

**NUNDA  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY**

**Programs &  
Events**

- *Nov. 11 - Oakwood Cemetery Veteran's Day Commemoration*
- *Nov. 14 - Nunda in 1918: The War, The Homefront, The Spanish Flu, and The Vote*
- *Nov - Dec 12 - Decorated Christmas Wreath Sale*
- *Dec. 8 - Christmas in Nunda*
- *Dec. 12 - Annual Show & Tell*
- **See Schedule on pg 8 for details on the above Programs/Events**
- **2019 programs/events will be in the 2019 Spring issue of Historic Nunda**

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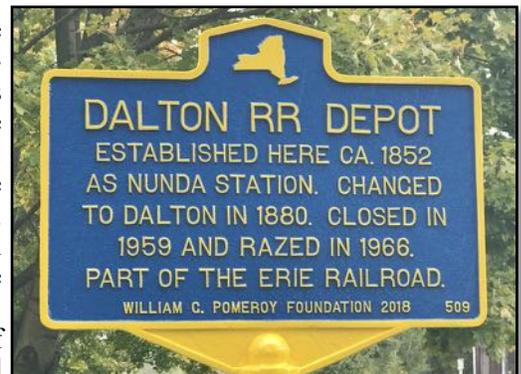
# Historic Nunda

Volume 8 Issue 2

Fall 2018

## A New Historic Marker in Dalton

There are many historic locations in the town of Nunda. Over the past few years the Society has marked several of them with large markers similar to the blue and yellow New York State historical signs found along area roads today. Working with the Pomeroy Foundation, we have placed these markers in the Village Square, Oakwood Cemetery and at Genesee Valley Canal Lock 42, the structure still visible as you enter the village traveling south on Rt. 408. A fourth sign, an original NY State marker at the beginning of 17 Genesee Valley Canal locks on Portage Road (Rt. 436), was also refurbished by the Society.



Early this year the Society decided to apply for another Pomeroy historical marker grant to mark the location of the Erie Railroad Depot in Dalton. The process requires careful documentation of the sign's proposed text, as well as an explanation of the significance of the site to be marked. The research and writing were done by Society members and reviewed by historians at the Pomeroy Foundation. The \$1100 grant was approved in early summer, the sign was made by the Sewah Studios in Marietta Ohio, and the grant also included an aluminum pole to hold the marker. We received the marker in early September and it was recently installed on the site of the old Dalton Depot.



A dedication ceremony was held on Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, at 11:00 am on Depot Street in Dalton. The ceremony began with NHS President Tom Cook welcoming the people and thanking the groups and individuals that made the sign possible. They included the William G. Pomeroy Foundation; Town Supervisor Merilee Walker; the Nunda Town Highway Crew who set the pole; NHS members Gary Ludwig and Jeff Long who mounted the sign; John Fusco who helped with research with his collection of photographs, maps, and memories; and Terry Lowell and the Dalton Improvement Committee for their support in the project

President Tom then read a letter from the Pomeroy Foundation thanking "everyone who has been in-

*Continued on pg.2*

***Nunda Historical Society Museum & Rose Shave Gallery  
are open 10 am - noon on Tuesdays,  
2-4 pm, on 1st Sundays  
March through October,  
and at other times by arrangement.  
Call : (585) 465-0971 or 490-3302***

## The President's Corner

Welcome to our latest newsletter! As you will see in these pages, the Nunda Historical Society is having another busy and successful year full of historical programs, activities and projects.

I am especially pleased to report on two developments. First, we are finally buying some new chairs for our meeting room! If you have been to one of our programs lately you know that our old black chairs are - well, old. We got them used from a restaurant nineteen years ago and they are showing their age. We have had to retire several of them for safety reasons. For several years your Board has investigated a variety of possible replacements, searching for the right combination of comfort, durability and an affordable price. We finally ordered thirty new chairs this summer from CoreCraft - a program of the New York State Department of Corrections that is only available to government and non-profit organizations. We hope to have them by our October meeting.

