

# Sharon Historical Society

## May 2022 Newsletter

Sandra Manko, Editor

### Upcoming Programs

5/9/22 History of Hops Farming

5/23/22 The Roseboro Hotel - 150 year Later

6/13/22 Women Who Served Our Country with Connections to Schoharie County

6/27/22 Notorious RBG: Life & Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg

7/11/22 America's Quilting History

7/25/22 Jo Sykes at Sharon Springs: History of Pavilion Hotel

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## News from the President

Hello!

Happy spring! With the warmer weather and sunshine, we are finally able to begin working on our new museum expansion project. We are excited to announce that we have a new board member and museum curator—Michelle McCallion. She has a wonderful background in history and antiques. She has already been busy finding items for our new "village" vignettes. We have acquired over 300 new items for the store displays we will be building.

But, we need your help! As we begin working on the buildings we purchased next door to the museum, we need volunteers to help clean out the current buildings. There is a lot of painting and maintenance work that we need help with. If you are interested in volunteering, please call (518) 860-5513 or email us at [www.sharonhistoricalsocietyny@gmail.com](mailto:www.sharonhistoricalsocietyny@gmail.com). If you are cleaning out your basement or attic and have things you think may be of interest to the Sharon Historical Society, please contact at the information above. We still are looking for items to display at our general store.

We are thrilled to have found an entire post office from the early 1900s and thanks to the Nick Juried Foundation, we will have it delivered to us from Kentucky. This will go on display as part of our new "village".

Come and be a part of the fun as we build our new historical village!

## The Nicholas Juried Foundation

The Sharon Historical Society's world changed when, thanks to the Nicholas Juried Family Foundation, a very generous \$50,000 grant helped to jumpstart a long sought-after, very ambitious expansion project. It was a dream come true to be able to purchase adjoining property for additional exhibit space. The funds will spur on a project to include more room, more storage, and a year-round facility. Another extremely generous \$10,000 soon followed from Juried to purchase display items for vignettes. It is so -o-o-o-o much appreciated.

THANK YOU NICK! Now the hard work begins.



Ron Ketelsen  
President



### Sharon Historical Society Officers and Board of Directors

President - Ron Ketelsen  
Vice Pres—Sandra Manko  
Secretary—Carol Vacca  
Treas.—Mary Beth Halayko

### Board Members

Caroline Bade  
Pauline Brown  
Barbara Cousineau  
Michelle McCallion  
Nicole McNamee  
Joyce Slater  
Patrick Sullivan



## Overview of Museum Expansion Project



Phase I was the purchase of the property and renovation. Above photo is how the property next door looked in the fall of 2021. Closing on property was March 2022. Attorney Mike West did not charge us for legal services. Thank you Mike!

The Museum is over-crowded. All the rooms in the Museum are filled to capacity. There is no room for storage or additional exhibits.



Phase II is to add a 24' X 48' 2-story addition onto the current museum that would also connect to the first cottage next door. The addition would be used for document space, additional display space, built-in shelving, gift shop, and meeting room space—and install heating and cooling to allow for year-round usage.





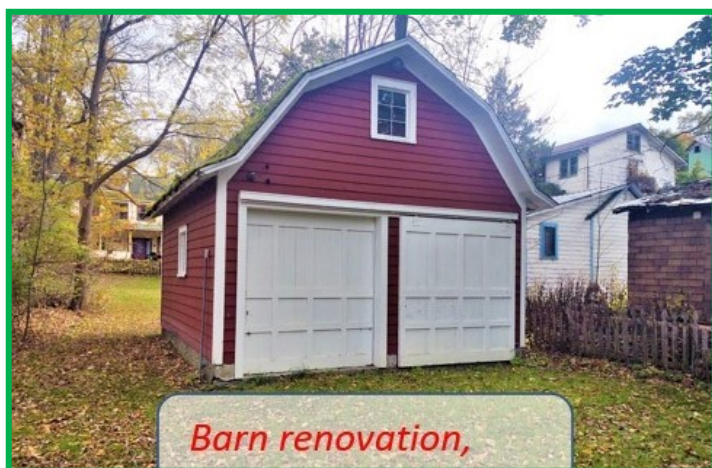
This is how the cabins used to look ca. 1950. They don't look that good any-more!



