

THE YELLOW WASP

Lima Historical Society

September 2021



**LHS Meeting
Tuesday, September 21st 7 PM
Lima Town Hall-2nd floor ballroom**

Carousel Magic

**By Carol Samuel
OSHER Speakers' Bureau RIT**

The Lima Historical Society is pleased to present a long-awaited in-person program that had to be cancelled last year because of pandemic restrictions. Carol Samuel is an experienced public speaker with a passion for carousels. Her Power Point presentation will include the history of the carousel, as well as the various styles and names of the most well-known carvers. She will also explore the "anatomy," maintenance, restoration, and preservation of carousels.

Think back to the carousels of your childhood. What was your local favorite? What attracted you to carousels? Do you know that not all carousel animals are horses? Did you ever catch a brass ring? Share your experiences with us. The presentation may evoke memories and inspire you to seek out today's carousels with a new appreciation for the magical spell they cast.

The meeting will be held on the second floor of the Lima Town Hall — now fully accessible because of the recent installation of an elevator. Please wear a mask; and we will be socially distanced in this large room.

September 21, 2021: 7 pm

Lima Town Hall-- 7329 East Main St., Lima NY 14485

LHS Receives an Unexpected Gift Full of Surprises

It was stored in a barn on a Canandaigua Lake property for many years, but thanks to the generosity of Susan Richardson of Genesee Street and her mother, the Society recently received a treasure trove of documents primarily pertaining to Genesee Wesleyan Seminary (GWS), Genesee College, and Genesee Junior College. The materials belonged to Susan's great grandfather, Rev. John Wesley Searles, who was not only a student at GWS but also President of Genesee Junior College (1947-1951). When Susan and her husband Robert decided to purchase their Genesee Street property, she was unaware of her family connection to the school within sight of her new home.

What makes this gift significant is that it contains multiple hand written documents that shed light on activities and issues facing Genesee College and GWS, especially from the time of the opening of Genesee College in 1850 to the controversy surrounding the decision to relocate to Syracuse in 1869-1870. The gift also contains some surprising and unusual items, such as an 1836 Patent Right for construction of a new type of beehive conveyed by Levi H. Parish of Brighton to John Copeland of Rochester for \$5 (\$147 today) for Copeland's use in the Town of Lima. In 1834, Parish had obtained a patent and began selling the right to use it others, including Copeland. Rev. John Copeland (1800-1880), was one of the founders of GWS and the College. Were the bees for the farm that was associated with the Seminary? Copeland later owned a nursery with his son, George?

Successive issues of the Wasp will reveal further details of Susan Richardson's extraordinary gift. Additional research will be needed to discover the stories and context of all that has been found. Thank you, Susan, for entrusting the Historical Society with the stewardship of these treasures and thanks also to LHS members Duane and Gail Fuller who facilitated this generous donation.

LHS Calendar of Events

PLEASE CLIP AND SAVE

Sundays now until September 26th	Tennie Burton Museum Open 2-4 pm. Last few Sundays to enjoy exhibit on PINCO.
Thursday August 19th	Lima Historical Society Board Meeting 7 pm at Tennie Burton Museum. All LHS members welcome to attend.
Thursday September 2nd-25 th	Bicentennial Art and History show, Genesee Council on the Arts, Murray Hill Bldg 4.
Tuesday September 21st	<i>Carousel Magic</i> by Carol Samuel. 7 pm Lima Town Hall -2 nd floor Ballroom - Now accessible by elevator. Masks required. Distanced Seating.
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

limahistoricalsociety@gmail.com

Lima Downtown Mural

Plans are underway in Lima to create a large mural meant to reflect the most significant characteristics of our community---its history, character, and present nature. Unfortunately, to date, very few Lima residents are aware of the planning underway for this publicly visible image, which will represent who we are in Lima for years to come. Now is the time to have input into this important depiction of what we value most about our community.

