

THE YELLOW WASP

Lima Historical Society

April 2025

**LHS ANNUAL DINNER MEETING
at Pinehurst Senior Living Community
1000 Pine Trail Honeoye Falls, NY**

**Sunday, May 18th
Dinner at 12:30 PM/ Program at 2:00 PM**



***The Music of the Women of the Civil War*
By Don Dwyer**

Don Dwyer, musician, singer, and songwriter from Buffalo is back in Lima by popular demand to share more of his stories of the Civil War with music about Civil War era women. He played as part of the Irish Civil War band for many years. Attendees at a previous Lima performance by Don will attest to how informative, lively and enjoyable his shows are. His 2:00 pm performance will follow a brief Annual Meeting and a delicious pork loin or vegetarian lasagna dinner (12:45) in the lovely Pinehurst dining room. Dinner is all inclusive—salad, main course, dessert and beverages for \$20 (please see attached reservation form).

For those wishing to attend the performance only, please arrive about 1:45 and indicate your presence for Dwyer show at the main desk. The performance is free and open to Pinehurst residents as well as the public. Hope that you are able to join us.

QUILT RAFFLE



The LHS is sponsoring a raffle of this beautiful handmade quilt, sewn by master quiltmaker and Lima resident, Sandra Shusda. She has made over 400 quilts since first quilting as a young girl on an old-fashioned quilt frame with her mother. Sandi has made quilts for many local charitable causes and organizations, including one for the LHS several years ago. This quilt pattern is called “Mechanical Genius” and is displayed in the window of Tom and Kathie Reynolds’ building at 7308 East Main St. in Lima. We are most grateful to Sandi for her expertise and her generosity. Tickets may be purchased on the LHS website <https://limahistorical.org>, at the *American Hotel*, at the *We Shop*, or from members of the LHS board for \$5 each or 3 for \$10. Winning ticket will be drawn at the LHS Picnic on August 24th.

LHS Calendar of Events

PLEASE CLIP AND SAVE

- Saturday, April 12th Cemetery Cleanup Project 9 AM. Presbyterian Church (see below). All are welcome.
- Saturday April 25th Ceremonial Unveiling of new NYS Sign 4PM - Pocket Park on West Main St.
- Thursday, May 8th Board of Trustees Meeting. Members are welcome to attend. Contact us on our website for details.
- Sunday, May 18th LHS Annual Dinner Meeting. Pinehurst Senior Living Community, 12:30 Dinner (see attached reservation); Program 2 PM "Music of the Women of the Civil War" by Don Dwyer.
- Sunday, August 24th LHS Picnic at Mark Tubbs Park 2 to 4 PM.

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

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Planning Continues for New Tennie Burton Museum Sign

It is no easy undertaking to create an attractive, attention-getting, yet dignified and durable, new sign for the front yard of the museum on Rochester Street. Committee members Elizabeth Osta, Gail Fuller and Kathie Reynolds are still diligently pursuing that goal, exploring various vendors, design possibilities and costs.

Look for a welcoming new sign at the museum this summer!!!

Museum Bathroom Upgrade

Our members will probably agree that improvements have been needed for some time in the bathroom of the Tennie Burton Museum. After VP John Serafin discovered a small leak this winter, a new toilet was installed by our chair of Buildings and Grounds, Duane Fuller, with help from Bob Richardson. Catastrophe averted.

Thanks to all of the above, the museum is nice and dry. Could a new sink also be in the offing??? Just wondering...

New Lima Historical Society Member Wins CATERED Dinner

Ellen Genazzio was the recent winner of the Lima Historical Society's **New Membership Raffle**. Her prize? A \$200 dinner delivered and served in her home by Mark Spinelli of Spinelli Catering, 300 Macedon Road, Fairport <https://spinellichefservices.com/>. Spinelli served a full meal comprised of: homemade Italian wedding soup, chicken with lemon, broccoli/cream sauce, and a strawberry tart for dessert. A sumptuous feast! This is the second dinner that Spinelli, has donated to the Lima Historical Society. The first was enjoyed in 2023 by Jim and Gretchen Alday of Lima.

Phase 3 Presbyterian Cemetery Clean Up April 12: 9AM

The third phase of the cleanup project at the cemetery behind the Presbyterian Church will take place on April 12th beginning at 9:00 am. It will involve cutting back brush and uncovering additional head or foot stones wherever possible. The appearance of this cemetery in the heart of Lima's downtown has been greatly enhanced by these efforts.

All are welcome to join in this worthwhile community activity. If you are interested, please contact Erika Reinhardt at (585) 261-0694 for details.