Plans are to make this building into a general store.



There are 7 cottages. The plan is to convert them into historic vignettes consisting of a general store, doctor's office, barbershop, post office, mini-Jewish Synagogue, etc.



Phase III of the expansion project is to insulate the barn and add a new floor, storage space with built-in cabinets, and furnace.



## Expansion Project Update

The expansion project is moving ahead at a good pace—in some respects, faster than we originally thought. Some items are already completed and checked off our “to do” list:

1. Property next door to the Museum was purchased and sale is complete. The Society paid back taxes and back water/sewer charges of \$1,100 to reimburse the Village of Sharon Springs. This was an expense we didn't plan for. The original intent was to gift the new property to the Village, similar to the original Museum property at 238 Main St. For numerous reasons and upon advice from our attorney, it is recommended that the new property at 236 Main St. remain under the ownership of the Society.
2. The Sharon Historical Society is requesting Village of Sharon Springs to “gift” the current Museum and outbuildings to the Sharon Historical Society. The Society assumes the responsibility for upkeep and maintenance of the museum properties and pays for insurance on the contents of the buildings. The Village currently pays for utilities and liability insurance expenses associated with the property. The Village Board is not amenable to undertake additional electric and water/sewer charges associated with the new property so a decision was made to keep it in the Society's name.
3. Trees need to be taken down. One tree is rubbing the roof of the current Museum and needs to be removed. We are currently getting estimates.
4. The cabins next door were purchased “as is” which means there is junk and “stuff” inside which needs to be thrown out. Volunteers will clean out the cabins and MJM Earthworks LLC will dispose of everything, including the tree limbs on the property.
5. We're getting new insurance quotes for both properties.

## Next Steps

1. Need an architect
2. Need volunteers to help do some roof repair, sheet rock work, painting, grant writing, organize fundraisers, minor plumbing and electrical work.
3. And . . . we still want to open the Museum as usual for the summer. We need a volunteer to organize a schedule and we need “sitters” for the museum.



## Wish to Donate?

There are several ways to donate:

1. If you participate in our Zoom programs, there is a place on the registration form to make a donation.
2. On our website—[sharonhistoricalsocietyny.org](http://sharonhistoricalsocietyny.org)—there is a place to make a donation
3. You can send a check to Sharon Historical Society, P.O. Box 363, Sharon Springs, NY 13459.
4. Items to donate? There are several cabins on the new property which will be converted into a small village with historic vignettes, including a doctor's office, barbershop, post office, small Jewish synagogue, general store. Some people and organizations have already given items to be used in these exhibits. The Dr. Best House in Middleburgh has given us some medical items to use in the doctor's office. The Village of Sharon Springs offered items from the Jewish Synagogue. The Old Stone Fort gave metal storage cabinets. Walt Manko gave a coffee grinder for the store. Ron Ketelsen provided a store counter. Keep in mind—one person's junk is another person's treasure!





## Some of the Spa Treatments which made Sharon Springs Internationally Famous!

### FANGO PACKS

FANGO is a pure, uniform volcanic material for deep penetrating heat packs, applied locally or as a full body pack.

Scientific research has definitely established that moist heat applied directly to the affected parts, as in Fango packs gives better and more lasting results.

Thousands who suffered for many years have found the long sought relief in a few weeks of Fango treatments.

The moist heat of the Fango causes the absorption of arthritic deposits or other exudates, penetrating deeply the parts to which it is applied, with less sensation of heat than any other method, thereby quickly relieving the painful condition.

The Fango pack has a soothing and relaxing effect, a smooth feeling and no odor.



Fango application in affections of lower extremity



Fango application showing patient completely packed

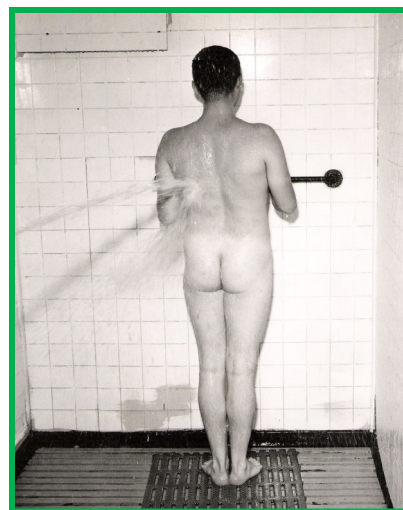
FANGO packs are in use at the leading Spas abroad for many years with excellent results in treating not only new but old and neglected cases of

**Rheumatic conditions, Arthritis, Neuritis, Inflammatory disorders of the liver, gallbladder, gastro-intestinal organs, pelvis and sexual organs, etc.**

To sufferers from any of the above mentioned diseases, seeking relief from pain and correction of their ailments, we highly recommend Fango packs followed by a warm Sulphur bath or douche as given under the supervision of our medical department.

