



Sheldon Schoolhouse
Strykersville, NY

Sheldon Historical Society Schoolhouse Museum Newsletter



"The earth laughs
in flowers"

An update on our progress as a Society and a Chartered Museum "A New Look at Old News From our Town"

We hope you will stop in to see us at our 30th Annual Strykersville Townwide Yard Sale, June 5 - 6! There will be yard sales from one end of town to the other, with food and plant sales in front of the Schoolhouse Museum.

Thank you to everyone who contributed in some way to our Special Edition, A Gallant Lady. We hope you enjoyed it. We were pleased that we could bring it to you, due to the membership fees and memorial donations we have received from so many of our members and friends. We also appreciate the recent donations of pictures and memorabilia from the Schuessler, Kehl and George families.



Lot of class

The Varysburg Union School's class of 1938 includes, first row from left, Raymond Fisher, Jerry Redding, Roger Schwedt, George Knab, Jack Durfee, Gordon Libby Jr., Jim Donnelly, Roger Durfee, Ann Knab, Mary Grover, Clara Redding, Norman Spink; second row, Roberta West, Leo Redding, Margaret Pierson, Elizabeth Pierson, Mary Lee Donnelly, Norman Fisher, Howard Herman, Paul Wehner, Marie Smith, Ethelbert Almeter; third row, Vera Frisbee, Jean Embt, Donald Wehner, Hayden Spink, Mary Lou West, Stephen Smith, John Donnelly, Virginia Laird, Jean Eastman, Harlan Cannon, Betty Cannon, Betty Flattery; fourth row, Katherine Durfee, Pauline Gior, Alfred Conard, Fred Laird, Bob Durfee, Maynard Davis; fifth row, Richard Spink, Theodore Cornish, teacher Grace Wheeler and teacher Marion McQuilkin.

Thank you to Warren Zahler, for the two-part article, Leaving Germany for America. To learn more about what happened to the Zahler family, see his family history website at www.zahlerweb.info.

Leaving Germany for America By Warren Zahler

(Continued from Volume 9, Issue 4, December 2020)

Part 2: Sneaking Out: The Zehler family left for America at several times between 1847 and 1856. The family lived in a small settlement, named Nuhweiler, which is part of the Town of Lockweiler, in the German State of Saarland. The accompanying maps show the location of Nuhweiler, near the western border of Germany.



An important aspect of their story involves the geo-political changes at the end of the Napoleonic War when the Congress of Vienna rearranged some territorial boundaries within the German Confederation. Of particular importance is the Saar region, which was awarded to the Kingdom of Prussia, with one exception. A small slice of territory was awarded to the Grand Duchy of Oldenburg, in recognition of its contribution to the defeat of Napoleon. Named the Principality of Birkenfeld, its southwestern tip bordered on the area of Prussia where the Zehler family lived. On the above map the border between Prussia and Birkenfeld is shown by the heavy black line.

There is little direct information describing the departure of Zehler family members for America. Our understanding of their story is largely inferred from other records. From Census records and newspaper reports, we know the family members emigrated on four separate occasions. As with the Faulring family described in Part 1, individuals and families were expected to apply for permission. In particular, they needed to settle their debts and young men needed to complete two years of service in the army.

- A. The first family member to leave for America was the oldest son, John, who left in 1847 at the age of 16. Clearly, he left to avoid service in the Prussian Army, very likely encouraged by his parents, which would reflect the dislike of local people for Prussian rule.

John's departure undoubtedly angered the Prussian authorities. However, the only known consequence of John's departure is recorded in the baptismal record of my great-grandfather, Friedrich Wilhelm Zehler. Friedrich's sponsor for his baptism was none other than Friedrich Wilhelm IV, King of Prussia. Of course, the King did not attend the baptism, but was represented by his proxy, Nicolaus Merl. I assume the choice of sponsor was intended to placate the Prussian authorities, whether voluntary or forced.

John proceeded to sail to America and ended up in the Sheldon area. The Zehler family had undoubtedly heard about the area from friends and neighbors who had already immigrated there. Notably among these were the Glaeser and Meyer families.

