

**NUNDA
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

Calendar Items

*Note Change in Feb.
Program*

- *Show & Tell*
- *Building The Mt. Morris Dam*
- *Golden Era of Silver Lake*
- *Finding the Stories in Historic NYS Photos*
- *Nunda's Neighbors Annual Meeting*
- *Annual Picnic*

**See Schedule on pg. 7
for details & more
programs**

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Historic Nunda

Volume 3 Issue 1

Winter 2010

Building Renovations - "Slow but Steady"



"Slow but steady" is the theme for the renovation of the rear section of the Nunda Historical Society's building. Major portions of the project have been completed, but much more needs to be done in the coming year.

First the overhead doors on the west side of the building were removed and the wall enclosed and insulated. This work was done by Hark Homes and included pouring a foundation for the new wall

to rest upon. Next came the removal of the tin and boards on the rest of the interior walls. During the summer we had help from the Livingston County Youth work crew and then the work was completed by the following volunteers led by Charlie Ostrum: Gary Ludwig, Phil Cox, Tom Byrnes, Jerry Barkley and Tom Cook.

There was some question as to whether the old ceiling should come down. It was answered when several small sections came down by themselves! The Society hired Mike Gelser and crew to remove the ceiling, including several inches of insulation. That work was finished in December.



Once the roof's support system was exposed, it was clear that repairs had to be made before work could continue. With the help of Jeff Long and other builders the Society has determined a course of action and is currently getting bids for the work. We hope that this stage of the work will be completed by spring.

After repairs to the roof are finished we will insulate the walls, have a drop ceiling installed, and complete wiring and the heating system as we go. Once

the interior walls are finished, we will then complete the floor.

Tentative plans for the new room include additional archive space and a new meeting room. We would then be able to dedicate the front portion of the building to museum displays.

If you have questions, concerns, or would like to volunteer some time to the project, just contact one of the Society's officers or board members. Donations to the building fund are needed and much welcomed!

*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*

Our Mission

The Society is devoted exclusively to educating present and future generations concerning the cultural, economic, social, political and technical development of the area of western New York in and around the Town and Village of Nunda.

The President's Corner

2010 is shaping up to be an important year at the Nunda Historical Society. It may also be the year YOU increase your role in preserving, promoting and presenting Nunda area's history!

Everyone who is reading this newsletter has done something to contribute to the Society in the past. A membership, attending meetings and programs, making a donation, volunteering at the building – these are all ways in which we have helped the Society reach its stated goals. The Society thanks you for your contributions. We have accomplished much over the past few years because of our members, but we have much more to do and need your continued help.

If you live in the area, please come to our monthly meetings. As you see in the program listing and our calendar (I hope you have bought one – they are almost gone!), we have great programs coming up throughout the year you are sure to enjoy. Our short business meetings

before the programs fill members in on Society news and finances and provide an opportunity to ask questions or give suggestions. Don't forget the June picnic with lots of goodies and good music!

Our bi-annual History Days, when over 200 young people visit the museum, will be held again in October. This exciting event takes a lot of planning and volunteer time. We are starting now to meet with our local teachers and looking for folks to act as guides and presenters. This year we hope to expand the program into the evening to encourage more adult visitors. If you would like to help in some way, please let us know!

There are of course, other ways to contribute your time and talent. We have our spring-cleaning at the Building in a few months, and there is always a historical project that you can help with, including computer data processing and building renovation work. Whether it's one-hour or many, we will be happy to have you join in!

We know it may be hard to volunteer due to distance, time, or health. But that doesn't mean you can't help! Individuals and families have donated the best historical materials we have in the Society's archives. Whether your family has deep roots in the Nunda area or you are the first generation to live here, you can help preserve our local history.

Change is constant in every community. Houses are built, buildings are torn down, businesses come and go, and local issues and trends change. Old generations pass away and new family members are born, each writing their own chapters of their family's rich history. While some of this seems like trivia now, it will someday be an important part of Nunda's or your family's history, a piece that only you can preserve. If you grew up in Nunda in the 1960s for example, do you remember the local stores and events? Do you have photographs of them? Have you written down information about your grandparents or have photos of them?

