

THE YELLOW WASP

Lima Historical Society November 2024

Looking For Your Roots ??



Learn Creative Ways to Explore Your Family Tree With Professional Genealogist Dennis Hogan

Co-Sponsored with the Lima Public Library

Tuesday, November 12th 7pm: Lima Town Hall

Dennis Hogan, Gorham, New York Historian, has been doing family research for more than 40 years, and professionally since 2009. He specializes in New York State and Ireland. He will discuss some very useful and creative ways of going about researching your own family genealogy.

So if you are interested in learning about your own family tree, come and learn how to get started. Even if you are not interested in climbing your family tree right now, this should be a very entertaining and informative discussion based on Mr. Hogan's many years of experience in exploring local immigration patterns and historical movements in our area of New York State.

Dennis Hogan will be speaking on Tuesday, November 12th at the Lima Town Hall at 7 PM. The second floor of the Town Hall is accessible by elevator from the side door of the Town Hall--7329 East Main St Lima NY 14485.

Everyone welcome. Please join us.

Factory Hollow and Its Hidden History

Factory Hollow, at the Lima/West Bloomfield boundary where the north-flowing Honeoye Creek crosses US/NY Routes 5 & 20, holds some interesting historic secrets now almost totally invisible to the eye. Earliest of these are the buried traces of a large Seneca village that was located atop the flat summit on the ridge on the eastern flank of the valley, some 100 feet above the creek. It was once home to an estimated 800 to 1000 Native American inhabitants who lived there from approximately A.D. 1610 to 1625 (Sempowski and Saunders, *Dutch Hollow and Factory Hollow*, Rochester Museum and Science Center 2001, Pt 2, p. 314). Beneath the ground lies evidence of the Seneca Iroquois way of life in the early 1600's, as well as that of possible trade between the Senecas and European traders although there were probably no Europeans actually in the region at this time.

It is not until the 1790's that we have the first indication of the activities of Euroamerican settlers in the area (continued on p.3)

LHS Calendar of Events

PLEASE CLIP AND SAVE.

- Tuesday November 12th “Looking For Your Roots: Learn Creative Ways to Explore Your Family Tree”
Talk by Dennis Hogan. Lima Town Hall 7 PM.
- Thursday, November 14th Board Meeting Cancelled .
- December 12th Board Meeting Hybrid LHS Board meeting, 7 Pm – In person and by Zoom. 7 pm.
- Thursday January 9th Hybrid LHS Board meeting, 7 Pm – In person and by Zoom. 7 pm.
- February 13th Hybrid LHS Board meeting, 7 Pm – In person and by Zoom. 7 pm.

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

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Elvira E. Luhowy (1938-2024)

Ellie was a Life member of the Lima Historical Society and over the years was involved in many of the administrative, fundraising and social activities of the organization. A graduate of Nazareth College, Ellie served the community as Town of Lima Clerk and later Justice of the Peace. She will be greatly missed by her husband Gabe, her four children, and her two grandchildren.

We, the members of the Lima Historical Society, will remember her as a longtime friend. We send our deepest condolences to her family. She will be greatly missed.

Successful LHS Yard Sale in August

A huge thank you to everyone in Lima—members and non-members—who donated such a spectacular trove of items for our two-day sale. It may have been the largest LHS sale in recent memory. Special thanks to all who gave so generously of their time over four days, from tent setup, through arrangement of sale items, to customer sales, to teardown. And of course, as always, the Gotsiks provided food, beverages, and hospitality and Dan Marcellus his much needed tents and tables. While the days were beautiful, we couldn't count on that.

Total sales exceeded our best expectations.

New Member Raffle Winner: Eileen Genazzio

Eileen Klink Genazzio is the lucky winner of an in-home served dinner for two generously provided for the LHS raffle by Mark Spinelli of *Spinelli's Catering and Event Space* of Fairport NY. Our gratitude to Mark Spinelli.

Tennie Burton Museum New Acquisitions

Historical items from Lima continue to be donated to the museum, such as a body of information relating to St Rose Catholic Church from Kathie Reynolds and a wedding dress worn by Aretha Reynolds from Rose Reynolds .

Quilt Raffle in the Spring



Sandi Shusda has donated this beautiful, queen-size quilt for an LHS raffle in the spring to benefit the museum. The winner will be announced at our Memorial Day opening.

Watch for ticket details by email and on the LHS website.

Presbyterian Church Cemetery Project

Thanks to a collaboration of the Lima Historical Society, the Lima Presbyterian Church, the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), the Town of Lima, and the Lima Rotary, on Saturday, September 21st, a group completed **Phase I** of a **Restoration and Preservation Project** at the cemetery behind the Lima Presbyterian Church. We cut back bushes, raked and completed a general clean up! It was so satisfying!

