Historic Nunda

Volume 15, Issue 2
Fall 2026

Then and Now:

Twenty-Five Years at 24 Portage Street

Remaining Events for 2026 and Preview of 2027
See pages 9 & 11

The Nunda Historical Society has come a long way in the past 25 years - and nowhere is that more evident than at our home at 24 Portage Street! Recently, we came across a collection of color slides taken around 2000 by NHS member Charlie Ostrum, shortly after Tom and Marjorie Stamp donated the building to the Society in 1999. We thought it would be interesting to compare Charlie's photographs with views taken this fall, and share a little of the story of how the former automobile business became today's Nunda Historical Society headquarters.

Our first major project transformed the former Tunningley Motors and Stamp RV Center showroom into a meeting room, the Rose M. Shave Gallery, and our first museum room. A new addition provided an entrance hall, kitchen, bathroom, and office. Later, the unheated storage area was renovated into our main museum, where the "Story of Nunda" is told, along with our first archive room and improvements to the building's heating and security systems.

In 2015, an addition at the rear of the building, acquired from the Stamp family, was renovated and opened as the Stamp Annex. Our most recent project, completed in 2024, added a second archive room and a history resource room, along with new siding and expanded heating and cooling systems. Over the years, grants, donations from members and friends, and the efforts of Society volunteers and local contractors have made these improvements possible.

Looking at these photographs, it is remarkable to see how much has changed in just a quarter of a century. What began as a donated commercial building has become a museum, research center, and gathering place for those interested in preserving and sharing Nunda's history. None of it would have been possible without the generosity and hard work of our members, volunteers, and friends throughout the community. We have certainly come a long way - and we're not finished yet!



Front of building THEN



Front of building NOW



Side of building THEN



Side of building NOW



The President's Corner

Greetings to all our friends and members - and welcome to our latest issue of "Historic Nunda"! As always, you will find in these pages updates on past NHS activities, a look at things to come and, of course, some local history thrown in!

I would like to take a moment to thank everyone who has supported us this busy year -through membership, attending events and programs, following our Facebook and YouTube postings, and donating items to our museum collection. (See "Guide to Donating Items to the NHS" on page 4). Special thanks to our officers, board members and volunteers whose gifts of their time and talents are invaluable to the success of the Society!

Our theme this year has been "Celebrating Our Place in America's Story." We have illustrated this theme through our programs, special events, and displays highlighted in this newsletter. We will continue to explore this theme in the remaining months of 2026. Our updated schedule is posted on page 9.

Also, remember our membership year ends on December 31st! We hope all members will renew, and as you can see on our 2027 Membership form - you can now give an NHS membership as a gift!

Finally - please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, concerns, or ideas: **tscook@rochester.rr.com** or **585-465-0971**.

Tom Cook

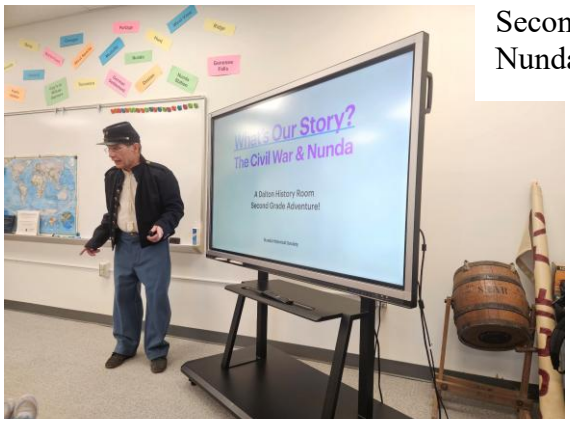
Volunteering is Fun!





Our faithful crew of Tuesday morning volunteers takes a break to celebrate two 80th birthdays with cake and ice cream.

Dalton History Room Adventures



Mr. Cook, in costume, talks with Second Grade students about Nunda during the Civil War

Mrs. Gordinier tells the story of how her great-grandfather shook the hand of President Lincoln.



2026 Programs and Activities



On April 8th, Jane Oakes gave a program about Clara Barton and her work and writings while residing at "Our Home on the Hillside" water cure in Dansville, NY.