By contributing copies of this Nunda related information you will have accomplished a couple of things. First, you will have taken the time to write down your memories or to label and make copies of your family's photographs. Second, you will have placed them in a location where they will be preserved for future history researchers and family genealogists. This then, is another way to contribute to the Society.

Finally, there is another important way to contribute. The renovation and maintenance of the building, the purchase of preservation supplies, our programs and publications all take money. We are careful custodians of our finances for we try to make every dollar count and provide a treasurer's report of revenues and expenditures at each of our monthly meeting. We are on solid footing, but every financial donation, no matter how small, helps us continue to serve our area.

So you see, there is a lot that YOU can do this year to help your Historical Society. We hope to see or hear from you this year!

Tom Cook



Continued from pg. 3

Nunda Notables

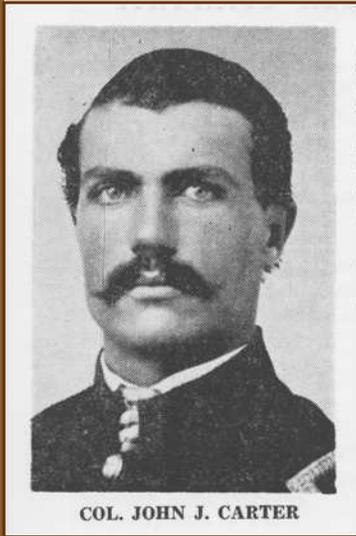
After the war, John returned to Nunda, married his childhood sweetheart, moved to Pennsylvania, and became a successful merchant, civic servant, and philanthropist. He expanded his business interests to include farming, a railroad, an iron works, banking and oil. He studied geology, invested in land that produced lots of oil, and formed Carter Oil Company. John was an intimate acquaintance of John D. Rockefeller of Standard Oil and traveled the world to identify oil properties for him. John's Carter Oil was an innovative company, implementing numerous new employee benefits like annuities, paid vacations, and eight hour workdays. By the early 1960's Carter Oil merged with Humble and ESSO to become Exxon.

John remembered Nunda and his fellow veterans in 1906 by erecting a Memorial Hall for the Grand Army of the Republic. An 8 foot high copper statue of a Union soldier guards the Memorial Hall. He returned to Nunda for the dedication and was welcomed by old friends, including some from the old 33d and 1st Veteran Cavalry. Ceremonies in the village square included a citation for his Medal of Honor.

The story of John Carter's businesses, family, additional educational pursuits, travels, and philanthropy will be continued in the Nunda-Notables section of the Summer 2010 issue of *Historic Nunda*. *(Resources for this article will be included in Part II)*

Nunda Notables - Nunda's Horatio Alger Story - Part I

By Joan Schumaker



COL. JOHN J. CARTER

Orphan Boy, Scholar, Civil War Hero, Family Man, Oil Magnate, Philanthropist - Johnny Carter was all of these

John, born: June 16, 1842, in Westport, Ireland, was the son of John Carter, a wealthy merchant of fine Irish fabrics. **He was** orphaned in 1845 and after trustees lost the family fortune, John was sent to America with his teenage sister Honora and her new husband. By 1850 they had settled in Portageville, but Honora's husband died and she left John with Rev. John Sheridan who served as John's first teacher.

After a year, John was sent to school in Buffalo but was soon out on his own. He lived several years with an Allegany County farm family, going to school in winter and working for the family in summers. By 1854, John, at 12 yrs old, was living with the Cyrus Rose Family on their farm on the Genesee River near the Ox Bow and studying the classics at the Nunda Literary Institute. The Institute burned in 1859 and John attended a Select High School in Holmes Hall, where the Union Block is today, and continued his studies until 1860. He worked at Lamb's Saloon before and after school.

