

Sharon Historical Society Newsletter

July -
August
2025



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Message from our President

Summer greetings! We have been busy cleaning up the museum grounds in the past few weeks. A very special "thanks" to Andrea Melville for doing an amazing job of weeding the gardens at the museum. Caroline Bade, David Cousineau, and Joyce Slater have helped to clean and dust the museum and the stores in the historical village. Steve Andersen has been doing weed-whacking around the museum property. We really appreciate the volunteering. However, we still need more volunteers to do some painting, window washing, and completing the displays in the stores before we can open them for display. If you are willing to help, please contact us at (518) 860-5513 or email us at sharonhistoricalsocietyny@gmail.com.

We recently hosted the Otego Historical Society and gave them a tour of the museum and historical village. They enjoyed a wonderful lunch at the Sunnycrest Amish Marketplace in Sharon Springs. The Sharon Historical Society also took part in the Jefferson History Day, held at the Maple Museum in Jefferson. A good turnout of historical societies from Schoharie County also attended and everyone had wonderful displays about their museums.

Our annual Garage Sale is scheduled for July 26th and 27th at The Roseboro Ballroom. We still need items donated to sell. This is our major fundraiser for the Historical Society. Please call us at (518) 860-5513 if you have items you can donate. All proceeds go to support the Sharon Historical Society.

We have started our historical programs again on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month. Look inside for a listing of upcoming programs. If you are unable to attend but would like to watch the playback, please sign up and we will send you the playback link when it is ready!

Enjoy your summer!



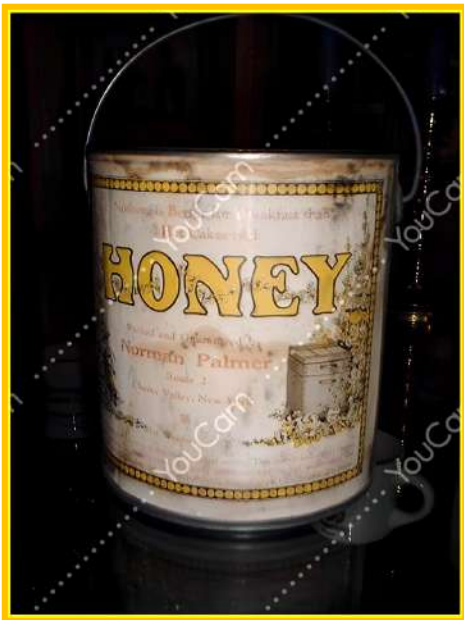
President Ron Ketelsen



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Everything in this museum is very precious to us. Every single thing holds some special meaning, serves a purpose, or tells a story from our lives. The above items shown in the Doctor's showcase exhibit include bath tickets, pine needle bath salts, medicine bottles, prosthetics, water thermometer, water dipper, Doctor's bag, etc.



Honey Pails



*A*s the value of farm products plummeted over the years, many farmers had to turn to alternative methods of subsidizing milk prices, such as selling eggs and butter. Norman Palmer, from Center Valley, who sold honey by the five pound pail advertised, "Nothing is better for breakfast than hot cakes and honey." Honey tins largely replaced stoneware crocks as distribution vessels because they cost less and allowed for more eye-catching graphics. Tins such as this have become the object of desire for collectors, with values generally ranging from \$30 to \$150 based on condition, label vibrancy, and brand rarity.

Engell/Engle Cemetery

This cemetery is believed to be once located near the old Madison house on Engleville Road although no stones were found. From the intersection of Chestnut Street and Engleville Road, continue on Engleville Road for approximately 1.6 miles.

Three stones were given to the Sharon Museum, which came from this location. They are on exhibit by the Sharon Museum.

Gone Home Jane Tingley, wife of Jacob Engell

Died April 18, 1855, Aged 77 yrs. & 5 mos.

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.

Sacred to the memory of Louisa, Consort of Martin Engle

Who died June 15, 1847, Aged 31 yrs. 6 mos. 10 days.

My flesh shall slumber in the ground;

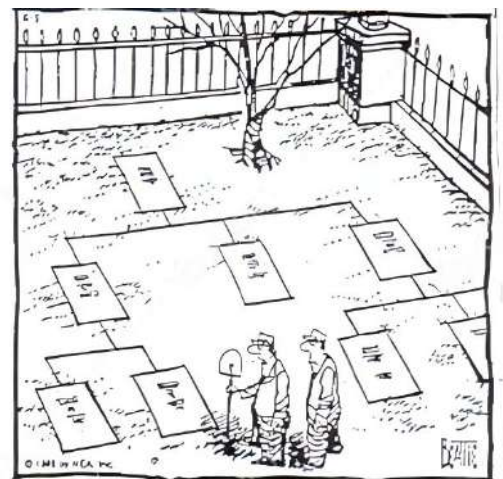
Til the last trumpet's joyful sound.

Then burst its chains with sweet surprise;

And in my savior's image rise.

Jacob Engle, Died May 12, 1840, Aged 68 yrs. 9 mos.

Barb & Omer
Cousineau col-
lecting infor-
mation from a
cemetery stone,
ca. 2006



"Some family actually laid out their plots like this?!"

