

THE YELLOW WASP

Lima Historical Society

March 2018

Lima Historical Society General Meeting:

Tuesday, March 20 at 7 PM

at The Lima Court House

Erie: The Canal That Made America

by Craig Braack

New York State is celebrating the 200th Anniversary of the Erie Canal during “a bicentennial period” from 2017- 2025. In honor of NYS’s Celebration, The Lima Historical Society will be presenting a talk by Craig Braack. Mr. Braack will discuss the history of the canal and the reasons the canal was built, paying particular attention to construction and engineering problems of the canal, the geology of the land over which the canal was built, environment issues and labor factors. The talk is expected to be approximately one hour.

Please join us!

2018 Annual Membership Form for the Lima Historical Society

Just a reminder..... Please renew your 2018 annual membership to the Lima Historical Society.

If you sent in your membership dues for the 2018 season, **we thank you!** Our Historical Society is committed to the preservation and display of Lima's history and artifacts. We hope to see you this summer at the Jennie Burton Museum to view our wonderful collections. Your continued support of this valuable community asset is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Gail Fuller, LHS Membership Chair at (585) 624-7542.

Complete the form below and send with check to: LHS Membership Chair, 1840 Genesee St, Lima, NY 14485.

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

ADDRESS: _____ PHONE: _____

City/STATE/ ZIP: _____ TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP: _____

*Email Address: _____ (We do not share our email address list)

ANNUAL DUES: Family: \$20; Sustaining: \$30- \$100; Individual: \$15; Senior Family: \$15, Senior Individual: \$10.

***You can renew your membership online at www.limahistorical.org.**



Delia Phillips from Lima, NY By Lynne Belluscio, LeRoy Village and Town Historian

Her name was Delia Phillips. She was born in Lima on January 28, 1828 and her name will be forever engraved on a historic marker in LeRoy, which will be dedicated on April 2, 2018. On November 6, 1917, the men of the state went to the polls to vote on women's suffrage. The amendment was passed, although in LeRoy, the amendment was defeated by 38 votes. The first election in LeRoy after passage of the state amendment was held on April 2, 1918. The election was for village officers. The first person in line to vote on that day was ninety-one year old Delia Phillips and along with 57 other women, they became the first women to vote in LeRoy.

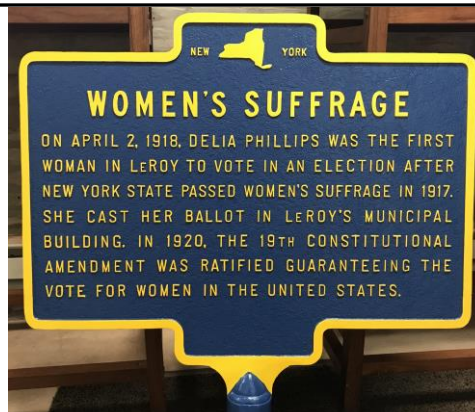
Delia had moved to LeRoy when she was sixty-one to live with her cousin, Dr Randall Williams and his wife. Delia was very active in the LeRoy Presbyterian Church and served as a Sunday school teacher. She was President of the Ladies' Foreign Missionary Society and secretary of The Hands and Missionary Literature. Under her leadership, the Presbyterian congregation supported the construction of a house of worship for the Indians in Idaho. She was also an active member of the W.C.T.U.

Delia's historic ballot was noted in the LeRoy Gazette "(The women) seemed to enjoy (voting) thoroughly, many of them coming down from the Red Cross rooms in their caps and aprons to vote. They apparently had little trouble in working the machine. The many who know and love Miss Phillips because of her sweet and beautiful character appreciate the spirit of sincerity in which she participated in the election, and congratulate her upon having been the first woman in LeRoy to exercise the full right of franchise."

Delia died in 1920 and her obituary read: "Miss Phillips was liberal minded and always looked for the good qualities in everyone. She was fond of the companionship of her friends and her kindly face and pleasant smile will be missed in the community." She was buried in the Phillips plot in Lima.

On April 2, 2018 at 2 PM at the Municipal Building in LeRoy at 3 West Main Street, the historic marker will be dedicated. Everyone is invited to attend this auspicious occasion, when a wreath of 58 yellow suffrage roses is laid at the marker, following a brief program. Invitations have been extended to Lt. Gov Kathy Hochul, Chairman of the NYS Commission on Women's Suffrage as well as representatives from the New York state League of Women's Voters. An antique mechanical voting booth will be in operation for the vote.

