

Sheldon Kistorical Society Schoolhouse Museum Newsletter



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

Our Schoolhouse Museum is closed for the winter, but visits are possible upon request, weather permitting. Regular hours resume in Spring, when we will be open on Tuesday afternoons, 1:00-4:00 and on the last Saturday of the month from 9:00-12:00, June through September. Meetings are on the third Thursday of the month, March to October, at the Schoolhouse, 7:00 PM. All are welcome. WE WISH YOU ALL A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ARMISTICE DAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1918



Armistice Day Parade, Strykersville, 1918

On November 11, 1918, on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, an Armistice, or cessation of hostilities, was declared between the Allied nations and Germany in World War I. The entire country and the rest of the world were overjoyed about the ending of what was supposed to be the "War to End All Wars". Celebrations went on all day. The following year, and every year thereafter, Armistice Day was celebrated with parades and festivals to honor the end of the first world war. In 1938, November 11th became a federal holiday in the US. Following World War II and the Korean War, the name Armistice Day was changed to Veterans Day and is now dedicated to American veterans of all wars.

This year, on the 100th Anniversary of Armistice Day, Nov. 11, 2018, at 11:00am, bells were rung at churches across the United States to honor all those who gave their lives in The Great War. (Continued on page 4)

We would like to dedicate this newsletter to the memory of Marilyn Smithley, who passed away suddenly on November 24, 2018. Marilyn worked tirelessly at the Sheldon Historical Society Schoolhouse Museum for decades, taking care of everything from creating and updating interesting, authentic displays and keeping them current, to making sure everything was clean and in good working order.

Marilyn had the best memory and could recall stories about any family you could think of. One of her best stories was about finding that old abandoned George trunk in the chicken coop, cleaning it up and restoring it, then gathering the items that her George ancestors would have carried on their journey from Luxembourg to America in 1835 and making that into a display. For years she set up the 1890 classroom and taught lessons as they would have been to the groups of students who came from local schools. Often visitors would say, "I remember you, you were the teacher here when I came here with my class. " Marilyn was also a co-creator of our prize-winning cookbook. When she wasn't busy at the museum she was working in her garden, baking pies, making meals to take to those who were ill and helping at the church, fire hall and Legion. Marilyn enjoyed life every day and shared her enthusiasm with everyone around her. She will be greatly missed. Thank you, Marilyn, it was a blessing to know you.





Marilyn Smithley

Schoolhouse News

It was Christmas all year at the Sheldon Schoolhouse Museum, with our new display "Christmas in the Classroom", which brought back memories of Christmas long before our time. Betty Reisdorf put up in a Christmas tree and enlisted everyone's help in making old-fashioned decorations, in time for our opening on June 2nd at the Town Wide Yard Sale.

We decided to add a few days to our schedule this year. In addition to our regular Tuesday afternoons, we were open the last Saturday of each month from 9:00 to 12:00 for visitors who cannot make it on a week day. Thank you, Laury Lakas, for making that happen.

There were several more visitors than usual, partly due to Treasure Hunt Through History, a program created by County Historian Cindy Amrhein that had participants traveling to all the historical museums throughout the county. We hosted a special day for the Treasure Hunters on July 28th from 12:00 to 2:00, serving snacks. Cindy brought games and prizes. She has a new project in the works for next year and we are looking forward to it.

Descendants of the Persons family traveled here from Seattle, Washington and were happy to learn we had quite a bit of their family history information in our files. They were excited to be able to go up the hill to Persons Cemetery and find the graves of their ancestors.

We received a letter from Patrick Brickley, in Texas. He was pleased to read about his great aunt, Alice George Eggert. Patrick is the grandson of her sister, Louise George Tuttle. He sent us photos of his grandmother Louise, who was in the fashion business with Alice and modeled many of the dresses. Louise was named in the May 12, 1907 Sunday Magazine of the Buffalo Illustrated Times as "One of the Winners of the Times' First Great Beauty Contests".

Patrick and his family came here for a visit in August. They rode the Arcade and Attica Railroad and then came to Sheldon to see the homestead of their George family ancestors.



