

## 2025 Programs & Events

See Schedule on  
page 7 for  
remaining  
2025 Programs



# Historic Nunda

Volume 14 Issue 3

Fall 2025

## *Yes, the Nunda Historical Society needs YOU!*

Most of our readers are already “signed up” as members, and we thank you! With around 150 members today, your dues, donations, and support are essential to the ongoing success of our organization. (And we hope you’ll “re-enlist” when renewal notices go out for the 2026 year.)

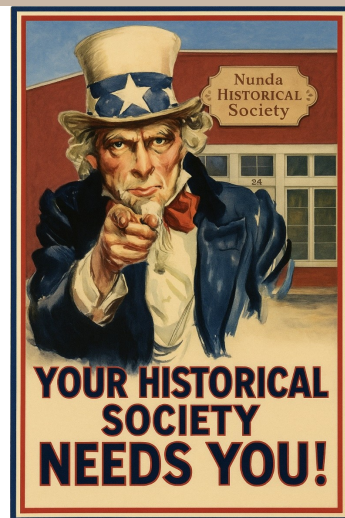
But we also need you in other ways. We’d like to revitalize some of the Society’s committees, bringing in new ideas and energy. And thanks to modern technology, you don’t even need to be local to contribute; with a computer or even just a telephone, you can add your ideas and experiences from anywhere.

**Program Committee** – Help identify future programs and activities.

**Membership Committee** – Assist with our annual membership drive.

**Development Committee** – Share your fundraising and grant ideas.

**Exhibit Committee** – Contribute to creating new displays and exhibit boards.



We’re also looking for **docents** so we can expand our hours. Currently, we’re open Tuesday mornings and the first and third Sunday afternoons, March through November. We’d love to add every Sunday- or even a few evenings- but we need more volunteers. Could you spare a few hours a month? Don’t worry if you’re not familiar with Nunda history- we will train you, and you would always have a partner on duty. We would also appreciate help with our **daily Facebook posts, website, and video editing.**

If you’d like to answer Uncle Sam’s call for volunteers, let us know! (And if you’ve already checked the “volunteer” box on your membership form, you’ll be hearing from us soon.)

To all our members- past and present- thank you for making us one of the most active and successful historical societies in the Genesee Valley. We look forward to welcoming more of you to help us continue to grow!



Keshequa First Graders visited the Museum in June to learn about life in the 19th Century, including the ways that children helped out with daily household chores.



## The President's Corner

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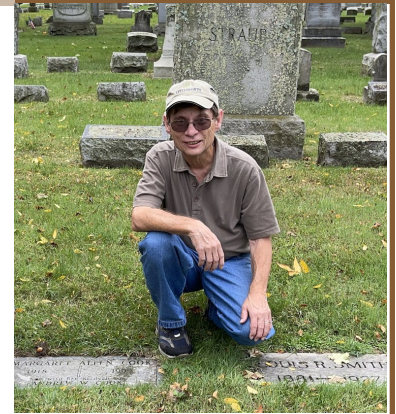
I hope everyone enjoyed a wonderful summer- we certainly did here at the Museum!

As you'll see in this newsletter, we have been hard at work on our mission to preserve and promote local history. Along with some exciting summer programs, much has been happening behind the scenes. Our librarians continue accessioning donations, while other volunteers are making excellent progress digitizing accession records that go back over forty years. We've also been developing new displays, exhibits, and a resource to assist with property research in the village and town. You'll hear more about these projects in future newsletters.

Another exciting development is in publishing. With eighteen titles already in our gift shop, we are now exploring publishing through Amazon's Kindle platform. We've started with a small book of stories I wrote nearly fifty years ago, and we hope on-demand printing will make it easier and more affordable to share additional manuscripts. While we'll continue to use local printers for our calendars and other items, this approach will allow us to add more titles, all available on Amazon as well as locally through our gift shop, Nunda Family Pharmacy, and Bell Memorial Library. Proceeds from local sales will continue to go directly to the NHS. We expect at least one more book to be ready later this year!