Shiny New NYS Sign in Lima

Thanks to the efforts and support of the Lima *Ska-Hase-Ga-O* chapter of the DAR, the Daughters of the American Revolution, Lima will now have a bright new sign on West Main Street in Lima. It signifies the location of the Seneca Iroquois village after which the local DAR chapter was named —*Ska-Hase-Ga-O*—which was occupied right here in the heart of the present-day village of Lima during the mid 1600's (as per Lewis Henry Morgan). The blue and yellow NYS sign will be placed in the pocket park across the street from where the actual Seneca village was located along the east/west ridge on the south side of West Main. It will be unveiled in a DAR ceremony set for April 25th at 4:00 PM. Everyone is welcome to attend.



Don't forget to renew your 2025 LHS Membership if you have not already done so (see insert)

Tennie B. Burton (1886 – 1971)



The Lima Historical Society's Museum is named for Tennie Burton, but Lima residents, even some longtime members, sometimes ask "Who was Tennie Burton?" Did she live in the house at 1850 Rochester street that became the museum? The answer is no, she did not; the museum structure was owned by Belle Chapin Tenny (see below)

Tennessee "Tennie" Belle Beecher Burton was born in 1886 on Maplewood Ave. in Lima to Orrin H. and Matilda "May" (Lubbert) Beecher. Growing up there she and her two brothers, Faye and Ray Beecher attended local schools. She went on to Genesee Wesleyan Seminary (located on the campus now owned by Elim Bible Institute) and graduated in 1904 at 18 years of age (see her GWS graduation photo on left). She married Carlisle S. "Carl" Burton and together they had two daughters: Cornie (married to Theodore Wiggins Sr.; two sons Theodore Wiggins Jr. and Robert Wiggins) and Dorothy Beecher (married to Norman Van Voorhees.)

Tennie had always shown an interest in local history, and in 1944, she was appointed as Lima's first Town Historian. She set up a museum in the small DAR room at the front of the Lima Town Hall displaying a body of objects, records, and books that had belonged to Lima's pioneer families. These had been preserved and loaned to her by Lima's *Ska-hase-ga-O* Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). During the 1950's, these very old collections, along with a growing body of historical materials provided by others in town, were moved into the space formerly known as the "Court Room" in the Lima Town Hall. Several 5th to 8th grade students assisted in the move of the collections into the new museum space. The Town Board passed a resolution in 1962 naming the museum the *Tennie B. Burton Museum*. After a couple other stops along the way, the ever-growing collections of historical Lima materials in the Museum were relocated on Memorial Day 1978 from the Town Hall to the present location of the Tennie Burton Museum at 1850 Rochester St., now under the auspices of the Lima Historical Society.



Tennie was also active in other local organizations: she was a charter member of the Lima Chapter 384 of the Order of the Eastern Star; a board member of the Livingston County Historical Society; and past president of the Lima *Quaere* Club, a local women's research group. She passed away in 1971 and is buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.

References: Robert Wiggins, personal communication; Holly Watson and Amie Alden, Women's Biographical Review; The Lima Recorder 1955, 1978.

Belle Chapin Tenny (1878-1977)



Belle Chapin Tenney, born in 1878, was the daughter of West Bloomfield residents Erastus, a Civil War veteran, and Frances C. Gerry Chapin, who was originally from Lima. Belle attended Genesee Wesleyan Seminary and spent seven years there taking courses in piano, voice and organ, graduating in 1897 (left). She went on to Syracuse University School of Music and the Conservatory of Music while teaching private lessons in her home and later in area public schools, including the Lima School for nine years. Belle served as organist in the Presbyterian Church for sixty years. She made the very significant donation of \$23,000 toward the building of the new Chapin Memorial Library (1967) in memory of her parents and sister L. May Chapin.

In 1906, Belle purchased the home that would become the Tennie Burton Museum, as a residence for herself and her parents, and later for her and her husband, Lavere Tenny. She died in 1977 at 99 years of age and is buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery. Following her death, the home was bequeathed in 1978 to the Lima Historical Society with the proviso that it always be maintained as a Lima museum. If not, the building would transfer to Syracuse University.



References: Honeoye Falls Times, p. 3 9/8/1977; The Livonia Gazette: 1967. LHS historical files.

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Lima Historical Society

Officers and Trustees

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Vice President: John Serafin

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www.limahistorical.org

The Music of the Women of the Civil War
 By Don Dwyer

LHS Annual Dinner and Program
 Sunday May 18, 2025 12:45pm

at Pinehurst Senior Living Community
1000 Pine Trail Honeoye Falls, NY

See Enclosed Reservation Form



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