On May 3rd, we hosted a presentation by the Livingston County Historical Society in their "Neighbors Series", about several local communities.



And on May 5th, the New York State Department of Transportation sent a crew to take down the poor old accident-prone tree that stood in front of our building for so many years.

Thinking of Donating to the Nunda Historical Society?

One of the most important parts of the Nunda Historical Society's mission is collecting and preserving the photographs, documents, objects, and stories that help tell the story of our community. Many of the treasures in our collection are here today because someone, sometime, decided they were worth saving, and thought of the Historical Society. We are always interested in hearing about items relating to Nunda and the surrounding area. Photographs and postcards, letters and diaries, family and business records, school materials, maps, local publications, advertising pieces, and objects connected with our community can all help us better understand and share our history. And please - let us decide if something is important. An old photograph, letter, receipt, program, or other seemingly ordinary item may contain a name, date, view, or bit of information that fills an important gap in our local story. At the same time, we simply can't accept everything that is offered to us. Our storage space is limited, we sometimes already have several examples of an item, and occasionally something just doesn't fit within our mission of preserving Nunda-area history. We try to look at each potential donation individually and determine whether it would be a good addition to our collection. The story that goes with an item is important, too. If you know who owned it, where it came from, when it was used, who appears in a photograph, or anything else about its history, please share that information with us. Those details can greatly increase an item's value to future researchers. If you have photographs or documents that you would like to keep in your family, we may still be interested in making a digital copy for our files. That way, valuable pieces of Nunda history can be preserved and shared without the family giving up the originals. If you have something you think might belong in the Nunda Historical Society collection, please contact us before bringing it in, especially if it is a large object or a sizeable group of materials. When in doubt, ask us! We would much rather take a look and talk with you than have a piece of Nunda's history disappear because someone thought: "Nobody would ever be interested in this."

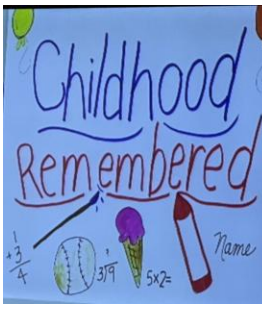


The Dalton train depot sign is a great example of a historical object in our collection that was almost lost. Denise Bugman Geny is standing next to the display case featuring the sign. She saved the sign when the depot was torn down, and it moved with her to Oregon. Last year she asked us if we wanted it, and she mailed it to us. The sign was stabilized by Tom Burt.

More 2026 Programs and Activities

Starting in March and running through October, the Nunda Historical Society held a series of round table discussions for local people to share their personal memories of growing up in our local communities of Nunda, Dalton, Hunt, Portageville and Tuscarora, including sessions specifically about growing up on a farm and memories of school days. These programs were also presented as Zoom meetings, so people who do not live locally could also participate. The discussions were filmed and can be viewed on our YouTube channel: Nunda History.









Annual History Tour & Picnic

On June 10th, the afternoon started off with a members-only tour of the Foote-Billyard home on Massachusetts Street. A picnic followed at the Society's outdoor pavilion on Portage Street. The Nunda Historical Society's Annual Meeting in the Museum was followed by a concert of *"The Patriotic Songs of the American Republic"* by local musician and storyteller Don Dwyer.









Town and Village Historian's Update



Greetings from the Nunda Town & Village Historian's office!

As this historic year draws to a close, I want to introduce you to four Revolutionary War veterans who lived in Nunda at the end of their lives and who are buried in Oakwood Cemetery. On July 4th, I participated with the Nunda Historical Society (NHS) in re-dedicating the Revolutionary War plot in Oakwood Cemetery. Three veterans are buried somewhere in the cemetery, but time and memory have erased the exact location.

Eagle Scout Thomas Coates undertook erecting the plot and the cenotaph markers as his Eagle Project, and it was dedicated on July 4th, 2008 as part of Nunda's Bicentennial celebration. This 250th anniversary of our country's founding called for us to honor the memory of these veterans again.

