



Township of Sheldon Historical Society & Schoolhouse Museum Newsletter

Volume 2 Issue 1

Nov. 2012

"An update on our progress as a Society and a Chartered Museum & "A new look at old news from our town."

Sheldon Historical Society Officers Board Members & Curators

10/ 2011 - 10/2012

Pres. - Michael Szucs

Vice Pres. - Mary Ann Bartz

Secretary - Elizabeth Reisdorf

Financial Secretary. - Donna Kirsch

Board Members: PJ Almeter; Chairman, John McCarty, Jeanne Mest, Elaine Almeter, Janet Kirsch, Marilyn Smithley

Classroom Curator - Elizabeth Reisdorf

Archival Curator - Jeanne Mest

Museum Curator - Mariiyn Smithley

Email - Sheldonhistoricalsociety@hotmail.com

Museum Telephone - 1-585-457-7033

Alternate Email - mametzger@rochester.rr.com

Alternate telephone -716-474-3156

Meetings are held the third Thurs. of the month through Oct.

Nonmembers are also welcome to attend. We are open from

June through Sept., and anytime by appointment, or by

chance when we are working at the museum. Watch for the

OPEN sign on the porch railing.

Town of Sheldon Historian- Barb Durfee

Phone 585-535-7322 or email Sheldon Historian@aol.com

Welcome new members:

Elizabeth A. Reisdorf (from Batavia), Tammy Kirsch, Joanne Mazur, Patricia Lefort, Mary J. Blum, and Sharon Daniel. Elizabeth Reisdorf and Tammy Kirsch both Lifetime Members

Dear Members,

It has been a pleasure to compile this newsletter and spread some of the history of the town. Please feel free to submit an article of historic interest from Sheldon. It can be short or long, a story of someone, something or somewhere. Help us keep this publication interesting.

"We wish you all a Happy Holiday Season."

Sincerely,

Mary Ann Metzger and Jeanne Mest

Newsletter compiled by Mary Ann Metzger and Jeanne Mest, with the help of several volunteers.

(Corrections and additions please email us or leave a message.)

Mark your Calendar:

Historical Society meeting on Nov.15, 2012 at the

School House Museum. It will be our final gathering of the season and will include a presentation of show and tell, bring something of historical nature; it's amazing what you can find in your home that tells a story. Cheese, crackers and beverages will be served. Please come, and bring a friend.

Special events held:

Town board meeting was held **on Aug. 21, 2012**, at the School House Museum. All were welcome, and was well attended. It was a chance for the board to see what we are doing in the Museum, and also an opportunity for different people to attend. It was a very interesting and enjoyable evening.

The fall dinner sponsored by the Wyoming Co. Federation of Historical Societies was held on **Oct. 16, 2012**. Greg Kinal spoke on the War of 1812, giving a very interesting presentation of this War and its outcome. It left everyone with a better understanding of this era.

Weather Proverbs from old clipping:

As November 1- so the following March.

If on Nov. 11 the geese stand on ice, they will walk in mud at Christmas.

If the leaves of the trees and grape vine do not fall before Nov. 11- a cold winter may be expected.

If there be ice in November to bear up a duck, there will be nothing there after but sleet and muck.

Flowers in bloom late in autumn indicate a bad winter.

Thunder in November indicates a fertile year to come.

When beech acorns thrive well, and oak trees hang full a hard winter will follow with much snow.

Much fog in autumn, much snow in winter.

After a warm autumn a long winter.

An early winter is a surly winter.

When the winter does not come early it will not continue late. If on Nov. 11 it is fair, dry and cold, winter will not last long.

As on Nov. 25, foul or fair, so will be the next February.

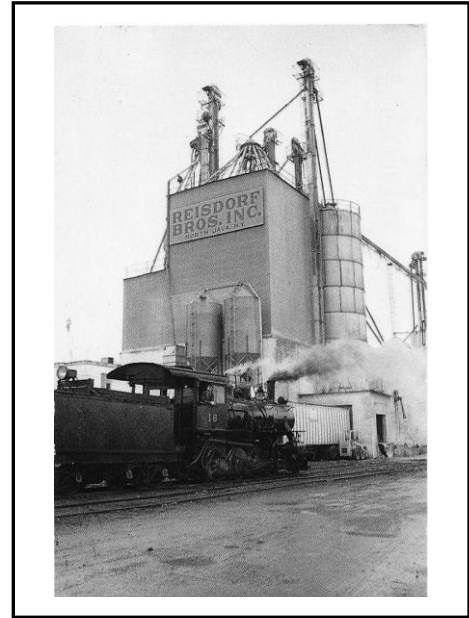
A Mighty oak is just a nut that held its ground.