Begin thinking about what you would include. Contact LWadsworth@co.livingston.ny.us; Mayor John Skiptunas jskiptunas@villageoflima.us ; or Town Supervisor Mike Falk supervisor@townoflima.org. Next meeting Sept. 27th, Town Hall, 7 pm. Let your thoughts and voice be heard.

Livingston County Bicentennial Events

An Art and History Affair. The Lima Historical Society is loaning several pieces of historic art from our collections for exhibit in this show, hosted by the Genesee Council on the Arts. It will be on display at the Council of the Arts on Murray Hill in Mount Morris, from September 2nd at 5:00 PM through September 25th. <https://gvartscouncil.org>

Bicentennial Geocaching Find R. Fox will be your guide to super-sleuthing the geocaches at over 30 historical locations (two in Lima) around beautiful 200-year-old Livingston County. Sign up at Geocaching.com for the full **Bicentennial Geocaching Trail** listings, with cache owner Find_R_Fox, and start exploring! This should be outdoor fun for adults and kids alike.

Agriculture

Lima's Foundation Since the Town's Beginnings

It was prime agricultural soils and gentle topography that had attracted Native American peoples for centuries, and by the 1790's, Euroamerican settlers, to Lima. Many of the latter were veterans who had come to appreciate the potential of this region during and after the American Revolution. Even to this day, the vast majority of Lima's land area is used for agricultural purposes – crops and pasturage, and agriculture and related services represent, far and away, the predominant sector of the town's economy. Indeed, all available farmland in the town is currently in production with 70% under the protection of agricultural districts. Citing Lima's Comprehensive Plan, 2008:19-20):

“As the town's largest industry, agriculture contributes significantly to the local economy. In addition, agriculture helps to retain the rural character and open space valued by Lima residents.”

During the early 1800's, large sheep herds and grain production were the principal industries that fed a rapidly-growing population locally and beyond. These pioneers gradually increased their holdings, prospered, and were able to build the impressive homes that grace our town and village today. Lima came to be known as a thriving center of farming and commerce—one that was able to support the building of local schools, churches, and soon, an institution higher education--Genesee Wesleyan Seminary (continued on p. 3).



Agriculture

Lima's Foundation Since the Town's Beginnings (continued)

Later in the 19th century, dairy farming became more common in Lima, as well as tree nurseries, and commercial seed and bulb production. South Lima became famous nation-wide for its celery production.

Perhaps the best known of these Lima seed growers was Edward Franklin Dibble, an 1883 graduate of GWS, who founded the Dibble Seed Company in 1891. Starting from growing "farm seeds" for sale from his 150-acre farm on Livonia Center Rd, he was soon marketing his seed all over the country. Demand via the Dibble catalog, together with his unusual marketing acumen, quickly required that he acquire additional land for expanded seed cultivation.

"By 1916 the Dibble seed farms comprised 1035 acres in addition to four farms belonging to his nephews containing 685 acres. Seed shipments to farm customers ranged from 4000 to 5000 tons annually" (Sheret, 2005).

While headquarters, warehouses and distribution for the growing company were in Honeoye Falls, most of the seed was grown in Lima. Dibble seed farms eventually included the Cummings-DeMartinis farm, the Markham farm (now Robert Yorks) as well as the Martin Farm on Bragg St. In 1902 Dibble purchased the well-known "Hillcrest Mansion" on West Main St. as his residence. Edward's son Harold E. Dibble with degrees from Cornell and the University of Wisconsin joined the company as plant breeder in 1916.