In 1776 the Town of Nunda as we know it today was a Seneca village. Permanent European settlement was still several decades away. However, men everywhere were standing up and fighting for what they believed in. After the war, soldiers came to our area, brought their families with them, and began the task of clearing the land and making permanent homes. This step became our connection to the Revolutionary War. Let me share some information about these patriots.

Daniel Hamilton enlisted or volunteered at age 16 and being so young, he served as a cattle drover. He helped move the cattle that furnished the fresh beef to feed the brigade. Fellow soldier Zadock Sherwood used to laugh at him and call him a cowboy because of this task. Hamilton lived near Nunda, living part of the time with his son Jonathan, and is buried here. Captain Hand's history says he never received a pension, but Hamilton was always on the Roll of Honor**.**

Daniel Andrus was born in Framington, CT on September 10th, 1739. He enlisted or volunteered into the service in January 1777 under Captain Oin [Owen] Dennison at Stephentown, then Albany Co., NY. By that summer, he had attained the rank of Sergeant. He participated in various scouting parties and campaigns wherever he was sent. He was present at the capture of British General John Burgoyne on October 17th, 1777. He was discharged from service immediately following Burgoyne's capture but over the next four years he was often drafted and he participated in various expeditions under Captains Dennison and Gilbert. Following the war, he lived in several locations until the spring of 1837 when he moved to Nunda, Allegany Co., NY to reside with his son Henry Andrus and family. He was a member of the Baptist Church and died at the age of 90 in 1843.

William Deake Gould (not to be confused with William Gould Dake from nearby Mount Morris), was born in Munson, Hampshire County, MA on July 24th, 1754 and died November 24th, 1842 in Nunda. He enlisted as a private on his 21st birthday in Westminster, Windham Co, VT in Captain Blakesley's Company for six months to join New York State troops at Albany, NY. He was to receive a bounty from Captain Blakesley of 40 shillings which he never received. William was also part of Col. Markham's Regiment and later joined General George Clinton's forces in Albany County, NY. He was at the Battle of Saratoga and witnessed the surrender of British General Burgoyne to General Gates. The Goulds were the second family to settle in Nunda and he became a charter member of the Universalist Church here. He and his wife Abigail Cottrell had seven children and lived in the log house opposite the Union block for a time. William wore his Continental uniform daily and was very proud of his service to his country.

As part of our research for this re-dedication, we were surprised to learn of a fourth patriot buried in Oakwood Cemetery, that of **William Guy, Jr**. He was born December 21st, 1754 in Gloucester, RI and died September 15th, 1841 in Nunda. His wife was Phebe Galencia (July 9th, 1760-December 22th, 1841). William enlisted and served in Captain Wilmarth's company and served under Captains Tourtelotte, Cady, Van Schaick and Thompson. He served under Col. Brown and in Col. Crary's regiment for one year. He did receive a pension. William's grave is in section Old Cemetery 2 (OC2) and was marked with a Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) marker and flag as part of the re-dedication.



We thank our Revolutionary War patriots for their service. May we always remember their sacrifices for our freedom.

Valerie J.V. Griffing, Town and Village Historian

More Summer 2026 Happenings

Our Yard Sale & Bake Sale on August 15th were both very successful thanks to all the hard work of our NHS volunteers! We raised $1092.50 and had a lot of fun too!





In June we hosted a museum tour for the Geneseo Garden Club.

A Special Thanks

Earlier this year, two of our longtime NHS board members "retired" from the Board after many years of service. We honored them at our Annual Meeting in June, but we would also like to express our deep gratitude for all they have done for the Society.

Tom Byrnes has been part of the NHS since the 1980s and served as president for several years. His leadership was instrumental in laying a strong foundation for the Society. As a board member, his keen insight, business experience, and knowledge of Nunda history have been essential to our success.

Fran Ludwig is also a longtime NHS member and served for several years as the Society's Recording Secretary. She could always be counted on to help with the important behind-the-scenes work, from calling folks and distributing advertising to helping supervise special activities and events.

We are pleased that both Tom and Fran remain active NHS members and continue to contribute their time and talents to the Society!

