

**NUNDA
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**



Historic Nunda

Volume 6 Issue 1

Spring 2013

**Programs &
Events**

- *May 26 - 2:30 PM
Special Civil War pro-
gram on 188th New
York Infantry*
- *June 12 - Annual Soci-
ety Picnic, Kiwanis
Park*
- *July 7 - 2:30 PM
Dennis James & his
glass armonica, a con-
cert not to be missed!*
- *July 22 - Society Tour
to Buffalo (see pg. 5)*
- *Aug. 10 - Nunda Area
Homecoming*

**See Schedule on pg 8
and Watch for De-
tails on the above
programs**

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Celebrate Our 30th Anniversary & the Opening of Our New Exhibits *“The Story of Nunda - Pioneer Times & Boom Town (1800-1860)” on Friday, June 7th, 2013*

The Society is having an OPEN HOUSE at the Nunda Historical Society Museum from 5 PM to 7PM on June 7 with a special ceremony at 5:30 PM. We are anxious for the Nunda community to view *The Story of Nunda* and to thank the many members, donors, and volunteers who have helped to make these first two exhibits a reality.

A total of ten exhibits are planned in order to tell *The Story of Nunda* and a time line has been established in the newly renovated south portion of the museum. Our first two exhibits (1800-1830 and 1830-1860) are now ready for viewing. We hope to complete the pre-1800 exhibits this summer and two more by next spring. These additions will take us to Nunda's Centennial Celebration in 1908. We will then have only the last 100 plus years to go!

The Exhibit Committee, under the expert leadership of President Tom Cook, consists of Gail Diemoz, John Gordinier, Sue Long, Joan Schumaker, and Tom Thornton. Tom Cook devoted many hours to drafting and designing interpretive signs and Exhibit Guide Books that were then reviewed and edited by other committee members. By reading these guides, visitors will better understand the artifacts on display and *The Story of Nunda*.

John Gordinier, a most talented painter and archeologist, truly spent countless hours creating large murals to help visitors understand the formation and development of the Genesee Valley area and early settlement of Nunda. His painting are not to be missed!

The committee is most appreciative of many others who have donated their special skills (and sometimes materials) to build items to help with these exhibits. Vinny Hark and Bob Avery hand hewed the logs for the cabin corner. Tom Thornton built the stand to exhibit an ox yoke and also a yoke to be used by young people, Dan Hurlburt built a beautiful shelf of chestnut flooring from the Nunda Casket Factory and is also working on stands for the interpretive signs and exhibit books.

A BIG THANK YOU to those mentioned here and also to many others who have helped create or contributed to these exhibits. Those who contributed artifacts are recognized in the Exhibit Guide Books. Others who donated in any way are too numerous to list here, but will eventually be recognized in a special publication on the creation of *The Story of Nunda*.



Exhibits in process of completion.

***Nunda Historical Society Museum
& Rose Shave Gallery are open on
Sundays, 2 - 4 PM, April through November
and at other times by arrangement.
Call 468-3879 or 468-5991***

The President's Corner

Do you plan on visiting the Nunda Historical Society's Building this year? I hope every member can visit at least once in the coming months. In the pages of this newsletter you will see why.

Our Mission

The Nunda Historical Society collects, re-searches, pre-serves, 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.

Our spring and fall history programs offer a wide range of topics from the history of the Dowling Family and Elmwood (the house at the end of East Street) to quilting. I mention these two programs because they are put together by our own Historical Society members. In addition to our regular monthly offering, we are also holding two interesting Sunday programs which are described inside.

The Society is also hosting two more historical bus trips during the year - you will want to reserve a seat early for these! And don't forget the Victorian Tea in May or our annual Homecoming event in August!

We are also excited to announce the opening of the first two of ten Nunda History exhibits in our new exhibit area. Our committee has been working through the winter on them and they will be worth seeing. This is in addition, of course, to our other displays and the Rose Shave Gallery. Even if you are a frequent visitor to the building there will be something new to see. You are also welcome to come and do family history or house research in our ever growing collections. We now have wi-fi available for those with laptops and other electronic devices.

All these things are made possible by the generous support of our membership. Whether it is their time, talents, or financial donations, our members have been wonderful in helping the Society grow and flourish.

Speaking of members, if you do have some time, we probably have a project of some sort for you. We especially need some folks who have typing skills, but we also need help with cleaning, general maintenance and historical projects. If you live nearby or faraway, we have something for you. Just call or email me!