- B. The second son, Peter, emigrated in 1852. Born in 1833, Peter would have been 21 years old and would have served his time in the military. Presumably, he applied for permission to leave, though no record of this has been found. This saved his parents a great deal of additional trouble. Peter also sailed to America and joined his brother in Western New York.
- C. Then in March 1855, two more Zehler children left for America; Anna, 19, and Michael, 17. Michael was actually 16, since he left in April, before his birthday, which was in May. Just like John, Michael was escaping military service. This time he had the help of his older sister. They arrived in New York City on May 1855 aboard the sailing ship Samuel M. Fox, and then continued on to Sheldon to join their two brothers.

The circumstances suggest that the parents, Peter and Anna Maria, intended to emigrate to America in 1855, along with Anna, Michael, and all their remaining children. However, this plan was thwarted because Anna Maria was about 8 months pregnant with her thirteenth child. Still, Michael had to leave or face two years in the army.

- D. Peter and Anna Maria left for America in the spring of 1856, along with their nine remaining children. This would have been routine, except for Michael's departure; a second transgression would have made the Prussian authorities particularly angry. So, something had to be done to escape punishment.

(Continued on page 4)

DID YOU KNOW?

That Sheldon's first mailman, Levi Street, died from hydrophobia after a horse bite? Or that buffalo and wood bison once roamed this area? Or that there was once a Silver Mine at Dutch Hollow? There is always something new to discover about the history of our town. Please let us know if you have some little-known facts to share.

(Continued from page 3)

Two important clues to how the family avoided more trouble are the tombstone of Frank Zehler, their newborn son, and the passenger list of the sailing ship *Fairfield* which brought them to America, shown here.

Passenger List of the *Fairfield*

	NAMES.	AGE.	SEX.	COUNTRY
163	Peter	50	mf	Prussia
164	Anna	47	ff	
165	Michael	18	mf	
166	Abigail	16	ff	
167	Mathias	14	mf	
168	Peter	10	mf	
169	Charles	9	mf	
170	Maria	6	ff	
171	Wilhelm	4	mf	
172	Johann	3	mf	
173	Jacob	3	mf	
174	Anna	3	ff	

Frank Zehler's tombstone



The passenger list also has a surprise; Frank's name does not appear on the list, but Michael's name does. The family had rearranged the names of their sons to pretend that Frank wasn't born and Michael never left. The son's ages are also changed, to better fit the pretend situation. For example, Johann and Jacob, the two youngest children, are twins and should have the same age. They were both almost three years old when they sailed to America.

Clearly the changes reflected in the passenger list are an attempt to hide Michael's departure and thereby avoid punishment by the Prussian authorities. If this were the case, it would depend on the residents not informing the authorities. This might be realistic, considering that Peter and Anna Maria lived in a very tiny settlement, likely having less than three or four families.

Another possibility is that they moved into the Principality of Birkenfeld, only a few miles away, where Peter had several cousins. There, they would be free from the Prussians and may have had less trouble leaving. In fact they may have used both strategies sequentially. We will never know the true story.

In the end, the remaining family members traveled to Le Havre, France and sailed on the *Fairfield*, arriving at the port of New York on May 3, 1856. From there they made their way to Wyoming County. On May 24, 1856, Peter purchased 70 acres on Allegany Road, close to the southern border of Bennington, where he lived out the remainder of his life.

From the Sheldon Schoolhouse Museum and Town Historian Jeanne Mest:

Welcome to our new members: Joanne Mazor, Wayne George, Paula Jones, Shirley George, Mary Ann Barnes, Joanne Wert, Ruth Shumaker, Janice Flint and Edward Donnelly.

New Lifetime members are: Maureen Milligan, Judy Balon Swiatowy, Norm Suttle, Russell Reisdorf, Father Jim Fugle and Ted Bien. Sadly, we lost two special ladies, Veronica Bucki and Mildred Suttle, who recently passed away.

Scholarship Updates: We received a nice letter from Madelyn Tavernier, winner of our 2020 Scholarship for Holland HS. Madelyn is doing very well at SUNY Geneseo, where she is majoring in English/Education. We have selected the winners for 2021, and next year we plan to increase the amount of the scholarship.