Enjoy this latest newsletter, and as always, please reach out with any questions or concerns at 585-465-0971 or [tscook@rochester.rr.com](mailto:tscook@rochester.rr.com) or visit our website at [www.nundahistory.org](http://www.nundahistory.org).

Tom Cook



## Programs and Activities Spring and Summer 2025



Dennis James presented "Music Masterpieces in Miniature" at Trinity Church on April 27th.



On May 14th, members were quizzed about the U.S. Constitution by Betsy Ross in an interactive program from American History Live.



Tom and Jim Byrnes shared old photos of downtown Nunda as part of the sidewalk tours during Americana Day on July 12th.



On July 20th, storyteller Cris Riedel shared "Stories They Brought With Them" from pioneer times.



In addition to hosting a variety of history adventures for elementary students in our history room in Dalton, the KCS Fourth Graders also took part in a special history day at the Nunda Museum in May. It included a museum scavenger hunt, writing in cursive with quill pens, a comparison of 19th century tools with modern tools, and hands-on learning activities about making clothing in the 19th and early 20th century, from growing flax to spinning, weaving and sewing. The day concluded with a storytelling session with Onondaga Turtle Clan member Perry Ground.



**Tools "THEN" and "NOW"**



**Weaving on a loom**



**Scavenger hunt in the Museum**



**Writing in cursive with quill pens made from wild turkey feathers**



**Sewing without electricity**

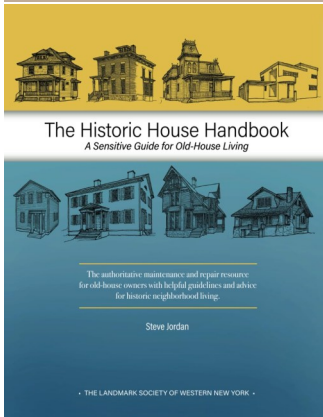


**What is flax? How can thread be made from a hard scratchy plant?**



**A student volunteer helps in the storytelling with Perry Ground**





In our last newsletter, Megan Klem, Director of Preservation Services at The Landmark Society of Western NY, wrote about the creation of the Nunda Village Historic District, now officially listed on the National Register of Historic Places. As she explained, “The National Register listing is honorary, recognizing the historic significance of Nunda’s architecture, development, and cultural heritage. It does not place restrictions on private property owners unless state or federal funding or permitting is involved.” (For more on tax credits and other information, see our Spring 2025 newsletter.)

For those living in one of the “contributing” properties in the new historic district- or for anyone who owns an older home- the Landmark Society has recently published a helpful new guide: *The Historic House Handbook: A Sensitive Guide for Old-House Living* by Steve Jordan. This 114-page illustrated book is described as “the authoritative maintenance and repair resource for old-house owners, with helpful guidelines and advice for historic neighborhood living.”

The handbook offers chapters on understanding historic architectural styles, researching your house, planning projects, and dealing with common challenges such as roofs, basements, and foundations. Other sections address preserving important exterior and interior features, energy conservation, and more. Particularly useful is the chapter “Resources for Homeowners: Permits, Designations, and Funding,” which provides guidance on navigating local paperwork and highlights possible sources of grants and tax credits.

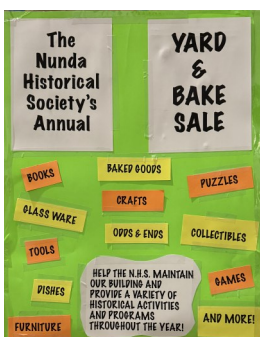
Steve Jordan’s *Historic House Handbook* is a valuable resource for anyone living in an older home- defined as fifty years or older- whether in the village or the countryside. Copies are available from the Landmark Society ([www.landmarksociety.org](http://www.landmarksociety.org)) or through Amazon for \$14.95 plus shipping. Locally, you can browse a copy at the Nunda Historical Society or borrow one from the Bell Memorial Library.



## 2026 Calendar Update

Work continues on our upcoming calendar “Growing Up in Nunda and Portage.” We have been collecting memories on our Memory Board in the Nunda Museum and through our daily Facebook posts. Local residents have also been sharing wonderful photographs with us. Many of these photographs and memories will appear in the calendar, while all will be part of a special exhibit that will open next spring. If you have memories of growing up in the area and childhood photographs, it is not too late to take part. You can send your favorite childhood memories and copies of photographs to the [nhs@frontier.com](mailto:nhs@frontier.com) or mail them to NHS Box 341, Nunda NY 14517.

