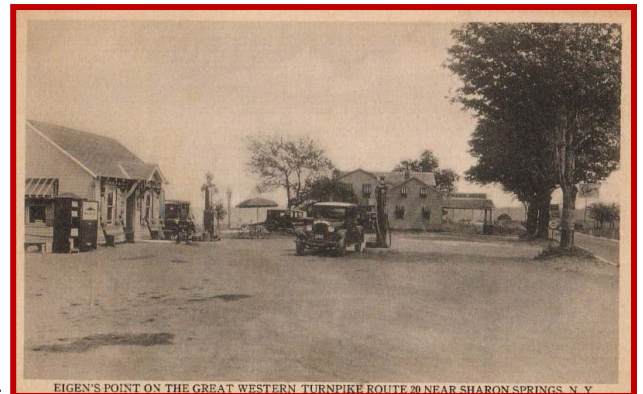


**Sharon Tavern 1958**

The Mohaven Motel and Restaurant on Route 20 catered to families with affordable rooms and food, and the modernization of a new pool during the 1950s and 1960s. When a fire claimed most of the structure, it was rebuilt into a residence.

Eigen's Point, east of Sharon Springs on Route 20, came into existence during the 1930s after Route 20 was widened. They offered food and gas, but the main attraction was the lookout, which offered a magnificent view of the Mohawk Valley and Adirondack Mountains.

Sharon Tavern



**Eigen's Point ca. 1930**

was originally a wagon shed situated at the back of the property and moved by Van Patten of Cherry Valley to the present site. This restaurant and bar was owned and operated by Paul and Tootie Stafford for many years. Today, owner Paula Paige still operates a popular and successful business.



## The Rockville Café and Bakery

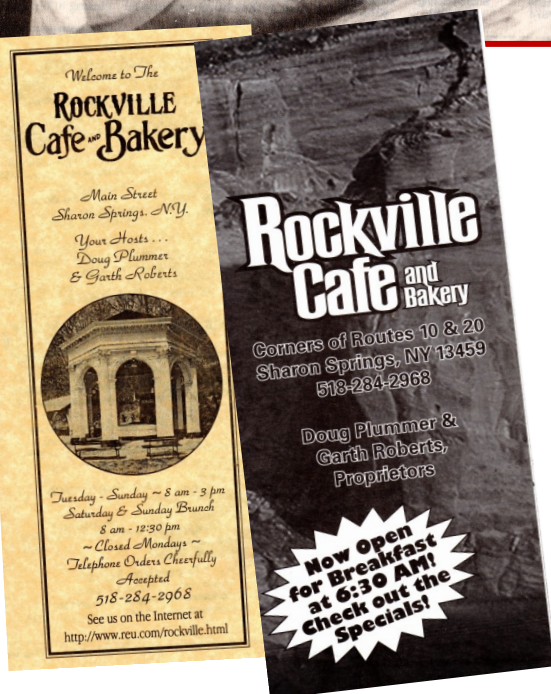
he Daily Editor

Friday, August 19, 1994



These two handsome guys are Doug Plummer (left) and Garth Roberts, who opened the Rockville Café and Bakery in 1993 at the busy corner of Route 10 and 20. The *Daily Editor* printed this photo in their paper in 1994. The locals were excited to see a former actor and caterer from New York City open a small-town eatery. As written by Leah Osterhoudt of the *Daily Editor*, "The Rockville was reminiscent of the spa town's heyday in the early 1900s when thousands flocked to Sharon Springs to experience the rejuvenating mineral baths." Doug and Garth were eager to preserve and promote the Village's history and the café walls were decked out with old hotel brochures, signs, and nostalgic posters—all indicative of the Village's unique past. Even the café's name, Rockville, was the original name of the Village. Garth Roberts, a classically-trained pianist and former conductor of Broadway shows, feels the café was to remind people of the community they live in. The menu specialties honored the Village and its people with names like the Rockville Omelette "The Bob", "Turnpike Mike," "The Vern," and "The McFreeman."

The Rockville was the heart of the Town and brought many people together. The café closed in 2001 and we still miss it!