There is a separate department here for Fango applications where they are administered by trained technicians in the same manner as used by the successful European Spas.

CONSULT YOUR SPA PHYSICIAN



The Scotch douche was an invigorating water massage applied selectively or to the whole body to stimulate circulation or to massage symptomatic areas. The patient is unidentified!

Thousands who suffered for many years found long sought relief after just a few weeks of Fango pack treatments.



The bathing quarters provided the patient a massage table and bathtub. Sulphur baths were considered very beneficial in the treatment of a whole spectrum of physical disorders. Massages, both full-body and localized for circumscribed painful areas, were given as a circulatory stimulation and for their excellent relaxing efforts. Nauheim baths, for which chemical pellets were added to the water causing a carbonated effervescent action, were prescribed for those suffering from chronic heart

At right, in 1939, Helen Wainright is demonstrating the Direct Inhalation treatment. Breathing vapor through this glass cone delivered the Sulphur directly to the throat and lungs.

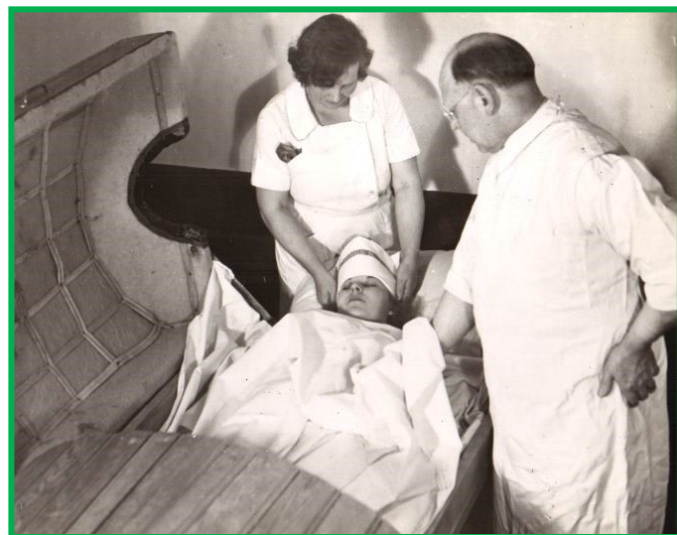


When the pulverization treatment was prescribed, patients sat in a room where a fountain discharged a fine spray of Sulphur water which dropped into a succession of shallow basins. Water atomized by steam or compressed air was forced through pipes into the room and breathed into the lungs. Pulverization rooms were very warm and scented with pine. Ferns, planted around the fountain, flourished in the hot, humid air.



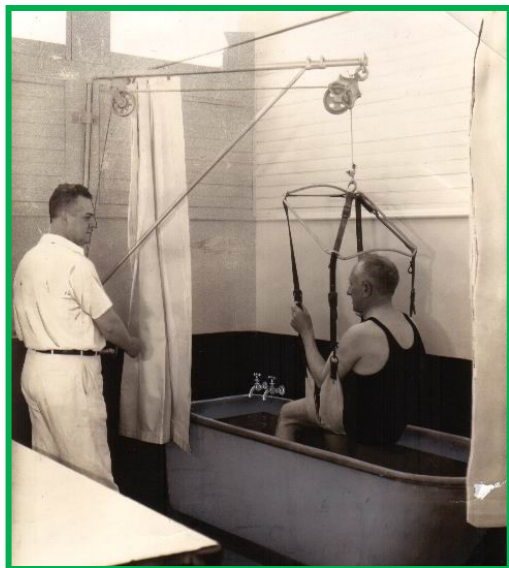


Arthritic patients sat in a chair to receive hot mud pack treatments. These treatments stopped when the mud was no longer available from Europe due to World War II.