Please help us preserve this important aspect of Nunda’s past!



A big THANK YOU to all our members who helped out with our Yard Sale and Bake Sale on August 16th! We raised over \$1000! Thanks to all the bakers, contributors, and shoppers!!!







On the morning of Saturday, August 9th, the NHS hosted a special Nunda Native Heritage event featuring Perry Ground, Onondaga storyteller and educator. The program included two sessions: ***“Lacrosse, the Creator’s Game,”*** a hands-on workshop exploring the traditional roots of this sport in the Genesee Valley, and ***“More Stories from the People of the Longhouse.”*** The event was sponsored by the Once Again Nut Butter Company. The Society looks forward to continuing to host programs like this in the future.

## Historic Building Tours and Annual Picnic



Mayor Jack Morgan gave members a tour of the Village Police Department building.

A tour of the Masonic Lodge led by Bob Cox



Members enjoyed the picnic in the Historical Society Pavilion after the tours.

Local musician and storyteller Don Dwyer provided the entertainment: “Songs of the Erie Canal”.



Find us on Facebook! @nundahistoricalsociety



When the Nunda Historical Society was organized in the spring of 1983, one of the first projects was drafting a constitution to guide the new organization. Our “Founding Fathers and Mothers” did an excellent job- their work provided a strong foundation that carried the Society through its early growth. Aside from a few adjustments made in 1996, when the Society applied for a permanent charter, the 1983 document served us well into the new century.

Over the past two decades, however, it became clear that some parts of the constitution no longer fit our needs. For example, the original document called for finding a permanent home for the Society, which was accomplished in 1999 with the generous gift of our building at 24 Portage Street from the Stamp Family. While the Board often talked about revising the constitution, the demands of developing the Nunda Museum and Rose Shave Gallery, completing building renovations, and carrying out numerous projects and programs always took precedence.

Last year, the Board committed to a thorough review. We set aside time at each monthly meeting to examine one section at a time, noting where updates were needed and checking how closely our current practices matched the policies and procedures in the document.

That careful process was completed this May, and the revised constitution was approved by the membership at our annual meeting in June. The new version keeps in place most of the structures and procedures established more than forty years ago, elements that have been key to the Society’s success. Most revisions relate to the development and maintenance of our historical building. For instance, we officially added the Exhibit Planning Committee, which has been operating informally for more than twenty years. Other changes include small adjustments to the duties of officers and committee chairs, membership categories, and related areas.

You can view the revised constitution on our website at [www.nundahistory.org/constitution.html](http://www.nundahistory.org/constitution.html). Digital or paper copies are also available upon request.

## Restoration of the Presbyterian Church Window Nears Completion



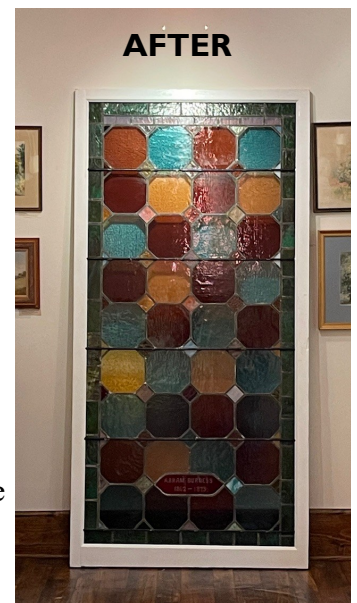
**BEFORE**

In our last newsletter, we announced our latest restoration project—a 19th-century stained glass window from the First Presbyterian Church of Nunda. We are happy to share that the project is now almost complete!

As the photographs show, the restoration work was beautifully done by Mr. Dennis Kenney of Wyoming County. The frame was carefully repaired by the talented team at Hark Homes. The window was returned to us in June, and we have mounted it in a place of honor in the Rose Shave Gallery- both for safety and for public viewing.