Join us for **Phase II** of our cleanup efforts on Saturday, November 16th at 9:00 am at the cemetery. Bring your rakes and other lawn tools! Rain or Shine, we will be there! Your presence is so welcome! For more information please contact Erika Reinhardt-Roggow at (585) 261-0964.

Factory Hollow and Its Hidden History (continued from p. 1)

when the first grist mill was built there by Sylvanus Thayer according to an article in *The Lima Recorder* (August 2, 1984). As many as a dozen other mills and factories soon followed, taking advantage of the fast-flowing creek which was dammed into mill races or built into the middle of the creek to turn the water wheels that provided power for their operations. Amo Kreiger (Democrat and Chronicle, August 23, 1942) describes the seven-storied Trimmer flour mill built before 1850 close to where the Lima/West Bloomfield turnpike crossed the creek. Lost to fire, Edwin Trimmer from Rochester then used his barn for milling and “Painted boldly across the iron-gray face of the *Trimmer Mill* building was a scene executed by William Oviatt, theatrical artist of Rochester, it is recalled by Fred Conklin, West Bloomfield resident (Kreiger 1942: 6).

It was not only wheat that was milled here at Factory Hollow. Lamphere and Gilbert, employers of up to 200 people, milled woolen fibers and produced quality woolen fabrics according to Kreiger 1942. Flax, paper, lumber (and perhaps corn) (see *The Yellow Wasp*: February 2024 p. 3) and potash were produced as well. There was also a distillery that manufactured wine and champagne as well as rectified cider sent to nearby cities and towns. A flourishing skunk farm where more than 3,000 skunks were reared by Benjamin and Henry Shattuck was remembered as a “pretty sight” when the skunks ran down the hill on the eastern side of the valley. Perhaps the most noteworthy and the last to leave Factory Hollow in 1923 was a tile factory recalled by William Hinman as the place where he had learned his blacksmith’s trade from his grandfather, Augustus Hinman. It was originally owned by George Webb; only the kiln and forge remained in 1942 when Krieger described it.

In the mid 1800’s, Factory Hollow had a substantial number of residents, including a number of boarding houses for workers. There was also a general “supply” store; “... this building was dismantled and hauled by ox team, up out of the valley, three miles to the west to Lima. There it served as a tavern, a hotel, and finally an apartment building in the mid 20th century” (Richard Gardner, “The Township of West Bloomfield; A Brief History to 1976,” West Bloomfield Historical Committee, 1976:34). The Cottage Hotel was torn down in 1979 (see photo right)



By the 1890’s, industrial activities in Factory Hollow were in serious decline, as most of its mills and factories were being abandoned, making it a virtual “ghost town.” Two events that occurred in 1893 seem to be partially responsible. First, the city of Rochester began damming the Hemlock and Canadice lakes in order to bring water via aqueducts to Rochester. This resulted in a considerable loss of water volume to power the water wheels in Factory Hollow. According to Gardner 1976: pp.34-35), “this sudden loss of water power in itself, probably did not cause the disappearance of industry from the area. Water still ran through the creek. Millraces could have been redesigned to accommodate a more rapid flow of water. Water wheels could have been engineered to reach to a deeper depth; mills could have been built over the creek instead of beside the creek, but none of these solutions were attempted.” Interestingly, the diesel engine was patented that same year, 1893, adding to the number of alternative sources of power available as replacements for water power. Many of the mill and other factory owners from Factory Hollow appear to have relocated to cities with greater opportunities to produce and market their products. It was the end of a colorful era in this industrial community on Lima’s eastern boundary.

“Native American Costumes” Donated to Our Museum

On September 29, 1938, the *Ska-has-ga-o* Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution sponsored a public program on Iroquois history at the Lima High School auditorium. It involved some 25 members of the Tonawanda Indian Reservation Community Association, and featured a historical drama, “The Tree of the Great Peace” portraying the founding of the Iroquois Confederacy, written and directed by Chief Nicodemus Bailey (*Rochester Democrat and Chronicle* September 30, 1938).

Recently having recovered them from the Rochester Historical Society, the DAR has donated these “costumes” to the Tennie Burton Museum because of the historical interest to Lima of this unusual public event that took place almost a century ago.



The “costumes” in this historic Lima presentation do not represent authentic Iroquois dress. One wonders who might have made them. Any thoughts or suggestions?

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**Time to Renew Your Membership
 See Enclosed Form**

Or go to
 LHS website www.limahistorical.org
 See Membership Tab



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