Veronica Anne Grover Bucki

While gathering stories and assisting with historical questions, I have been able to correspond with and “meet” a variety of people from all over. It is always interesting how the families and stories all tie in together. Last year, I received a call from Veronica Anne Grover Bucki, of Cary, NC, a daughter of Floyd Grover and Agnes Bartz Grover. She shared with me from her Grover and Bartz family history. Her family and her Catholic faith were very important to her and as we got better acquainted, her questions to me were more about how I was doing, encouraging me, hardly mentioning her own struggles. After reading a preview of *A Gallant Lady*, she wrote with some Varysburg memories. The postmistress was also her Aunt Loretta.

“My favorite cousin was Mary Grover Lakas. Her dad, Otto Grover, was my dad’s brother and her mom, Loretta Fugle was my mom’s cousin and also my dad’s sister-in-law. She married Uncle Otto, dad’s brother. My Mom and Dad met at their wedding. They lived above the Varysburg post office in an apartment, and Uncle Otto had a shop in his garage attached to the apartment where he made lawn furniture. I thought their apartment was so cool, the way it opened into a hill in the back door of the building.”



Edward J. and Cecilia Kirsch Grover

Grandma Grover (Cecilia, see picture at right) died when I was 7. I recall her wake in their home. It scared me apparently, because I went outside and sat under a tree and cried. My mother came out and asked me why I was crying. I told her. “I do not want to die”. I was taken to my maternal grandparents in Sheldon and stayed a few days. I remember how pleasant it was in their home - the homestead on Bartz Road. I liked it when aunts and uncles just popped in our home in North Java. I overcame the fear of dying and look back with wonder at how they touched my life; memories of family gatherings, weddings of cousins and a slower pace in life.”

On March 24, the day after Veronica’s birthday, her husband Pete sent me an email, saying only, “*Veronica is singing with the angels this morning*”. I didn’t think you could miss someone you never met, but I do miss her; and her encouragement and enthusiasm about Sheldon’s history. Just today I came across an old letter in the files that she sent us in 1985. That kind of interest and perseverance makes what we do seem more worthwhile.

Memorial Donations

*Donations have been received in Memory of Daralee “Cookie” McCulloch,
Madonna Zittel and Veronica Anne Grover Bucki*

Memorials and other Donations to the Sheldon Historical Society can be sent to:
Donna Kirsch, 4458 Richardson Rd., Arcade, NY 14009

Happy 130th Birthday to the Sheldon Schoolhouse Museum!

The first Sheldon Schoolhouse was built in 1844, but in 1891 it was moved and replaced with the two room Queen Anne style building that is a museum today. Grades 1-8 were taught here until the school closed in 1970.

The Sheldon Historical Society was formed in 1976 and began to restore the building. The Sheldon Schoolhouse was listed as a historical landmark in the 1976 Bicentennial Register. In 1981, a millstone from the old mill in Varysburg was donated and placed in front of the schoolhouse.

Over the years, the schoolhouse has undergone many renovations. The Town of Sheldon has helped with some of the costs, and there have been fund raisers; quilt raffles and craft sales that evolved into our townwide yard sale, to raise enough money to maintain the building.

New York State granted us a charter in 1983.

During the 1990's we began hosting field trips. Elementary schools would bring children by bus to the Schoolhouse, where the volunteers were dressed as teachers, and they would spend a day in the restored 1890's classroom, experiencing a school day as it would have been during that time.

In 1991 we celebrated our 100th birthday.

The library was added in 2005, fulfilling former teacher Dorothea Kirsch's dream of having a community library. She donated her lifetime collection of books.

A wheelchair ramp was added in 2006, and our curators published an award winning historical cookbook in 2008 for the Town's Bicentennial. In 2010 we underwent some extensive remodeling.

Today the Schoolhouse is a museum, with one room as an authentic 1890s classroom and another room for displays, artifacts and research.

Looking back to 1865, Sheldon had 16 schools; there were 1159 children of school age, and 811 of them attended only in the winter. Today children from the town attend school in Attica, Holland and Pioneer school districts. We give a scholarship to a senior at each school. The Schoolhouse was built by people who wanted to see their children get an education, and in 130 years, that has not changed.