But the story doesn’t end there. To bring out the full beauty of this historic window, we researched the best ways to display stained glass. We are now in the process of creating a custom lightbox that will be installed behind the window, allowing its colors and details to shine as they were originally meant to be seen.

We will be re-dedicating the Presbyterian Church window this fall, once the permanent mount and backlighting are complete. Stay tuned for details- we look forward to celebrating this special piece of our community’s past with you!





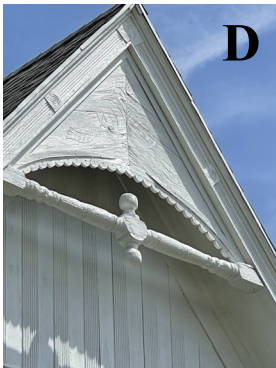
All programs are held at the Nunda Historical Society building, located at 24 Portage Street, Nunda, unless otherwise noted in the description. Please refer to the schedule below for specific times and locations. Unless indicated, all events are **free and open to the public**. The NHS building is wheelchair accessible. **This schedule is subject to change.** For the latest updates, visit our website at [www.nundahistory.com](http://www.nundahistory.com) or follow us on Facebook.

- **Sundays, September 7 & 21, 2-4 PM;** Nunda Museum and Rose Shave Gallery Open. Check our Facebook Page and [nundahistory.org](http://nundahistory.org) for any special activities or programs!
- **Wednesday, September 10, 7 PM; *Music from the Nunda Song Kitchen presented by Don Burger and Friends.*** Don Burger, host of the Song Kitchen Show on WRAQ 92.7 FM has been holding a Community Song Kitchen activity at the NHS over the past year. The program will include songs written and performed by area residents, including several that celebrate the Nunda area!
- **Sunday, October 5, 1-3 PM; *Discover Oakwood Cemetery Day.*** Visit Nunda's historic Oakwood Cemetery to meet some of Oakwood's notable residents, a family scavenger hunt, an introduction to graveyard art and symbols, a special museum display inside the 1902 cemetery vault, and several mini-talks. Discover the stories and significance behind this cherished community landmark! (Enter at the West Street Gate; use the parking lot across the street at Seating, Inc.)
- **Sunday, October 19, 2-4 PM;** Nunda Museum and Rose Shave Gallery Open. Tom Cook will be signing copies of his latest book, "The Yesterday Series, Volume 1". See page 10.
- **Sundays, November 2 & 16, 2-4 PM;** Nunda Museum and Rose Shave Gallery Open. Check our Facebook Page and [nundahistory.org](http://nundahistory.org) for any special activities or programs!
- **Wednesday, November 12, 7 PM; *"When Johnny Came Marching Home, the Role of Civil War Veterans in Nunda and Portage by Tom Cook* .** In honor of Veterans Day, Tom will explore the impact returning veterans had on their communities in the years following the Civil War.
- **Wednesday, December 10, 7 PM *Christmas Customs: Origins and Oddities by Jane Oakes.*** (Jane returns once more to the NHS to close out our program year with a special program for Christmas!) Why do we bring trees and greenery into our homes? Which holiday customs were rejected by early church elders? Which nationality gave us Christmas Cookies? Does Old Saint Nick have a malevolent companion? What does the Winter Solstice have to do with our celebrations?
- **Saturday, December 14, 10AM - 5PM;** 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 and shop for local history gifts. **Don't forget our Cookie Sale!!!** Watch for details!

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**Architectural Scavenger Hunt:** In our last issue we asked our readers if they could identify these details on buildings in the Village of Nunda? **HERE ARE THE ANSWERS!**

- D. The Valley Shop on South State Street  
 E. Masonic Hall  
 F. 30 Massachusetts Street





As part of our Nunda Americana Day activities the Society held a museum-wide exhibit entitled “Hands, Hearts, & Hobbies” that celebrated the creative spirit that shaped life in Nunda through the years. As part of the exhibit we had over a dozen local folks who shared their love of crafts and collections with visitors.