The second development is the increase in volunteers we have been seeing this year. Several members have been able to join our Tuesday morning work crew while others have offered their time and talent for special projects and activities. Of special note are the members who took part in this year's Nunda History Days in September. We hope this trend continues. We know how busy everyone is, and that time and distance often makes it difficult for members to help out. But there are several ways for folks to contribute even a few hours to the Society. You will find a list of volunteer possibilities on the membership form.

Don't forget you can keep in touch with the Society on Facebook and through our website [www.nundahistory.org](http://www.nundahistory.org).

*Tom Cook*



### Our Mission

*The Nunda Historical Society collects, researches, preserves, interprets, and promotes the history, heritage, and culture of that area of western New York in and around the Town of Nunda and educates the public through its collections and programming.*

## Dalton Depot Marker

*continued from Pg. 1*

involved with preserving this history and getting the marker you see here today, You've done a great job paying tribute to the depot's history and legacy ...It is thanks to your efforts, that you are putting this important piece of transportation history back in the spotlight. We commend you for that. ...Its (the railroad depot) impact was significant. And the Pomeroy Foundation is proud to support bringing a marker here to commemorate that. It is our hope that this marker will serve as a reminder of the rich history here – not only for those gathered today, but also for future generations, Thank you, and congratulations on your new marker!"

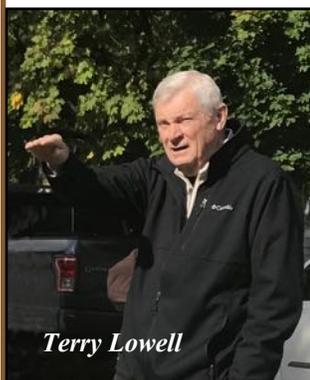
Livingston County Historian Amie Alden also sent a letter congratulating us on the new marker and noting the history and importance of NYS Historic Markers.

Dalton resident Terry Lowell was invited to speak and talked about the many years of work that Dalton residents volunteered in order to transform the area along the railroad tracks into the lovely park we see today. In the process, a Dalton Improvement Committee was formed that provided leadership and workers for many community projects, including some in addition to the park. It is clear that creating the park in the depot area was truly a labor of love and President Tom stated, "The NHS is happy that we were able to contribute to their efforts through the addition of the historic marker."

Dalton native William Burt, one of the leading experts on the history of the Erie Railroad, then shared a history of the depot and local railroad line. Bill provided interesting details on the importance of the Erie Railroad and Dalton Depot to the development of the entire Nunda area. He mentioned the many products shipped to and from the depot with overnight or same day service to major cities like New York and Buffalo. These connections also allowed area residents to easily travel to these cities and beyond. We recorded Bill's talk and hope to make it available in the future.

The marker was then unveiled by President Tom, Bill Burt, Terry Lowell, and John Fusco. Photos were taken of attendees who remained in spite of the rain.

*Please visit the marker.*



*Terry Lowell*



*William Burt*

# Marking Anniversaries

We are marking several important anniversaries this year at the Historical Building. The first was the Society's 35th birthday which we celebrated with a special cake at our June picnic.

This fall we also marked the 50th anniversary of the opening of Keshequa Central School with a special program on September 12th. The evening's program consisted of two parts - a short illustrated program on the evolution of Nunda area schools up to the consolidation of Nunda and Dalton Central Schools and then a panel discussion on the merger itself. The panel consisted of: Julianne Dudley, Board of Education President for the Nunda school in the years leading up to the merger; Terry Lowell, member the first Keshequa Central School Board; Doris Huffman Marsh, member of the last Nunda Central graduating class; and Sandy Bonadonna, Sally Hall, Dick DeMay, and George Wildrick, teachers during the consolidation era.



Additional information was shared by former students, teachers, and community members who were in attendance.



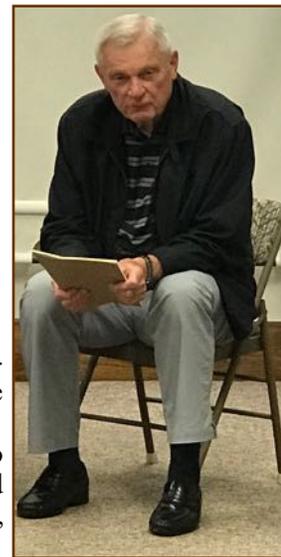
*Julianne Dudley, Sandra Bonadonna, & Sally Hall*



*Dick DeMay, George Wildrick & Doris Huffman Marsh*

Refreshments were served after the program, including a KCS 50th anniversary cake decorated with orange and black flowers. Visitors also enjoyed viewing the Society's collection of yearbooks and other school memorabilia.