Memorial Donations to the Nunda Historical Society

Memorial donations to the Nunda Historical Society are a thoughtful way to support our work of preserving memories of the past for future generations. It's like planting a tree, which continues to bear fruit over the years to come.

2025

Donor Names	In Memory Of
Kathy & Ron Macomber	Gerald & Mary Goho
Alice Thompson	Gerald Thompson
Patricia Simpson	Wallace Abbott Howe
David Powers	Bruce Powers
RJ & Karen McColl	Chief & Audrey McColl
Barbara Thompson	Hugh Thompson
Isabelle Weir	Robert Weir
Marianne Loper	Nancy Thompson
Karen Ward	Bill Wright
Sue Smith	Julianne Dudley
Ethan Boss	Julianne Dudley
Donald & Marjorie Cox	Julianne Dudley
Erica & Lynn Waite	Julianne Dudley
John Lindsay	Frank H. Lindsay Jr.
Theresa Wood	Burdette & Irene Galton
Douglas & Deina Beaudet	Julianne Dudley
Christina Stoufer	Mable Craig Stone
Gary Bentley	Judy Bentley
Marcia Ayers	Gary Ayers
Susan Mann	Julia Donovan
Anthony Fiori	Julia Donovan
Gary & Fran Ludwig	Julia Donovan

2026

Donor Names	In Memory Of
Susan Mann	Thomas Mann
Eleanor Boyd Wright	Boyd & Stockweather Families
RJ & Karen McColl	Josephine Clinton
Kathy & Ron Macomber	Gerald & Mary Goho
Gerald Rease	Marcia Rease
John and Sandy Thompson	Jean and Allen Thompson
Dennis & Bev VanCamp	Lucille Beardsly
Eugene & Diana Moffat	Jeanne Thompson Piper
John Lindsay	Frank H. Lindsay Sr.
Sam & Judy Cipriano	Ethel & Karl Foster
Kathy Thompson	Dick Thompson
Maureen Goho	Gerald & Mary Goho

Win a Piece of Local History!





Every Foote A Mixer



On Wednesday night, September 9th, Chris Foote presented "Every Foote A Mixer: A History of the Foote Company of Nunda 1898-1955." Chris is the great-grandson of Chester Foote, one of the company's founders. His years of research, historic images, and family stories provided an interesting evening about Nunda's most famous industry. If you were unable to attend this meeting, it can be viewed on the Nunda Historical Society's YouTube Channel: "Nunda History".

Membership Update

Christmas is right around the corner. Did you know the Historical Society now offers Gift Memberships at $15 for an individual membership? What a great, local gift for that history buff on your shopping list, no matter where they live.

Speaking of that, don't forget to renew your membership for 2027; a form is included elsewhere in this newsletter for your gift membership and for yours as well. We are so grateful for your ongoing support which enables us to maintain and preserve the vast number of items we continue to receive as well as to present outstanding programs of local and regional interest. We have an exciting lineup of activities planned for 2027 and your membership enables you to be the first to know what is going on!

Our small society has a strong membership base. As of October 27th, 2026, we had 156 paid members. This includes 20 members who have already renewed their membership for 2027, three who are renewed through 2028 and one who is renewed through 2029! Why wait and risk missing out on that special event? Renew your membership today and check that box off your list.

Remaining Programs for 2026

- **Wednesday, November 11, 7PM; Fraternity, Charity, Loyalty: The Womans Relief Corps and the Legacy of Women's Service in Nunda by Sue Long.** Founded in the years following the Civil War, the Womans Relief Corps became a national organization dedicated to supporting Union veterans and their families, and promoting patriotic service. In Nunda, the WRC played an active role in community life through charitable work, Memorial Day observances and civic events that shaped how the Civil War generation was remembered. Guided by its motto: *Fraternity, Charity, Loyalty*, this program explores the local history of women's service in Nunda across generations.
- **Sunday, December 6, 2:30; William D. Burt presents his new NHS book: "The Last Days of the Rochester Branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad".** Book signing will follow the program. (Nunda Museum and Rose Shave Galley Open 2-4 PM.)
- **Saturday, December 12, 10 AM – 5 PM;** Be sure to stop by the Nunda Historical Society during this year's **Christmas in Nunda Celebration!** Enjoy our traditional Christmas decorations, our special holiday displays, craft activities, and shop for local history gifts. **Don't forget our Cookie Sale!**
- **Wednesday, December 16, 7 PM: Childhood Memories of Christmas.** We finish our series of programs on Growing Up in Nunda and Portage with an evening of sharing Christmas memories. Bring your own memories and special mementoes from Christmas Past!