Sharon Springs & Palatine Bridge Stage Coach Line

As the poster below indicates, in 1861, the Sharon Springs & Palatine Bridge Stagecoach brought visitors to Sharon Springs. It picked up passengers from the train in Palatine Bridge and brought them to the hotels at the spa. It was operated by W. Hitchman. The hotels paid for the service.



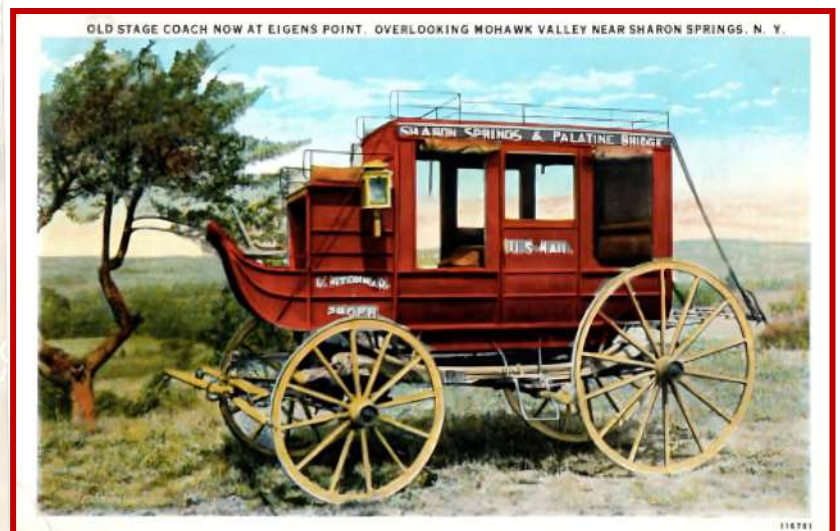
This is a handmade wooden image of the stagecoach.

**REGULAR LINE
TO SHARON SPRINGS.**

Good Coaches and Carriages
will be in readiness at
PALATINE BRIDGE,
on the arrival of each train of cars from the East
and West, to convey passengers to the Springs. This
line is put on by the Proprietors of the hotels at
Sharon Springs, to avoid the imposition generally
practiced at such places, by those not interested.
On arriving at Palatine Bridge, be sure to inquire
for the **REGULAR LINE.**
WILLARD HITCHMAN, Proprietor.
D. FOX, Agent at Sharon Springs.

Stages leave Sharon for Palatine Bridge at 5
A. M., 10 A. M., 12 M., and 3 1-4 P. M.

Reference at Sharon Springs :
J. H. Gardner & Son, Pavilion ; L. Eldredge,
Congress Hall ; W. Landon, Union Hall ; S. Eld-
redge & Son, Eldredge House ; B. Tonsley, Ameri-
can Hotel ; Henry Moyer, Moyer's Hotel.
N. B. Horses and Carriages to let by W. Hitch-
man, Eldredge, Canajoharie.
Canajoharie, July 3, 1861.



When the stage coach went out of service it was used as a tourist attraction at Eigen's Point restaurant, cabins & gas station on Rte. 20.

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840 - 1893)

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky was born in Votkinsk, an industrial town in Russia. Surrounded by a loving family, he was immersed from an early age in a world where music held a privileged place. His mother, Alexandria, a talented pianist, instilled a love of the art in her son, while his engineer father, Ilya, ensured that he receive a well-rounded education.

Tchaikovsky's childhood was tinged with pain. In 1848, the family moved several times due to his father's professional obligations. But, it was in 1854 that he suffered a

devastating loss, the death of his mother from cholera. This tragedy marked him for life, and nurtured the sensitivity he would later express in his music.

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky was just four years old when he began composing.

Tchaikovsky began piano lessons at age five. Within three years he had become as adept at reading sheet music as his teacher.

At the age of 10, Pyotr left his hometown to attend the Imperial School of Jurisprudence in St. Petersburg, a prestigious institution designed to train Russia's administrative elite. He was a law student with a passion for music. Despite the distance from his family, he found an outlet in music. He attended operas, immersed himself in concerts and quietly nurtured his musical dream.

In 19th-century Russia, becoming a composer was not a "respectable" profession for the upper classes. In 1859, a graduate and employee of the Ministry of Justice, he led a civil servant's life that brought him neither fulfillment nor satisfaction. But deep inside him, a certainty grew, his place was elsewhere. In 1863, at age 23, Tchaikovsky took the plunge and left behind the stability of a legal career to devote himself fully to music. He joined the St. Petersburg Conservatory under the direction of Anton Rubinstein.

The young composer put his heart and soul into his musical studies. This blend of academic rigor and personal creativity became the signature of his style. By 1866, after graduating from St. Petersburg Conservatory, he accepted a teaching position at the Moscow Conservatory. This marked the beginning of his career where his talent was recognized beyond Russian borders.

He was a Russian Romantic composer and the first from his country to achieve lasting recognition. Tchaikovsky wrote some of the most popular concert and theatrical music in the classical repertoire, including the ballets, *Swan Lake*, *The Nutcracker*, the *1812 Overture*, and the *Romeo and Juliet Overture*.