In addition to the exhibitors ,the NHS put together a slide show featuring examples of “hands, hearts and hobbies.” The show featured over fifty local objects that reflected the many ways local residents have enriched their lives and community through crafts, hobbies, and collections. Some items come from the Nunda Historical Society’s archives, while others were generously shared by NHS community members. The show was so well received that we hope to expand it.

Do you have a photograph of a favorite hobby, craft, or collection you enjoy? Something that you or a family member has created? Just send a digital copy to [nhs@frontier.com](mailto:nhs@frontier.com) with your name and a short description and we will add it to our slide show! And if you have a craft, collection or hobby you would be willing to exhibit or demonstrate at the Museum on a Sunday afternoon or a future activity, please let us know!



David Vasile with his beautiful photographs



Kathy Macomber with crochet and knitting



Shirley and Dean Timothy with their artwork



Sue Long's doll collection



Bob and Dee Burt with wood-working and stamping

Carol Castor demonstrates weaving.



Sue Hengelsberg played traditional melodies on the hammer dulcimer



(Left to right) Vickie Veley and Valerie Veley Griffing showed lacemaking and crochet. Carol Weber demonstrated English paper piecing patchwork.



David & Clifford Flint's Antique gun collection



## 2025 Members

John & Stacey Alioto  
 Deb Alloco  
 Jeremiah & Susie Axtell  
 Marcia Ayers  
 Eva M. Barbour  
 Michael Bauer  
 Duane & Rosemary Bennett  
 Margaret Billyard  
 Audrey Blakley  
 George Blood  
 Trish & Tom Brady  
 Alberta Brown  
 Bruce Buchinger  
 Thomas & Dee Dee Burt  
 Raymond & Kimala Butler  
 James Byrnes  
 Thomas & Barbara Byrnes  
 Clyde Clancy  
 Jerilyn Clark  
 Diane Congdon  
 Tom & Anne Cook  
 Phil & Avis Cox  
 Ann Crandall  
 Ivan Davis  
 Maribeth Dibble  
 Gail Diemoz  
 Patricia Dieter  
 Joseph DiPasquale  
 John & Jeannie Ebert  
 Pam Ellis  
 Robert & Peggy Ellsworth  
 Alberta Essler  
 David Flint  
 Frank & Linda Foley  
 Marge Foose  
 Christopher Foote  
 Theron Foote  
 Sally Fuller  
 Patty Galbraith  
 Jeremy Galton  
 Nancy Gebauer

Cathie Gehrig  
 Ira Gelser  
 Robert & Mary Gelser  
 Betty Gillhouse  
 Maureen Goho  
 Ray & Joanne Goll  
 Vicki Goll  
 James Goodrich  
 John & Karla Gordinier &  
 Family  
 Edmond Gormel  
 Angela Graves  
 Mary Ellen Graves  
 Carol Griffen  
 Don & Valerie Griffing  
 Beth Carpenter Griswold  
 Margaret Grosse  
 Paul L Grover  
 Sharon Hagens  
 Connie M. Hamilton  
 Carolyn Hark  
 David Haskell  
 Alex & Debra Heinonen  
 Sue & Ray Hengelsberg  
 Corrine Hooker  
 Frank Howe  
 Janet Hughes  
 Vera & A. David Hurd  
 Valerie DePuy Jessen  
 Howard Judd  
 Geraldine Kennedy  
 Alice Knittel  
 Bonnie Kratts  
 Brandon Lawson  
 Lynne & Clair Lawson  
 John Lindsay  
 Jeff & Sue Long  
 Marianne Loper  
 Terry & Connie Lowell  
 George & Karen Lucas  
 Gary & Fran Ludwig  
 Kathy & Ron Macomber