Louise George Tuttle

BRINGING FAMILY HISTORY TO LIFE

FINDING LUCY MORGAN'S GRAVE

Many times when trying to help someone locate a past relative, you are unsuccessful with your search. Online websites have made the process much easier, but sometimes you still hit a brick wall. Family records from the early 1800's are hard to come by and early Town vital records for this area are nonexistent. Sometimes the only record you can locate is a gravestone. I find it very worth the effort when you do successfully help someone locate a relative and even better when you can experience the joy on their face. I had that exact experience this past summer.

One day while visiting the County Historian's Office, I was asked if I could help Jackie Fauls, from Tallahassee, Florida, to visit the gravesite of Lucy Morgan at Humphrey Hollow Cemetery. I agreed to help, as I was familiar with the location. I did a little research with Jeanne, the secretary and archival curator for the Sheldon Schoolhouse Museum. We located some information about the cemetery and the church that once stood in front. We could confirm that one of the early ministers was Rev. John Calvin Morgan.

Next was a visit to the cemetery. Having driven by the cemetery numerous times, I had never actually walked the area, so I figured I had better check it out before taking a visitor there. I was afraid that the cemetery, like so many others, was going to be overgrown and the grave unable to locate. Much to my surprise, it was nicely mowed and the gravesite that I was looking for was one of the first ones I came across. There were a couple woodchuck holes to dodge and some ground bees buzzing around, so I made a mental note to avoid those spots. Now knowing the cemetery was in decent shape for a tour, I set up a time for Jackie to come visit.

It was a beautiful sunny afternoon. When she arrived, Jackie thanked us for taking the time to meet her. We walked across the short stretch of lawn where the church once stood and I showed her the stone. The expression on her face was priceless. She had finally found Lucy Morgan's gravesite. The stone, for its age, is in remarkable condition. It reads: In memory of Mrs. Lucy Morgan, wife of Rev. J.C. Morgan, obit. Feb. 24, 1834 Age 30. "Our separation will be short, I have set my house in order, I know that my trust is in God, O pray that I may depart."

(Continued on next page)

FINDING LUCY MORGAN'S GRAVE

(Continued from Page 2)

We visited for a while and I asked if Jackie if she would share her experience about her search. She agreed and below is her response:

"Thank you again for meeting me at Humphrey's Hollow Cemetery to show me the grave of Lucy Morgan. She is my maternal Great, Great Grandmother, and it means so much that you and your husband would take time on a Sunday to meet with me.

I am tremendously impressed with New York historians. You and the Wyoming County historians spent so much time and effort to provide me, a Floridian, with information on my ancestor.

While I knew Lucy Morgan's name, I did not fully realize my relationship to her until I applied to become a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). It was during the search for a verified ancestor who served during the American Revolution that I learned that she was the first wife of my Great, Great, Great Grandfather, John Calvin Morgan. He was a traveling minister from Massachusetts, and Lucy went with him. She died during their travels in Wyoming County in 1833 and was buried in Humphrey's Hollow Cemetery. The Reverend ended up in Naples, NY, remarried, and stayed in Naples for the rest of his life. In fact, he and his second wife, their son John Calvin Morgan II and his family, and John Calvin Morgan III and his wife all lived in Naples and are buried there. My Mother is the daughter of John Calvin Morgan III. When we began researching my ancestors for the DAR application, I assumed all paths led through Naples. In fact, the path started in Naples but deviated to Wyoming County and Humphrey's Hollow cemetery. My ancestors above and below Lucy were able to be verified through records online, but Lucy's info was not available. Wyoming County Historian Cindy Amrhein verified Lucy's grave site, which satisfied DAR. If not for her verification, I might not have become a member of DAR!

When I planned a trip to New York this summer, I wanted to visit Lucy's grave. Sally Smith, Wyoming County Deputy Historian, agreed to meet me at the Historian Office and allowed me to look through records to see if we could find any additional information on Lucy and the Reverend during their time in the County. Sally went the extra mile and arranged with you to show me Lucy's grave. And both of you agreed to meet me on a Sunday! It was so helpful, so informative, and so very thoughtful.

I am truly grateful for such incredible service and kindness. You three historians provided me with vital information about my family history, and an opportunity to pay my respects to a little known ancestor. My family and I now have a more complete picture of our history. Thank you for this invaluable gift.

Most sincerely, Jackie

It was a great pleasure to meet Jackie that afternoon and help her complete her search. I would like to thank her for sharing her story and also thank the person that is mowing the grounds as it made our search that much easier.