Swan Lake was initially not a success when it premiered in 1877. Critics and audiences found the music "too noisy," the choreography "unimaginative," and the overall production "utter hogwash," among other criticisms.

Tchaikovsky's most famous piece is his ballet *The Nutcracker*. It's a beloved Christmas tradition, especially in the US, and his most recognized work. Other highly popular pieces include his *First Piano Concerto*, and the *Sixth Symphony (Pathétique)*.

Tchaikovsky is somewhat of a controversial figure. His life was full of emotional turmoil, and his music was called melodramatic and even vulgar by critics. Nevertheless, his mastery and impact on ballet scores are undeniable.



Tchaikovsky (Continued)

In 1877, at the age of 37, he wed a former student, Antonina Miliukova. The marriage was a disaster. The couple lived together for only two and half months before Tchaikovsky left, overwrought emotionally and suffering from acute writer's block. He was married in July 1877, but by September of



Ca. 1878

sometimes even delusions and hallucinations.

Tchaikovsky's sudden death at the age of 53 is generally scribed to cholera caused by drinking unboiled water at a local restaurant. In the 1980's in Britain, however, there was academic speculation that he killed himself, either with poison or by contracting cholera intentionally, but there is an ongoing debate as to whether cholera was indeed the cause and whether the death was intentional.

In the *New Grove Dictionary of Music*, Roland John Wiley wrote: "the polemics over Tchaikovsky's death have reached an impasse . . . As for illness, problems of evidence offer little hope of satisfactory resolution: the state of diagnosis, the confusion of witnesses, disregard of long-term effects of smoking and alcohol. We do not know how Tchaikovsky died. We may never find out."

the same year the marriage was basically over. He found himself unable to accept the personality and character of his wife as well as her family and circle of friends. He did not have any children.

Despite his many popular successes, Tchaikovsky's life was punctuated by personal crises and depression. Contributory factors included his early separation from his mother for boarding school followed by her early death, the death of his close friend and colleague, Nikolai Rubinstein, his failed marriage to Miliukova.

Tchaikovsky was prone to immense angst, self-doubt and bouts of depression. As an artist, he doubted his work. He held his head while conducting because he was a known hypochondriac and believed his head would fall off. This fear led him to physically hold his head with one hand while conducting with the other. This was often accompanied by other symptoms of his stage fright and neurosis. During his bouts of depression, Tchaikovsky experienced not only pervasive melancholy, but also insomnia, lack of appetite, and other classical signs of depression and



1870



Ca. 1888

Trinity Episcopal Church—"The Rectory"

Seth Many, M. D. wrote an article, "The Rectory" which was printed in Schoharie County Historical Review in 1981. It is definitely worthy of reprinting. Following is that article:

"When I entered upon the duties of the parish on the 26th of June 1859: 'the parish' as a living body could scarcely be said to exist." Rev. E. D. Cooper, July 28, 1860 (*First Annual Report to the Trustees of Trinity Church, Sharon Springs, NY*)

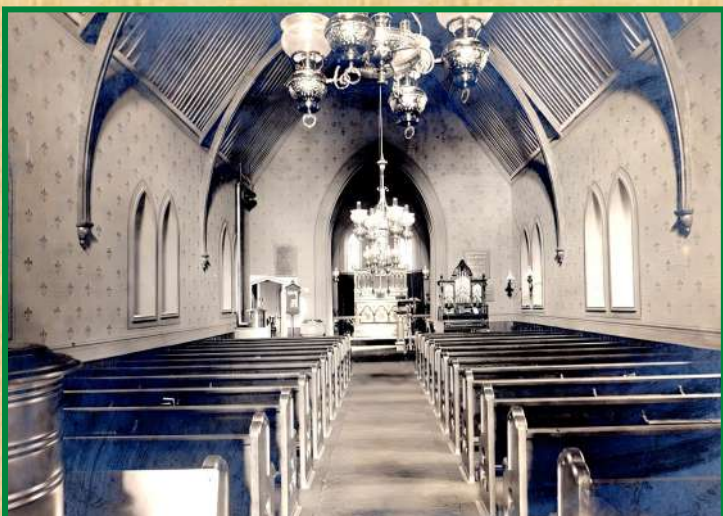
In 1859 the incipient resort village of Sharon Springs had three outstanding features: unexcelled natural beauty, a consistent and productive sulphur spring, and an entrepreneur of vision and energy, John H. Gardner. Gardner had been successful in his purchase and management of the magnificent Greek Revival Hotel, the "Pavilion" in 1843. Along with his wife, four children, two in-laws, and ten servants, he was clearly the leading citizen in a community which boasted no more than forty year round households. Besides the Pavilion, he had constructed a lovely limestone mansion overlooking the Mohawk basin, in the best Victorian "cottage" tradition.



This photograph of Trinity Church on Washington St. shows the adjacent parsonage on Willow St.



The beauty of Trinity's interior is evident in this photograph.



Photograph at left is looking toward front of church. The altar is shown in the photograph at the right.