Museum Displays

Time to think ahead for next season's museum displays. If you have something you would like to lend or donate, or perhaps an exhibition you would like to do yourself, however big or small, please contact:

Marilyn Smithley, 585 457 9484.

Original mill and Sheldon House



Reisdorf Bros, Inc.

100th Anniversary in the Town of Sheldon

Quality feed since 1912

In the year of **1912**, in the rural farming community enriched with fertile land that lies in the Town of Sheldon, a man by the name of John F. Reisdorf, himself a farmer, and also proprietor of the Sheldon House Hotel, had visions of starting a feed business to serve the predominant occupation of farming in the area. He chose a location on property near his hotel at the Perry Rd. **depot of the A & A Railroad in Sheldon Township**, near the Java line. The lumber for this mill was cut from the Arthur Martin farm on Rt. 77, near Sheldon Center. Arthur helped with the construction and continued on as a millworker. Mr. Reisdorf began grinding feed on the family farm and selling it to area farmers.

John F. and his wife Kate had twelve children, one of them, Aloysius, later took over the mill. Due to ill health, he sold the business to his brother Charles. In 1949, Charles incorporated with brothers Anthony and Paul, thus the name Reisdorf Brothers was started. About 1950 the brothers acquired the mill of William George in Java Village. Paul managed the branch until 1965 when it was decided to close it and concentrate on one larger facility. After Anthony's death in 1956, the brothers continued until 1968 when Paul sold his share to Charles and Edith's son Richard and to their son-in-law Charles Kmicinski. Modernization and expansion necessitated many changes during this period. In 1987 Richard and brother Martin bought the family business, the combination farm store, feed mill, seed and fertilizer factory employed about thirty people. At that time plans to manufacture dog food were part of the future expansion.

The business endured many hurdles during their century of business, one obstacle being the Blizzard of '77. In an article written in 1990, Richard stated "That storm was terrible. Most people got over it in a week, but it took us a month. They had 40 full train cars stacked between Arcade and North Java, and in the end, had to plow and shovel out the line."

The business was bartered back and forth, but always kept in the family; Richard and Martin Reisdorf, and Jim Carter now own the business together. They buy corn and soybeans grown within 100 miles of their mixing plant, storage facility and offices. Three tractor - trailers are used to haul the necessary ingredients to supply the mill. After blending to precise specifications, both feed rations and fertilizer are bagged or blown in bulk, into large delivery vehicles to take to the farmers. Talking to Richard he stated, "Times were not always easy, keeping up with technology is the big issue, things are always changing." Scientific advancements in animal nutrition have been astronomical. When John F. Reisdorf started the mill, farmers followed a more basic regimen of feeding their livestock, mostly using grains that they raised on their farmlands.

The old mill and depot are gone; the Sheldon House Hotel was and is the home of Edith Reisdorf and the late Charles, and now modern facilities line both sides of the road. One thing remains the same; the A & A still chugs down the tracks with car loads of grain and supplies from the Conrail in Arcade. It no longer goes to Attica, as it did in 1912, but it still provides advantageous service to this modern day business that now employs 35-40 people. Walking in the store there is a friendly atmosphere; employees are busy answering questions and phone calls. There is an array of historic pictures and farm scenes of the area that add to the nostalgia. The business is up to date with technology and electronic office equipment. One feels a lot of respect and faith that the Reisdorf Bros. have in their community.

In all respects Reisdorf Brothers have kept up with the times by the using modern equipment and methods of buying from and selling to dairy farmers around major milk producing counties of Wyoming and Genesee, and far beyond. They deserve to feel proud of their achievement of serving the local farmers with honesty and integrity, and keeping their business successful for 100 years.

Congratulations, Reisdorf Bros., on a job well done, and thank you for your contributions to the area and to the community.

Compiled by Marilyn Smithley & Mary Ann Metzger

Information from Richard Reisdorf - Pictures from Schoolhouse Museum and from the Mill.

Mrs. Frances Victor
The many friends of Mrs. Frances Victor, widow of the late Nicholas Victor were shocked to learn of her sudden death of apoplexy which occurred on Sunday afternoon, July 27 at her home on Buffalo Hill.

Mrs. Victor was born in Sheldon April 29th, 1851 where she has spent her entire life. She leaves to mourn her demise two sons, Henry and Clarence at home and four grandchildren Viola, Eveline, Edward and Stella Victor; also two brothers, Rahma and Henry Shreder of North Java and one sister, Mrs. Clara Slusser of Los Angeles, Cal. Mrs. Victor was a woman faithful to her church duties, a kindly neighbor and a devoted mother to her sons and orphaned grandchildren to whom her loss will be incommensurable. Funeral services were held from Saint Cecelia's church, Sheldon, on Wednesday morning at ten o'clock. Rev. Francis Wanenmacher officiating. Burial in St. Cecelia cemetery.