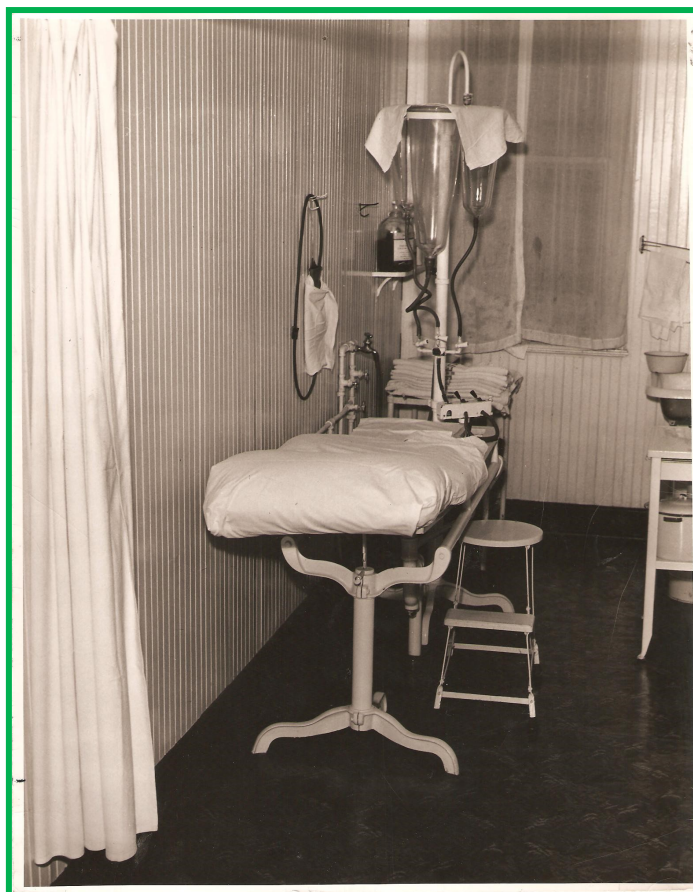


In this 1939 photograph, Dr. Leland O. White and an attendant are giving a demonstration for a Sulphur steam bath. Dr. White was a leading physician in Sharon from 1903 until the 1940s; died February 7, 1954.

AN EXPERIENCED  
**TRAINED NURSE**  
Is located in the Inhalation Bath and is prepared to give  
**COLONIC IRRIGATIONS**  
This treatment is very effective in stubborn cases  
of constipation.

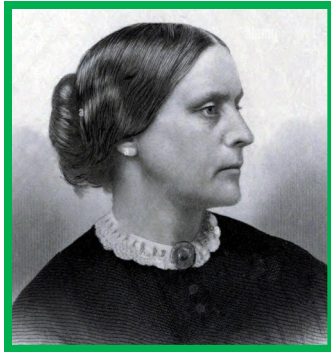


Invalids could be assisted in and out of the tub with a sling and a series of pulleys.



Typical treatment room ca. 1939.

## Susan B. Anthony Remembered



People kept telling Susan Brownell Anthony that she should go home, get married and have a family. She thought—it wasn't altogether a bad idea but there were a few other matters that needed to be taken care of first.

Susan's work was her life—she was one of the early workaholics. She loved children, she loved having people over and cooking for them, and she was very famous for her cream biscuits. So it was quite a sacrifice for her to give up the life of a married woman. She knew that a married woman had even less rights than single women, and if she was married she would have children and then she wouldn't have the freedom to focus on her cause. That shows how absolutely focused and single-minded she was on women's rights, and of course, the suffragette movement, in particular.



Although Susan had plenty of suitors, she never got married. She was born near Adams, Massachusetts on February 15, 1820 and died in Rochester on March 13, 1906. Her father, described as a liberal Quaker by many historians, moved the family to Batesville in Washington County, a few miles outside of Greenwich on Route 29, in 1826.

Susan was one of seven children. She was a precocious child, having learned to read and write at age 3. Her father, a cotton manufacturer and abolitionist, was a stern but open-minded man who was born into the Quaker religion. In

1826, when Susan was 6 years old, she was sent to attend a local district school, where a teacher refused to teach her long division because of her gender. Upon learning of the weak education she was receiving, he promptly had her placed in a group home school, where he taught Susan himself.

