

# THE YELLOW WASP

Lima Historical Society

November 2023

## Lima's First Band

Lima's long history of music making and appreciation is well known. What follows here is an interesting account of Lima's first band excerpted from *Lima Past & Present* by E. Lucille Van Gelder, p.11 (Van Gelder Press 1919).



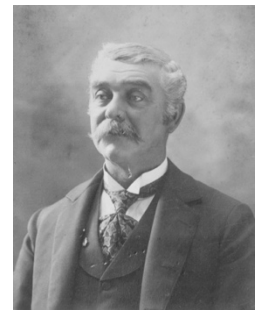
"In the summer of 1871, Lima's first band came into existence. A number of young men of the village organized into a stringed instrument club. On summer evenings, a favorite pastime was serenading and these gallant players strolled about town playing to members of the fairer sex. Daniel Stanley, a wealthy resident, became interested in their efforts and suggested that the young men form into a band. With Mr. Ollerenshaw as leader (*Benjamin Ollerenshaw, second from the left in grainy newspaper photo*), the first band of Lima was formed though none of the members had ever played wind instruments. This, however, was not as much of a problem to these aspiring musicians as securing the instruments. Then Mr. Stanley came to the rescue and financed the band. One baritone horn, with the bell over the shoulder, is still in the possession of Mr. Ollerenshaw."

Practice rooms were located where Mr. Atwell conducts his law office. No public concerts were given, but the "Band," which later had the name of the "Lima Cornet Band," played on special occasions such as the 4th of July and band Tournaments. Uniforms of brilliant red were later purchased and we can well imagine that Lima's band made a striking appearance on those gala days when it sent forth the good old fashioned tunes."



### Benjamin Ollerenshaw (1846-1942)

Benjamin Ollerenshaw (noted above as the young band leader) was an active member of the Lima community well into his nineties. He immigrated here from England with his parents, Philip and Sarah Grice Ollerenshaw, as a boy of 12. At 16, he was apprenticed to a Lima tinsmith named Yerkes. He later learned the marble trade with the Hart Brothers, and eventually he and his father ran a thriving monument business on Rochester St. He married Helen Barnhart in 1872 and together they raised five children in Lima. He was predeceased by his wife Helen in 1927.



### Great Gift Idea for the Holidays! A Little Reminder of Home

After being sold out for a number of years, the Lima Historical Society once again has its signature *Positively Lima* tee shirts available for sale in sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL XXXL. The shirts are made of Dark Navy cotton which washes very well. Use enclosed order form and arrange for pickup at the museum, or order online [www.limahistorical.org](http://www.limahistorical.org) for easy direct shipping.

Any questions? Call us at 585-624-1050 or *Contact Us* on the website.

## LHS Calendar of Events

**PLEASE CLIP AND SAVE.**

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME – See enclosed form**

**Thurs. Dec. 14, 2023**      *LHS Board meeting at Museum and by Zoom 7 pm. All LHS members welcome to attend.*

**Thurs. Jan. 18, 2024**      *LHS Board meeting at Museum and by Zoom 7 pm. All LHS members welcome to attend.*

**LIMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY PO Box 532 LIMA NY 14485 (585-624-1050)**

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### Lima Pumpkin Fest



Lima Historical Society members participated in Lima's First Annual Pumpkin Fest on October 7th at Mark Tubbs Park. It was remarkably successful for the "first" and should only grow in subsequent years. We sold pumpkin and apple pie by the slice or whole pie to assist the Festival Committee, with all proceeds going to benefit the park.

Everyone who attended had a great time on that beautiful fall day, but our Vice President, John Serafin, really got into the spirit of it by entering the corn eating contest (Yes, that is John at the end of the table in the photo on the left). Good for you John. You were a winner for us!

Thanks also to John for welcoming around 75 "trick or treaters" to the museum on Halloween.

### Call for Back Issues of *The Lima Recorder*

Do you have old copies of *The Lima Recorder* in your attic or barn? If so, we would like to help you declutter, particularly if you have issues dating prior to the 1930's. *The Lima Recorder* was published here in Lima from 1869 to 1989. Unfortunately, we have significant "holes" in our archives of the paper, and we would like to fill them.

We are also looking for copies of any other older Lima newspapers: e.g., *The Lima Weekly Visitor* (from 1853) or its successor *the Genesee Valley Gazette*. Please contact us by phone (585-624-1050) or on our website.

### Continuing War on Pests at Museum

Efforts to rid the museum of skunks, bats, and squirrels has been ongoing this fall. After soliciting bids from three companies, Verminx Pest Control was hired to clean out and dispose of years' of debris from our two attics and to plug any remaining points of potential entry. Many thanks to Dave and Elizabeth Osta, Duane Fuller, and Fran Gotcsik for coordinating the work and making this happen. Kudos!!

### Catered Dinner Enjoyed by Raffle Winners

Our excellent 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner last June was catered by Spinelli's Chef Services of Fairport, who graciously offered to provide us with a free in-home catered dinner which we might raffle off as an Anniversary fundraiser. The raffle winners, Jim and Gretchen Alday, recently enjoyed a wonderful multi-course dinner served by chef Mark Spinelli himself in the Alday's home; they reported that it was elegantly served and delicious. Thank you very much to Spinelli's.