Jackie came from Florida to Sheldon to find the grave of Lucy Morgan, at Humphrey Hollow.

Contributed by Laury Lakas, Orangeville Historian

The story of Lucy Torrey Morgan was intriguing. It seemed strange that this woman was buried here alone, yet had such a beautiful marker that has stood for 185 years. It was sad to think that this young woman was buried here and possibly forgotten. Rev. John C. Morgan was buried in Naples, as noted on Findagrave, along with his 2nd wife, Harriett, but there was no mention of his first wife, Lucy. Two sons were also listed, John C. and Erastus Gould Morgan, who was actually buried in Fort Dodge, Webster County, lowa, where his parents are listed as John and Lucy Morgan. We found that John & Lucy actually had 3 children; Erastus, J. Clara & Edward, all born between 1829-1832, prior to her death in 1834. So Rev. Morgan must have returned to his home town with three very young children. Their daughter, J. Clara Morgan was a 38 year-old resident of Fort Dodge when she returned & married Joseph Morgan of Dana, Massachusetts in 1869. Their marriage record shows her parents as John and Lucy. Brother Edward also lived in Fort Dodge. That information led to records of both of their prominent New England families. Rev. John C. Morgan was the son of Erastus Morgan, a Revolutionary War patriot, who at age 16 was sent to guard the armory at Holyoke, MA. Lucy Morgan's grandfather, Dr. Samuel Holden Torrey, was a sergeant in the Rev. War. It was good to learn that Lucy Morgan had descendants and was not forgotten, as shown by the trip that brought Jackie from Florida to Sheldon, and this family history to our attention.

Jeanne Mest

(Continued from page 1)

ALLIES VICTORY

Glorious Celebration Throughout Country. The Greatest
War in History Has Ended with Victory for Humanity
"The Doughboys Can't Be Beat" is True. We Are
Pround of Our Brave Soldiers. Let Everybody Thank
God for the Victory for Right and Humanity.

Kaiser and Family Skip to Holland

World War I was a major conflict fought in Europe from July 28, 1914 to November 11, 1918. Nations from across all non-polar continents were involved and over eight million people died.

The war was fought by two main power blocks: the Entente Powers, or "The Allies", Russia, France, Great Britain, Belgium (and later U.S.), and their allies on one side against the Central Powers of Germany, Austria-Hungary, Turkey, and their allies on the other. Italy later joined the Entente. Many other countries played smaller parts on both sides.

The United States tried to remain neutral, but declared war in 1917 after Germany instituted unrestricted submarine warfare. In 1918, from May to the Armistice in November, over 50,000 American troops lost their lives. Disease took the lives of other soldiers, and in totality throughout the whole war, there were over 113,000 American casualties. Much of the war was characterized by stagnant trench warfare and massive loss of life in failed attacks; over eight million people were killed in battle. It was the first time that women officially served in a US war. Also it was the first time for chemical warfare (mustard gas) that caused much unexpected suffering among the troops.

SHELDON SOLDIERS IN WWI

The Six Star American Legion Post in Strykersville was named for six area servicemen who gave their lives in World War I:

Pvt. Lawrence Kensinger, U.S. Army, Co. A, 147th Infantry, 37th Division, Killed in active duty in



France, Oct. 8, 1918. Burial: St. Mary's RC Cemetery, Strykersville, NY. He was born in 1892, son of Peter and Elizabeth Kensinger. He was 26 years old, living in Oneida, working as a pressman, when inducted into the army on April 4, 1918. He served from June 22, 1918 until his death.

Pvt. Andrew A. Dickes (Bugler) U.S. Army, Co. D, 307 Field Artillery, 78th Infantry Division, A.E.F. (American Expeditionary Forces), died of diphtheria while in active duty in France on March 30, 1918. Burial: Brookwood American Cemetery & Memorial, Brookwood, Surrey, England. He was born in 1896, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Dickes.

Private Dickes accompanied American Expeditionary Forces to France in February. A few weeks before his death the family was notified he was "somewhere in France." He was the first soldier from the Warsaw area to die in service.

Pvt. Floyd Francis Dorsheid, U.S. Army, Co. M, Rgt. 307, age 24, died of wounds received in active duty in France, September 1918. He was the only child of Jacob Dorsheid of Bennington.

