

# THE YELLOW WASP

**Lima Historical Society**

**April 2023**

## *The Music of the Civil War*

By Don Dwyer

Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup> 7 PM  
Lima Town Hall  
2<sup>nd</sup> floor- Fully Accessible  
7329 East Main Street Lima NY 14885

Co-sponsored by the Lima Historical Society  
and the Lima Public Library



Once again, we have teamed up with the Lima Public Library to present a historical program for Lima residents and the public. Don Dwyer, musician, singer, and songwriter from Buffalo will treat us to a live musical presentation of Civil War era music and stories of the period. He will discuss interpretations of the cultural meanings of the various songs and their social impact on people of the time.

This promises to be a lively, fun-filled evening, with a side of education. Bring the kids to learn about the life and times of the Civil War era more than 150 years ago.

The program will be held on Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm at the Lima Town Hall, 7329 East Main - second floor. The auditorium is handicap accessible via the elevator located at the west side door of the Town Hall. Admission is free.

Many young men from Lima served during the Civil War and many died. See page 3 below for an article on a young man from Genesee College in Lima, who rallied his classmates to serve with him, and went on to win the **Medal of Honor**—Lima proud.

Electronic Photo credit <https://www.loc.gov/item/2013645715/> Library of Congress

## *LHS 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner* *Help Us Celebrate Lima's Remarkable History* **Saturday, May 20, 2023**

We are hoping to include as many Lima friends and neighbors as possible—both longtime residents with stories to tell, as well as newcomers to town—as we celebrate Lima's history at our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner. Everyone is welcome, although seats will be limited, so reservations should be made very soon. Reservations are available by Paypal/Credit card on our website (call 585-329-7675 if you lack internet access). Please spread the word to your friends and neighbors. We guarantee an enjoyable evening.

4:30 PM Appetizers & Beverages: at The American Hotel (cash bar)

6:00 PM CATERED Dinner by Spinelli's, Historic Photos, Music: at The Lima Presbyterian Church

- Buffet Dinner: Beef and Chicken Entrees/Vegetarian and Gluten-Free Side Options, dessert, coffee/ tea

Price: \$30 per person (includes tax and tip) (Final deadline for reservations May 10, 2023)

Reservations: LHS website: [www.limahistorical.org](http://www.limahistorical.org)

## LHS Calendar of Events

PLEASE CLIP AND SAVE.

- Thurs. April 13, 2023 *LHS Hybrid Board meeting at Museum 7pm. Members welcome to attend. Contact us for link.*
- Thurs. April 20, 2023 *The Music of the Civil War by Don Dwyer. 7 pm: Lima Town Hall -2- floor. Co-sponsored by the Lima Historical Society and the Lima Library.*
- Thurs. May 11, 2023 *LHS Hybrid Board meeting at Museum 7pm. Members welcome to attend. Contact us for link.*
- Sat. May 20, 2023 **50th Anniversary Dinner Celebration. Reservations required (Make them on our website)**
- Fri. Sat. May 26/27th **Cleanup Days at Tennie Burton Museum 9-12. Coffee and doughnuts.**
- Mon. May 29, 2023 **Memorial Day opening of the Tennie Burton Museum. Come watch the parade with us.**

LIMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY PO Box 532 LIMA NY 14485 (585-624-1050)  
[www.limahistorical.org](http://www.limahistorical.org) [limahistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:limahistoricalsociety@gmail.com)

### Spring Cleaning Tennie Burton Museum

Are you able to give us a hand sprucing up the inside of the museum either Friday or Saturday, May 26th/27<sup>th</sup> (9am-noon)? Although the exterior was freshly painted last summer/fall and looks beautiful, our dedicated museum committee could use some help on either morning with light cleaning of the inside in preparation for our Memorial Day opening after the parade. Coffee and doughnuts and the proverbial “many hands” will make the work congenial and easy. Let’s put on a fresh, clean face for the 2023 museum season. Let us know by phone or email and we will send reminders.

### Paper Resources Albums, Scrapbooks & Newspapers

Museums are more than just artifacts. A recent gift of two scrapbooks to the museum from Marilyn Wemett Smith reminded us that paper resources like these can add so much to our understanding of our history. Old family photos and albums provide the personal details that make history come alive. Similarly, articles in old newspapers like *The Lima Recorder* can help us paint a fuller picture of life in 19th and early 20th century Lima. If you find yourself with items like these that the “kids” don’t want, please call and see if we might help you preserve them for future generations.

### High School/College Intern

Do you know a young student (high school or college) who has an interest in history and might be looking for something to do a day or two a week this summer? The museum committee has a number of excellent learning opportunities to offer a student---from exhibit planning, to scanning photos, to inventorying artifacts, to entering information into our sophisticated database.

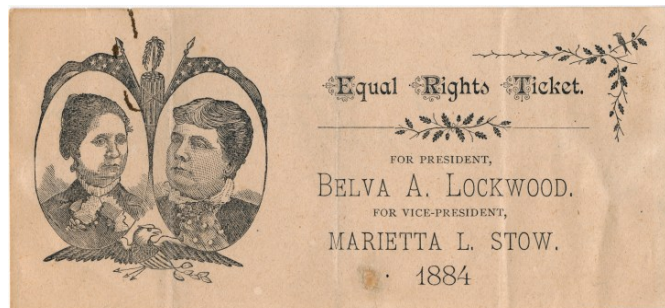
If you know a student who might be interested, please have them contact us on our website for information.

