

# THE YELLOW WASP

Lima Historical Society

September 2019

Tuesday, September 17th

## Wells Barns “Country Cathedrals”

by Barb Chapman, Katie Andres and Dick Thomas



The Lima Historical Society is proud to host what has proven to be a very popular presentation on historic Wells Barns, sometimes known as “Country Cathedrals.” These represent a very special type of barn unique to western New York. In 1899 John Talcott Wells patented a new method of barn building that provided more open interior space than traditional post-and-beam construction. About 200 of these barns, a number in Livingston County, were built between 1886 and 1942, but only about 50 of them survive today.

Speaker Barb Chapman will set the stage by providing historical background and biographical information on John Talcott Wells. Next Katie Andres will present vintage photos and drawings illustrating the architectural features of the barns’ construction—which included laminated trusses that balanced inward and outward forces, creating high, majestic open spaces. Photographer Dick Thomas (see adjacent photograph) will follow up with photos of a number of the barns that are standing today and discuss the architectural and historical importance of the Wells Barns to the rural landscape of western New York. The presentation will take place at 7pm on Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at the Lima Court House located on East Main Street (next to the Town Hall). The program is free and open to the public.

### Last Chance To Enjoy Lima’s Historic Hat Exhibit

Sunday afternoons in August and September (2-4pm) will be your last opportunity to see the Tennie Burton Museum’s exhibit of historic hats and photos dating from the mid 19<sup>th</sup> to the mid 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Not long ago, Sharon Moran Markel of Honeoye Falls and some of her family stopped in to visit, and then sent us a photo of their grandmother and her three sisters showing off their hats in a photo taken between 1900 and 1905. The individuals in the photo are identified as follows: left to right - Frances Manning Enright, wife of Patrick Enright of Mendon; Ella Manning Moran Years (*their grandmother*), wife of Clarence Moran of Lima, and after Clarence's death, Walter Years of Rush; standing on the right, Martha (Mattie) Manning of Mendon; and sitting on the right, Margaret Manning Enright, wife of Thomas Enright of Mendon. Thank you to Sharon for adding this photo and family information to our growing historic photo collection.



#### 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.

## LHS Calendar of Events

PLEASE CLIP AND SAVE

- Thursday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>                      Lima Historical Society Board Meeting. Tennie Burton Museum, 7pm. All LHS members welcome to attend.
- Tuesday, September 17th                Wells Barns "Country Cathedrals," by Barb Chapman, Katie Andres and Dick Thomas. Lima Court House, 7 pm. Not to be Missed!!! Open to the Public.
- Thursday, Sepetmber 19th                Lima Historical Society Board Meeting. Tennie Burton Museum, 7pm. All LHS members welcome to attend.
- Thursday, October 17th                    Lima Historical Society Board Meeting. Tennie Burton Museum, 7pm. All LHS members welcome to attend.
- Tuesday, November 19th                 "HFL Five 0: The Lima/Honeoye Falls School Merger on its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary" By Deb and Tim Smith. Lima Court House 7pm. Open to the public.

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

PLEASE CLIP AND SAVE

### Welcome To Newly Elected LHS Board Members

Corresponding Secretary: Anita Layfield

Trustee: Anthony Catalano

Trustee: Ericka Gruschow Elliott

We appreciate their willingness to step up and help keep history alive Lima. The town's unique history gives our small community a sense of place.

Thank them when you see them.

### Thank You To Our 2019 Summer Docents at the Tennie Burton Museum

Anthony Catalano  
Judien Cooper  
Jerry Donaghy  
Carol Edwards  
Ericka G. Elliott  
Scott Elliott  
Gail Fuller  
Duane Fuller

Beverly Gillette  
Fran Gotscik  
Barbara Kolstee  
Barbara May  
Dinah Mayer  
Bruce Mayer  
Elizabeth Osta  
Martha Sempowski

**Without member volunteers like all of you, the museum would be forced to be closed all summer long.**

### Volunteers Needed for Historic Photo Project

Thanks to the efforts of Duane Fuller and Dan Marcellus, software and equipment have been acquired and set up for our Catalogue Digitization Project. We are now ready to roll it out.

One component of that project involves our collection of historic Lima photographs of people, events, street scenes, houses, churches etc. The photos will need to be scanned and existing catalogue information entered into the database. Interested in going through the photos and helping with this? Training will be provided.