John's plans for university study were delayed. After making the highest grade on the entrance exam for West Point, he was not offered an appointment.

While he was offered a cadetship in the Naval Academy at Annapolis, John refused. He passed the entrance exam for the University of Rochester but, unable to pay tuition, he returned to teach for a year, saved \$200, and planned to return to U of R as a sophomore in 1861.

War breaks out and on April 19, 1861, a telegram arrives in Nunda requesting that Nunda furnish a Company of volunteers. Nunda's first war meeting was held that evening and Johnny Carter delivered the most memorable and effective patriotic speech of the evening - *"come, friends and fellow students, the nation's life is in peril and you and I are needed, I am going to enlist, and to enlist now, and I expect some of you will go along with me"* A total of 28 men and students enlisted by the end of that week. **At 18, John is Nunda and Livingston County's first enlistee in the 33d New York Volunteers, VI**

Corps, Army of the Potomac.

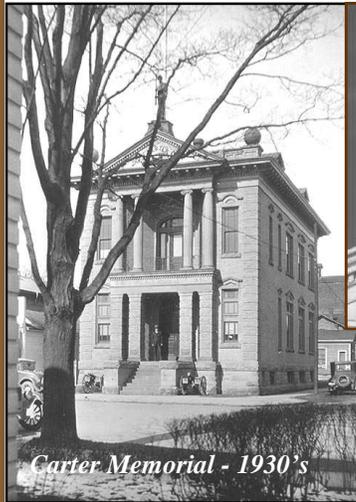
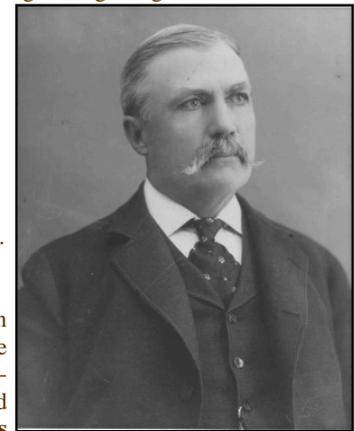
During the next two years, John took part in the following battles with the 33d: Williamsburg, Mechanicsville, Golding's Farm, Antietam, Fredericksburg, and Marye's Heights/Salem Church. **John was**

promoted from Private to Second Lieutenant during these years and was awarded the Medal of Honor for gallantry during the Battle of Antietam at Dunker Church on September 17, 1862. He was 19. The Medal of Honor citation included: *"While in command of a detached company, seeing his regiment thrown into confusion by a charge of the enemy, without orders, made a counter-charge upon the attacking column and checked the assault. Penetrated within the enemy lines at night and obtained valuable information."*

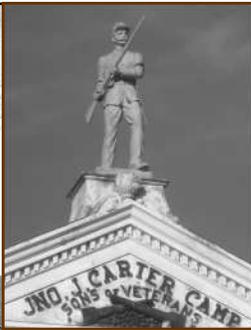
John was mustered out with his regiment on June 2, 1863. In addition to battle casualties, hundreds of men were lost by disease and accidents. The 33d consisted of over 1000 men. After two years only 220 returned home. Three-year recruits were transferred to the 49th New York and 579 men were lost.

John, wanting to continue to serve the war effort, received permission to raise a company of cavalry, does so in 30 days, was **mustered in as Captain of Company D of the 1st New York Veteran Cavalry** in October 1863, and served until February 1865. As a cavalry officer John: is wounded twice; has five horses killed under him in action; refuses amputation of his leg; leads four successful cavalry charges in as many engagements; captures twice as many prisoners of war at Piedmont than he had in his charging column; sees battle at places like Upperville, Snickersville, New Market, Winchester and Waynesboro, with the Army of West Virginia and the Army of the Shenandoah; and sends letters home to *The Nunda News* recounting battles, bravery of local men, and mourning those lost.