Trinity Episcopal Church—"The Rectory" (Continued)

But the growth and development of the resort underscored some of the deficiencies of the rural village. A revived general interest in religion, and the growth of the Protestant Episcopal Church marked by a membership of wealthy and cultivated persons of substance and leisure, gave motive and impetus to the development of a permanent and respectable meeting place for those of the faith. Seasonal service had been held in the Spa's Pavilion Hotel since 1845, under the auspices of the Cherry Valley Episcopal Mission. But in 1859, a church edifice was constructed of locally quarried limestone, with a seating capacity of two hundred and fifty persons, at a cost of no less than \$2,500. In an invitation to the Reverend Cooper, the trustees wrote:

"There is but one other Episcopal Church in the County of Schoharie, and no church of any denomination in the village (of Sharon) where services are regularly held. Several of the inhabitants have addressed a communication to the trustees requesting that the services in Trinity Church may be regularly maintained by a permanent pastor."

To this end, no less than \$500 per annum was pledged to employ said pastor, and plans for a structure suitable to such a person and role were solicited. In 1859, the distinguished Albany architectural firm of Woollett and Ogden of 57 State St., Albany, submitted plans for a four-bedroom, two-story, seven-gabled, Victorian Gothic Stone Cottage with first-floor kitchen, living room, study and parlor with center hall stairway and entrance piazza (porch).

W. L. Woollett, himself a devout Methodist, was born near Maidstone, Kent, in England, on June 24, 1815. At the age of nineteen he emigrated to the U.S. and first appeared as a practicing architect in Albany in 1845. He won honor and distinction as such, responsible for the Delevan House/Hotel (with J. W. Adams), the Albany Savings Bank (with Thomas Fuller), and with his partner, Ogden, numerous schools, churches, and homes, some few of which survive to the present day. Besides his professional honors, he was a Trustee of the College of Missionaries at Syracuse University, and President of the Albany Young Men's Christian Association.

Both the plan of the Trinity Church and the Rectory showed the clear, profound lines of the Ecclesiologist influence on Woollett. The New York Ecclesiologic Society was founded in 1847, the American counterpart of the Cambridge Camden Society. Its purpose was to disseminate and define the Gothic style as the one design most suitable for religious constructions. The early English Parish Church was the mode chosen to articulate both the strivings for purity and inspiration, and the doctrine of Christianity, refracting through truth, simplicity, and permanence in design.



Episcopal Church, Sharon Springs, N.Y.

The Trinity Episcopal Church is constructed of locally quarried limestone. Its Gothic edifice, featuring the steeply pitched roof, lancet archer, trefoil window and symmetrical buttresses followed Episcopal guidelines for architectural design.

Trinity Episcopal Church—"The Rectory" (Continued)

While not opulent, the Rectory was built in the newest and most permanent fashion in design and materials, and was fully consistent with both the style of the Church, a simple, but pure and beautiful replica of an English Gothic Country Church, and the character of the health-giving and enlightened nature-based resort. The estimated cost was \$2,500. As a symbol of concern with historic tradition and the prevailing mood of Natural harmony, the Gothic Cottage achieved an even more distinctive American form than the Church itself.

The influence of Andrew Jackson Downing, the premier publicist of the Gothic Cottage may be seen both in the work of W. L. Woollett, and that of his son, W. M. Woollett (1850-1880), who published several popular architectural books concerning this style. Downing, a resident of Newburgh, NY, published the immensely popular *Architecture of Country Houses* (1850), expounding his manner of building, with an eye to the picturesque and spiritual values of humans in relationships of intimacy and concern with nature. Characteristics of the Gothic Cottage include high-peaked roofs, scrolled door and window frames, piazzas or balconies, vergeboards (decorative scrollwork along peaked roof lines), and generally subdued and earthen coloration. In these respects, the Woollett designed Rectory is classic.

While the design of the Sharon Springs Rectory is keenly balanced in proportion and form, the use of stone in construction denotes a shelter of quality and permanence. Indeed, it is one of the few stone Gothic cottages extant. The more popular construction material, wood, was less suited to the Rectory's relationship to the Church, and to its more affluent and well-situated clientele. Stone, on the other hand, was ideally suited in all respects. Perhaps an even more practical advantage was the fact that locally quarried limestone was readily available, as well as the craftsmanship of artisans who worked with those most durable materials. While



The same care and attention in construction and design was given to the Rectory as was given to the church.

a specific list of these singularly important persons is not available, a record has been made of those who labored on the Church itself, and it is likely that they were also instrumental in the construction of the Rectory only four years later.

Charles J. Smith—the mason
J. Anthony, A B. How, Robert Wales—the carpenters

David Norton—supplied the stone
I. Griffin—supplied the lumber
W. Trull
M. Butler



After years of falling membership, the Rectory as well as the Church fell into neglect and disrepair.

Trinity Episcopal Church—"The Rectory" (Continued)

The availability of local materials and the skills necessary to effect such architectural artistry attest to the capability of self-sufficiency and the potential of that early community to grow and prosper in the golden era of the Resort in the remaining four decades of the 19th century.

While the Church Committee enthusiastically embraced the plans of Mr. W. L. Woollett in a report dated September 27th, 1860, their efforts to acquire a pastor had also been successful. As the Reverend Cooper wrote:

"My duties, therefore, at first, were an experiment .. There was not an Episcopalian in the village, outside of Mr. Gardner's family, and but two members of the Church within a range of many miles ... but ... The experiment had been a success, beyond what the most sanguine dared to hope."