### Docent Training for Volunteers at Tennie Burton Museum

We rely on volunteer docents to keep the museum doors open on Sunday afternoons (June through September). Many of our members feel that they don’t know enough about the museum and are reluctant to agree to a two-hour shift. Therefore, we will be holding docent training sessions with in-person walk-throughs to make everyone feel comfortable. It is important that we be open to the Lima public and beyond. Contact us on our website if you are interested in one of the training sessions.

### Belva A. Lockwood Genesee College Grad Runs for President-1884

She was a widow with a young child, but she was determined to get an education. So in 1854, Belva enrolled at GWS and then graduated three years later from Genesee College, which was one of the few colleges that accepted women at the time. She leapt huge barriers to study law, passing the bar, and then practicing in Washington DC. Women couldn’t vote yet in the US, but Belva ran for President on the Equal Rights Party ticket and received more than 4,000 votes. *More to come on Belva next September.*



## A Young Hero's Journey from Genesee College Classroom To the Battlefields of the Civil War and the US Medal of Honor

It was April 1861 and 25-year old Henry Seymour Hall was on the precipice of his June graduation from Lima's Genesee College when President Lincoln put out a call for 75,000 Union volunteers. Confederate forces had fired on Fort Sumter, South Carolina and the Union was badly in need of reinforcements to meet the coming challenges. Mr. Hall and some of his classmates were inspired to lead a local response with patriotism and passion.

Henry had come to the college in Lima from Barkersville, NY. He and some of his fellow students, including Benjamin Coffin (possibly a cousin through his mother, Ruth Coffin's family) and Truman Bowman threw themselves into an effort to recruit a body of students to abandon their studies and join the army of volunteers coming forward. Many had already stopped attending classes as they prepared to enlist. College personnel became understandably alarmed because declining enrollments threatened the viability of the college.



Capt. Henry Seymour Hall 1835-1908. <http://generalsandbrevets.com>

The president of the college, Dr. J. Morrison Reid, called an emergency meeting of students and local citizens in College Hall to try to put a stop to the student campaign. Several respected faculty, including President Reid, gave impassioned speeches, threatening expulsion and imploring the students to finish out the year, while training for enlistment in June. But Hall and others countered with their own speeches which were met with wild enthusiasm. In a last ditch effort to gain support for his case, the college president called on influential local citizens to speak out on behalf of the college. Lima banker, John Mosher, turned the tables by vowing to give \$100 to aid in formation of the local student volunteer company. Surprisingly, he was followed by two other prominent Lima residents who made similar \$100 offers: War of 1812 Veteran Alexander McCane and Squire Calvin Vary, who along with Mosher, offered immediate assistance in planning and organizing the student group. They retired to a meeting at Concert Hall on the corner downtown that evening. Their assistance included practical rostering advice and organizational details from Colonel James Perkins and others in town with military experience. Hall wrote up a "muster-roll" of the Lima Volunteers which was quickly filled. The women of Lima also supported the boys' efforts. Ladies of the Methodist church not only stitched a beautiful US flag that they presented to the Lima company; they also gave each recruit a handmade sewing or needle kit, as well as a hand bound blanket.

More serious resistance to the Lima company came from NY Governor Morgan's office until officials were dramatically confronted by a stammering Captain Joseph Chambers who, in Hall's own words, backed himself against the door of the room with a weighty, upturned chair, refusing to budge until all agreed to accept the new young companies of recruits. Despite several hiccups in the process, by late May 1861, the Lima company under Col. James Perkins' leadership was designated Company G of the 27<sup>th</sup> infantry regiment training at Elmira under General H.W. Slocum before heading south to Virginia and the first battles.

Private Henry Seymour Hall was shortly promoted to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant with the 27<sup>th</sup> regiment and later to Captain where he served in some of the most devastating early battles, such as Bull Run, where Company G lost seven of its men. In 1864, Hall accepted a commission as Lieutenant Colonel in the 43<sup>rd</sup> Regiment of US Colored Troops in which capacity he lost his right arm at the Battle of the Crater near Petersburg VA. In early 1865 he was promoted to Brevet Colonel and then Brevet Brigadier General for his "exceptional" service to the volunteer effort.

At the end of the war, Hall returned to New York, married Augusta J. Galentine of Rush (sister of Jacob Galentine who served as Lima Town Supervisor at one time), and together moved west, where they bought land that they farmed, and brought up three children. Genesee College never made good on their threats of expulsion of the students, but neither did they allow them to graduate early, as did many other colleges in the north.

Hall died in 1908 and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery, Lawrence KS. In 1891 Henry Seymour Hall was awarded our country's highest military honor, the *Medal of Honor* for selfless bravery exhibited early in the war—at Gaines Mills and Rappahannock. For more about this fascinating series of events in Lima in 1861 and the support offered by so many of Lima's residents, pick up a copy of Dennis Bielewicz' book referenced below or check out the internet links. (*LHS library has a copy*)

References: Bielewicz, Dennis P. *Heroes in the Attic: The Untold Story of Two Civil War Soldiers* ISBN 9780985539405 ; [https://antietam.aotw.org/officers.php?officer\\_id=1106](https://antietam.aotw.org/officers.php?officer_id=1106); <https://bullrunnings.wordpress.com/?s=Seymour+Hall>;

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



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