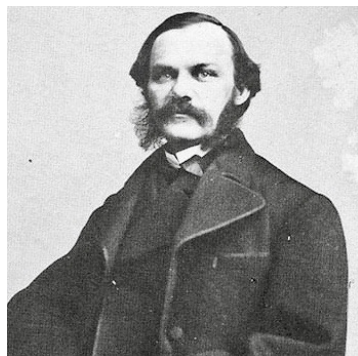


*One of our civil war era photo treasures. Originally thought to be a daguerreotype, it has been identified by Paper and Photograph Conservator Gary Albright, as a tintype.*

**YELLOW WASP SERIES - 2019:**  
**INFLUENTIAL ALUMNI OF**  
**GENESEE WESLEYAN SEMINARY AND GENESEE COLLEGE**

**Henry Jarvis Raymond**  
**(1820-1869)**

Henry Jarvis Raymond—one of GWS’ best-known graduates—was co-founder of *The New York Times* and editor of that newspaper until his untimely death at age 49. A plaque in the front yard of his family farm on East Main Road in Lima celebrates his role at the New York Times.



Henry, the son Lavinia Brockway and Jarvis Raymond, showed signs of unusual intellectual ability early on. He was reading by age three and giving speeches by age five. Enrolled at the newly formed GWS when only twelve years old, he went on to graduate from there, and then from University of Vermont where he finished with high honors. He met and married Juliette Weaver of Vermont and together they had seven children.

His major calling was as a journalist, beginning with major positions in a number of prominent newspapers of the day. Having always wanted to start a newspaper of his own, he and George Jones successfully co-founded *The New York Times* in 1851 with the thought that the newspaper’s content should be as dispassionate and neutral as possible, saying:

"There are few things in this world which it is worthwhile to get angry about; and they are just the things anger will not improve."

He was also influential in politics—both in New York state and in the country—and was instrumental in the founding of the Republican party. He served as a member of the US House of Representatives from 1865-1867, critical years following the end of the Civil War. He is said to have played an important role in urging President Lincoln to adopt more lenient attitudes and policies toward the southern states than most of his political colleagues. Another Lima individual whose education at the seminary prepared him for great contributions to our country (information for this article from wikipedia.org)

**A Message From the Past**

Recently, we received a donation offer of a letter written in 1831 by 14-year old GWS student Elijah Wray to his father, Henry Wray, a mason in Rochester, reporting in detail about the day to day demands, woes, costs, and obvious loneliness of his life at the seminary.

The donor, Joseph B. Young of Alameda CA, kindly sent us the letter, along with genealogical information on the locally well-known Wray family of Rush NY. We thank Mr. Young for his generous donation.

Stop in to the museum one Sunday afternoon (2-4) to view this touchingly personal account of student life at the Genesee Wesleyan Seminary nearly 200 years ago. This represents a true archival treasure for Lima.

**Our sincere condolences to the family of**  
**longtime LHS Member and good friend to all**  
**Paul J. Turk**

**He will be greatly missed.**

# Lima Historical Society

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



<b>Lima Historical Society</b>
<b>BoardMembers 2019-2020</b>
President: Matthew Lenahan
Vice Presidents: Martha Sempowski
Treasurer: Frances Gotsik
Recording Secretary: Barbara May
Corr. Secretary: Anita Layfield
Trustees: Barbara Kolstee
Anthony Catalano
Ericka Gruschow Elliott
<b>Standing Committees</b>
Program: Martha Sempowski
Buildings and Grounds: Duane Fuller
Membership: Gail Fuller
Museum: Barbara May
Publicity: Martha Sempowski
Preservation: Frances Gotsik
Education: Unfilled
Ways and Means: Unfilled
Yellow Wasp editor : Martha Sempowski
Lima Historian: Joyce Rapp
<a href="http://www.limahistorical.org">www.limahistorical.org</a>

**NOT TO BE MISSED!**

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**“Country Cathedrals”**

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Lima Court House

<p><b>Daniel Marcellus</b></p> <p><b>SkyPort IT, Inc.</b></p> <p>Rochester, New York Area Information Technology &amp; Services</p>	<p><b>Kokopelli</b></p> <p><b>Lawn and Garden Care</b></p> <p>Roger Reakes (585) 704-2424 <a href="mailto:rreakes@rochester.rr.com">rreakes@rochester.rr.com</a></p>
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<p><b>Poplar</b></p> <p><b>Tree &amp; Lawn Care Service</b></p> <p>*tree removal *spring cleanups *free estimates * reasonable rates *lawn mowing *tree /hedge trimming</p>	<p><b>American Hotel</b></p> <p><b>At the Crossroads of Western New York</b></p> <p>Rose and Pat Reynolds <a href="http://Americanhotelloflima.com">Americanhotelloflima.com</a></p>
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