

THE YELLOW WASP

Lima Historical Society

April 2021

**Zoom LHS Annual Meeting and Program
Sunday, May 16th at 2 PM**

The Real Underground Railroad

**By Tim McDonnell
Speakers' Bureau
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at RIT**

We have an exciting, illustrated program on a topic that we in Lima have often mused about--- possible involvement of 19th century Lima residents in the Underground Railroad. On May 16th, Tim McDonnell, a very popular speaker on the RIT Osher Speakers' Bureau, and an adjunct associate professor at Monroe Community College, will be speaking about the *Real Underground Railroad* in our region.

He will talk about how this loosely-organized "conspiracy" against slavery operated before the Civil War. Since New York has a long border with Canada, our state was the important last "station" on the way to freedom. Tim will discuss the routes used by the "conductors," including routes that led through Livingston County. He will talk about the men and women of the Underground Railroad (UGRR), some famous and most not. Since they were breaking federal laws, this was not an enterprise without danger, both to the runaways (or "Freedom Seekers") and to the people who assisted them. Tim will conclude his talk with a discussion of why the Underground Railroad is important in the 21st century.



The illustration above shows the Freedom Statue in Lewiston, NY on the Niagara River, with Canada in the background. This was the last stop on the UGRR for many formerly-enslaved people.

Unfortunately, because of restrictions relating to the Covid 19 pandemic, we have decided to again hold this year's LHS Annual Meeting and Program via Zoom. Just drop us a quick email limahistoricalsociety@gmail.com to Register and we will forward you an electronic INVITE. If you need assistance with Zoom, call 585-329-7675

This promises to be a great program. Come with your own information and questions about Lima and the Underground Railroad.

**Livingston County Historical Society
Virtual Event- Revisited
1918 Influenza Pandemic Lecture Series
By David Pomplas**

In last Jan. and Feb., in the midst of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, some of you participated in a rewarding five-part virtual lecture series on the Influenza pandemic of 1918 sponsored by the Livingston County Historical Society. For those who were unable to do so, recordings of this worthwhile series by historian David Pomplas are now available on line. Go to: www.livingstoncountyhistoricalsociety.com and click on Events to access the recordings of the series.

**Tennie Burton Museum
Music on the Porch
BCW Trio
Sunday, June 27th 2 pm**

This is always one of our most popular public events —a concert by **the BCW Trio**—from the front porch of the museum. Join us for a selection of spirited, foot-tapping, sing-along music. Please wear a mask and bring a chair for social distancing on the front lawn. After the isolation we have all endured in the last year, we all need this!!

LHS Calendar of Events

PLEASE CLIP AND SAVE

Thursday May 13th	Virtual Lima Historical Society Board Meeting on Zoom 7pm. All LHS members welcome to attend. Please email us if you would like to receive a Zoom invite.
April -May	Museum Committee hopes to reconvene socially distanced as Covid 19 conditions allow.
Sunday, May 16th	<i>The Real Underground Railroad</i> by Tim McDonnell. 2 pm .See page 1 for details on Registering to receive an INVITE to this Zoom Annual Meeting/Program.
Monday, May 31st	Memorial Day Grand Re-opening of Tennie Burton Museum. Masks required.
Sunday, June 27 th	Tennie Burton Museum 2PM. "Music on the Porch" by BCW Trio. Masks required.
Tuesday September 21st	<i>Carousel Magic</i> By Carol Samuel. 7 PM Lima Town Hall -2 nd floor Ballroom - Now accessible from back entrance. Masks required. Distanced Seating .
DATE TBD	*LHS BARN SALE Please save gently used items.
Tuesday, November 16th	<i>Jeremiah's Hunger: Roots of Irish Immigration to Lima</i> By Elizabeth Osta. 7 PM Lima Town Hall – 2 nd floor Ballroom- Masks Required. Distanced Seating

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

www.limahistorical.org

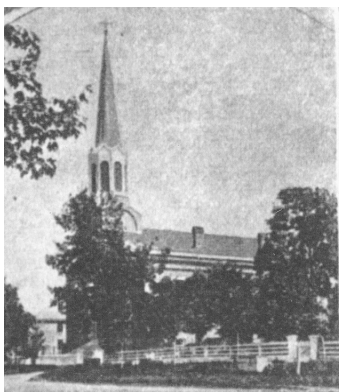
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Tennie Burton Museum Reopening Memorial Day 10 AM

And lots to be done to get ready. Are you able to give a couple of hours of your time at the museum?? Cleaning exhibits and rooms downstairs. And with our new database up and running, we now have an abundance of historic Lima objects, photos. and documents that need to be inventoried, re-boxed, re-filed and re-arranged in Storage or Resource Rooms. If you can help out for an hour or two, we would love to have you join us. Let us know when you might be available. Email limahistoricalsociety@gmail.com .

When is it History??