At the end of the war, John continued to serve several months as: Acting Ordnance Officer, 1st Separate Brigade, headquarters at Charlestown, WV; Judge Advocate of a general court martial; and Commissioner of Parole of West Virginia, accepting surrender of confederates. John was mustered out of United States service at Rochester NY, August 2, 1865 after four years, three months and fifteen days of service in the field.



Carter Memorial - 1930's



Carter Residence, Titusville, PA

Continued on pg. 2

Fall 2009 Programs



At left: **Gus Marano** and **Bob Rymer** talk prior to presenting our September program, *“The Story of the Nunda Kiwanis Club.”* **Sam Gullo**, a charter member, also took part in this most interesting and informative program.

Below: **Tom Roffe**, Leicester Town Historian, presented the October program *“Early Agricultural Life - In Harmony with Nature.”* Photos of Nunda Farmers included Phyllis Chidsey, Farley Stamp, Ernest Dygert, J. Mc Tarnaghan, and Carl Mc Master. Several Tuscarora farmers, the Willett Farm, and the Borden Milk Plant (now the Laundromat on West St.) were also featured.



Below: **Amie Alden**, Livingston County Historian, presents the Veteran’s Day Program, *“The Impact of the Vietnam War on Livingston County”*



Below: The **Keshequa Junior National Honor Society** and their advisor, **Elaine Morgan**, helped us honor our veterans. Student **Kaly Otero** read her poem, *Everything They’ve Fought for Has a Name: Freedom* as part of the celebration. Students presented each veteran with a copy of the poem,

a carnation, and a personal Thank You card created by Pat Forrester’s Kindergarten class. JNHS members include: Hannah Acciari, Olivia Axtell, Timothy Carlin, Katelyn Costello, Jane Farrell, Emily Forrester, Kathryn Forrester, Cooper Galton, Shannon Gordinier, Megan Green, Gabrielle Mehlenbacher, Megan Moran, Kaly Otero, Lindsay Piraino, Stacey Sullivan, and Ariel Wood.



Membership News - It's Not Too Late To Renew

The Society's membership year is from September 1 through August 31. **2009 -2010 members to date are listed below. A sincere Thank You for your support. We have yet to hear from some of our past members and hope that you will renew now by returning the enclosed envelope. We look forward to growing our membership numbers, so please tell your family, friends, and neighbors about us.**

Thanks again for your continued support. Remember this is your Historical Society!

Fay & Dorcas Ace	Brewster & Hope DePuy	J Kirk & C. Strickland	Wilfred Roffe
Caryn Adler	Edwin Dickson	*Alice Knittel	Elizabeth Russell
Ralph Asmus	Gail Diemoz	Anne Lawson	++Roger & Darla Ryan
Jeremiah & Susie Axtell	Timothy & Kathleen Diemoz	William Lindsay	Jon & Valerie Ryan
Mary Baar	Barbara Essler	Jeff & Sue Long	Robert & Lily Sanford
Freeman & Jane Barber	Alena Farmer	Brad & Carolyn Lowell	Joan Schumaker
Gerald & Margaret Barkley	Theron & Pat Foote	+George & Karen Lucas	William & Ruth Slaight
Duane & Rosemary Bennett	Ethel Foster	Gary & Francine Ludwig	Robert & Maxine Snelgrove
Barbara D. Bernstein	Nancy Gebauer	Kathleen & Ronald	Tom & Marjorie Stamp (Life Members)
Martha Blair	Cathie Gehrig	Macomber	David & Helen Swanson
Audrey DeVinney Blakley	Ira & Nancy Gelser	James & Linda Mc Master	Allen & Jean Thompson
Sandra Bonadonna	Gerald & Helen Gibson	+ Jean Mc Master	Gerald & Alice Thompson
Vera G. Bowles	Karen Gibson	Wixee Mc Master	Tom & Laura Thornton
Patricia Brady	Ray & Joanne Goll	June Blair Metro	Earl & Helen Veley
William D. Burt	Mary Ellen Graves	Donna Smith Miceli	Renee Wager
Tom & Barbara Byrnes	Reginald & Margaret Grosse	Ken Morris	Eleanor A. Walker
Thomas Caine	Doris & Dick Guenther	*+Patti W. Moss	Betty Weir
Stephen & Carol Castor	Carolyn Hark	*Gregory O'Connell	Robert & Isabelle Weir
*Ron & Virginia Chasey	Leona & David Hawkins	Charles Ostrum	George & Bev Westacott
Harlie Clark	Ken & Melva Holley	David & Shirley Palmer	*Edward Wilson
Jerilyn Clark	Dan Hurlburt	Bob & Patty Piper	*LeRoy & Teresa Wood
Josephine Clinton	Joyce Hussong	Julie Piraino	Charles Woolover
Tom & Anne Cook	Valerie Jessen	Peter & Sue Piraino Family	Dr. Eleanor B. Wright
Philip & Avis Cox	Francis A. Johnston	Carolyn Pollock	* New Member
+ Ralph & Rosalee Cox	*Doris Robinson Jones	Richard & Barbara Powers	
*John & Ann Crandall	Geraldine Kennedy	Betty Rice	
Bill Davis	Charlotte Kernahan	Tom Roffe	