List of Current Members (as of October 30, 2026)
*indicates already renewed for 2027

John & Stacey Alioto
Jeremiah & Susie Axtell
Harold R & Gayle A Bauer
*Michael Bauer
Duane & Rosemary Bennett
Yvonne M Bennett
Brenda Bergeron
Audrey DeVinney Blakley
*George Blood
Sandra K Bonadonna
Ethan Boss
Trish & Tom Brady
Alberta Brown
Bruce Buchinger
Thomas & Dee Dee Burt
Kimala Butler
*James Byrnes
Thomas & Barbara Byrnes
Carol Castor
Sam & Judy Cipriano
*Jerilyn Clark
Diane Congdon
Tom & Anne Cook
Phil & Avis Cox
Ann Crandall
Kathleen Roby Creagan
Melissa Mallaber Davis
Gwendolyn Derrenbacher
Gail Diemoz
Joseph DiPasquale
Pam Watkins Ells
Robert & Peggy Ellsworth
*Alberta Essler
Janice Thompson Fitzpatrick
David Flint
Frank & Linda Foley
*Marge Foose
Theron Foote
Sally & Charlie Fuller
*Jeremy Galton
Ada Gates
*Nancy Gebauer
Cathie W Gehrig
Ira Gelser
Robert & Mary Gelser
Betty Gilhouse
Maureen E Goho
Raymond & Joanne Goll
Vicki Goll
John & Karla Gordinier & Family
Angela Graves
Mary Ellen Graves
Valerie & Don Griffing

Beth Carpenter Griswold
Margaret Grosse
Sharon Hagens
Gail & Rich Hanss
David Haskell
Alex & Deborah Heinonen
*Sue & Ray Hengelsberg
Nancy Holler
Corinne Hooker
*Rhonda Howard
Janet Hughes
Vera Hurd
Daniel Hurlburt
Valerie DePuy Jessen
Howard Judd
Gene & Laurie Kastenic
Geraldine H Kennedy
Alice Knittel
Bonnie & Lonnie Kratts
Joan H Larson
Lynne & Clair Lawson
Leonora Letchworth
*John Lindsay
Jeff & Sue Long
Terry & Connie Lowell
George & Karen Lucas
Gary & Fran Ludwig
Kathy & Ron Macomber
Jacoby Macomber
*Nancy Mann
*Susan Mann
Bob & Doris Marsh
Rachael & John McAllister
RJ & Karen McColl
Than Mehlenbacher
Bob & Jill Michielsen
Eugene & Diana Moffat
*Joyce Marie Moore
*Douglas Morgan
*Monica Morris
Janice Morris-Pirrello
Judy Murray
Rich & Ginny NiCastle
Marlene Tapp Noden
Phil & Amy Osika
Tom & Anne Paine
R Parker
Gary Payne
Carrie Pepe
Alex & Becky Pierce
Julie Piraino
Pete & Sue Piraino
David N Powers
Barbara Randall
Anne & Paul Rangere
*Jerry & Wayne Rease

John Robinson
Bob & Donna Russell
Diane Ryan
Adrian Sanford
Barbara Sanford
Dale & Debbie Sanford
Jane Schryver
*Joan Schumaker
Richard & Mina Sinsabaugh
Kristen Smith
Nedra Smith
Sue Smith
Maxine Snelgrove
Deborah Snyder
William Stoll
Ted & Karen Gibson Strang
Charles Strickland
Clayton Taft
Nathan Tallman
Anne Theders
*Patricia Therrien
Alice Thompson
Barbara A Thompson
John & Sandy Thompson
*Kathy Thompson
Tom & Laura Thornton
Stephanie Timothy
William F Totsline
Beverly & Dennis VanCamp
Mike & Rose Vasile
Vickie Veley
Carmen & Mark Vianese
Marchelle Vianese
*JoAnn Waldon
Merilee Walker
Steve & Linda C Walker
Karen Ward
Carl & Carol Weber
Isabelle R Weir
Norman Wetterau
Jessica, Colin & Jude Wilcox
Jean Wilkins
Allen Willett
LeRoy & Theresa Wood
Charles Woolever
*Mickie Young





On July 4th we dedicated a new flagpole at the museum in honor of America's 250th Birthday!