The evening's program was recorded and the Society plans to make the video available in the future. Those who are interested in the history of local schools should pick up a copy of "Development of the Nunda School District" by Sandra Bonadonna, available from the Society and also the Nunda Family Pharmacy.



*Terry Lowell*

## 2018 History Days – Once More A Success

The Society held its 7th Biennial Nunda History Days on September 19th and 20th. On those days over 175 local students, teachers, chaperones and other visitors enjoyed a variety of historical activities, presentations and tours.

The Historical Society grounds and nearby Kiwanis Park were divided into three venues. The first included Kiwanis' east field, parking lot, and the south lawn of the Historical Society. Participants in this area learned how to use the atlatl - an ancient spear throwing technique used thousands of years ago in the Genesee Valley. The instructor was Doug Bassett, a seven-time world atlatl champion. They also had an opportunity to visit a frontier encampment recreated by Ed and Cindy Tilton, as well as a chance to hunt for history with Cliff Flint, a local expert in historic metal detecting.



The second venue included the Society's pavilion, parking lot and annex. The activities in this area included exploring Native American artifacts with John Gordinier, a look at 19th century transportation with Cecil Thompson and Bev Clark, and on Wednesday, the third and fourth graders had a chance to play with 19th century toys and games with Kathy Macomber and Maureen Goho. On Thursday, the third activity was a Civil War Camp manned by the Keshequa Venture Club and enjoyed by the seventh and eighth graders.

Our main Historical Society building was the third venue. Several different activities took place in the Museum and Meeting Room. Participants were able to sew on "Grandma's" Treadle Sewing Machine, make church dolls, learn about 19th century photography, and on Wednesday make leaf prints on cloth. Cur- sive writing with quill pens was added on Thursday for the junior high students. The Museum activity presenters were Sue Long, Laura Thornton, Tom Thornton, Barb Byrnes and Carol Weber.



A fourth venue was the Nunda Community itself. Each group was able to select a guided tour of a local historical site. The popular destinations were the Genesee Valley Canal Locks in Oakland and Oakwood Cemetery in the village. Tom Cook served as a tour guide for both locations.

Other volunteers who helped over the two days include Fran Ludwig, Joan Schumaker, Marge Foose, Pete Piraino, Carolyn Lowell, Joe Lindstrom, Alex Pierce, Kelly Mann, Tom Byrnes, Jeff Long and Gary Ludwig. The NHS would also like to thank the Nunda Kiwanis Club for the use of their grounds and pavilion and Don and Val

Griffing for the use of bales of straw. We also thank the teachers and administrators of Keshequa Central School for participating in this year's event.

Nunda History Days was made possible with funds from the Decentralization Program, a regrant program of the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature and administered by the Genesee Valley Council on the Arts. We look forward to 2020!

# More 2018 Programs/Events



May 9 *Remembering Nunda Businesses Part III*  
With a presentation on *The Silk Mill* by Alex Pierce and Tom Burt covering the *W D Burt Seed Company* and *Burt's Printing Service*



June 13 *Songs of WWII* by Geoff Clouth was a very popular sing along at the time of our Annual Picnic. Watch for Geoff in our programming for 2019



In June, Keshequa 1st Graders visited the museum where President Tom, as Mr. Preserved Greenman, teaches them Nunda History



Oct. 10- Jane Oakes talks with Carolyn Pollock after her most interesting program *The Forgotten Cheese Factories of Livingston County*



Aug. 5 Dennis James presented *THIS IS RAGTIME: 1919 AT THE MOVIES* featuring Miss Lilliam Gish in *TRUE HEART SUSIE* - A silent film with Dennis at the piano.