Memorial Donations were received for the following: Dorothy & Roy Wedderburn, Mary Jane Cox VanDuff, Marjorie Frost, and Ronald J. Cox. Thank you for selecting the Society as a means of remembering these special people. Additional donation: Robert & Esther Smith

+ Denotes a generous membership/donation of at least \$100
 ++ Denotes a generous membership/donation of \$300 or more
A very Special Thank You to these members.

We certainly hope there are no omissions from this membership list. If we missed you, we apologize and ask that you please let us know.

Did You Know? Check our 2010 Calendar for more! (See Pg. 6)

- In June 1891, complaints of narrow escapes from accidents caused Village Trustees to pass an ordinance prohibiting the riding of bicycles on sidewalks. They felt the streets were in good order for wheels and should be used while they were smooth. Once the roads became muddy, the order may have been rescinded!
- In August 1918, residents in all states east of the Mississippi River were asked to stop using autos, motorcycles and motorboats on Sundays due to threatened gasoline shortages. Physicians making professional calls, undertakers and conveyances used for funerals were excepted.

If you have yet to join us, return the membership envelope now - we would love to hear from you.

2010 Calendar Features Early Transportation



Rochester, New York, & Pennsylvania Railroad, the "Swain's Branch," south of the Village of Nunda

The Nunda Historical Society has published a new Calendar that provides a glimpse of early transportation in the Town of Nunda. It includes history, historic photos and four pages of 1884 to 1934 advertisements from *The Nunda News*, Nunda's local newspaper for over 100 years.

Featured are photos and advertisements of wagon/blacksmith/bicycle shops, early garages, and auto dealerships. There are also bicyclists, stagecoaches, an elegant 1918 hearse, and autos owned by Nunda citizens in the early 1900's. Autos needed better roads and Foote Company equipment is pictured building NYS Route 436 west of Nunda in 1913.

The Genesee Valley Canal could not compete with the Erie Railroad that passed through Nunda Station (Dalton) as early as 1852 and the Pennsylvania Railroad that passed north of the Village of Nunda. The calendar has photos of the Erie Depot, the Pennsylvania Railroad with a load of Foote Company Concrete Pavers ready to be shipped during the 1940's, and a 1949 Pennsylvania Excursion Train passing NYS Route 408 north of Nunda

Don't miss this special calendar. They are available for \$10 from the Nunda Historical Society, the Nunda Pharmacy, the Nunda Government Center, the Bell Memorial Library, and may be ordered from the web site: www.nundahistory.org

Treasures from the Past

When visiting the museum you will view two remarkably accurate and lovely models built by local artist and Society member **George Lucas**.

Pictured here is a model of "**Chestnut Place.**" Located on the corner of Short Tract and Oakland Roads, this was the home of John Failing Barber, a much respected and successful farmer, businessman and banker. Named for the many chestnut trees on the property, Chestnut Place was started by Nathaniel Alward, Barber's brother-in-law, but was purchased and finished by Barber in about 1836.

