

THE YELLOW WASP

Lima Historical Society

November 2017

LHS Meeting: Tuesday, November 14 at 7 PM

At: Lima Court House

FASHIONS OF THE 1800's

by Jenny Honan,

**Seamstress and Clothing Expert, Interpreter at the Genesee
County Museum**

Imagine life at a slower pace in a different time and different place. Life was vastly different for our sisters of the past. On Tuesday, October 14th at 7 pm, the Lima Historical Society will host a demonstration and illustrated talk on 19th century ladies' clothing by historic clothing expert and seamstress, Jenny Honan. She will speak about changes in the fashions in vogue and the methods of construction of women's dresses during the mid to late 1800's. Besides being an interpreter at Genesee Country Village and Museum, Ms. Honan sews for several of our local museums and enjoys being a Civil War re-enactor.

Come and hear about civilian life and ladies fashions from 150 years ago. This period of time is often romanticized. Come and find out why!



Lee W. Shanks

Remembering Lee W. Shanks

It was with great sadness we lost one of our founding members, over the summer, Lee W. Shanks. Lee passed away suddenly on June 9, 2017 in Lima. Lee was a long time member of Lima Historical Society. His presence in the community and our organization will be sorely missed. Over the years Lee and his beautiful wife, Edna, gave generously to our organization whether it was a cash donation, artifact donation or donating refuse pick up at Tinnie Burton Museum. Lee and Edna were always present in support of us. Lee also gave of his time to our society in the manner of presenting educational programs, now and then, at our general meetings. We could always count on Lee and his wonderful memory to educate Lima community & the general public of Days Gone By. Thank you, Lee & Edna, for your generous support throughout the years. We are grateful, thankful, and appreciative for all Lee contributed to Lima Historical Society. Edna, we cannot thank you enough for the significance of the contributions you & Lee have made to Lima Historical Society since its inception over 40 years ago. Thank you, Lee W. Shanks and Edna Shanks.

By Judi Cooper

Positively Lima Historical House Tour a Huge Success

We did it! Thanks to homeowners & public building owners who selflessly opened their historic homes & buildings; plus many, many Lima Historical Society members, tons of non-member volunteers who helped; and the hard-working 2017 Historic Tour Committee, Lima Historical Society orchestrated it's 10th historic house tour and it proved to be a resounding success. This time around we added a Quilt Raffle to the excitement. Thanks to Sandi Shusda, who donated a beautiful hand-made quilt, we were able to set our goals high from the very beginning. Add to that, the help of the numerous businesses who placed paid ads in our tour brochure, we were able to exceed our initial goal of \$5,000. To date, house tour ticket sales, quilt raffle ticket sales, business ads & misc. donations, make our income total from our event over \$8100.

Scores of attendees complimented us on how much they enjoyed the English Tea at Lima Presbyterian Church. A resounding Thank You goes to members who baked scones, cakes, bars & served tea for the fabulous event, which drew over 145 tea drinkers. Thank you to Marilyn Schroeder for organizing the tea, and to church coordinator and Lima Historical Society member, Bev Gillette, for a well-attended added attraction to the tour. People were awed, not only by the beautifully decorated Tea Room, by the vast selection of sweets, but also by the fact, Tea was included in the price of their tour ticket. Many came prepared to pay for their refreshments & tea. It was a pleasant surprise indeed.

In addition to the financial interest gained from hosting our tour, we also gained a positive community presence. Over 275 people came to the Village on the day of our tour and received a first-hand experience of visiting Positively Lima. Priceless! Please enjoy the photos of the winner of the beautiful Log Cabin pattern quilt and the two basket winners. Thank you Chris Turk for supplying the beautiful baskets that added to the excitement of the Quilt Raffle. And thank you, all of you, once again, for your role in enabling Lima's historically successful event.

Judien Cooper,
House Tour 2017 Chairperson



Basket Winner
Jennifer Caloia from Morrisville
(with Fran Gotcsik)



Basket Winner
Kay Hoyt from Farmington
(with Judi Cooper)



Quilt Winner
Darlene E Garczyk from Pembroke
(with Judi Cooper)

Photos by Jim Cooper, Fran Gotcsik & Judien Cooper

Calendar of Events

Tuesday, November 14, 2017 - 7:00pm -Lima Historical Society General Meeting. *Fashions of the 1800's.*
At the Lima Court House.

Thursday, November 16, 2017- 7:00pm -Lima Historical Society Board meeting. Tennie Burton Museum.

LIMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY - 1850 ROCHESTER ST. LIMA NY 14485 (585-624-1050)

Masonic Lodge

By Michael Leavy

"One of Lima's most astonishing and opulent interiors remains virtually unchanged from its Civil War era beginnings. It is the Masonic Lodge located on the third floor of the Stanley Block, variously known as the Masonic Hall or Sanger Corner. The richly appointed lodge looks pretty much the same as it does in this sparkling glass plate print. The 1866 carpet remains as does French paneling and decorative stenciling. A marble altar occupies the center. The Master would sit on a throne on the dais between the columns. Adjacent seating was arranged accordingly for the deacons and wardens.

The fraternal organizations that comprise Freemasonry or Masonry, formed coalitions with the local stonemason guilds which flourished in Europe and primarily Britain during the Middle Ages. Collectively, their purpose was to regulate political and civic interactions with authorities and clients.

A historical marker designates an even earlier Lima lodge located in the c.1795 Warner house south-west of this site. It too remains intact on the third floor with its throne and adjacent low benches!

Shrouded in secrecy and mystique, Masons were often falsely accused of national and international upheavals. A particularly irrational and violent Anti-Masonic movement developed in which members were often cruelly victimized. This necessitated them locating their lodges at least three stories up when possible. This permitted an elevated vantage allowing visual detection of any civil vandalism or threats headed their way.

A brutal example of local terrorism against them, involving a biological attack, exists in village histories. Smallpox outbreaks were a scourge in the 1800s. When word of an outbreak was announced, families pretty much holed-up in their homes, avoiding contact with any outsiders until the deadly outbreak passed. Clothes ripe with active smallpox, taken from some fatal victims of the infection, were tossed at the entrance of the earlier Masonic Lodge. As Masons left, they kicked the clothes aside, their actions transmitting the disease to themselves. Some became infected and died.

Such horrible times even then! As a community, we remain grateful for the continued contributions and rich legacy of this noble organization. The glass plate from which this image of our Masonic Lodge was processed is in the Lima Historical Society collection located in the Tennie-Burton Museum."



LIMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MISSION STATEMENT

Lima Historical Society was founded to collect and preserve Lima's history, its architectural structures, and its culture to educate and inspire people today and tomorrow.

Preserving Our Military Uniforms

Our Museum Committee has been hard at work removing the mold from our historic military uniforms at the Museum. Once the mold has been removed, the members of the Committee have stored the uniforms in special paper and boxes.

Thank you Barb May, Marilyn Schroeder, Marilyn Zalundski for preserving the military uniforms at our Museum!

Lima Historical Society

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Lima Historical Society

Board Members 2017-2018

President: Karen M Hanson- Fritz

Vice President: Matt Lenahan

Treasurer: Fran Gotcsik

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Corr. Secretary: Mary Jule Welch

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Mike Leavy

Hilda Turk

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Programs: Matt Lenahan

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Membership: Gail Fuller

Museum: Marilyn Schroeder

Publicity: Martha Sempowski

Preservation: Fran Gotcsik

Education: unfilled

Ways and Means: unfilled

Yellow Wasp Editor: Karen M Hanson-
Fritz