Burial: St. Cecilia's RC Cemetery.

Corp. John Nicholas Musty, U.S. Army Battery C 12th field artillery, Killed in active duty. Burial: St. Mary's RC Cem., Strykersville, NY. He was the son of George Henry and Mary Kirsch Musty. He was a signal fitter on the Pennsylvania Railroad, single, age 22, when he enlisted June 11, 1917. He fought in engagements at Chateau Thierry and the 2nd Battle of

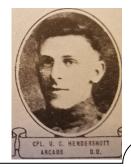
Marne, was promoted to corporal on July 12 and was severely wounded July 21, 1918. As soon as he recovered from his wounds at the Red Cross Hospital in Vichy, France, he rejoined his battery in November, 1918, but died of bronchial pneumonia in Germany on Feb. 11, 1919. A funeral was held for Corporal John



Musty at St. Mary's Catholic Church, after which they formed a color guard and carried the flag-draped casket part way down Main St.

Pvt. John Thomas Roche, U.S. Army 2nd Prt Battery, A.E.F., Killed in active duty July 20, 1918. Burial: St. Patrick's, Java Center, NY.

Corp. William Hendershott, Co. D 303 Engineers, Died Oct. 29, 1918 of pneumonia, Base Hospital Loul, France, Burial: St. Mihiel American Cemetery, with a memorial in Arcade. He was the son of William H. and Frances Barber Hendershott.



SHELDON SOLDIERS WHO RETURNED FROM WORLD WAR I



Ivan Richardson

James Palmer



Phillip Merlau

Ivan Woods Richardson served in Co. M 307 Infantry from June 1918 to Feb. 1919. Ivan married Helen Musty in 1928, whose brother John had been killed in action during WWI. He was a barber and an insurance salesman. Then Ivan died on December 12, 1930, from complications of the mustard gas during the war. He was the father of Mildred Richardson Ash.

Raymond Musty, younger brother of John, worked for the Curtiss Aeroplane Company in Buffalo. He enlisted in the Marines on July 12, 1918 and served overseas until Sept. 1919. Raymond returned home, married Geraldine Hyman and had two children. He died in 1931 at age 35.

Pvt. James Palmer was born in Italy.

According to our records, he came to this country from Italy when they built the road. His WWI draft registration shows him living in Buffalo. He served overseas from Jan 1918 to April 1919. After the war, he married Antoinette Theresa Metzger, who died in 1924. He ran an ice cream parlor in a building where the American Legion now sits. Jimmy Palmer died in 1948 and was buried at St. Mary's RC Cemetery.

Phillip Merlau served overseas with the 312 Engrs. from May 24, 1918 to June 11, 1919. His name does not appear on the list honored on June 12, 1919, probably because he was not home yet. He died in June 1984 at age 93. He was the father of Marge Merlau Long.

Leona Fromholzer, daughter of Dr. Ferdinand Fromholzer, was born in Sheldon in 1892 and served as a nurse at Camp Gordon, Georgia, from January 1918 until June 1919. She did not serve overseas.

Otto, Frank and Herman Fromholzer, Leona's brothers, all served. Herman was overseas from June 1918 to March 1919.

Carl Anthony Almeter, 1892 to 1977, was the son of John F. Almeter and Barbara Dominesey. He married Hazel Adams and had four children. **Frank Oscar Bardo**, 1894-1965, served as a Private at Camp Upton.

Albert J. Brass, Co. M 307 Inf., Served overseas April 1918 to April 1919 **Roy D. Carr** served at Fort Standish, Mass. until Dec. 1918.

These were the names and photos found in our files at the Schoolhouse Museum. It is not a complete list. Please let us know if you have further information or know of anyone who should be added to this list and to our files. Our family records and scrapbooks at the Schoolhouse museum are available if you would like to learn more about our local servicemen. For more information on World War I or The Armistice, check out American Experience, "The Great War": http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/films/great-war/

A public reception was held on June 12, 1919 at St. Mary's Hall in Strykersville.