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4th Grade Field Trip 1998



Field Trip - Mr. Flaherty of Sheldon Elementary with Fourth Graders

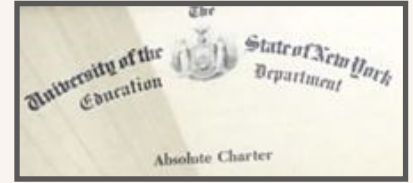


2008 - Curators Marilyn Smithley, Mary Ann Metzger & Betty Reisdorf

2009
Cookbook
article in
Arcade
Herald

The Town of Sheldon's Bicentennial Cookbook, "Home - Heart - Hearth," was recently named a Mid-Atlantic Regional Winner in the Tabasco Community Cookbook Awards. This award recognizes the role these unique books play in chronicling and preserving local culinary traditions. Marilyn Smithley, Mary Ann Metzger and Betty Reisdorf received a lifetime achievement award from the Sheldon Historical Society for their dedication in co-authoring the fund-raiser.

09/24/2008



Millstone brought in 1981



**Wheelchair ramp
constructed
at Sheldon
Historical Society**

ABOVE: The phrase "it takes a village" is very appropriate in Strykersville, where a group of local citizens recently came together to build a wheelchair ramp at the Sheldon Historical Society's Schoolhouse Museum. Volunteers who gathered on April 21 for a photo are, front: Doris Kirsch, Dortha Kirsch, Nancy Cox and Carol Johnson; second row: Emily Metzger, Kaitlin Smith, Emily Smith, Bernice George and Betty Reisdorf; third row: Mary Ann Metzger, Barb Hanley, Lee Ann Day, Karen McCall and Teresa Kinney; fourth row: Donna Perry, Pat Lefort, Bill Kirsch, Joan Kensinger; fifth row: Ron George, Mildred Ash, Susan Szucs and Barb Logel; sixth row: Ron George, Marilyn Smithley, Lue Brachman, Ed Logel and Larry Copeland; and seventh row: Father Matt Zirnheld, Paul Kirsch, Janet Kirsch Lloyd Cox, Brett Walker and Frank Reisdorf.
Photos by Barb Drajem



RIGHT: Doris Kirsch (front) tries out the new ramp with a little help from her friends.

Wheelchair Ramp Installed 2006



Museum Renovation 2010



71 YEARS AGO:



June 1950 - 8th Grade Graduation from St. Cecilia's RC Church

Vincent Becker (Fr. Becker), Marie Logel (Mrs. Edward Redden), Gertrude Almeter (Mrs. Leon Hyman), Mary Ann Fontaine (Mrs. Norman Murphy), Msgr. George Koch, Joyce Metz (Mrs. Ed Schurr), Lucille Schiltz (Mrs. Carl Grover), Donald Schwab

Photo from the Ceal McCoy Collection

30th Annual Townwide YARD SALE
STRYKERSVILLE, NY
Sponsored by the SHELDON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JUNE 5 & 6 2021
Saturday & Sunday from 9am to 3pm
Vendors & Inquiries, call Barb @ 585-457-3061 or Judy @ 585-457-3444

At the SCHOOLHOUSE
 Restored 1890 Classroom
 Winter in Sheldon
 Local Authors
 Kitchen Memories
 Historian available for Information
 Sheldon & Orangeville History Display

Theme Baskets Plus
 flower & plant sales
BoyScouts HOTDOG Stand

Limited Fleas spaces available

Antiques..Bargains..Prime Junque
Good Food..Great Fun

Around the Town:
Kiwanis Roast Beef Stand
(Saturday only)
Mason's Sausage Stand
Charlotte House Breakfast to Go
 Taco in a bag for Lunch
Ice Cream Stand - Stry. Fire Co

Local Restaurant Specials
 Flip Side: Breakfast served 8-11, PIG Roast, wings & brisket from 11 AM,
 Music 11.30-7 Two Bands
 Rt. 78 Pub: Lunch specials

Scratch & Dent SALE @ Logel Appliance
Town of Java Historical Museum OPEN
Sunday Only: American Legion
Chicken Bar-B-Que 12-??

30th Annual Townwide Yard Sale

We are very excited about the upcoming Strykersville Townwide Yard Sale. This is our 30th year! It is our only fund raiser. The rent for a spot helps us preserve the history of the Town of Sheldon. The Schoolhouse Museum will be open for visitors all day on Saturday & Sunday, with our historical society volunteers and town historian available for assistance.