Over the intervening one-hundred twenty-two years, the structure of the Rectory has been little changed, with the addition of an upstairs bath and the construction of a porch more in the neo-classic than the original Gothic mode. The porch may in fact be an original change from the first plan, as early pictures of the village (e.g. 1860s) show the Rectory with its current porch, or "piazza." A list of articles within the Rectory of November, 1863, is instructive in several respects: the basic simplicity and studious function of the structure is affirmed, and the "Parsonage" of the original plan even at this early date been renamed the "Rectory." In the parlor we find a bookcase, stove and writing table, in that order, as well as six chairs, sofa, and carpet. The study contains only a carpet, while the dining room has an extension table, six chairs, white china dinner set, tea set, water pitcher and carpet. The front-chamber contents include a bedstead, mattress and feather pillows along with a bureau, wash-stand, table, chairs, china candlesticks, match-cup, and carpet. Back room and servant's room are even more sparsely, though similarly, furnished. One room is entirely un-

furnished. The kitchen has a cooking stove, gridiron, toasting iron, dripping pan, tin pans, large bread-pan, stew pan, frying pan, pickling kettle, work kettle, iron pots, tin coffee pot, two chairs, a long table, one Japan candlestick and a tin Boiler. In a closet in the dining-room the inventory includes one glass jar of preserves and one container of pickles.

While the first inhabitant of the Rectory was the energetic and earnest Reverend Cooper, many others have enjoyed its comfortable sanctuary. Under the Reverend R. Heber Newton, from 1862-1866, 1876, the Church and the Rectory were improved and repaired, trees and shrubs planted, and a picket fence constructed which enclosed the entire property. While a complete listing of all the pastors of the Church may be found in Townsend's "History of Trinity Parish," (1974), perhaps special mention ought to be made of the Reverend J. W. Paige (1877-1888), Reverend Edwin R. Armstrong (1900-1917), who founded the Spa library in 1910, the Reverend Robert Clyd Joudry (1929-1942), editor, correspondent, choir and scoutmaster, and the Reverend William O. Homer (1952-1960), because of the length of time each spent in the Rectory.

During the Golden Age of Sharon Springs, and in subsequent periods of revival, the Church and Rectory prospered. But the changing ethnic and religious population of the resort induced a subtle transformation. The movement of the Jewish faith into, and the Christian faith out of the Resort began the erosion in the roots of the affluent Spa, and its declining fortunes were echoed in those of the Church. Gardner, the owner of the Pavilion and the first trustee of the Church, died in 1903, two years after his wife.



Ca. 1910 Ellen M. Yardley (Mulvany) and Rev. Edwin Ruthwin Armstrong

Trinity Episcopal Church—"The Rectory" (Continued)

AT the precise moment that the Parish guild of Trinity church, Sharon Springs, N. Y., assembled in formal meeting,—voted to appropriate a part of its earning for the purchase of "Liberty bonds" on June 13th, 1917; the church bell, being tolled at the instance of the Civil Authority to stimulate public interest in their issue, became cracked and useless, so that a new one must somehow be found.

"THE WOUNDED BELL"

Nigh fifty years I've faithful rung my call:
Come rain, come shine, my voice has carried far
To win to worship in the evangelic Faith
The Redeemer's followers, in Means of Grace most blest.
To prayer, to praise, to sacrament responsive, they
Did wend their way, then joyfully withdraw
To drink anew from mother Nature's founts;
And gratefully return to praise that nature's God.
Then have I not had some small part
In service of the Master? have I not
My niche however humble filled and graced
In His redemptive scheme?
But now, alas! my voice is gone!
Discordant is my tone! I sought once more
To call aloud for Liberty's upholding:—
That Liberty wherein He hath made us free:
But at the thought of treachery and blood
All hitherto undreamed; of suffering;
Of misery; of carnage and of anguish such as time
Had never known; who could but fall, appalled,
And shocked. Too great the train on my poor frame;
And so I'm mute and must forsooth give place
To one more vigorous. Oh may its throat give forth
In worthy tone the praise of peace benign
Recovered for the sons of men—the peace of Freedom—
Of freedom for the nations of mankind—
Bright Sacrament of heaven's own existence—
Oh may my place be filled in ample time
To welcome the recovery of such a Peace—
(Whose cheering advent seems to dawn e'en now)
That the ear of the Redeemer—Himself the Prince of Peace,
Its music may discern, undimmed and unimpaired
By boom of gun; by groan of agony
Of such as suffer now the hellishness
Of wars pursuit. GOD speed that day! !
For then alone can I too rest in peace.

E. R. ARMSTRONG.

In 1919 Rev. W. E. Daw wrote:

"My Dear Friend:

I am trying to raise the amount for the purchase of a new bell for Trinity Church to be a living memorial to the Rev. E. R. Armstrong who served the parish faithfully for the past eighteen years, who has been a loyal citizen and who is now almost blind and unable to say or do anything but preach with his voice the glad tidings of Peace. The "Wounded Bell" was a veritable "Liberty Bell." The new one will be inscribed as a "Peace Bell." May I ask for a small subscription for the purchase of the bell at this time when we are about the ring out "peace bells" over all the world?