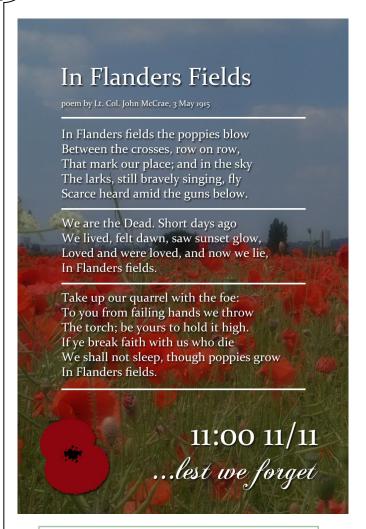
The Honorably Discharged Heroes
Of the
Strykersville Sheldon District:

Almeter, Carl Bardo, Frank Barber, Edward Brass, Albert Carr, Roy Lefort, Edwin Freiburger, Joseph Fromholzer, Otto Fromholzer, Herman George, Cornelius Firestine, Joseph Glaser, Lavern Kihm, Peter
Metzger, Augustus
Merlau, Philip
Palmer, James
Richardson, Ivan
Sheehe, Frank
Sloand, Leo
Thompson, Charles
Victor, Floyd
Voneaux, Alfred
Zumpstine, Lewis
Miss Leona Fromholzer



Otto, Herman & Frank Fromholzer, Frank Sheehe & Leona Fromholzer

Compiled by Jeanne Mest



"I truly believe that if we keep telling the Christmas story, singing the Christmas songs, and living the Christmas spirit, we can bring joy and happiness and peace to this world."

Dr. Norman Vincent Peale

IN FLANDERS FIELDS by John McCrae

Major John McCrae had been a doctor for years and had served in the South African War, but as a surgeon attached to the 1st Field Artillery Brigade, in the Ypres salient in the spring of 1915, it was impossible to get used to the suffering, the screams, and the blood there. He had heard enough to last him a lifetime. Major McCrae had spent seventeen days treating injured men; Canadians, British, Indians, French, and Germans. It had been an ordeal that he had hardly thought possible. McCrae later wrote of it:

"I wish I could embody on paper some of the varied sensations of that seventeen days... Seventeen days of Hades! At the end of the first day if anyone had told us we had to spend seventeen days there, we would have folded our hands and said it could not have been done."

One death particularly affected McCrae. A young friend and former student, Lieut. Alexis Helmer of Ottawa, had been killed by a shell burst on May 2, 1915. Lieutenant Helmer was buried later that day in the little cemetery outside McCrae's dressing station, and McCrae had performed the funeral ceremony in the absence of the chaplain.

The next day, sitting on the back of an ambulance parked near the dressing station beside the Canal de l'Yser, just a few hundred yards north of Ypres, McCrae vented his anguish by composing a poem. In the nearby cemetery, McCrae could see the wild poppies that sprang up in the ditches in that part of Europe, and he spent twenty minutes of precious rest time scribbling fifteen lines of verse in a notebook. "In Flanders Fields" remains to this day one of the most memorable war poems ever written.

https://www.mysteriesofcanada.com/military/john-mccrae/

Grandma's Applesauce Cookies

1 cup granulated sugar

1/2 cup shortening

1 cup applesauce

1 egg

2 cups flour

1 tsp. baking soda

1 tsp. baking powder

1/2 tsp. salt 1 tsp. cinnamon 1/2 tsp cloves

1/2 tsp. nutmeg

1 cup raisins, soaked in hot water & drained

1/2 cups chopped nuts (optional)



Blend sugar & shortening. Add applesauce and egg. Mix together dry ingredients & add; then add raisins & nuts. Drop by teaspoon on greased cookie sheet. Bake 8-10 minutes at 350 degrees. Yields about 50 cookies. This recipe was known by heart and shared by many cooks in Sheldon, at Christmas & throughout the year.

It was so special to leave cookies for Santa Claus. He was so generous. It was then we began to learn to give something back.

Sheldon Historical Society Schoolhouse Museum Scholarships

We continue to honor the memories of our schoolhouses and teachers, by offering a \$250 scholarship to a senior at each of our local schools, in hopes they will further their educations and possibly work in the fields of history or education. Or they may follow other career paths and become involved and volunteer in our own historical society or other community organizations, wherever life takes them.

Each year it seems more difficult to choose recipients for our Sheldon scholarship, as we have received applications from truly outstanding young people. The scholarships were presented at their school's award night, and upon completion of their first semester, the students will send us their college transcripts and be issued their checks. At that time, we look forward to seeing where their college plans have taken them so far.

