

THE YELLOW WASP

Lima Historical Society

November 2021

LHS Zoom Presentation
Tuesday, November 16th 7 PM

Jeremiah's Hunger The Roots of Irish Immigration: & Its Impact on Lima

By Elizabeth Osta



Local writer and author, Elizabeth Osta, will give a ZOOM presentation on her book, *Jeremiah's Hunger*, concerning 19th century problems in Ireland that led to large scale emigration from the Irish homeland. She will expand on personal details and anecdotes of her own Irish ancestors' immigration to and resettlement in Lima, along with so many others of their countrymen who came and found new homes and work in Lima during the mid to late 1800s.

When Jeremiah Buckley buries his baby sister and his mother in a hillside in County Cork in the midst of *An Gorta Mor* (the Great Hunger), his grief turns to rebellion and commitment to the land as he works to achieve a dream which will echo over the centuries and as far away as America. At the height of the Great Hunger of the 1840s, in the town of Ahadallane, north of Cork City, Jeremiah joins in the fight for Ireland's freedom from British rule and learns firsthand the futility of violence. He watches and works as changes touch the land of his birth, his family, and his relationship with his lifelong friend Michael Riordan who disagrees with him about the path to freedom. Jeremiah's journey carries him into the bare heart of his homeland where he endures the evils borne of domination. His hunger isn't satisfied until he almost loses himself in his quest for land ownership and Ireland's nationhood.

Join us on Zoom for a snapshot of Irish immigration to America through a local Lima lens focused on the many Irish families who risked everything, came to our town, and became accomplished and contributing members of Lima society. **Everyone is welcome to join this virtual meeting. Please Contact Us on the LHS website if you would like to receive the link to the Zoom meeting.** It will be emailed to all LHS members for whom we have an email address. Please join us.

Local DAR Chapter Meets at Tennie Burton Museum

On a rainy Saturday afternoon, October 18th following a delicious lunch at the American Hotel, the local Ska-hase-ga-o Chapter of the DAR met at the Tennie Burton Museum to view traces of their roots. Museum committee members had prepared a special exhibit of DAR artifacts, books and documents that have been on permanent loan to the Lima museum since the 1950's. Collected by DAR members, including Tennie Burton, who also served as Lima's first Historian, from as early as 1908 when the DAR group formed, they represent the original core of our present museum collections, some dating back as far as the American Revolution. The group is pictured here in front of their framed charter.



LHS Calendar of Events

PLEASE CLIP AND SAVE

Tuesday, November 16

Jeremiah's Hunger: The Roots of Irish Immigration and Its Impact on Lima
By Elizabeth Osta. ZOOM PRESENTATION 7pm . Contact Us to receive link.

Dec. Date TBD

Lima Historical Society Board Meeting 7 pm at Tennie Burton Museum. All LHS members welcome to attend.

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

www.limahistorical.org

limahistoricalsociety@gmail.com

Thank You to All Our Docents and Volunteers

Our sincere thanks to all the docents and other volunteers who kept the Tennie Burton Museum up and running and open to the public this season: Duane and Gail Fuller, Fran and George Gotsik, Michael Grills, Anita Layfield, Dan Marcellus, Bruce and Dinah Mayer, Elizabeth Osta and George VanArsdale, Colleen Plimpton, Deborah Seelos, Kathie Reynolds, John and Martha Sempowski, John Serafin, and Hilda and Chris Turk.

Whether spending time as a docent on Sunday, working on collections storage, cleaning, sorting photos, doing plumbing repairs, planting flowers, advising, overseeing and installing our new phone and internet, your help was greatly appreciated.

Old Lima Recorders

We have some holes in our collections of back issues of *The Lima Recorder*. If you happen to have old collections, particularly before or in early 1900's, we would welcome adding them to our holdings. Please contact us through the LHS website email (see addresses above) or by phone and we will get back to you.

Congratulations to the American Hotel

The American Hotel and owner Pat Reynolds recently received a Genesee Valley Rural Revitalization Grant given to only 7 significant historic village structures in the twelve counties of the Genesee Valley. It will provide funds to rehabilitate the front façade of the hotel, including repairs and refurbishment of the balcony, porch columns, steps, windows and door.