Yours faithfully,

W. E. DAW

Trinity Rectory, Sharon Springs, NY"

In the later part of the twentieth century, after many years of falling membership, the trustees of the Church disbanded, and in 1978 the Church reverted to the Cherry Valley trustees, and thence to private parties. It has since fallen into neglect and disrepair, although the winding growth which obscures the entrance only adds to its haunting Gothic beauty.

The Rectory, a unique product of historic secular spiritual idealism, and a holistic rebirth of reverence for nature and spirit conjoined, was itself abandoned until 1981. Acquired by a new owner, it has been restored and refurbished, in keeping with the beauty of its design, durability and construction, as a perennial reminder of an investment of the spirit in the highest aspiration of form, substance, and soul, in a century past.

Seth Many



The bell tower is clearly seen in this image.



As described in the National Register: Gothic Revival stone church with steeply pitched gable roof and one-story entrance portico, trefoil window in gable, pointed arch windows on sides between buttresses, wood bell tower at rear, remodeled as residence ca. 1980.

Trinity Episcopal Church—"The Rectory" (Continued)

List of Ministers of Trinity Church

Rev. Joseph Ransom 1845-1850 from Cherry Valley
 Rev. J. L. Townsend 1850-1852 from Cherry Valley
 Rev. John Dowdney 1852-1854 from Cherry Valley
 Rev. George H. Nicholls & Rev. William Creighton DD
 1854-1859 from Cherry Valley
 Rev. Edward D. Cooper 1859-1861
 Rev. L. C. Manchester 1862-1863
 Rev. R. Heber Newton 1864-1865
 Rev. George L. Neide 1866-1868
 Rev. John Irving Forbes 1868-1869
 Rev. Edward T. Bartlett 1870-1874
 Rev. James M Nisbett-May 1875-July 1875
 Rev. J. W. Paige 1877-1888
 Rev. Searle M. Wren 1888-1889
 Rev. J. M. Windsor 1889-1891
 Rev. P. St. Michael Podmore 1891-1892
 Re. Ernest W. Dustan 1892-1895
 Rev. Charles A. Weed 1896-1897
 Rev. W. H. B. Allen 1897-1899
 Rev. E. R. Armstrong 1900-1917
 Rev. W. Ernest Daw 1918-1922
 Rev. Charles E. Niles 1922-1924
 1924-1926 (church was inactive)
 Rev. Harold H. R. Thompson (served in Fort Plain and
 came to Sharon Springs every other Sunday) 1926-1928
 Rev. Robert Clyde Joudry 1929-1942
 1942-1947 (period which covered the greater part of
 WWII, Trinity was unable to obtain a resident priest)
 Rev. Robert H. Moore 1947-1948
 1949-1952 Rev. J. R. Waring served three parishes
 (Canajoharie, Fort Plain, Sharon Springs)
 1952- ?
 Rev. William O. Homer
 (Records couldn't be found to found when Rev. Homer
 left the Episcopal ministry. The church closed its doors
 in 1972. If anyone knows who was pastor between 1954
 to 1970, please let us know so we can update our rec-
 ords.)
 Rev. R. Scott Krejci 1971-1972 (served also Canajoharie
 and Fort Plain
 Some of the dates of the early records don't agree but the
 order of the pastors seems to be correct.



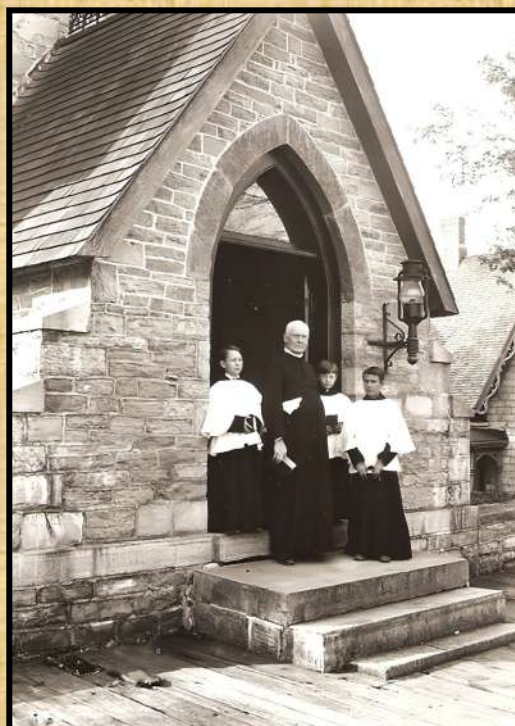
REV. ROBERT C. JOUDRY
 of Sharon Spa given highest
 honor by Scout Council at an
 annual meeting. 1940

Silver Beaver To Rev. Joudry —1940 High Scouting Honor to Sharon Rector; Others Given Scout Awards

Rev. Robert Clyde Joudry of Sharon Springs, many years leader in Schoharie county Scouting activities, received the highest honor that can be bestowed through a council at an annual dinner of Otschodela Council held last evening at Oneonta. This is the Silver Beaver award which was presented to Rev. Joudry and one other member of the council.