**My Sisters' Place Café** When My Sisters' Place Café opened in 2005 on Beechwood Road, it was owned by three sisters, Margi, Kathi and Barbara. The building was an old barn renovated to meet the needs of the business while still maintaining the integrity of the structure. The café officially opened its doors on November 21, 2005. The sisters watched their dreams come true by providing a place where people could meet old friends, telling stories of the past, sharing their memories of the "good old days", or just plain catching up with each other. The café served breakfast and lunch. One of the sisters, Margi Neary said, "We are proud to be able to provide good, home-cooked food in a warm and cozy atmosphere. Our philosophy in starting the café was to operate a business where people felt comfortable, relaxed and a bit like they are at home. We are very glad to have managed to do this in a community we are so proud to be a part of." It was not uncommon to find menu items that were named for customers who inspired them. Each day the café featured home-made soups. Desserts included the café's own brownie cheesecake, Pete's chocolate cake, lemon bars and Erin's cheesecake. Sadly, the café shut its doors in 2015 and the void is still felt.

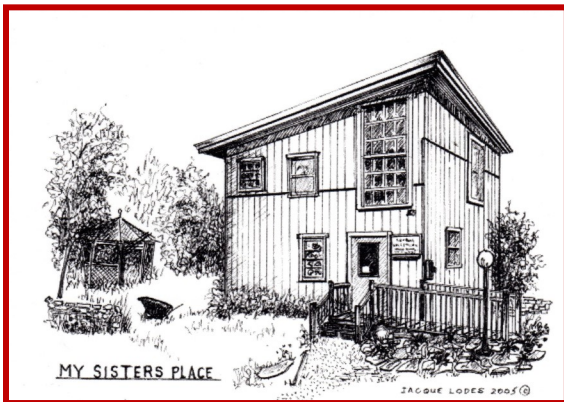


Image of My Sisters' Place drawn by Jacques Lodes.

Each day the café featured home-made soups. Desserts included the café's own brownie cheesecake, Pete's chocolate cake, lemon bars and Erin's cheesecake. Sadly, the café shut its doors in 2015 and the void is still felt.

Thursday - Monday  
8 AM - 3 PM

**My Sisters' Place  
A Café**  
Breakfast, Lunch & Baked Goods

Margi Neary & Barbara Costantino

Beechwood Road  
Sharon Springs, NY 13459  
www.mysisterscafe.com

518-284-3421

BREAKFAST    HOMEMADE JAMS & JELLIES

LUNCH

**CATERING**

VISIT OUR WEB SITE  
WWW.MYSISTERSCAFE.COM  
FOR A PARTIAL LISTING OF  
CATERING CHOICES

LET US HELP WITH YOUR  
EVENT - YOUR PLACE, OUR  
PLACE, ANYWHERE...WE'LL  
MAKE IT SPECIAL!

*My Sisters' Cafe*  
WHERE LOCAL PRODUCE BECOMES GOOD FOOD

518.284.3421    116 BEECHWOOD RD., SHARON SPRINGS, NY 13459  
WWW.MYSISTERSCAFE.COM

**My Sisters' Place  
A Café**  
breakfast, Lunch & Baked Goods



warm and cozy place to eat & chat  
little like home with a touch of sweet!

on Beechwood Road in Sharon Springs

Rt. 20 West  
the Intersection of Rts. 10 & 20  
Go one block West  
a right onto Beechwood Road,  
1 1/2 blocks, we are on the right

Open 8 am - 3 pm

Thursday - Monday  
518-284-3421



*Afternoon Tea*  
Hosted by  
Thyme for Tea & My Sisters' S  
February 26, 2006  
3 pm





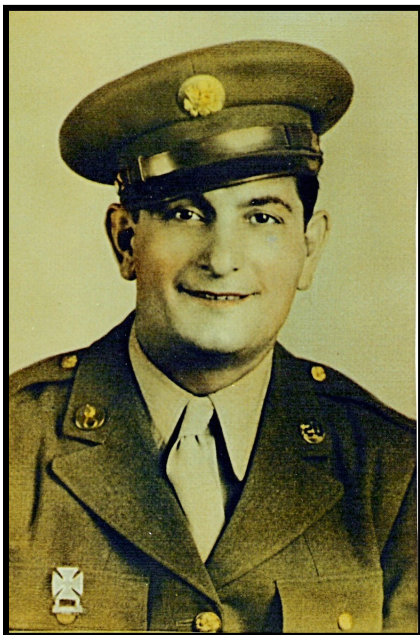
**Sharon's Veterans** by Sandra Manko As we near Veteran's Day, it seems appropriate to pay homage to our veterans. The Sharon Historical Society published a book, *Honor & Glory—A Tribute to Sharon's Veterans* in 2009. While I was doing the research for the book, I had many interesting conversations with veterans and their families. A few of these interviews really stick in my mind.