Melissa Mallaber  
 Nancy Mann  
 Susan Mann  
 Bob & Doris Marsh  
 Rachael & John McAllister  
 RJ & Karen McColl  
 Donna Smith Miceli  
 Bob & Jill Michielsen  
 Linda Mitchell  
 Joyce Marie Moore  
 Douglas Morgan  
 Randall Morris  
 Janice Morris-Pirrello  
 Judy Murray  
 Rich & Ginny NiCastle  
 Marlene Tapp Noden  
 Gael Billyard Orr  
 Julie Osborn  
 Phil & Amy Osika  
 Ralph Parker  
 Carrie Pepe  
 Alex & Becky Pierce & Family  
 Julie Piraino  
 Pete & Sue Piraino  
 David Powers  
 Barbara Randall  
 Anne & Paul Rangere  
 Jerry Rease  
 John Robinson  
 Bob & Donna Russell  
 Diane Ryan  
 Adrian Sanford  
 Robert & Lily Sanford  
 Sherman Sanford  
 Joan Schumaker  
 Patricia Simpson  
 Richard & Mina Sinsabaugh  
 Cindy Smith  
 Nedra Smith  
 Sue Smith  
 Maxine Snelgrove  
 Christine Starr

William Stoll  
 Ted & Karen Gibson Strang  
 Charles Strickland  
 Clayton Taft  
 Nathan Tallman  
 Anne Theders  
 Alice Thompson  
 Barbara Thompson  
 Tom & Laura Thornton  
 Stephanie Timothy  
 Rachel Towsley  
 Beverly & Dennis VanCamp  
 Aryah, Kimberly &  
 Stella VanName  
 Earl Veley  
 Carmen & Mark Vianese  
 Marchelle Vianese  
 JoAnn Waldon  
 Merilee Walker  
 Steve & Linda C. Walker  
 Karen Ward  
 Brenda & Ken Weaver Sr.  
 Glenda & Kenneth Weaver Jr.  
 Carl & Carol Weber  
 Isabelle R. Weir  
 Norman Wetterau  
 Kimala Wheeler  
 Jean Wilkins  
 LeRoy & Teresa Wood  
 Charles Woolever  
 Eleanor Wright  
 Mickie Young

## Nunda High School Class of 1953 Celebrates Members' 90th Birthdays



Class members not present  
 for photo:

Grace Bailey Chamberlain  
 Lawrence Ebert  
 Martha Freeman Mann  
 Geraldine Hooker Kennedy  
 Lorraine Palmer Hazlett  
 Joan Scism Stark  
 Bonnie Wallace Smith  
 Barbara Wilkins Gath  
 Joyce Wright Sperico

## **NUNDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

24 Portage Street  
PO Box 341  
Nunda, NY 14517-0341

Phone: 585-468-5420  
nhs@frontier.com  
[www.nundahistory.org](http://www.nundahistory.org)

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### **2025 - 2026 Board of Directors**

Tom Cook - President  
Jeff Long -  
Vice President  
Valerie Velej Griffing -  
Recording Secretary  
Mickie Young -  
Corresponding Secretary  
Kathleen Macomber -  
Treasurer  
Sue Long-  
Librarian

#### Directors

Thomas Byrnes  
Francine Ludwig  
Becky Pierce  
Joan Schumaker

#### Assistant Librarians

Gail Diemoz  
Marge Foose  
Alice Thompson  
Laura Thornton

#### Newsletter Committee

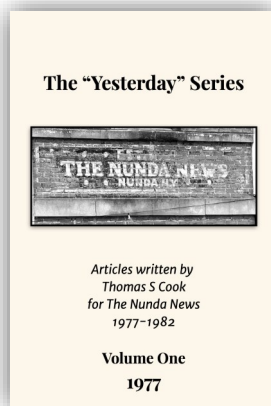
Tom Cook  
Karla Gordinier  
Margaret Grosse  
Laura Thornton

Photographs by  
Tom Cook

***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.*

## ***Our Latest Publication***

The NHS is proud to announce the release of *The Yesterday Series, Vol. 1*, written by NHS member Thomas S. Cook. This first volume gathers twenty of Tom's "Yesterday" articles originally published in the *Nunda News* between 1977 and 1982. Nearly one hundred local history stories appeared in the series, and this book marks the beginning of bringing them back into print.



*The Yesterday Series, Vol. 1* is available for \$10 at the Nunda Historical Society, Nunda Family Pharmacy, and Bell Memorial Library, as well as by mail and on Amazon. All proceeds benefit the Nunda Historical Society.

Tom will be signing copies of this book, and his earlier works, on **Sunday, October 19th, from 2 to 4 PM at the Museum.**

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