For questions or additional information contact the LeRoy Village and Town Historian, Lynne Belluscio at 585 768-7433 or LynneJB@aol.com.



THE PRESBYTERIAN LADIES by Joyce Rapp, Lima Historian

Kodak King, or George Eastman, might have assumed in 1919 that he had also invented the process of enlarging or changing the shape of a building when he altered his home by cutting it in half, pushing one section further away from the other and then enclosing it with timber. He would have been wrong!

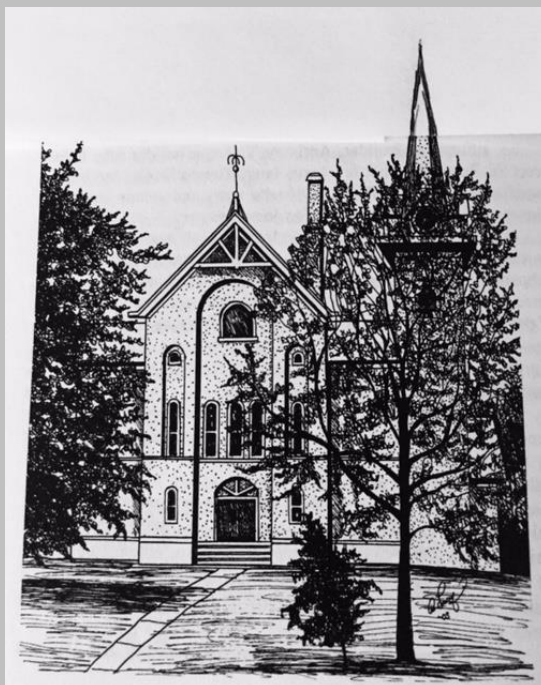
Our Lima Presbyterians had already used this technique in 1853 when they enlarged their beautiful little framed church. It cost two thousand dollars. Although parishioners had lowered the debt by leasing land behind the church near the sheds, it is probably safe to assume that the ladies played a major role in reducing it just as they did twenty years later when the group wanted a new larger church and a session house. (Lima's population had increased from 2,433 in 1850 to 2,912 in 1870). The desire matured to reality at a July 4th strawberry social at the home of Richard Peck. "Socials" were not new. The ladies had been taking turns hosting them at various homes "after the service of suitable refreshments, they had practiced taking money in such sums as it pleased the guests to give for the use of this church."

Using "the iron fist in the velvet glove" approach, the ladies enlisted the help of the male guests and circulated a subscription paper with William Vary's donation of one thousand dollars topping the list. However, by the winter of 1872-1873, there was still only \$12,000 in the building fund. Since it was estimated that the new brick church would cost \$25,000, they decided to stop construction, until \$20,000 was in the fund.

Naturally, the ladies continued to hull strawberries and serve coffee and cake, "making collections with their hands and specking encouraging words with their mouths" but it was the freezing winter wind and snow of that winter that convinced those hearty souls that they needed more than wood fires and foot warmers in their drafty frame church. Surely, The Lord must welcome a warm soul as well as a shivering spirt soa building committee hired Ben Long, a Lima contractor, and on May 23, 1872 a farewell meeting was held in the lovely old frame church. On Thursday, October 14, 1874 at 2:00 pm, the new brick church that still over looks our village today was dedicated.

And it all began with a strawberry social and some determined Presbyterian ladies!

Almost all of this story was found in the "Historical Sketch of the Presbyterian Church" by Elder William R. McNair. It was published on October 1, 1895.



Lima Historical Society

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P.O. Box 532
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Lima Historical Society
Board Members 2017-2018
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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.

Are you looking to become more involved with the Lima Historical Society?

We currently have openings in our Museum Committee, our Genealogy Committee, Education Committee and Ways and Means Committee. **Museum docents needed every Sunday 2-4pm, Memorial Day through September.**

Contact Karen at 585 455-9225- All are welcome!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 15, April 19, May 17, June 21 at 7 pm- LHS Board Meetings at the Museum.

March 20 at 7 pm- General Meeting- TOPIC: The Erie Canal.

April 2 at 2pm- NYS Marker Dedication in Leroy for Delia Phillips.

May 20 -Annual Dinner and General Meeting- TOPIC: Fredrick Douglas.

May 28 at 10:00 am- Memorial Day- Museum Opens for 2018 Season.