James F. Bouck of Middleburg and Gerald Sholtes of Schoharie received the Eagle Scout award which was presented by Rev. Walter A. Miller during the ceremony following the dinner. One interesting feature of the ceremonies was the presentation of a tenderfoot badge by Rev. Joudry to his son, Kermit, who

Rev. Joudry was hon-
 ored for his work
 with the Scouts in
 1940.



Rev. Armstrong and acolytes who serve the altar, ca. 1917.

In 1954, the acolytes were Giles Bullock, Todd Spofford, Thomas Doolittle, David LaPlant and Edson Van Schaick. Clarence Freer resigned as organist in 1953. He was replaced with Miss Phyllis Collins.



Active in Homer Folks Glass Garden Presentation Rites



The glass garden was formally presented to Homer Folks Tuberculosis Hospital by the Schoharie County Tuberculosis and Public Health Association in honor of Dr. Herbert L. Odell of Sharon Springs at the Hospital dedication ceremony. Active in the ceremonies were (front row, left to right) Rev. Robert C. Joudry, president of the Schoharie County Tuberculosis Association; Dr. Odell, in center, before the garden was presented; Dr. Frank Horton, superintendent of Homer Folks Hospital; (back row) Mrs. Frances B. Horton, executive secretary of the Schoharie County Association; Dr. R. D. Chappell, district white health officer; and Dr. Walter Bollen, secretary of the Homer Folks Hospital staff.

Both Rev. Joudry and Dr. Odell were honored for their work at Homer Folks Hospital. Rev. Joudry at left, Dr. Odell in front center.

Eksarchow Exhibit at Museum

These are images of the Vera Eksarchow collection donated by Geri Dunn to the Sharon Historical Society. Mrs. Eksarchow came to the United States from Poland in 1952. Even though she did not know English, she enrolled in classes at Gannon College in Erie, PA. She majored in the Russian language but also took courses in art at Mercyhurst College and received a Bachelor's Degree. Mrs. Eksarchow devoted all of her spare time to art. She continued to paint, took part in exhibits, and taught art classes. Her interesting method of instruction included the use of dolls dressed in costumes representative of Slavic countries and the introduction of Russian and Eastern European artists of the 19th and 20th centuries. Mrs. Eksarchow spent time in Sharon Springs during the summer of 1971. It was then she conceived the idea of moving her studio here from Syracuse. She opened an art center and gallery which exhibited area artists' work as well as handcrafts. The art center also served as a summer art school for vacationers.



Sharon Historical Society And Museum



.....
Located in Sharon Springs, NY

FUNDRAISING DONATIONS NEEDED FOR ANNUAL GARAGE SALE

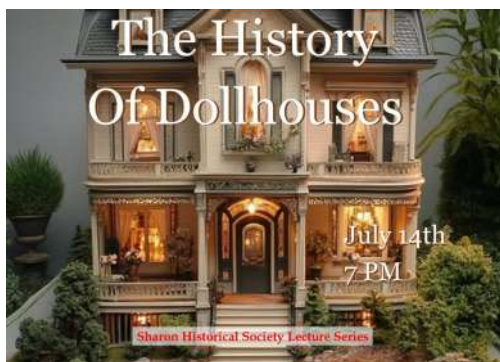
We are happy to accept the following items: small working appliances, tools, dishware, furniture, artwork, frames, books, home décor, desks, chairs, children's toys, garden tools and equipment, camping equipment, instruments, sporting goods.

Please no: clothing, large appliances, mattresses, cribs, walker, car seats, highchairs, magazines, household chemicals, outdated computer equipment or electrical equipment.

Garage sale will be held on July 26th at the Roseboro Hotel Ballroom (210 Main Street in Sharon Springs) starting at 9 AM.

Donations will go towards the Sharon Historical Society. Donations will be accepted at the Sharon Historical Society Museum (238 Main street in Sharon Springs), Fridays—Sundays from 1 PM to 4 PM. For donations of large items, please call 518-860-5513 to arrange drop-off.

Our Upcoming Sharon Historical Society Lecture Series



"The History of Dollhouses"

July 14th—In Person and Zoom

Dollhouses, initially known as "baby houses," evolved from elaborate display items for adults to educational tools and then to toys for children. Originating in 16th-century Europe, particularly Germany, they showcased wealth and domestic life, eventually becoming popular for children, especially those from wealthy families. Today, dollhouses are diverse, ranging from simple playhouses to elaborate collector's items, reflecting various styles and historical periods, with both children and adults enjoying them. This presentation, we will not only look at the history of dollhouses, but look into many different styles and designs, including many of the 50+ dollhouses owned by the Sharon Historical Society in Sharon Springs.

"The History of the Amish –Part 2"

July 28th—Zoom Only

In this presentation (Part 2) you will learn about life on an Amish farm, from a very young age such as school, games and chores; work, crafts and foods; clothing, farming, and more. You will learn about the expectations for girls and boys, and then for young women and young men, in Amish families; of social roles and understandings about courtship and marriage; about adult baptism and the often wrenching decisions young Amish men and women must make to go out into the English world into mainstream Christian congregations, or to stay and make a life of faith in the Amish church. (Part 1 is available on the Sharon Historical Society YouTube Channel.)