In closing, enjoy this newsletter and start planning your next trip to the Nunda Historical Society! See you soon!

Tom Cook



Nunda Notables: John F. Barber - Part 2 *(Continued from pg 3)*

Ethel (Etta) Hamilton, born in 1872, was living with the Barbers in 1880 and was sometimes listed as "ward" or "adopted daughter." Etta grew up at Chestnut Place. In 1897 she married Arthur Y. Bennett, a most ambitious young man from Hunt with a talent for business. He formed the Bennett Manufacturing Company producing rust-proof metal dashes, but moved the business to Alden in 1906. A daughter Dorothy was born in 1900. Etta and Dorothy returned to Chestnut Place in 1913 to care for Adeline. When possible, A.Y. spent time at Chestnut Place with his family. Adeline died in 1917, leaving Chestnut Place to Etta.

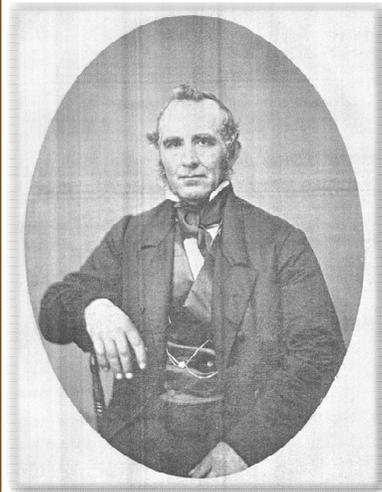
Etta and A.Y.'s daughter Dorothy married Malcolm T. Cartwright of Buffalo in 1922. Dorothy and Malcolm had two children, Carolyn in 1927 and Douglas in 1930. Carolyn Cartwright Tenney now lives in New Hampshire. Douglas and his wife Cornelia live in Hudson, NY. We are most please that they are members of the Nunda Historical Society and thank them for their generous donation of Barber Family photographs, papers, and other items. These have been most useful in telling the story of their grandfather, John Barber, and life at Chestnut Place.

The Major Resource for this article was the *Nunda News*, especially the February 2, 1884 John F. Barber biography prepared by Charles D. Bennett, Esq. of Hunt at the request of the Livingston County Historical Society; and John's obituary in the January 18, 1883 issue of the *News*. Additional details result from research by Tom Cook and me in preparation for our programs on Chestnut Place and contributions from Society member Ronald Powell.

Note: The history of Chestnut Place, its residents, and the Barber family has been the subject of two Society programs presented by Tom Cook and Joan Schumaker in January and April 2012. Joan also presented a program on John Barber on February 23, 2013 as part of the Mount Morris Dam Visitor Center's Winter Lecture Series: "American Determination & Ingenuity."

Nunda Notables: John F. Barber - Part 2

By Joan Schumaker



John F. Barber

Photo Courtesy of Carolyn Tenney

The winter 2012 issue of *Historic Nunda* included Part 1 of *Nunda Notables: John F. Barber* with information on John's early years, the creation of his impressive 300 acre farm and unique home known as Chestnut Place on Short Tract Road, and a brief summary of his personal life. Part 2 will talk about his interests and businesses outside of farming and expand upon his family life and descendants.

John purchased the large Nunda House block on Nunda's village square in 1868, added a third story in 1872 to accommodate a ball room, and made the Nunda House into a good hotel. The Nunda House occupied the property where the M&T Bank is now located, including the drive and parking area that surrounds the current bank building.

Elected Vice-President of the Genesee River National Bank in Mt. Morris in 1859, John served in this position for several years. In 1868, he and four others opened Nunda's first bank, The Nunda Banking House, in a former attorney's office in the hotel. In 1873 the bank became the Bank of Nunda



and then, in 1875, the First National Bank of Nunda with \$50,000 capital stock. John retained his interest in the Genesee River National Bank and served as President of the First National Bank of Nunda from 1868 until his death.

Though long a prominent citizen, distinction was not the result of social activity or official position. John neither sought nor shunned public office. A few of his other interests/activities are noted here. John was associated with the Baptist Church, was a lifetime member and councilman of the Livingston County Historical Society, served as president of the "Soldier's Monument Association of the Town of Portage," fulfilled his jury duties in Geneseo, and served as judge at the Livingston County Agricultural Society Annual Show and Fair in Geneseo.