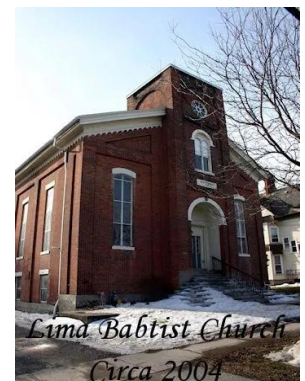
Sometimes we make the mistake of thinking that history ends with the 19th or early 20th centuries. Recently, however in the course of remodeling their Genesee St. home, Duane and Gail Fuller found a plastic bag hidden in a stairway wall. It contained invitations to two wedding receptions held by former owners at their home. One took place in **1977** and the other in **1989**. Copies of these "documents" have now become part of our collections at the Tennie Burton Museum.



BAPTIST CHURCH.

The Lima Baptist Church

In 1834, a branch of the East Mendon Baptist Church was established, with 44 members, in the southeast area of Lima, on Clay St, across the street from old school number 4. Services were discontinued in that locale in 1842. Then in 1854, a meeting was held in the back of a Lima shoe shop owned by J. H. Miller and efforts undertaken by a small group of local Baptists to organize the Lima Baptist Church. Temporary services were held in Concert Hall at Genesee Wesleyan Seminary, with Rev B.R Swick as the first pastor. Meanwhile plans were underway to acquire a lot on East Main Street for the erection of a new church. Foundations for the brick church (still standing today) were laid the following year; Rochester architect Isaac Loomis created the original design for



Lima Bapstist Church
Circa 2004

the building, which was later altered by Lima architect Willam Harmon. The church was dedicated in 1856. During the 1880's many improvements were made to the interior, and a pipe organ was donated, as well as stained glass windows and two prismatic chandeliers. While the original church had a tall octagonal-shaped steeple, it appears to have been removed and replaced by a squat bell tower early in the 20th century. The building was sold in 1968 and it now houses an antique market (continued p.3).



Lima Historian Joyce Dever Rapp (1924-2021) A Passion For History

It is with sadness that we grieve the loss of Joyce Rapp, a long-standing member of the Lima Historical Society. In recent years, she served as Lima Town Historian. On a more personal level, Joyce was a true “original,” exemplifying a pioneer spirit and a genuine passion for history in so many of the singular initiatives that she undertook in her years in Lima.

After Joyce’s first husband, William P. Dever was killed in action during World War II, she married Carl Richard (Dick) Rapp, and in 1965 moved to their College Street home in Lima where they raised five children and remained until her death. During the early years in Lima, she worked as a lab assistant, testing glazes, at Pinco. Joyce’s writing career began after she retired from Pinco with a weekly column for *The Lima Recorder*, as well as occasional freelance articles for *The Sentinel*, and the Rochester *Democrat and Chronicle*. Many of you may recall some of those columns with their engaging mix of history, community affairs, local lore, and personal commentary. Much later on, she would contribute articles to *The Clarion*, and the *Livingston County News*, and in the early 2000’s she published two popular books on local history: *Yesterday in Lima and other Stories* (2006) and *Lima in America* (2008), both illustrated by Al Lacey. She also contributed to the Livingston County compilation *Celebrating Our Past* (2000), the *Encyclopedia of New York State* (2005), and *Rochestrivia* (2005).

During the late 1970’s, Joyce returned to college at the University of Rochester, graduating with a B.A. in History (Phi Beta Kappa) in 1983. She continued working as Administrative Assistant to the Director of the Religious Affairs at the U of R for some years after that, completing additional graduate courses along the way. After leaving there, she again focused on Lima history and the needs of her local community, volunteering her time working with children in the Lima Primary and Middle Schools, and encouraging an interest history and Latin. Joyce also became a fixture in the Lima Public Library, answering questions, assisting community members with local research, and helping to establish a local history section in the library. More recently, she served as a volunteer history tutor at Genesee Community College here in town.

Joyce was appointed Lima Historian in 1997 and served until 2008; she was reappointed in 2016 and remained in that role until being granted emeritus status this past year. She was a vocal advocate for honoring our veterans—always a prominent figure at Memorial Day and Veteran’s Day celebrations. She played a critical role in creating the Veteran’s Memorial at the Lima Town Hall, and her lobbying efforts were successful in having a section of Route 15A in Lima designated as Lima Veterans Memorial Highway. She was named Lima Citizen of the Year in 1999.

The Lima Historical Society members extend their sincere condolences to the Rapp family—children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Joyce and her forward-thinking contributions to our community will not soon be forgotten.

The Lima Baptist Church (continued from p. 2)

Church attendance began dwindling in the mid 1950’s, so much so that the congregants were meeting in a small room to save on utilities costs. Deacons Floyd Briggs and Ralph Plimpton went to Rev. Carlton Spencer of Elim Bible Institute to seek his leadership. Rev. E.A. Frink of Elim began preaching on weekends at Lima Baptist Church, helping to raise additional funds for church needs. In 1962 Rev. Noah Stolzhus was called to be pastor (a capacity in which he served for 24 years), and the necessary resources began increasing dramatically. In 1966 the church purchased an 11-acre parcel of land north of the village on Rte 15A. The new Lima Baptist Church and an educational wing were completed in 1968 and the old church on East Main Street was sold. With the growth of various ministries, including Lima Christian School, several additions were made to the new church complex.



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ZOOM LHS ANNUAL MEETING AND PROGRAM

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Register at: limahistoricalsociety@gmail.com

The Real Underground Railroad

By Tim McDonnell

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