Many older people remember Roland Baxter—normally known as Tom. He had a son named Tom also but this story is about his father who served in World War II. "Old" Tom was a Private in the Marine Corps stationed in the South Pacific, born 1914, died 1977, and buried at Sharon Cemetery in Leesville. Young Tom told how his father would never talk about the war. If anyone asked him a question, his father would just walk out of the room. I imagine the memories were too painful to remember. He never brought any attention to his military service. There are no reminders on his gravestone to show he served his country.

Another Veteran I can't forget is Arden Vrooman. Mr. Vrooman is the father of Donna Rowison who used to live in Sharon Center. Several years ago I called Donna to get some information about her Dad to put in the book. Mr. Vrooman was a Private in the US Army from 1942—1945. He drove ambulance and fought in the battles of Central Europe, Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Battle of the Bulge, born 1923, died 1995. Donna said her father never wanted to talk about the war. He wanted no reminders and got rid of all his medals. After her Dad died, Donna wrote to Congressman Sherwood Boehlert to seek help in replacing the medals. They were able to access his records and sent her replacement medals:

- Good Conduct Medal
- WWII Victory Medal
- Honorable Service Lapel Button WWII
- European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal
- Army of Occupation Medal with German clasp
- Marksman Bridge with rifle bar.

They are among Donna's most cherished possessions.



**Pfc. Anthony DiPace**

Barb Cousineau collected a lot of military information for the book when she was Town Clerk and people came in to pay their taxes. Jack Empie was one of those people. Jack was a Chief Petty Officer in the Navy from 1954—1976 and Barb asked him where he was stationed. He spent most of that time on submarines on secret missions. He said the places were so secret that most of the time even he didn't know where they were.

At left is a photo of Pfc. Anthony DiPace—the husband of Helen DiPace Bowmaker and father of Nancy DiPace Pfau and Tony DiPace. He was killed in Belgium on December 26, 1944 in the Battle of the Bulge. He gave his life for his country. He isn't listed on the WWII monument in front of Sharon Springs Central School because he wasn't a resident of Sharon when he enlisted, however this was his home. Before entering service in April 1943 he was employed at Watervliet Arsenal. He went overseas in the fall of 1944. He was originally buried at Henri Chapelle Cemetery in Belgium. Four years later, his body was sent back to the US for re-burial at Sharon Cemetery in Leesville.





**KILLED IN ACTION**—Lieut. Andrew C. Empie, son of Clarence Empie of Sharon Springs, has been reported killed in action Sept. 29, over Lae, New Guinea. A memorial service will be conducted in his honor, Sunday afternoon at 2:30 at the Sharon Springs Methodist church.



**Lieutenant Andrew C. Empie**, January 4, 1920—September 29, 1944, SSCS Class of 1938. Lt. Empie was first reported missing in action. We now know that he was shot down by

enemy fire on September 29, 1944 over Lae, New Guinea. He might possibly be interred at Fort William McKinley Mania, the Philippines. He entered service April 1942 and trained for one year in the US Infantry, after which he was transferred to the Army Air Corps. A memorial service was conducted in his honor at the Sharon Springs Methodist Church. The photograph at the above right shows Lt. Empie standing by the Twin Pines Restaurant which was located at the corner of Routes 10 and 20 where NBT Bank and the Post Office are now located.