In 1883, John died at age 73 of cancer that had gradually eaten his life away until, at the time of his death, the flesh was nearly all gone from one side of his face. He was unable to take anything but liquid food for months and, for many days before his death, was unable to swallow anything.

John's obituary states: "His farm was one of the finest, most productive and most valuable in the town, if not in the county. He rarely failed in having good crops. This farm was the pride and joy of his life....But it was as a businessman and financier that perhaps Mr. Barber was best known. He never speculated; all his transactions were legitimate; his business judgment was almost infallible. He was a good judge of men and rarely made a mistake...He always gave parties that owed him, all the leniency they needed...he was not suspicious. It was a common occurrence for him to lend his neighbors money without taking any note or charging them any interest."

John's 1884 biography by Charles Bennett states "He was favored with the luck that usually follows good management and attention to business....He was kind and generous to the needy and the suffering, and his charity was directed by discretion, liberal, but not little or lavish. He knew how to be frugal without being mean, how to provide plentifully without profusion and how to be liberal without profusion. Quick perception and sound judgment..."

As noted in Part 1, John and his wife Adeline (Betsey) Newcomb had a daughter, Mary Alward, in 1857. Mary was an honor student at the Nunda Academy, was active in the Nunda Lyceum as a speaker, and married Charles Thornton in 1878. They divorced in 1895 and in 1898 Mary married Fred Metcalf, an engineer from England who came to Nunda to work on the high bridge at Portageville. They were very active in the Nunda community, living



Early Photo of Chestnut Place
Courtesy of Caroline Tenney

at Chestnut Place with Mary's mother Adeline until Fred's death in 1907 and Mary's in 1913.

Continued on pg. 2

Late 2012 & 2013 Programs/Events



Photo by Jeff Miller

On November 14, an enthusiastic *Steve Rapp* presented “*Honoring our Veterans: The Story of Honor Flight,*” a most interesting and informative program.

At right *The Genesee Valley Mountain Dulcimer Club* entertains visitors to the museum during Christmas in Nunda.



At our *Annual Show & Tell* program in December, *Hope DePuy* shares part of her extensive collection of salts.

Joan Schumaker provided the January program: “*America’s Buildings on the Move or where Did That Building Go?*” The Nunda Methodist Church was one of over 100 buildings moved in Nunda. Buildings moved in nearby communities and the methods used were also shown in Joan’s power point program.

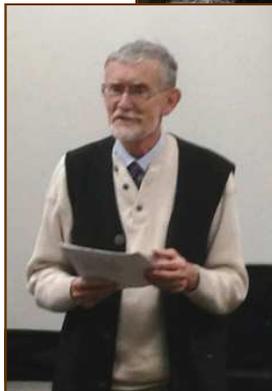


In March, genealogy expert *Mike Baldwin* presented “*Organizing Family History through the use of File Folders,*” He provided a lot of very useful information, guides, and tips for those interested in researching their family history.

February brought *Missy Clark* with “*A Visit with Goodwife Clark.*” a first person vignette dramatically portraying the Scotch-Irish experience in mid 18th century England, Holland, Ireland, and finally the American Colonies. This was a most enjoyable and informative performance with candlelight contributing to the atmosphere.



In April, *Jim Kimball & Members of the SUNY Geneseo String Band* entertained us with 19th century music from the Genesee Valley. Selections included music written in Nunda and one of the band members was playing a



violin made in Nunda by “Lou” Willey. “Prof” Willey sold his violins for eight to fifty dollars or more in 1892 and was one of Nunda’s leading instructors, bandmasters and music arrangers.

Jim enhanced the program with interesting bits on Nunda’s music history, many from the *Nunda News*.

Check our website at www.nundahistory.org or our Facebook page for info on coming programs. Also “Like” us on Facebook.

Summer & Fall 2013 Historical Society Tours



U. S. S. Little Rock

Travel to Buffalo on July 22nd & To Corning on October 21st*

The Society is sponsoring a tour to Buffalo on Monday, July 22. After spending the morning at the Buffalo and Erie County Naval & Military Park, we lunch at Chef's and then visit Frank Lloyd Wright's Darwin Martin House for a two hour tour of this complex, a historic landmark. The Covered Wagon coach will leave at 8 AM and return by 6:30 PM. The cost of this tour is \$95 for members and \$105 for non members. Not a Society member? Join today.