### Barn Sale 2024

Please start setting aside any no longer needed furniture, household items, or unique treasures for a Lima Historical Society Barn Sale next spring. The venue is unknown at this time, so look for further notice in the next *Yellow Wasp* on when and where things might be dropped off. If you are going to need assistance with transportation, we will be pleased to help once we have a date for drop off set. Contact us on our website.

### Historical Videos on LHS Website

Many of you were unable to enjoy the historical videos that we showed at the Town Hall on Crossroads Days. Therefore, we have put all three on our website: the restored 1983 *Positively Lima* presentation; the architectural tour, *Talking Buildings*, and our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary historic photos on our website. Go to the website [www.limahistorical.org](http://www.limahistorical.org) and find them under the Videos heading.

### Changes in LHS Dues Structure

While the world of non-profits has been losing its collective head all around us, LHS membership dues have remained essentially untouched for many years. However, after a recent review of the escalating costs of programs and museum upkeep by a membership sub-committee, the Board has enacted some simple changes in our dues structure, and the amount of the dues for each category. The increases are minimal and hopefully should not be a burden to our members. Senior discounts are available. Please see the enclosed membership form for 2024 or renew on our website.

## Mabel Furner Jenks

### A Woman Who “Made Her Own Way”

Mabel Jenks (1881-1983) is one of Lima’s most outstanding native daughters, author of the 1964 history of Lima that we all rely on, *The Crossroads of Western New York (Lima 1788-1964)*. She wrote her autobiography at the age of 100, recounting the varied roles that she had played in Lima during her life. The excerpts below are from that first-hand account, giving us a taste of the many accomplishments, and contributions to the Lima community made by this unusually civic-minded woman.

“I was born Mabel Cecelia Furner, here in Lima New York, September 7, 1881, the daughter of Dr. Joshua Soul and Mary Amanda Smith Furner, in half of a double house located on East Main Street between the former Baptist church and the street now called Buell Ave. ...Early the following summer when I was still an infant, my parents, my older brother, Arthur, my grandfather (John Smith) and myself, were all at Hemlock Lake for a week. The house (*in Lima*) was set on fire and burned down, and the family went to live in part of the house on Lake Avenue, now the home of Theodore Wiggins Sr (*2023 home of Robert Wiggins and Sally Bloom*)...About 1887, we moved to the house on East Main Street (*7384*) now owned by Jacob Schrag, my parents remaining there until my father’s death in 1932.



...My education started in a small private school for pre-public-school children operated by Miss Mattie Atkinson...Later I attended the 2-room brick schoolhouse which stood on East Main Street where the Town Hall is now. When I was 13 years old (*1894*), I started attending Genesee Wesleyan Seminary, finishing my eighth-grade work there, and graduating in 1900 in two liberal arts courses, including 1st year college work in Greek and German. I graduated again in 1904, having taken a course in shorthand and typewriting.

...On December 12, 1906, I was married to William James Jenks. We purchased the remodeled house the second door east (*7392 East Main*) from my parents’ home and I am still living there though my husband and I separated in 1930, and I have made my own way since that time.

During World War I, when women all over the country were working to keep our soldiers equipped with needed wearing apparel for winter use, Lima did its share, and I was appointed by the Town Board to have charge of all work done there. I had about 75 women knitting and 50 sewing, both at home and at the Town Hall one day a week. I secured the supplies, supervised the work done and sent the finished articles to Genesee.

I served as clerk of the Town Board of Assessors for 41 years (1928 to 1969)...I have spent a total of 25 years in the Lima Post Office...under six different postmasters, the last and longest being 16 years with Walter Slattery from 1935-1951....During World War II, I was Postmaster for 3 years while Walter was serving in the Army. ...In October 1951, I started work as Supervisor’s Clerk with James Gleason and worked with him and Carl Roeser for 20 years, keeping all Town books and records. In 1956, I was appointed Assessor of the Village of Lima and Treasurer of the Board of Education, serving for sixteen years in each position.

My mother came to live with me in 1932, after my father’s death and I cared for her for over 20 years until her death...at the age of 106. My younger brother, Ralph, came to make his home with me ...until he passed away at the age of 95...”

Mabel F. Jenks  
August 1981

Mabel Jenks was a key member of the following Lima organizations: Alumni Association of Genesee Wesleyan Seminary, Charter member Lima Chapter 384 (1906), Order of the Eastern Star, Quaere Club, Ska-hase-ga-o Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Lima Historical Society, Women’s Association of Lima Presbyterian Church, and was awarded special honors by several of them. She was instrumental in promoting the celebration of Lima’s 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary through the Lima Rotary Club and the Francis M. Dalton Post, American Legion, at which time she was encouraged to write the history of the town referenced above. Mabel passed away in 1983 at the age of 102.

Copies of Mabel Jenk’s history of Lima may be purchased via the LHS website. [www.limahistorical.org](http://www.limahistorical.org) Contact Us.

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 For 2024**

**Renew online or by mail**

**See enclosed membership form**

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