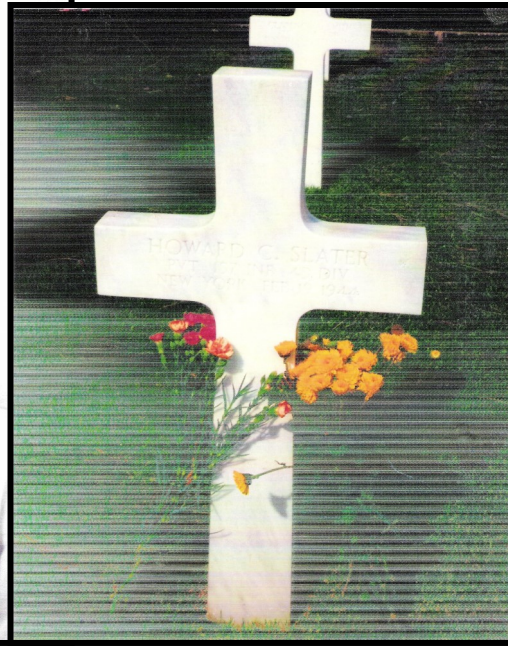
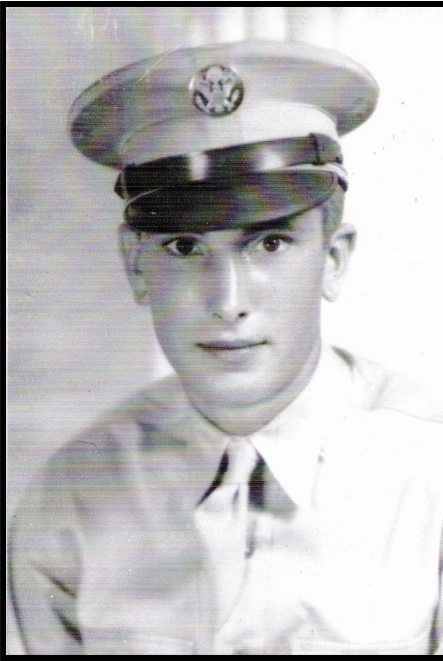
**Sergeant Walter Sall**, January 22, 1913—December 5, 1942, SSCS Class of 1932. Sgt. Sall was killed along with twelve other officers and enlisted men in an airplane crash near Montgomery, AL. while on a training flight. He was survived by his parents and a twin brother. The remains of Sgt. Sall arrived in Cobleskill under military escort and were then taken to Sharon Springs. Several American Legionnaires from Sharon Springs were at the Cobleskill railroad station to escort the body. Mrs. Lloyd Kling, organist, played before and after the service. The bearers were Lloyd Kling, Durward Greene, Adin Button, and Lionel Lambert. Lt. Andrew Empie and Cpl. Francis Bowmaker, who were home on fur-



lough, were color guards. Before he joined the service, Sgt. Sall was employed during the summer by the White Sulphur Springs Company. Sgt. Sall is buried at Ames Cemetery.







**Private Howard C. Slater**, November 19, 1924—February 19, 1944, US Army, Sharon Springs Central School Class of 1938, was killed February 19, 1944 at 19 years old in the battle of Anzio, Italy. Pvt. Slater was in the 157th Infantry, 45th Division and received a Purple Heart. He is buried at the United States Military Cemetery, Nettuno, Italy, 32 miles south of Rome, Plot D, Row 13, Grave 1. Pvt. Slater trained at Camp Butner, NC. Howard's sisters are Lula Chase, Rose Mary Butler, and Roseanne Eckerson. The oldest of the family, Harriet, passed away about 1960. Brothers are George Slater, and two brothers, Thomas and Harry, have passed away.



**Corporal Lawrence D. Stephens**, November 11, 1919—October 28, 1944, SSCS Class of 1938, died in Holland on

October 29, 1944, from wounds received in action a few weeks earlier. Cpl. Stephens entered the service February 10, 1942, received his basic training at Camp Polk, LA and later his advanced training at Fort Knox, KY. After being stationed in California, he was transferred to Fort Benning, GA, and left for duty overseas sometime after