SCHOHARIE COUNTY'S OLDEST BUILDING - THE PALATINE HOUSE



August 11th
7 PM

Presented by Historian Ted Shuart
Sharon Historical Society Lecture Series

"Schoharie County's Oldest Building – The Palatine House"

August 11th—In Person and Zoom Only

Schoharie County's oldest building, the Palatine House (a. k. a. the Old Lutheran Parsonage), will be two hundred and eighty-two years old this year.

By the year 1742 the German Lutherans in the Schoharie Valley were well enough established, and prosperous enough, to build a church and to put in a call for a Lutheran pastor, ordained in Germany, to minister to the community.

The building was spared when the British forces burned the valley in 1780. A new parsonage was built in 1797 and the old building went through a variety of uses including rental property, and housing for the church sexton. By 1970 it was abandoned. After a similar house of the same age was destroyed to build a power plant the Schoharie Colonial Heritage Association was formed to save many buildings from destruction. The Palatine house became available in 1972, and the building was restored and opened as a museum several years later.

"Basic Conservation of Historic Cemetery Gravestones"

August 25th—Zoom Only

Soiling and staining of cemetery gravestones, monuments, markers, and statuary can result from soil splashing, pollution, rusting bolts or other metal features, bird deposits, and berries, sap, or droppings onto the stone. Biological growth, such as algae, lichen, or moss, can cover the surface, cause the stone to decay, and make reading the stone difficult. This program is for people interested in learning about preservation techniques to stabilize historic gravesites and markers.

Village and Town Historian for the Town of Delhi, NY says cleaning stones should be done with the gentlest means possible. It should never be the intent to make a grave marker look "new". Even with the most careful technique, cleaning may accelerate deterioration or cause loss of original material. In this presentation, you will learn what "to do" and what "not to do", including product, tools, and techniques to use. Proper documentation, including photographs will allow future generations to view a gravestone and understand its history even if the actual stone is destroyed.



Watch for emails and Facebook posts on how to sign up to watch these programs. If you are unable to attend, you can still register and a playback link will be emailed to you when it is available.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 14 "History of Dollhouses" Program -7PM
 July 21 Sharon Historical Society Board Meeting
 July 26, 27 SHS Garage Sale -Roseboro Ballroom
 July 28 "History of the Amish - Part 2" - 7 PM
 August 11 The Palatine House Program - 7 PM
 August 18 Sharon Historical Society Board Meeting
 August 25 "Basic Conservation of Historic Cemetery Gravestones" Program -7 PM
 September 8 "Live Slave Narratives & Photographs: A Folk History of Slavery in the U.S. From Interviews with Former Slaves" Program - 7 PM

September 15 Sharon Historical Society Board Meeting
 September 22 "Gee's Bend Quiltmakers" Program -7 PM
 October 11 SHS Fundraising Dinner and Bottle Auction -Sunnycrest -6 PM
 October 13 History of Funerals & Undertakers " Program -7 PM
 October 20 Sharon Historical Society Board Meeting
 October 27 "Pathway of Resistance: The Erie Canal and the Underground Railroad" Program -7 PM



Mark Your Calendar

The Sharon Historical Museum is open Friday, Saturdays, and Sundays through Labor Day from 1 PM to 4 PM or by appointment by calling (518) 860-5513.

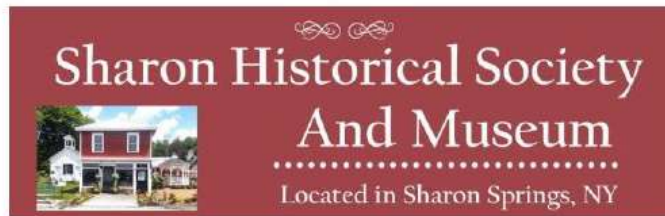


The Eldredge House was built in 1874 by Seth Eldredge was located at the corner of South and Center Streets. The Eldredge House was completely remodeled in 1914. The Eldredge House advertised a music room and parlor and provided a car that met all the trains in Sharon Springs and Palatine Bridge. The structure suffered considerable damage when the Morrell House burned in 1919, but was remodeled by his son, Edward K. Eldredge. The building was later renamed to the New Sharon House. It caught fire and burned down on May 7, 1957.



Otego Historical Society Comes For A Visit

We were thrilled to have the Otego Historical Society come for a visit to see our collection at the Sharon Historical Society museum and historical village. They learned about the history of the healing qualities of the Sharon Springs mineral waters as well as much more about the Town's history. They finished their day by visiting Sunnycrest Amish Marketplace in Sharon Springs.



2025 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. 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 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 **twenty dollars (\$25.00)**.

2. **Institutional members**: any organization, board, school, or library interested in history of Sharon shall be eligible. Annual dues for institutional members are **twenty dollars (\$25.00)**.

3. **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
_____ Institutional Membership - \$25.00
_____ Lifetime Membership - \$100.00

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

Total enclosed \$ _____

Make checks payable to:

Sharon Historical Society. Mail to PO Box 363, Sharon Springs, NY 13459

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