*Against People Who Tried to Stop Them, and Why it Matters Today* by Professor Ellen Gruber Garvey

*What Will They Think of Next? Ten Innovations that Changed Life in Nunda and Portage, 1850 – 1950* by Tom Cook

*History of Once Again Nut Butter* by Gael Billyard Orr

See back page for remaining events/activities for 2018

Other Events: Dowling Family Victorian Tea in May, Nunda Fun Days Booth, Annual Yard & Bake Sale in Oct.

## Society Travels in 2018

## To Geneva in July

Our most exciting very full day started with a visit to the world’s largest herd of white, white-tailed deer, at the **former Seneca Army Depot**. A guide joined our bus on our 90-minute tour of the White Deer Park and we learned the fascinating story of the deer and the intriguing remains of the U.S. Army’s former weapons storage facility. While we did see some white deer, foliage prevented obtaining any good pictures.

Here is our group visiting one of the 519 earth-covered concrete igloos that stored everything from pistol cartridges to tactical missiles, from conventional bombs to nuclear warheads.

Our next stop was **Café Toscana at Ventosa Vineyards** where we enjoyed a delicious Luncheon Buffett with a marvelous view of vineyards and Seneca Lake.



Guided tours of **Rose Hill Mansion**, a property of the Geneva Historical Society, was next on our agenda.

Built in 1839, the elegant Greek Revival house was the center of a busy and productive farm. Twenty rooms are restored and furnished in the Empire Style, popular from the 1820s to 1850s. The tour focused on the Swan family, who lived in the house from 1850-1890.



After leaving Rose Hill we visited the nearby **Johnston House and the Mike Weaver Drain Pipe Museum**, also properties of the Geneva Historical Society. Built by Scotch immigrant John Johnston in 1822, the house originally sat on an important farm where Johnston became a well-known advocate of improved farming techniques. He was the first American farmer to use agricultural drain tiles to increase productivity on his farm, and it became one of the most famous farms in 19th-century America.

Our last stop was Shark’s in Bloomfield where most of us enjoyed ice cream.

## To Niagara Falls in October

Our Day started with a most interesting tour of the new Niagara Falls Underground Railroad Heritage Center that tells the individual stories of slaves in their efforts to reach freedom in Canada and the many people that helped them. The Center opened in May 2018 with exhibits using the very latest technologies and is well worth a visit.

Lunch was at the historic Red Coach Inn and was followed by a visit to the nearby American Falls.

Our last stop was a fun visit to the Herschell Carrousel Factory Museum in North Tonawanda with lots of history and rides on the carrousel. See our Facebook site for photos.



## Membership News - Renew or Become a New Member

The Society's membership year is from September 1 through August 31. We announced this year's membership drive to local folks in a special email on programs, but this is the first general announcement. Some of you have already renewed or joined as new members and those are listed as **2018-19 Members below**.

### THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

For those who have yet to join us for 2018-19, please renew or become a new member by using the enclosed envelope or go to our website to download a membership form to mail in or complete your membership and payment online. If you think you are already a 2018-19 member and your name is not listed, please contact us. Your financial support is most important to our success and is very much appreciated. *Thank You!*

### 2018-19 Members

#Barbara Anderson

Marcia Ayers

Gerald & Margaret  
Barkley

#Karen Bennett

#Roger & Peg Billyard

Catherine Bliven

George Blood

Sarah & Robert L.Booher

Phillip Bracchi

Trish Brady

Phil & Sue Brooks

William D. Burt

Thomas & Barbara Byrnes

Joe & Millie Colombo

\*Tom & Anne Cook.