In 1839, she left home and began working as a teacher. She initially got a position at Eunice Kenyon's Friends' Seminary in New Rochelle and in 1846 took a job at the Canajoharie Academy. She discovered that male teachers were paid several times her salary. She devoted her first reform efforts to anti-slavery and to temperance. But when she rose to speak in a temperance convention, she was told, "The sisters were not invited here to speak." They were there only to learn and listen. Anthony promptly enlisted in the cause of women's rights. She realized she had bigger issues to deal with.

On November 18, 1872, Anthony was arrested by a US Deputy Marshal for alleged illegal voting in the presidential election two weeks earlier. She was tried and convicted 7 months later, despite the stirring and eloquent presentation of her arguments that the recently adopted 14th Amendment in 1868, which guaranteed to "all persons born or naturalized in the United States" the privileges of citizenship, and which contained no sex qualification, gave women the constitutional right to vote in federal elections. The sentence was a fine, but not imprisonment; and true to her word in court, she never paid the penalty. The trial gave Anthony the opportunity to spread her arguments to a wider audience than ever before.

In 1870, the 15th Amendment granted suffrage to black men but still not to women. At this time, a married woman was only one person away from poverty. A husband was the best protection against the poorhouse. A wife could work outside the home, but her salary was a fraction of a man's, and the money was not her own. She had to turn it over to her husband, whose rightful property it was. For the most part, a woman couldn't inherit or own property, including the clothing she wore; women could not sue in court, serve on juries, vote, or gain custody of her children. Most colleges of the day did not admit a woman. Worse of all, a woman could not divorce an abusive husband.

Until her death in 1906, Anthony and her good friend Elizabeth Cady Stanton, a Johnstown native, championed women's fight for equality and, specifically, the right to vote. The two women traveled the United States giving speeches and attempting to persuade the government that society should treat men and women equally. She never saw that goal achieved, dying 14 years before the 19th Amendment was passed in August of 1920.

In February 1906, just a few weeks before her death, Anthony spoke at a rally in Baltimore and told the crowd, "failure is impossible." She stood out in the cold and rain and spent a lot of time shaking people's hands. She was beloved and revered by that time. But she caught a cold during the long train ride back home and died a few weeks later—86 years old.



## Limekilns in Town of Sharon

The Limekiln District is located approximately two miles north of Rockville (Village of Sharon Springs.) At one time this area was the site of several limekilns, hence the name. The Limekiln District borders on Otsego County to the West and Montgomery County to the north.

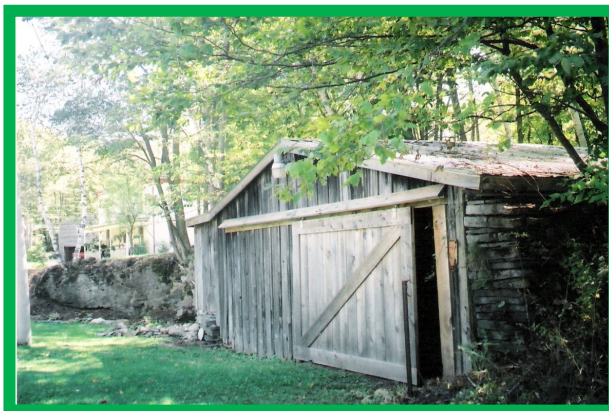
A large limestone formation in this area was mined and burned. The limekiln is like a furnace. It consists of heating the stone in a kiln constructed in the open air in places where the fuel and raw limestone are available. A limekiln is generally about eighteen feet in height and is lined with bricks able to endure the fire. An arch of limestone is built over the fuel and then the kiln filled above this with limestone. The fuel is ignited and the heat can be prolonged by shutting the top opening of the kiln chimney with sods of grass. The heat decomposes the limestone into pure lime and carbonic gas. After the process is complete, the lime is broken up and removed from the kiln.

Lime has many purposes but in this area it is generally used as a fertilizer to break up clay soil, and for lime-washing walls to make them waterproof, disinfecting interiors, spreading on barn floors to disinfect and prevent foot rot in livestock, and sprinkling on cess pits. The use of lime on agricultural land was an important development in the agricultural revolution.

