THE YELLOW WASP

Lima Historical Society November 2026



Reprinted from
Pioneer History of the Holland Purchase of Western New York
by O. Turner, published 1850.

November LHS Meeting

Lima: 1788-1830
The Early Settlement Period

By Frances Gotcsik

Wednesday November 4th, 7pm
Lima Town Hall
7329 East Main Street, Lima NY

Paul Davison and Jonathan Gould were the first persons to settle the land now known as Lima. Learn more about others that followed, what their life may have been like, and the structures they built that remain today.

This slide-illustrated presentation is free and open to the public. Lima Town Hall 7pm -second floor

Welcome to New 2026 Lima Historical Society Members and Volunteers

Joan & Charles Beecher, Sheila Byrne, Jean Ebert, Ashlee & Zachary Fennell, Marty Hogan, Nicole La Fante, Patricia Recktenwald, Stephanie Schell, Mary Shellman, Cassidy Van Voorhees, Ed Welsh.

Retrospectives

Lima's 1976 Bicentennial Celebration: *The Beard Contest*

On this, the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration on of Independence, it seems appropriate to show a fun photo from Lima's Bicentennial celebration **fifty years ago**. While the LHS played a significant role in many aspects of it, it was actually the Lima Fire Department that took the lead in preparations for the events that year. Below is a photo of contestants in the Beard Contest. Can you identify anyone in it? Let us know



LHS Calendar of Events

PLEASE CLIP AND SAVE

Wednesday Nov. 4th	**7:00 PM**	**LHS General Meeting "Lima: 1788-1830: The Early Settlement Period" by Frances Gotcsik , Lima Town Hall.**
Tuesday Nov. 10th	**7:00 PM**	**LHS Board of Trustees Meeting. By Zoom.**

TENNIE BURTON MUSEUM 1850 ROCHESTER ST. LIMA NY 14485 (585-624-1050)

www.limahistorical.org https://www.facebook.com/LHSTENNIEBURTON/ limahistoricalsociety@gmail.com

LHS Condolences to Family and Friends



Barbara Knop

Lima Historical Society Life member and longtime volunteer for the society, Barbara Knop, passed away on September 14, 2026 at age 102 in Allentown PA. Barbara was a beloved member of the Lima community. She was a member of the Ska-hase-ga-o chapter of the *Daughters of the American Revolution* for 72 years, the *Quaere* Club, and as an influential member of the Board of the Lima Public Library. She is survived by her daughter Susan Knop Gobien (Jurgen) and son John Knop (Kathleen). She will be missed by all of us who knew and worked with her.



Richard Garey

Another Life member of the Lima Historical Society, John Richard Garey, better known as "Dick," passed away on August 3rd, 2026, at the age of 90. Dick was well known to many in the community for his involvement in events such as the Lima bedrace. Dick served in the US Army as an Intelligence Specialist including in Germany during the Berlin Crisis of 1961. He was a member of the Lima Fire department for 70 years. He is survived by his son Richard (Cheryl). His presence on Main St. will be missed by all.

Taking on the Museum Garage …Squirrels, Walnuts, Old Display Cases and Rusty Equipment

While we have had space problems in the museum garage for years, this year it became untenable with an excess of old unusable display cases, shelving, rusted tools deemed too disintegrated to save, squirrel debris, holes chewed in walls, and nuts filling every possible container.

We began by giving away large items that were no longer needed (cases to Wayland Historical Society, photo cutouts to Karen Hanson). Next, a small group (Alan, Fran, Barb, Kathie R. and Martha) sorted out the "wheat from the chaff" to be saved for exhibit one day. Dan repaired and secured the doors; Alan cleaned up the walnuts creating safety issues in the driveway; Marty brought in a crew to dispose of the remaining unsalvageable items in a dumpster and to clean the garage. All foundation holes are slated to be repaired. The final *coup de grace* will be the cutting down of the adjoining walnut trees and or branches that overhang the area around the garage.

Wish us success!!!

Please Update YOUR Contact Information

Several contact problems have occurred in recent years—with Newsletters or other Notices sent via postal service being returned to us with "addressee unknown." Furthermore, texting which has become an increasingly efficient means of sending a short message about a change in time or place of an LHS event, is often in error due to outdated phone numbers.

So we are asking all who have recently changed their mailing address, email address, or phone number to please send your current, updated contact information to: limahistoricalsociety@gmail.com. Thank you.

Augustus Markham

Augustus was a prominent Lima citizen who occupied the Markham cobblestone house on Heath-Markham Rd. This photo was donated to LHS by Jean Hollenbeck.



1917 Fire in Presbyterian Church Sheds and Building on Rochester St.

Genesee Wesleyan students "worked like heroes" in helping to put out the potentially disastrous fire that spread from the church sheds to a two-story building on the west side of Rochester St., which housed *The Lima Star Laundry* owned by the Leary brothers, and the Van Gelders' *Lima Recorder* printing plant. (*The Lima Recorder,* 1917).