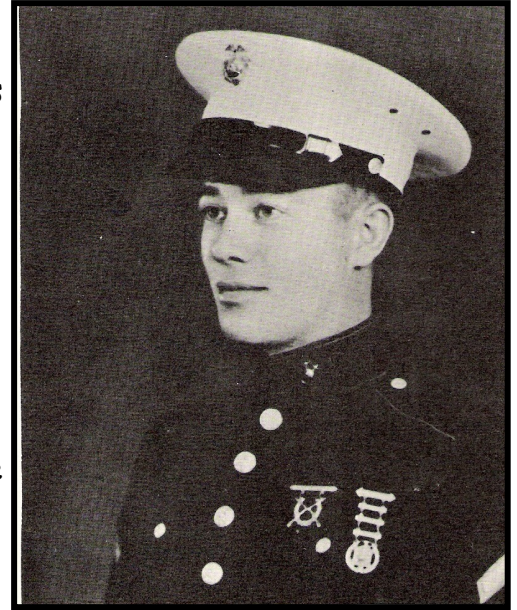
June 1, 1944. Prior to entering service he was an employee of the Beech-Nut Packing Co. at Canajoharie. He is interred at an unknown location overseas. There is a gravestone marker at Sharon Cemetery.

A memorial plaque hangs in the Community Room of the Library/Municipal Building listing the four Sharon men who died in World War II. Anthony DiPace is not listed on this plaque because he wasn't a resident of the Town of Sharon when he enlisted. However, he is considered one of our own.





**Cpl. Richard A. Buttery**, was the only local Sharon fatality of the Korean Conflict Era, however the personal loss to the family and community cannot be calculated. Cpl. Buttery was born January 12, 1930 in West Haven, CT and graduated from Sharon Springs Central School Class of 1947. He was an enthusiastic sportsman and played on both the basketball and baseball teams while a student at SSCS. He enlisted in the Marines July 1948, completed training at Parris Island SC, and was sent to Hawaii for duty in Korea. He was killed in action near Yanggu, Korea on June 3, 1951. Cpl. Buttery was awarded the Purple Heart, the Combat Action Ribbon, the Korean Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Presidential Unit Citation, and the Republic of Korea War Service Medal. He is buried at Slate Hill Cemetery-Sharon Hill.



Although we can't acknowledge all the Sharon's veterans in this newsletter, our military will never be forgotten; they should go down in history as our true heroes.

Our veterans are entitled to the fullest measure of honor and respect. We can't give them back their youth. We can't give them back their time. We can, however, remember them in our hearts. When we celebrate on Memorial Day, 4th of July, Labor Day, etc. and while we are having cookouts, attending parades and waving American flags, most assuredly, we are all guilty of not giving enough thought to the reasons we are celebrating. Our veterans who fought to maintain the rights of "life, liberty and pursuit of happiness" are entitled to the fullest measure of honor and respect. They weren't looking for fanfare and attention. A job needed



to be done and they did what was needed at the time. Our lives are better because of their dedication. We cannot imagine the experiences and horrors that they have endured. Thank you to all our veterans from the bottom of our hearts.



**This photograph from the 1960s says it all - Americana at its finest with American Legion members (from left) Clayton Bullock holding the rifle, Bob Fitch behind the flag, and George Jackson holding the flag and stepping lively in the Memorial Day Parade. Mac's Mobil Station is in the background.**





# Sharon Historical Society and Museum



Located in Sharon Springs, NY

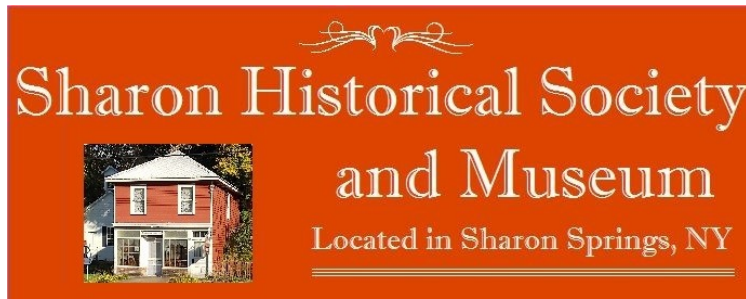
## We are Looking For Antiques

Items for our new historic village beside the current museum.

General store items from the late 1800s to early 1900s, tins, clothing, baking utensils, butter churns, flour sacks, barbershop items, etc. Items must be in good shape. Please call us at (518) 860-5513 or email us at [sharonhistoricalsocietyny@gmail.com](mailto:sharonhistoricalsocietyny@gmail.com)







## 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**