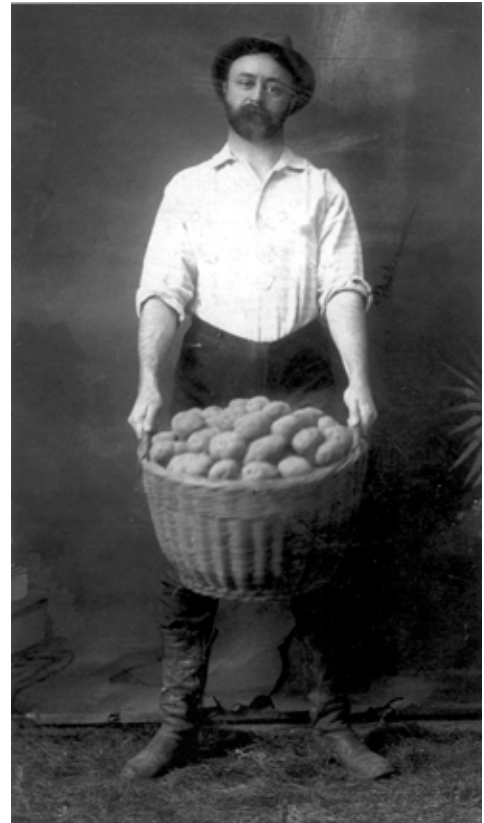
Dean Garfield Martin of Bragg St in Lima, purchased shares in the company in 1902 and eventually became the Treasurer of Dibble Seed Company. His son Harwood Martin also joined the company operations as did, his grandsons Dean G. Martin and Ralph E. Martin. Fire struck the Dibble warehouse and distribution center in 1939, destroying 1000's of bushels of grain. The facility was quickly rebuilt that same year. The business was eventually sold off in the 1960's.

Other smaller scale Lima seed growers include Marius Klitgord who brought Danish cabbage seed to this country and sold it all over the world, an endeavor continued by his son John Klitgord who some of you may remember. Al Moses, who many will also remember, grew and sold nationally recognized, prize winning gladiolus bulbs here in town.

Mechanization and computerized equipment have drastically changed the face of today's farming. Lima's primary commodity crops are corn, soybeans and wheat— but there are also dairy and beef operations. And there are many local small growers now producing flowers and vegetable crops, some of it sold at the Lima Farmer's Market on summer Tuesdays.

Agriculture in Lima remains strong, and is essential to the local economy and to present and future food needs.

References: Lima Comprehensive Plan 2008; "The Dibble Seed House" by John Sheret in the *Crooked Lake Review* 2005; Lima, New York: Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan.



**We extend our deepest condolences to the friends and families of longtime LHS members,
Gerald Donaghy, Arletta Porazzo, and Mary and Tom Tremer**

LHS MEMBER CONTACT INFORMATION

Some of our membership information is missing or has become out of date, especially email addresses. This issue of Newsletter is being sent electronically and in paper copy to try and correct some of the errors because lost mailings are costly to the society. If you did not receive the electronic version, or if we have your address wrong on this one, please go to Contact Us on our website or send correct information to Limahistoricalsociety@gmail.com.

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



Lima Historical Society

Officers and Trustees

President: Matthew Lenahan

Vice President: Martha Sempowski

Treasurer: Frances Gotcsik

Recording Secretary: Gail Fuller

Corr. Secretary: Anita Layfield

Trustees: Duane Fuller

Ericka Gruschow Elliott

Kathie Reynolds

Dan Marcellus

Standing Committees

Program: Martha Sempowski

Buildings and Grounds: Duane Fuller

Membership: Anita Layfield

Museum: Gail Fuller/Martha Sempowski

Publicity: Martha Sempowski

Preservation: Frances Gotcsik

Education: Unfilled

Ways and Means: Unfilled

Yellow Wasp editor : Martha Sempowski

www.limahistorical.org

To become a member of the Lima Historical Society

www.limahistorical.org

To our members- please send updated contact information and email addresses if they have changed

*******If you no longer wish to receive *The Yellow Wasp* please let us know: limahistoricalsociety@gmail.com**

The LHS welcomes All the new businesses along Main Street in Lima!

Contact us if you would like to become members and advertise in the Yellow Wasp

Kokopelli Lawn and Garden Care

Roger Reakes (585) 704-2424

rreakes@rochester.rr.com

JERRY WARSAW

Piano Tuner Technician
585-704-2080

www.jwarsaw.com

American Hotel

***At the Crossroads of Western
New York***

Rose and Pat Reynolds
Americanhoteloflima.com

Daniel Marcellus

SkyPort IT, Inc.

Rochester, New York Area
Information Technology & Services