An early description of the house has not yet been found. Barber's descendants lived there until 1920 and it was last occupied in the 1980's. The description of the house given at that time noted: 15 rooms, a half mile of halls, 9 closets, a black marble fireplace, two oak fireplaces (and probably more), doors of curly maple, a winding staircase of cherry, plate glass windows, original wallpaper in the upstairs rooms, and a marble bathroom that had been removed.



Continued on Page 7



*Model of Merchants Row,
Village of Nunda, ca 2002
(two views)
By George Lucas*

2010 Programs

The Society usually meets on the **second Wednesday of each month (except for July and August) at 7 pm.** **Note: some meetings may be on Sundays. All meetings, except those noted, will be in the Historical Society Building 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.

Wednesday, Feb. 10 - "Show & Tell" - Society members and guests share some of their favorite collectibles and provide one of our most popular programs. In addition, Robert E. Weir Jr. will introduce us to the Nunda Poultry Farm, one of Nunda's important businesses from the past. Refreshments served. Note: This program is re-scheduled from December.

Wednesday, Mar. 10 - "Building the Mount Morris Dam" - Robert E. Weir Jr. Bob will share his experiences as a worker building the dam and photos of its construction.

Sunday, March 21, 2 PM - "Golden Era of Silver Lake" - Dan Miller, author of "Silver Lake, New York: A Brief History". Note: This program was originally scheduled for Feb. 10.

Wednesday, April 14 - "Finding the Stories in Historic NYS Photos" - Richard O. Reisem, Author of "Historic Photos of New York State"

Wednesday, May 12 - "Nunda's Neighbors", A PowerPoint Show (digital slides) taking a look at Nunda's nearby towns and hamlets, presented by Jane Schryver and Paul Hoffman of Dansville. The NHS Annual Meeting with elections will also be held and refreshments served.

Wednesday, June 9, 6 PM at Kiwanis Park: HS Annual Picnic with entertainment by the Genesee Valley Mountain Dulcimer Club. Bring a dish to pass and your table service.

Wednesday, Sept. 8 - "One Room Schools of Western New York" - John & Sue Babbitt

Wednesday & Thursday, Oct. 13 -14 Nunda History Days at the Museum - Students and other visitors are introduced to Native American artifacts, the lives of early pioneers and soldiers, early music, and more.

Wednesday, Oct. 13 - "SUNY Geneseo String Band" - Jim Kimball & Friends

Wednesday, Nov. 10 - "Women in World War II" - Dr. James Somerville, SUNY Geneseo Retired History Professor

Wednesday, Dec. 8 - "Show & Tell"

Bicentennial Items

Still Available:

7 Local History Books
DVDs and VHS tapes of
"200 Years & (Re)counting"
Bicentennial Postage Stamps
Nunda Post Cards &
Envelopes with Bicentennial
Postal Cancellations

1/2 Price Items

Bicentennial Porcelain Plates
Bicentennial Logo Pins
Bicentennial Logo Hats
Logo Tee Shirts
Logo Sweat Shirts

Watch for other events sponsored by the Nunda Historical Society

NUNDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Visit us on line

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Early Nunda ca 1946



The Holmes Garage sold Mobilgas and Studebakers and is shown here with trucks from the Nunda Casket Factory and the Village of Nunda. The former Motor Inn Garage was purchased by Clarence (CH) Holmes in 1919 when he moved his Overland dealership here from the Union Block. CH is pictured in his Overland showroom in the new **2010 Historical Society Calendar** that features early transportation in the Nunda area (see page 6). Jack, Clarence's son, joined the

dealership in 1946 and is in the center of this photo. Howard Jackson is on the right. The man on the left is unidentified. Do you know him? (Remember to label your photos!) In recent years this State Street building, opposite Nunda Lumber & Hardware, has housed the Modern Home Center.