#Don & Marjorie Cox

Phillip & Avis Cox

Gail Diemoz

#Patricia Dieter

Robert & Peggy Elsworth

Alberta Essler

Marge Foose

#Ann Forbes

Jeremy Galton

Paul & Nancy Gebauer

Ira & Nancy Gelser

Jim & Pauline Gelser

Maureen Goho

\*Ray & Joanne Goll

Vicki Goll

John Gordinier Family

Don & Valerie Griffing

Doris & Ray Guenther

Sharon Hagens

Judy Hamilton

Leona & David Hawkins

#Sue & Ray Hengelsberg

Vera E. Hurd

\*Paul Hoffman &

Jane Schryver

Jo Kirk & Chuck

Strickland

Anne Lawson

Clair & Lynne Lawson

Leonora Letchworth

James E. & Linda G. Little

\*Harold (Bud) Long

Jeff & Sue Long

#\*Jason, Marianne, Jenna  
& Gregory Loper

\*George & Karen Lucas

Gary & Fran Ludwig

Barbara Randall

Kathleen & Ronald

Macomber

Jim & Linda McMaster

Wixmlee Mc Master

David & Shirley Palmer

Ralph Parker

Alex & Becky Pierce

Family

Peter & Sue Piraino

Family

Carolisa Meade Ray

\*Jon & Valerie Ryan

\*Joan Schumaker

Molly Snyder

Clayton Taft Family

Cecil Thompson

\*Hugh & Barb Thompson

Tom & Laura Thornton

Marchelle Vianese

Mary Pat Vogel

JoAnn Waldon

Karen Ward & Bill Wright

#Pam Washington

Carl & Carol Weber

\*Norman & Nancy

Wetterau

#Jessica & Colin Wilcox

Charles Woolever

LeRoy & Teresa Wood

\*Debbie Zintel

*\* Membership/Donations  
of \$100 or more. Thank  
You!*

*# New Member in 2018-  
19. Welcome!*

## Additional Donations since Spring Newsletter

*Thank You for Your  
Thoughtfulness*

### Memorials

#### Donor/in Memory of

Carolyn Biven

Charles Ostrum

Roberta Buczkowski

Irene Holden Lippincott

Maureen Goho

Gerald Goho

\*Darla Ryan

Roger Ryan

### Building/Exhibit Fund

Roberta Buczkowski

Clair & Lynnette Lawson

George & Karen Lucas

Charles Woolever

### Non Member Donations

Bonnie Conifer

\*Charles King

\* Kish-a-wa Creamery

## *Nunda Historical Society Museum & Rose Shave Gallery*

*Open 10 am - noon on Tuesdays,  
2-4 pm on 1st Sundays, March through October,  
and at other times by arrangement.*

*Call : (585) 465-0971 or 490-3302*

*Our Open Hours are Limited but we encourage you to call  
if you are in the area and want to visit.*

# NUNDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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*Like us on facebook*

## 2018—2019 Board of Directors

Tom Cook - President  
Kathleen Macomber -  
Vice President  
Barbara Byrnes -  
Recording Secretary  
Francine Ludwig -  
Corresponding Secretary  
Joan Schumaker -  
Treasurer  
Gail Diemoz-  
Librarian

### Directors

Thomas Byrnes  
Philip Cox  
Sue Long  
Becky Pierce

### Assistant Librarians

Marge Foose  
Sue Long  
Alice Thompson

### Volunteer

Maureen Goho  
Carolisa Ray

Newsletter Editor  
Joan Schumaker

Photographs by  
Tom Cook &  
Joan Schumaker

## Society Programs & Activities Coming Yet in 2018

Sunday, November 11, 11 am - *Oakwood Cemetery Veteran's Day Commemoration* - NHS & Oakwood Cemetery Association members will place flowers on the graves of WWI soldiers. Please join us

Wednesday, November 14 7 pm - *"Nunda in 1918: The War, The Homefront, The Spanish Flu, and The Vote"* by Nunda Historical Society Members

Saturday, December 8, 12 - 5 pm - "Christmas in Nunda" - **Sale items will include the 2019 Historical Society Calendar, "Education in Nunda and Portage" and a new shipment of NHS Coverlets. Watch for details on special events taking place at the Society**

Wednesday, December 12 7 pm -Annual Show and Tell

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**The Society's Annual Decorated Christmas Wreath Sale is now underway. Beautiful Fresh Wreaths are available with Red or Burgundy bows \$25 each or \$22 if 3 or more purchased Wreaths will be available around Thanksgiving time To Order - Call Fran Ludwig at 585-476-2749**

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***Add our 2019 edition to your collection of Society Calendars "Education in Nunda and Portage"***

***See [www.nundahistory.org](http://www.nundahistory.org) for updates: everything happening at the Society, our Gift Shop, the History Room with ways to explore Nunda's history, and more.***

***Visit Often—This is Your Historical Society***