

# ***THE YELLOW WASP***

***Lima Historical Society***

***August 2025***



## **The Air Traffic Control Response To the 9/11 Terrorist Attacks \*Flight 93**

**By Richard Kettell  
Senior Air Traffic Control Manager  
Cleveland Air Route Traffic Control Center**

**Lima Town Hall  
Monday, September 8, 2025: 7PM**

On September 11, 2001, Rick Kettell was the senior Federal Aviation Authority official in charge of Cleveland ARTCC, the busiest air traffic control facility in the world. When news of multiple hijackings reached him, Kettell established a command post at the facility and led the FAA response to the terrorist attack in the skies of US airspace. He witnessed firsthand the flight path and altitude changes of Flight 93 and shared radio messages mistakenly broadcast by the hijackers. He gave the order at Cleveland Center to shut down the airspace—an order never practiced or planned for. Kettell has since retired from the FAA, but remains active in teaching managers at the FAA Learning and Leadership Institute.

Please come and hear this intriguing personal narrative of how FAA officials responded to the terrifying events of the hijackings of 9/11, in particular, Flight 93 which ultimately crashed in Pennsylvania killing all the passengers and crew.

Lima Town Hall -2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

Monday September 8<sup>th</sup>

7 pm

## **Tennie Burton Museum's Elegant New Sign**



This colorful new sign was installed at the museum on July 29<sup>th</sup> 2025, thanks to months of design, color, and size consideration by our Sign Committee—Elizabeth Osta, Gail Fuller and Kathie Reynolds. They enlisted Signlanguage Inc. of Perry NY to work with them and carry out the results. Al Lacey had designed and built the most recent former sign many years ago, and while we all loved it, its age now called for too many repairs by our Buildings and Ground Chair, Duane Fuller, to be able to maintain it.

## LHS Calendar of Events

### PLEASE CLIP AND SAVE

- Monday, August 18th** LHS Board of Trustees Meeting at 7 PM at Tennie Burton Museum. All Are Welcome.
- Sunday, August 24th** LHS Annual Picnic at Pavilion Mark Tubbs Park 1 to 4 PM. Details below.
- Monday, September 8th** Talk by Richard Kettell: "Air Traffic Control Response To the 9/11 Terrorist Attacks" Town Hall- 2<sup>nd</sup> floor 7 PM (elevator at back door). See page 1.
- Tuesday, October 14th** Talk by Dennis P. Bielewicz: "Surprise Discovery Leads to True Saga of Civil War Heroism." Town Hall - 2<sup>nd</sup> floor 7 PM (elevator at back door). See page 3.

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### Crossroads Days 2025

It was a beautiful weekend (August 2nd-3rd) and the village seemed as busy as we had ever seen it. Lima Historical Society volunteers (Duane, Gail, John, Fran, George, Barb, Jim, Dave, Elizabeth, John/Tom and I) welcomed many visitors to our LHS booth, and we were rewarded by many historic inquiries, map and book sales, as well as lots of good will. It culminated with a lively "new sign" reception on the museum lawn.

### Positively Lima Tee Shirts \$20

&

LHS Quilt Raffle Tickets \$5 each 3 for \$10

Are Still Available

Please go to website [www.limahistorical.org](http://www.limahistorical.org) to purchase.