The Town of Java Historical Museum will also be open for visitors during the Townwide Sale.



2012 - Townwide Yard Sale

A Classified Ad, dated May 1, 1855

NURSE WANTED—To take charge of three children
A Protestant woman (Scotch preferred), who is fully
competent in all respects. Must have unexceptionable refer-
ences, and willing to spend the Summer in the country.
Apply at No. 94 East 27th-st., or 21 Platt-st.

CLEAN, ACTIVE GIRL WANTED—To do the
housework of a private family; must be a first-rate
washer and ironer, a good plain cook, and kind and obliging
to children. Apply at No. 27 Lamartine-place, 29th-st., be-
tween 8th and 9th-avs. No Irish need apply.

CHAMBERMAID AND WAITER WANTED.
—A girl to wait on the table and do chamberwork is
wanted at No. 63 East 17th-st. She must be a Protestant
and with good recommendations.

COOK WANTED.—A Protestant cook, well recom-
mended by her last employer, may obtain a situation in
a private family, at No. 63 East 17th-st. Wages \$8 a month.

COOK.—Wanted, a good cook for the country during the
Summer months. A German Protestant preferred.
Apply from 9 to 12, at No. 33 Lafayette-place.

**AN INTELLIGENT AND EXPERIENCED
PROTESTANT WOMAN WANTED**—To take charge
of one child and do light chamber work. None need apply
except those having the highest testimonials from their last
employers. Inquire at No. 59 Pierpont-st., Brooklyn.

No Irish Need Apply

By Jeanne Mest

Ever since I saw this classified ad from 1855 (below left), it has troubled me, and then I read "Famine" by Liam O'Flaherty. None of us today can even imagine the hardships they experienced in Ireland and after arriving in America.

But thanks to the writings of Norma Donnelly and her cousin, Peter Hemenway, about their Irish ancestors, we have seen the story of very successful immigrants and their descendants, whose lives and careers were outstanding.

In his book, *Our Irish Heritage*, Peter Hemenway describes the conditions of Ireland in the 1840's. There were 8 million people and they were some of the poorest in the western world. Only a quarter of the population could read and write. Life expectancy for men was age 40. Between 1815-1845, nearly a million Irish came to the US, many as indentured servants, to pay their passage. Then the potato blight began; a fungus infected and spoiled their main source of food and revenue. 1.5 million Irish died of starvation during the Great Famine, 1845-1852, and another million came to the US. For low wages, they did the backbreaking work of digging canals, roads and railways, competing with freed slaves for the most menial jobs and cheapest housing.

100 years later, life was much better than it was for their ancestors. Peter added, "*To millions of Irish Catholic Americans, John Fitzgerald Kennedy's election in 1960 as the 35th President of the United States signaled an end to the century long struggle for full acceptance in the U.S. His great-grandfather, Patrick Kennedy, was a farmer from County Wexford who had left Ireland in 1849 during the Famine. Although other Presidents, including Andrew Jackson and Woodrow Wilson, had Irish roots, John Kennedy became the first Roman Catholic President.*"

An excerpt from:

This I Remember

A Link with the Past

By Peter Hemenway

The Donnellys thru the Years Ireland to America From the Writings of Norma Donnelly



Almost all of the story of the coming of the Donnellys to America is buried in the memories of those who have gone before us.

It is believed the family came from County Cork in the 1840's. It was the time of great suffering in Ireland. Another potato famine was in sight and anyone who has read authenticated Irish history knows of the injustice the Irish suffered under the English rule. A good book to read is *The Great Hunger*.

John Donnelly (1808-1886) and his wife, Margaret O'Neil Donnelly (1811-1898) had ten children. He was only 24 when my grandfather, John Donnelly, was born in Ireland in 1831; I believe he was one of the oldest children if not the oldest.

In my bottomless memory I remember stories being told of how John and Margaret Donnelly came by way of Canada and then worked their way down through New York State.