Projects at the Tennie Burton Museum

Plans are underway for refreshing the exterior of the museum in Spring 2022. We have contracted for repairs to the siding and windows, as well as overall prep and painting of the building using the current historic colors. We also need to upgrade the water line from Rochester St to the museum due to the installation of a new main line by the Village. We will be seeking grant monies and donations to help defray the costs.

Update on Downtown Mural Project

Plans are still moving forward on the large mural to be created on Rochester St. next summer (opening July 9th) as part of the *LivCo Walls Project*. The LHS has agreed to sponsor a student intern who would work with the artist selected to paint the mural. We are hoping that our group will also play roles in both the final review and selection of an artist proposal, and in the community-wide events celebrating the opening. We welcome any ideas that you may have regarding our participation. Contact us.

To be informed of upcoming meetings of the Mural Committee, please contact Louise Wadsworth, Downtown Coordinator of the Livingston County Development Co., lwadsworth@co.livingston.ny.us.

THE LHS NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT !!!!

Please Renew Your Annual Membership

Use the enclosed form or pay online

Please send updated contact information and email addresses if they have changed

www.limahistorical.org

We extend our deepest condolences to the friends and family of Paul Schroeder

Some of Lima’s Irish Immigrants and Their Descendants

Immigrants from Ireland were relative “latecomers” to early Lima, in comparison to those hailing from other countries. Thomas Martin appears to have been the first Irish settler, arriving in 1834 from County Tipperary. James Egan, Michael Courneen, and John Brennan followed with their families within the next 5 -6 years. Fertile agricultural land attracted many of these early settlers. By 1848, the small but growing Irish community was able to build the first Catholic church with contributions totaling \$350 and land donated by a non-Catholic named Tone Yorks. Just two years later, the parish built its first crude “warm-weather” school (replaced by a more substantial structure in 1856) to assure a quality education for their children.

Over the remainder of the 19th century, the number of Irish who fled their homeland to find work and homes here in Lima grew exponentially. Many were farmers, notably in the Lima-Livonia Center Rd vicinity southwest of town (names include McMann’s, Tubbs, Corcorans, Dibbles, and Kellys). Some purchased small (2-acre) plots of land that they worked, while living and working in town; the area became known as “The Patch.” There was abundant work in the village as domestics or laborers in the homes of the increasingly well to do homeowners or businesses of Lima; some worked at the Seminary on the hill. Many eventually built permanent homes in that southwest area of town.

Over time, these Irish immigrants and their descendants became prosperous farmers, opened grocery and dry goods stores, hotels and other businesses, became educators in Lima’s schools, and held local government positions in town. It would be difficult to enumerate the numbers of prominent and well-known individuals of Irish descent who have contributed to the Lima community in the nearly 200 years since Thomas Martin first emigrated here. (Mabel Jenks, *Lima 1788-1964: Crossroads of Western New York, 1964, reprinted 1979*).



Anna Doran & Family



Ken O’Dea, Major League Baseball Player



Sadie and Bill Leary Grocery Store, on Rochester St.



Kate and Pat Cleary



Margaret and Jerry Corcoran



Pat Hendrick, Dry Goods Store, R. Gary Building, Upper Deck



Bishop Joseph Hogan, Diocese of Rochester



Bridget Collins -beloved housekeeper at GWS

Corrections to *The Yellow Wasp*

Factual errors or inaccuracies inevitably occur in *The Yellow Wasp* and we welcome the opportunity to correct them. Please send any comments, questions, or corrections directly to The Editor through the LHS email and they will be addressed and corrected in the next issue.

limahistoricalsociety@gmail.com



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

Lima Historical Society
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Yellow Wasp editor : Martha Sempowski
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19th Century Irish Immigration to Lima
(Contact Us for Link)

IT IS TIME TO RENEW YOUR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP
OR JOIN AS A NEW MEMBER !
Forms are enclosed to pay by mail, or pay online. Dues schedule available on enclosed form or on our website www.limahistorical.org
To our current members- please send updated contact information and email addresses if they have changed

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