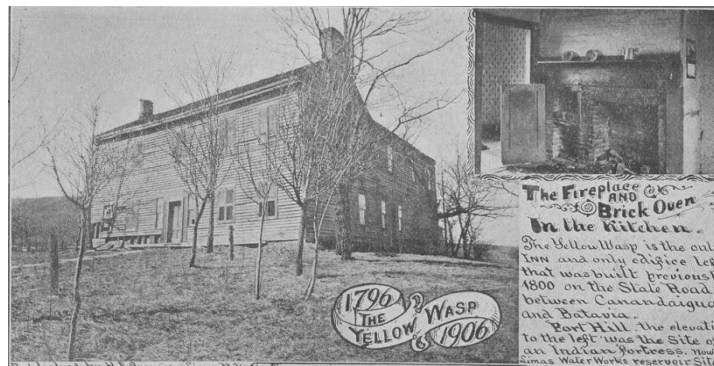
### *The Yellow Wasp Inn*

First known as the *Nash House*, this well-known and popular tavern was built in 1796 just west of the village of Lima. In 1816, when it was painted a vivid yellow, it became known as the *Yellow Wasp Inn*. The upstairs ballroom with its 24 underlying springs was a gathering place for Lima's young people, who enjoyed its soft, cushioned dance floor. The hotel was closed in 1850 when it was purchased as a residence by Thomas Bishop and family, then sold to the village of Lima in 1904, which used the land behind it for a reservoir. Mysteriously, two "final" dances were apparently held in 1903 and 1904. Sadly, the much-loved building was torn down in 1906.

Reference: Mable Jenks, *The Crossroads of Western New York: Lima 1788-1964*, pp. 12-13 in original issue, 1964.

### THE BAD NEWS!

It was reported to us at the Crossroads Festival that the New York State Historic marker for the *Yellow Wasp Inn* is missing. Has anyone has seen it on the ground or heard anything about it? Please let us know.





## Surprise Discovery Leads to True Saga of Civil War Heroism By Dennis P. Bielewicz

**Tuesday, October 14<sup>th</sup> 7 PM  
At the Lima Town Hall**

In this inspiring talk, Dennis Bielewicz addresses the effects of the Civil War in a truly timeless way by acknowledging the dauntless bravery of two college students—H. Seymour Hall and Benjamin Coffin—who abandoned their classes at Genesee College here in Lima to answer President Lincoln’s call to fight in the Civil War.

It all began when, at 15 years of age, Dennis discovered a trove of Civil War documents and correspondence between the two young men in a “secret room” in an abandoned house on a farm where he was working. It pointed him to the stories of these two young men, and in turn, led him to a lifetime of research on the boys’ roles in the formation of Company G of the 27th Regiment New York Volunteer Infantry right here in Lima in 1861. He tells of how they and other soldiers in their company trained for war and fought at First Bull Run, Gaines Mills, Fredericksburg, and many more battles during the war. He describes in their own words how they experienced the harsh realities of war, illness and injury.

This promises to be an intriguing and very well-done slide presentation that you will not want to miss. Mr. Bielewicz spoke on this subject to the LHS 10 years ago; so some of us can attest to his expertise and excellent speaking style. His book will be available for sale that evening:

*"Heroes in the Attic – The Untold Story of Two Civil War Soldiers," (ISBN 978-0-9855394-0-5), Dennis P. Bielewicz*

Lima Town Hall

Tuesday October 14<sup>th</sup>

7 pm

### Excerpts From “The History and Influence of Lima’s Genesee Wesleyan Seminary”

By Rev. Lafayette Congdon, (1845-1927)



The Reverend Lafayette Congdon attended Genesee College and the University of Rochester; he was a Civil War veteran; he became a Methodist Episcopal minister; and he served as the President of GWS from 1904 to 1914. He made the following observations about the early days and the significance of Genesee Wesleyan Seminary (*which opened in 1832*). Lima was chosen from among five villages that applied to be the location for the new school because of local pledges of more than \$10,000, as well as that of an ideal hilltop building site in town.

“...Like so many others, this (*i.e., Genesee Wesleyan Seminary*) was born of the eager desire for educational privileges by those who founded it. This time it chanced to be a newly organized Conference of Methodist preachers who manifested like thousands of others throughout the state, this reverence for learning....And in the hearts of these men glowed like molten metal deep reverence and an indomitable determination that their children should know more than the three R’s, that they should at least have the opportunity for generous culture.... The student registrations for the first year totaled 341 ... but from 1851 to 1854, the registrations averaged 987 plus. ...The Historic Record published by the Regents in 1885 designated it “one of the largest and most prosperous Seminaries in the state.”

Reference: Lafayette Congdon, *The History and Influence of Genesee Wesleyan Seminary*, Livingston County Historical Society,

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#### **Lima Historical Society**

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