There were five known limekiln locations in this area:

1. Approximately 1 3/4 miles from Route 20 on the west side of Beechwood Road, a limestone kiln formation can still be seen today. It was converted into a garage. (Previously George Higgins' residence.— images below)
2. From Route 20, approximately 1 3/4 miles on Beechwood Road, turn left at the Y onto Buel Road, go 400 feet. A limekiln was in the woods on the north side (right) of the road. The kiln was shaped like a horseshoe and didn't have a structure over it.
3. From Route 20, approximately 1 3/4 miles on Beechwood Road, turn left at the Y onto Buel Road and the left to Lynk Road. About 200 feet past the corner of Buel Road and Lynk Road, looking east across the field to a wooded area, the limekiln was on a ledge behind the house at that location.
4. From Route 20, approximately 1 1/2 miles on Beechwood Road, turn right onto Jones Road. About 300 feet on the right, a limekiln existed on the south side (right) of the road. Some of the limestone that made up the foundation can still be seen.
5. A limekiln was located somewhere by the Town of Cherry Valley-Sharon line. Exact location not known.

Thank you to George Higgins and Ron Hall for their help in 2009 in identifying the limekiln locations.



A limekiln, located on Beechwood Road is still standing today. After the structure ceased to be used as a limekiln, it was converted into a garage. The postcard at the left is postmarked 1915. The limekiln structure in 2005 looks much the same as it did over 90 years earlier.



# Sharon Historical Society and Museum

Located in Sharon Springs, NY



## We are Looking For Antiques

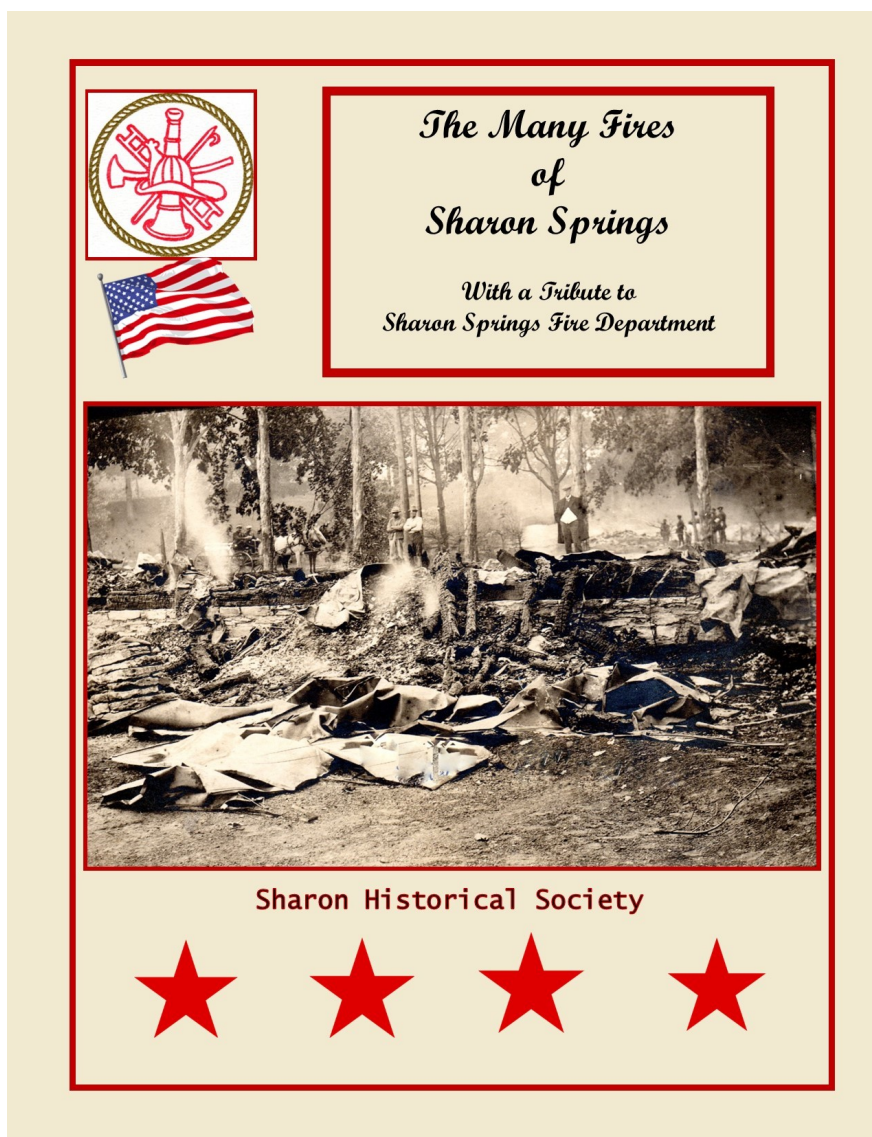
Items for our new historic village beside the current museum.