A Sneak Peek at 2027!

The NHS is already busy planning for next year, and we thought we would give you a little look ahead to what promises to be an exciting year!

Our 2027 schedule of programs, activities, and special events is taking shape, with plenty of opportunities to explore our area's history. Our monthly programs will include presentations on the Genesee Valley Canal, local cider mills, famous trees of Livingston County, the Nunda Soda Bar and other local businesses, and Native American history. We are also considering panel discussions on the Nunda Theatre Guild and school marching bands.

We will host our annual members' house tour and Society picnic, participate in local annual events, and lead some history walks in the area. Don't be surprised if we include a workshop or two!

Visitors to our building next year will also find new exhibits and displays, along with more opportunities for hands-on exploration in the Nunda Museum and Rose Shave Gallery. We will also be publishing several new local history titles and adding other new items to our Gift Shop!

All in all, 2027 will be an exciting year at the Nunda Historical Society! We hope you will join us!

Quilt Raffle Fundraiser

Our second Historical Society raffle is a 60"x60" large lap quilt, made and donated by the Veley family. The beautiful "Shooting Star" design seemed perfect for this special United States 250th anniversary year. The quilt was a true family endeavor with all three sisters: Valerie Griffing, Vickie Veley and Vessa Fisher organizing and executing the project. Vessa's husband Scott helped make the final fabric selections, and their father Earl suggested another color that would pull the pattern theme together. The quilt was machine quilted by Kim Swink of Dansville, NY. Tickets are $2 each or 3 tickets for $5 and are available at the museum every Tuesday from 9 am-12 noon and at all other society programs and events. Have you bought your tickets yet?

If you live out of the area and want tickets, please call the museum at 585-468-5420 and leave a message. The drawing will be held at 5 pm on Saturday, December 12 at Christmas in Nunda.

Take a chance to win this beautiful piece of local craftsmanship and support the Nunda Historical Society.

Christmas in Nunda, Saturday, December 12th

The Museum will be open from 10 AM to 5 PM

- Cookie Sale
- Christmas items for sale
- Craft Activities: making traditional Christmas ornaments and some surprises
- Nunda Historical Society 2027 Calendar available for purchase
- Gift Shop open with local history books and gifts
- Drawing at 4 PM for the Keshequa School Team Chair
- Drawing at 5 PM for the Shooting Star Quilt



Find us on Facebook! @nundahistoricalsociety

NUNDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Nunda, NY 14517-0341

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2026 - 2027
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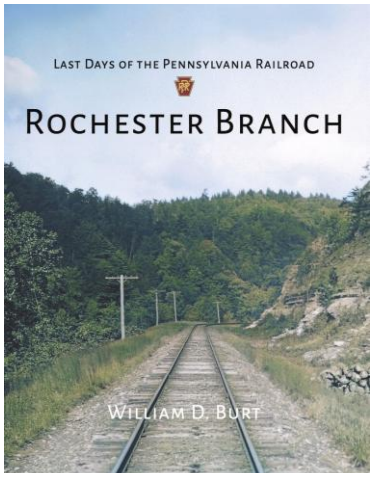
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Photographs by
Tom Cook
Laura Thornton

Nunda Historical Society Museum & Rose Shave Gallery
are open 10 am - noon on Tuesdays and
2-4 pm, on 1st and 3rd Sundays March through November
and other times by arrangement: (585) 468-5420 or (585) 465-0971



Railroad historian William D. Burt will be on hand at the Nunda Historical Society on Sunday, December 6th, to sign copies of his latest book. The book is available now on Amazon.com



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