The Buffalo and Erie County Naval & Military Park is a museum on the shore of [Lake Erie](#) in [Buffalo, New York](#). It is home to several decommissioned US Naval vessels that you will be able to tour. These are the *Cleveland-class* cruiser [USS Little Rock](#), the *Fletcher-class* destroyer [USS The Sullivans](#), and the submarine [USS Croaker](#).

Construction of the Park started in 1977, it was opened in 1979, and it has gone through a few major changes in recent years. In 2003 the ships were moved slightly to the foot of Pearl and Main streets. The Naval Park includes a new museum, abuts a historic Commercial Slip, and is part of Buffalo's Waterfront, known as Canalside.

Along with the ships, a variety of smaller vehicles, vessels, and aircraft are also on display at the park and the museum includes numerous exhibits. Please see details on these at their website: <http://www.buffalonaivalpark.org>

Chef's Restaurant started in 1923, is a proud part of Buffalo's nostalgia. In the early days Chef's had a limited menu of Spaghetti, Ravioli, Chicken and Veal Cacciatora. Lou has since expanded his menu to feature items ranging from Chef's famous Spaghetti Parmesan to lighter items such as Pasta Broccoli.

A second dining room was added in 1966, followed by another addition three years later. Today Chef's Restaurant dining capacity is 325, while the beautiful Lou Ann Banquet Room accommodates groups of up to 125 people. For more than 50 years Chef's has been satisfying the appetites and delighting the palates of countless lunch and dinner patrons.

Frank Lloyd Wright (1867-1959) designed a unique residential complex for wealthy Buffalo businessman Darwin D. Martin and his family between 1903-1905. The most substantial and highly developed of Frank Lloyd Wright's Prairie houses in the Eastern United States, The Darwin D. Martin House received National Historic Landmark status in 1986. The house is considered by leading Frank Lloyd Wright scholars as one of Wright's finest achievements of the Prairie period and, indeed, of his entire career.



The complex consists of five interconnected buildings designed as a unified composition, including; the main Martin House and a pergola that connects it to a conservatory and carriage house with chauffeur's quarters and stables, the Barton House, a smaller residence for Martin's sister and brother-in-law, and a gardener's cottage added in 1909. The landscape design for the grounds of the complex is highly integrated with the overall composition of buildings.

The Martin House is a prime example of Frank Lloyd Wright's Prairie House ideal, with strong horizontal lines and planes, deeply overhanging eaves, a central hearth, prominent foundation, and a sheltering, cantilevered roof. The complex contains 394 examples of Frank Lloyd Wright-designed art glass, including the famed "Tree of Life" window.

Over the decades, the Martin House Complex suffered considerable damage and three of the original five buildings were demolished. In 1992, the Martin House Restoration Corporation (MHRC) was formed to raise funds for and oversee a complete restoration of the complex. Extensive reconstruction and restoration efforts began in 1997 and are ongoing today.

***Watch for details on the October 21 trip to Corning where you will tour Corning Glass, can elect to make glass flowers and sun catchers, visit the Rockwell Museum of Western Art, or go shopping in Corning's Gaffer District, Market Street. Plan to join us!**

Additional details and reservation forms are on our website. **Reservation and payment must be made by July 1. Questions? Call Sue Long, 468-3413 or Fran Ludwig, 476-2749**
Note: Seats are limited and the bus is already over half full..

Nunda Historical Society 2012 - 2013 Membership & Building Fund Drive

Name _____ Tel: _____

Street/Box # _____ *e-mail: _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Membership Level: Youth: \$5 _____; Individual: \$10 _____; Supporting: \$25 _____; Contributing: \$50 _____

Family (includes husband, wife & children at home): \$15 _____; Sponsor (organizations/businesses): \$100 _____

Memorial Contribution: \$ _____ (specify name) _____

Building Fund Drive donation: \$ _____ Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Note: The NHS is a not-for-profit 501 (c) 3 charitable organization. Your membership/gift is fully tax deductible.