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)





# Our Newest Book



The sheer number of fires in the Village of Sharon Springs is disconcerting to people who have lived here for years and witnessed not only the destruction and financial losses, but the vanishing architecture as well. Visitors come here and see the vacant lots where historic buildings once stood and question, "What happened to Sharon Springs?" Some buildings were massive and took up an entire block. In several cases, total blocks were lost to fire. The vacant lots in the lower Village and the gaps in the streetscapes are grim reminders of the splendid hotels, bathhouses and boarding houses that once stood there. Our new book, written by Sandra Manko, addresses what happened to so many of our treasured buildings.

The intent of this book is to document the fires in the Village and the loss of historic buildings and unique architecture. The loss of personal property and insurance claims can't even begin to be computed – it is in the millions of dollars, many times over. The book gives credit to the many volunteers of the Fire Department, Auxiliary, and Rescue Squad who have served the community and continue to serve us every day. It's an opportune time to credit the firemen who put their lives on the line to protect the safety of the community. They are the "everyday" heroes we all take for granted.

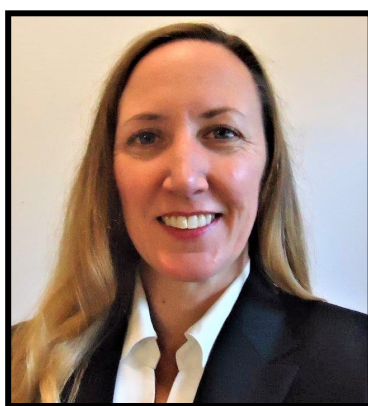
The book sells for \$16 and is available locally at NBT Bank in Sharon Springs. You can also order the book by sending a check for \$20 (includes postage and handling) to: The Sharon Historical society, P.O. Box 363, Sharon Springs, NY 13459.



## Meet the Sharon Historical Society Board of Directors



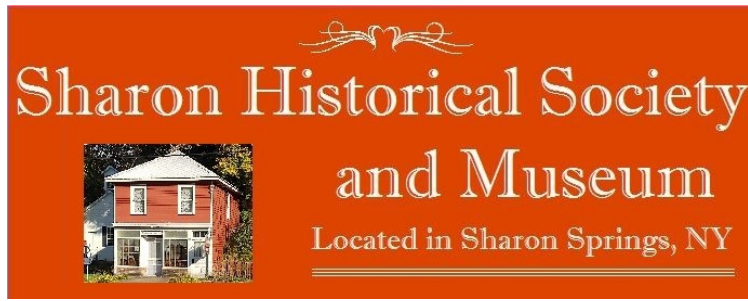
Officers from left: Ron Ketelsen-President, Sandra Manko-Vice President,  
Carol Vacca, Secretary, Patric Sullivan, Treasurer



Board Members Upper left: Caroline Bade, Pauline Brown, Barbara Cousineau,  
Michelle McCallion, Nicole McNamee, Joyce Slater

We welcome Michelle McCallion as our new museum curator!





## 2022 Membership Form For The Sharon Historical Society

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

(Use Preferred) Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Types and Rates:

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

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

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

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

### Amount of Payment

\_\_\_\_\_ Individual Membership - \$15.00

\_\_\_\_\_ Institutional Membership - \$15.00

\_\_\_\_\_ Lifetime Membership - \$100.00

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

Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_ **I would also like to volunteer at the Sharon Historical Museum.** (Check our website at [www.sharonhistoricalsocietyny.org](http://www.sharonhistoricalsocietyny.org) for more information on volunteering.)