Jacob Speyer of Strykersville, an Eagle Scout, was chosen to receive our scholarship at Holland HS. He belongs to the volunteer fire department, where he has done over 170 hours of training, and has helped out at the Strykersville Legion fundraisers. Jacob plans to attend Paul Smith's College to pursue a career as a DEC officer or Park Ranger. He enjoys learning about the past and the development of other cultures.

"To know your roots and how your community developed helps to bring a community together. My family has been here for many generations and I always enjoyed hearing about the businesses they used to own or work. I loved visiting the schoolhouse and seeing pictures on how the town used to look. Maybe someday I can make history and my great grandchildren will see what it was like for me to grow up in Strykersville."

Hannah Mogavero received our scholarship at Pioneer HS, where her favorite subjects were AP Government & Politics. She plans to attend Oswego College to study film making and graphic design, which will enable her to create documentaries that will help teach and preserve history in an effective way. She has acted as the student director & stage manager for several music productions, and done volunteer work that included traveling to Haiti and assisting in the remodeling of a school for children living in poverty.

"Without the preservation of history, people will not know what happened in the past, in situations that we still face today. They will not learn what worked and what did not. To preserve history is to preserve nations, communities and people groups from desolation."

Amanda Conrad was chosen to receive our scholarship at Attica HS, where her favorite subjects were Science and US History. She participated in mock trial for four years, volunteered at school and community events, and plans to attend D'Youville College, where she will major in Occupational Therapy. She has completed 41 college credits, along with working at Darien Lake and with the Town of Sheldon Youth Recreation Program, where she is a role model for the children she has instructed at swimming lessons. Amanda enjoys history because rather than being just facts and numbers, it is real stories of people's lives.

"By having historical places like the Sheldon Schoolhouse, I have an idea of how my mother, grandmother and even great-grandmother grew up and lived. They allow you to imagine yourself in someone else's life and have true appreciation for the life and technologies we have today."

Updates on previous scholarship winners:

Our students from last year were all doing great in college when they sent us their transcripts earlier this year. We had one of our previous applicants contact us and come in to do community service for her Western Civilization course. Also one of our first scholarship recipients visited, along with a few of his friends. They helped Betty string popcorn into garlands for the old-fashioned Christmas tree. It seems like the popcorn would just crumble, but this year we learned from Betty, that the key is to let the popcorn get old and stale first.

Thank you, the Scholarship Committee: Jeanne Mest, Doris Kirsch & Carol Felski

Wyoming County Federation of Historical Societies

On Saturday, April 28, we were invited to the Arcade Historical Society for a presentation by Greg Kinal, how to "Spice Up Your Family History", followed by lunch and a talk by Patrick Connors about the Restoration of Arcade & Attica's No. 18 Steam Engine. The annual Fall Dinner and Meeting for the Federation was held on October 24 at Hidden Valley. Mark Milcarek spoke about the various patent medicines that were manufactured in Wyoming County and the doctors who created and sold them.

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

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Led by the light of Faith Serenely beaming, With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand. The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger, In all our trials born to be our friend.

Previous newsletters can be seen at http://www.townofsheldon.com
We are closed for the winter, but assistance is available upon request. Call (585)457-9509, 457-3444, 457-3061 or (716) 474-3156. Email:

sheldonhistoricalsociety@hotmail.com or metzgermaryann@gmail.com Newsletter compiled by Mary Ann Metzger and Jeanne Mest, with the help of many volunteers. Submissions welcome. Email or call (716) 474-3156 for information. Send articles & inquiries to:

Jeanne Mest,470 Route 20A, Strykersville, NY 14145

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Become a member of the Sheldon Historical Society and be part of preserving history. Dues and donations support the maintenance of our museum and historical artifacts. As a member you have voting privileges, and published newsletters are sent to you at no cost. Meetings are held the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7 pm from March to October at the Schoolhouse, 3859 Main St., Strykersville.

If you are currently a member, thank you for your support. Please remember to renew yearly. The membership year runs from June through the following July.

The Schoolhouse Museum is open June through September on Tuesdays from 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm and the last Saturday of those months from 9:00-12:00. Email: SheldonHistoricalSociety@hotmail.com

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