**I want to help save mailing costs and also promote the Society. In the future, please put my copy of the newsletter in a public place and*

- send me a pdf copy of the newsletter* *send me a link to the on-line version*

_____ *Please use my e-mail for special notices but use regular mail for my newsletter.*

Return this form with dues/donations to: NUNDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOX 341
NUNDA, NY 14517- 0341

Memorial Donations - Remembering Special People

Memorials Since Last Newsletter

Memorial for:	Remembered by:
A. Y. Bennett	Douglas & Cornelia Cartwright
Ethel Barber Bennett*	Douglas & Cornelia Cartwright
Janet Blair*	Martha Blair
Bev Buchinger	Ralph & Rosalea Cox
Ruth Foster Cipriano	Chad Donovan
Brewster DePuy	Hope DePuy
	Joan Schumaker
Ethel (Magee) Foster*	Chad Donovan
Betty Morris	Jan Morris Pirrello
Mary J. Thompson	John Thompson

* Other donors listed in previous issues of Historic Nunda

*A Sincere Thank You to these Donors
for selecting the Society as their means of
honoring friends and family members.*

We appreciate your thoughtfulness.

NYS MUSEUM WEEK

PATH THROUGH HISTORY

I ♥ NY

JUNE 10-16, 2013

iloveny.com/museumweek

Membership News - Renew or Become a New Member

The Society's membership year is from September 1 through August 31. **2012-2013 members are listed below. A sincere Thank You for your support.** A Special Welcome to 27 new members. We are very glad to have you with us. For those not on the list, and some familiar names are missing, please renew or become a new member.

Note: The Building Fund Drive is ongoing to support work on our new Nunda exhibit and other building projects at the museum. Members who have donated to the BFD since the last newsletter are identified in bold. Those donating earlier are listed in previous issues of *Historic Nunda*. Please consider a special donation to the BFD.

Thanks Again for Your Continued Support. Remember this is Your Historical Society!

Jeremiah & Susie Axtell	*Jody Fraser	Keith Maker	Robert & Lily Sanford
Marcia Ayers	*Jeremy Galton	Sidney & Nancy Mann	Marie & Irving Schoenocker
Mary Baar	*Todd & Meg Galton	Sherry Marano	+Joan Schumaker
Barbara Bacon	Nancy K Gebauer	James & Linda Mc Master	Robert & Nedra Smith
Craig, Lisa, & Ashley Barkley	Cathie W. Gehrig	+Jean Mc Master	*+Sue Smith
Gerald & Margaret Barkley	Jim & Paulene Gelser	+Mary Jane Mc Master	Robert & Maxine Snelgrove
Jean Batzing	*Gerry Getmaan	Wixmlee Mc Master	Tom & Marjorie Stamp
*Michael A. Bauer	Gerald & Helen Gibson	June Blair Metro	Maureen McMaster Sturges
Duane & Rosemary Bennett	Karen Gibson	Doug Morgan	David & Helen Swanson
+Barbara D. Bernstein	*Maureen Goho	Mary B. Moore	John Thomas
Elmore Blair	Vicki Goll	Patti W. Moss	Allen & Jean Thompson
Martha Blair	John Gordinier Family	Mary Foote Mueller	Cecil & Nancy Thompson
+Audrey DeVinney Blakley	Mary Ellen Graves	Marlene Noden	+Gerald & Alice Thompson
Richard Blankenship	Don & Valerie Griffing	Lyle & Joan Orton	+Rolland Thompson
George & Chris Blood	Reginald & Margaret Grosse	Charles Ostrum	*John & Linda Thompson
Sandra K. Bonnadonna	+Sally Hall	David & Shirley Palmer	Tom & Laura Thornton
Sarah L. Booher	+Carolyn Hark	*Ralph Parker	Evryln VanDorn
Trish Brady	*Frederick C. Harter	*Jennifer Pfaff	Earl Veley
Muriel & Nicholas Bucci	Leona & David Hawkins	Bob & Patty Piper	*Marchelle Vianese
Roberta Buczkowski	+Nancy Holler	Julie Piraino	Nancy M. Vogt
Thomas & Barbara Byrnes	Kenneth & Melva Holley	Rose Piraino	Renee Wager
Thomas D. Caine	*Laura Hoodak	Peter & Sue Piraino Family	*Linda & Steve Walker
++* Douglas & Cornelia Cartwright	+Gary & Angel Hotchkiss	*Evan Pirrello	Glenn & Lorainne Walsworth
Stephen & Carol Castor	Daniel Hurlburt	Janice Morris Pirrello	*Emily M. Weaver
Ron & Virginia Mann Chasey	+Paul Hoffman & Jane Schryver	Carolyn K. Pollock	Ken & Brenda Weaver
+Jerilyn M. Clark	+Doris Robinson Jones	+Dick & Barb Powers	*Koen Weaver
Josephine Clinton	+Charlotte Keating	*Barbara Randall	Carl & Carol Weber
Rae Cohen	Betty Kemp	Anne Rangere	+Robert & Isabelle Weir
Tom & Anne Cook	Geraldine H. Kennedy	John & Janet Rapp	Betty Weir
Denny & Pat Coon	Charlotte Kernahan	Carol C. Rathbun	Cindy Welch
++ Ralph & Rosalea Cox	Rashad & Esther Kirdani	*Carolisa Meade Ray	John H. Wells
Philip & Avis Cox	Jo Kirk & Chuck Strickland	*Jean Richmond	George & Beverly Westacott
John & Ann Crandall	Alice R. Knittel	*Vanessa Robertson	# Norman Wetterau
John & Judy DeGroot	Lonnie & Bonnie Kratts	*Bob & Donna Russell	Edward Wilson
+Hope DePuy	Joan Larson	++Elizabeth Russell	Charles Woolever
Gail Diemoz	William R. Lindsay	Leona A Ryckaert	Eleanor Boyd Wright
* Julia Donovan	James E. & Linda G. Little	Adrian Sanford	
Julianne Dudley	+Harold (Bud) Long		* New Member
+Robert & Peggy Ellsworth	Jeff & Sue Long		
Barbara Essler	Brad & Carolyn Lowell		
+Alena Farmer	+George & Karen Lucas		
Chris Foote	Gary & Fran Ludwig		
Marianne Foote	Kathleen & Ronald		
Theron & Patricia Foote	Macomber		