It certainly took a great deal of courage and determination for John Donnelly to make the preparations for coming to America. You can imagine how he struggled to get the little money necessary to buy space on an immigrant sailing vessel bound for Canada. Not only did they need the money, but they had to supply their own food – probably just little loaves of bread baked hard so they would not spoil on the long journey. It is a wonder that anyone survived that disease-ridden trip across the Atlantic with very little food and stagnant water to drink, and later the rigors of their arrival in Canada – it was the survival of the fittest.

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

John Donnelly, his wife, eight sons and two daughters (perhaps some of these were born later in the United States, I do not know) probably landed at Grosse Isles, a quarantine station on the St. Lawrence River. After being released they were able to work their way down to New York State. Eventually they settled in Livingston County near a little hamlet called Littleville close to Avon.

Perhaps the first John Donnelly did not enter through Canada but that has always been my belief – according to stories I remember. I can just barely remember my grandfather Donnelly. He had a long white beard. He visited us once when I was very little.

This first John Donnelly lived to be 78 and his wife, Margaret to 87. It was an oft repeated story in our family that Margaret O'Neil Donnelly had a terrible temper. Maybe that is the reason for her long life. They had 10 children. Many of their names have been carried on in the following generations, especially the name of John. Edward also was a favorite name. The first Edward of this family was drowned when young. My father, Edward, carried on the name. It was given to his son Edward Raymond, and then to Raymond's grandson, Edward Raymond Donnelly. Edward Donnelly, son of John Raymond Donnelly of Varysburg can visit the Avon Cemetery and see where his great-great-great grandfather, John Donnelly is buried. Surely his roots are deep in this part of New York State.

Lawrence McConnell, our benefactor, was a first cousin to my father. His father and my grandmother Donnelly were brothers and sister. Sarah and Kate Kane and sister Hortencia were also cousins on the McConnell side of the family.

In the 1850's three brothers, James, Hugh and Charles, sons of John and Margaret O'Neil Donnelly, operated a fleet of boats on the Genesee Valley Canal under the name of Donnelly Brothers. Another brother, John, operated one of these boats to Rochester. On that boat on November 2, 1855 near Mt. Morris, Henry, son of John Donnelly and Ann McConnell was born. Hugh operated the locks at York Landing, a stop on the canal.

Later John Donnelly worked a small farm on the Wadsworth estate near Littleville. He could not buy his farm because the Wadsworths at that time would not sell any of the land.

St. Agnes Church in Avon was started in 1869 – so any of the Donnellys born after that date were baptized there. All of the Donnelly funerals were held from there and they are buried in the Catholic Cemetery at Avon.

According to the 1870 census (courthouse Genesee, N.Y.), John Donnelly was listed as having \$350 personal property. He had a blacksmith shop near the Avon Springs (Spa); sulphur springs, very popular and famous in those days.

John (Jack), Charles and Edward followed in their father's footsteps. Jack had a blacksmith shop at 230 Howard Street, Buffalo, New York. At that time it was quite an Irish neighborhood and he and his family attended St. Patrick's Church. Charles and Edward first worked at the trade in Hermitage. After Charles had a blacksmith shop in North Java, Edward married and went to Buffalo to work with his brother, Jack.

In the last week of December 1901, Edward, his wife, Mary Murphy, and three sons moved to Varysburg and had his own shop. In January 1902 they rented a house from John M Bryson, where they lived – Attica Rd., Rte. 98 – until 1924. In this house the four girls were born.

Many hard days work were done in this shop. With the money earned, seven children were raised and educated with no help from anyone. There is an Irish belief that no harm ever came to a blacksmith. It was a highly respected work in Ireland.

Edward's brother, Charles, had been so anxious for him to come here, but Charles was dead before a year had passed, as he died from pneumonia in December 1902.

Edward, my father, had a very severe illness, pneumonia, in the winter of 1911, but he survived due to the tireless care of Dr. McQuilkin, my mother, the boys, relatives, neighbors and a trained nurse from Buffalo for one week. Of course he was taken care of at home.

It was from this house that Charles went to war in February 1918 and returned in 1919. Thank God. Hard times – good times – all together made a good family life.