Lima's Known Revolutionary War Veterans

By Frances Gotcsik

Continuing with our series of biographies of Revolutionary War veterans who are known to have resided in Lima after the war, this month features Captain Stewart Dean.

Captain Stewart Dean (1748-1836)

Captain Dean was born July 4,1748 in Somerset County, Maryland. At 18 he was apprenticed with merchant Henry Lowe to learn sailing and navigation. After his servitude ended in 1769, he came to the Hudson Valley to become a merchant marine. In 1773 he married a shipwright's daughter, and they built a home on the Albany riverfront.

In 1776-78 he volunteered with the Albany militia in different efforts to engage with the enemy in the Mohawk Valley. Each time he would return to Albany where he lived. In 1780 he served as a commissioner detecting and removing internal enemies. In 1776, he was also commissioned to be a privateer with his ship the Beaver. For three years he sailed to the Caribbean to obtain supplies to aid the war effort. In 1782, the Nimrod, the privateer he built and captained, was captured in the West Indies. He was injured but he and his crew were later released. In 1783, soon after he returned to Albany, his wife Pieterje Bratt, died in childbirth. Dean then built another ship which he sailed to China.

On October 4,1787 he married Margaret Wheeden in Albany. Their first child was born in 1788. From 1788 to 1897 they had seven children and lived most of that time in the Albany area. However, in 1830 when Dean was 82 he and his wife moved to Lima as two of their daughters, Martha Stewart Dean Sedgwick and Jane Ann Dean Clark, and their son William Whetten Dean were living there at the time. Jane was wife of Erastus Clark, a prosperous Lima merchant who built Hillcrest at 7242 West Main Street. William Whetten Dean had joined Erastus Clark in the operation of Lima's large general store when Clark's former partner James Guernsey moved to Pittsford. William Dean continued in business with Clark until Clark retired in 1830. He then sold the business to Godfrey and Cargill in 1836. By 1850, son William Dean and his family were living in Green Oak, Michigan.

In 1833, at age 85, Captain Dean applied for a pension, but records indicate he was denied the pension as he could not prove he had served six months, despite his very detailed account of his service activities first on land and second on water. While Dean provided many details of the ways in which he volunteered and served, his age and inability to recall all details, as well as the fact that most corroborating witnesses had died may have contributed to the rejection. Lima's prominent citizens testified that Dean was respected in the neighborhood, and they believed his account of his Revolutionary War service.

According to a history of Captain Dean's life, he and his wife moved to New York City with the Sedgwicks in 1833. Dean died August 4,1836 at age 88 in New York City and is buried in New York Marble Cemetery in the East Village. Margaret Dean died December 21,1851 in Lima, likely at the home of her daughter, Jane Dean Clark. She is buried in the Lima Presbyterian Cemetery.

Research was carried out by Frances Gotcsik, with assistance from: Holly Watson, the Livingston County Historian; and the Ska-has-ga-o Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. In particular cases, various other sources were used, such as Ancestry, which includes census data, family histories, obituaries, and grave site information; pension applications; and the History of Livingston County, New York 1687-1881 by J. H. Smith (1881). Research is always ongoing, so please forward any questions or additional information you may have regarding the Revolutionary War veterans from Lima. Contact us at limahistoricalsociety@gmail.com



Lima's Corporal Daniel V. Ryan Jr. (1851-1876)

A marker in the Saint Rose Cemetery commemorates the death of 25-year old Daniel "Phil" Ryan who was killed in battle on June 25, 1876, as part of General George Custer's battalion at the "Battle of Little Bighorn" in Montana. He had enlisted at the age of 21. Although his body was never recovered, his family clearly wanted his memory kept alive here in his hometown of Lima. (Thanks to Ed Welsh for this photo of Daniel's gravestone; photo on right, courtesy of Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument).



1850 Rochester St.
P.O. Box 532
Lima NY 14485



Lima Historical Society

Officers and Trustees

President: Martha Sempowski

Vice President: John Serafin

Treasurer: Frances Gotcsik

Recording Secretary: open position

Trustees: Elizabeth Osta
Dan Marcellus
Deborah Gallant
Barbara May
Alan Coykendall
Martin Hogan

Buildings and Grounds: Martin Hogan

Membership: Elizabeth Osta

Museum: Kathie Reynolds, Fran Gotcsik, Deborah Gallant, Barbara May, John Serafin, Martha Sempowski

Preservation: Frances Gotcsik

Technology: Dan Marcellus

Yellow Wasp editor: Martha Sempowski

Webmaster: Robert Deming

www.limahistorical.org

Renew Your Lima Historical Society Membership for 2027
See Form Inside

"Lima: 1788-1830
The Early Settlement Period"

By Frances Gotcsik

Wednesday November 4th, 7pm
Lima Town Hall

Copy Town Enterprise
7306 E Main St, Lima, NY
(585) 624-5074

Commercial Printing Services
Color Copying
copytown4@gmail.com

IT SKYPORT
Who's Got Your Data?
WWW.SKYPORT-IT.COM

Spinelli's Catering and Event Space, Fairport NY 14450

585-430-1186

info@spinellichefservices.com

ADVERTISE HERE