+ Denotes a generous 2012-13 membership/donation of \$100 to \$299
 ++ Denotes a generous 2012-13 membership/donation of \$300 to \$500
 # Denotes a generous 2012-13 membership/donation of over \$500

A very Special Thank You to these members.

. If you find an error or if we missed you, we apologize and ask that you please let us know.

NUNDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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2013 Programs & Events

The Society usually meets on the **second Wednesday of each month (except for July and August) at 7 pm. All meetings, except those noted, will be at the Historical Society Museum at 24 Portage Street.** Any Changes in location or time will be advertised. Note that all meeting places are handicapped accessible. The location and time of special events are noted when the event is advertised. Watch for details on events listed here and also for new events.

Friday, June 7, 5 - 7 PM Opening Celebration for “The Story of Nunda - Pioneer Times (1800-1830) & Boom Town (1830-1860)

Wednesday, June 12, 6 PM at Kiwanis Park: NHS Annual Picnic

Sunday, July 7 - GLASS-ICAL MUSICK - Dennis James, a world renowned musician, will introduce us to the exquisite beauty and haunting mystery of glass music by performing on his *glass armonica*, an instrument first created by Benjamin Franklin.

Monday, July 22 - NHS Bus Tour to Buffalo - Visit the *Buffalo & Erie County Naval and Military Park* (www.buffalonaivalpark.org), Tour the *Frank Lloyd Wright Martin House Complex* (www.darwinmartinhouse.org), and lunch at **Chef's Restaurant**. (see pg 5)

Saturday, Aug. 10 - Nunda Area Homecoming - Genealogical Program and assistance, 19th Century Crafts, and Local History will be emphasized with a schedule similar to the most successful 2012 Homecoming.. Lunch will be followed by Barbara (Schneckenburger) Bernstein reading selections from her poetry about growing up in Nunda (related images will be projected). And then choose from a tour of Oakwood Cemetery or some of the other six cemeteries in the Town of Nunda.

Wednesday, Sept. 11 - The Genesee River - John & Sue Babbitt

Wednesday, Oct. 9 - Quilts in History - Sue Long & Laura Thornton

Monday, October 21 - NHS Tour to Corning - Take a **Guided Tour of the Corning Museum of Glass**, Elect to make your own Glass Flower and Sun-Catcher, and **Visit the Gaffer District or the Rockwell Museum of Western Art.**

Wednesday, Nov. 13 - Special Veteran's Day Program on the Korean War - Watch for details.

Wednesday, Dec. 11 - “Show & Tell” - Bring your favorite collectible or a puzzling what's it to share, along with its story.