In 1924, the Thomas House where we now live was bought – 2341 Attica Rd., Rte. 98. The house was built in 1883 by Avery Thomas, and his family had lived there until we bought it. This was the realization of a dream – every Irishman's dream – to own his own home. It was in this house that the wedding receptions of Annabel, Genevieve and Elizabeth were held. Edward and Mary Donnelly died in this house and their funerals were held here, followed by mass in St. Joseph's Church, Varysburg and burial in St. Nicholas Cemetery, North Java. So for over 90 years only two families have lived in this house.

How I wished I could talk to some of them. The Donnellys must have been strong to have survived the famine, the almost unbearable crossing and the landing. Some said not too much was ever said about their life before they finally found a permanent home in the United States. Maybe it was Irish pride. Always hold your head up.

"Mary Norma Donnelly (1903-1982) was a double-first cousin to my mother, Angela Donnelly Hemenway (1912-2007) as they had the same grandparents – all four. She was a family historian who shared her writings and research with my mother. To preserve and circulate Norma's writings I entered them in this book, This I Remember. It contains the story of the Donnelly family coming to America and the life they found."

Peter Hemenway, 2015

"I really don't know whether I should let anyone read my feeble attempts at writing. Sometimes I think I am being egotistical in thinking anyone would be interested, but then again maybe they might give a small insight into people of long ago.

I really like to write. I wish I had tried to develop it but then if I had, I might have discovered I had no talent and so lost my dream. At least I had that. I also wrote this because I think future generations might be interested in their history."

Norma Donnelly

"The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived, and lived well".

~Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882)

Sheldon Historical Society Schoolhouse Museum
3859 Main Street, PO Box 122
Strykersville, NY 14145

Coming Soon: Wyoming Co. Home, Aunt Nancy, Ceal's Memories, Kehl and Schuessler Family Histories.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Varysburg School 1938	1
Leaving Germany	2
Historian/Memorials	5
Schoolhouse 130 Years	6
30th Townwide Sale	8
This I Remember	9

Meetings of the Sheldon Historical Society are held on the third Thursday of each month through October, at 7:00 PM at the Sheldon Schoolhouse Museum, 3859 Main St., Strykersville, NY. All are welcome.

For research assistance or appointments, please call 585-457-3061, 716-474-3156 or email: townofsheldonhistorian@gmail.com.



Copies of A Gallant Lady are still available for \$10; \$12 if mailed, or free with a new membership.

Newsletter compiled by Jeanne Mest, with the assistance of creator/consultant Mary Ann Metzger, Scott Barvian and many volunteers. Submissions welcome. Email or send articles & inquiries to: Jeanne Mest, 470 Route 20A, Strykersville, NY 14145

Newsletters can be emailed if you prefer. Also, we have some large print versions available if needed. Previous newsletters can be seen at <http://www.townofsheldon.com> or Facebook: History of the Town of Sheldon, NY

Sheldon Historical Society Officers:
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 Vice President - Carol Felski
 Secretary - Lairy Lakas
 Financial Secretary - Donna Kirsch
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 Janet Kirsch, Barbara Logel,
 Elaine Almeter, Judie Coffey, Steve Lakas
 Museum Curator - Barbara Logel
 Classroom Curator/Orangeville Historian - Lairy Lakas (laurylakas@gmail.com)
 Archival Curator/Sheldon Historian/ Newsletter Editor - Jeanne Mest (townofsheldonhistorian@gmail.com)

If your newsletter arrives in damaged condition, please call or email and we will replace it.



Newsletter printed by:
 Hilltop Printshop
 Mount Morris, NY 14510
 (585)658-3311

Sheldon Historical Society Membership

Being a member of the Sheldon Historical Society means being part of preserving history. Dues and donations support the maintenance of our museum and historical artifacts. As a member you have voting privileges, and newsletters are sent to you at no cost. The membership year is from July 1 through the following June 30. Current membership status is shown on your mailing label. **Please remember to renew yearly, and let us know of any address changes.** If you are currently a member, thank you for your support!

Membership Application or Renewal

Please send a check payable to the Sheldon Historical Society to Donna Kirsch, Financial Secretary, 4458 Richardson Rd., Arcade, NY 14009.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Email _____

Annual Memberships:

___ \$12 Single ___ \$20 Family ___ \$10 Student or Senior (60+)

___ \$75 **Lifetime Membership**

___ **Would like to make a Donation**