"Can you help us in identifying this family and homestead?"



Caution-Farming will bring frustrations with weather, markets, livestock and constant interruptions.
Notice-Farming is addictive. Once you're hooked, you wouldn't trade it for anything.

A Tribute to our military

Rev. War Soldier from Sheldon

James Coats: He in common with many others who carved out homes in the dense wilderness and endured all the hardships and dangers incident to such a life. In the war of 1812 which so soon followed the white settlement of Western New York he was employed as a teamster to transport arms ammunition and supplies for the use of the army of General Stephen Van Rensselaer, then gathering at Lewiston on the Niagara for a descent upon Canada He would never accept any pay for his services declaring that it was the duty of every good citizen to uphold the honor of his country in the hour of its need and danger He had much interaction with the Indians during the early days of settlement and knew personally Red Jacket, Farmer's Brother, Young King, Seneca White, and other noted chiefs of the Six Nations who were frequent guests at his house In 1817 he exchanged his property at Varysburg for a fine farm near Clifton Springs.

Attention: Did someone in your family serve in the military or are currently in active duty? Please submit their story, picture and where and when they served, our military history will not be complete without it. Any information however small is welcome.

Some Presidential Fun Facts:

Over 20% of the U.S. presidents did not attend college! (George Washington, Andrew Jackson, Martin Van Buren, Zachary Taylor, Millard Fillmore, Abraham Lincoln, Andrew Johnson, Grover Cleveland, Harry Truman)

Abraham Lincoln won the presidency in 1860 even though he wasn't on the ballot in 9 states, representing 1/5 of the electoral vote!

Grover Cleveland hanged two murderers when he served as public executioner of Oneida County NY.

In 1912, Woodrow Wilson defeated two presidents in one election - incumbent President William Howard Taft, and former President Theodore Roosevelt.

In 1933, for the first time in history, all the members of the Electoral College were invited to a presidential inauguration (to witness Franklin Roosevelt take the oath of office).

November 7, 1848, was the day of the first national election held on the same day in every state. Zachary Taylor was elected president.

John Tyler was the first vice president to take office after the death of a president, earning him the nickname "His Accidency."

At 28, James Buchanan was engaged to be married. Because of untrue rumors, his fiancée broke off the engagement. She would die young. A heart-broken and grief-stricken Buchanan vowed never to marry, and to this day is the only president to remain a bachelor his entire life.

William Henry Harrison was born in Charles City County, Virginia in 1773. His vice president, John Tyler, was born in the same county in 1790.

There were, in fact, eight presidents who were born in Virginia: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, James Monroe, William Henry Harrison, John Tyler, Zachary Taylor, and Woodrow Wilson.

To supplement his income as a lawyer, Gerald Ford worked as a model, and actually appeared on the cover of *Cosmopolitan* in 1942.

Not old enough to vote himself, a nineteen year old Grover Cleveland worked on Democrat James Buchanan's successful bid for president in 1856. Cleveland probably would have been shocked at the time to learn that the next Democrat to win the White House would be himself, 28 years later in 1884!

In 1925, Calvin Coolidge became the first president to be sworn in by a former president, Chief Justice William Howard Taft.

History of the Sheldon Democrat

You have probably noticed that in our last four issues of the Newsletter that we included quips from the "Sheldon Democrat." In this segment, we would like to explain a little of this newspaper that was started in Varysburg, in the Town of Sheldon. Imagine our town having a newspaper!! The paper started in 1912 and ran until early 1940's. Little did they know at the time, but the issues we have accumulated have been an asset in finding facts about our history.

The following account was written by Ethelbert (West) Almeter, pertaining to the first ten years of Sheldon's local newspaper, the "Sheldon Democrat." Date she wrote this is not exact, but the facts are verified to the best of our knowledge.

"The Sheldon Democrat"

Publication started a Century Ago.

Devastating Fire in 1922 ends Papers Ten Year Publication in Sheldon

Wyoming County have long been considered a Republican County but there has always been Democrats too, not as many but very loyal to their party. Party loyalty was taken very seriously in 1912. It was to this county that L.B. Scott came when he wished to establish a Democratic newspaper. If he were able to make a success of this paper, he would no doubt get the contract from Albany for printing the static business. Sometimes it could be as high as \$2000 a year-sometimes much less. It depended on which administration was in power. Nearly all of the papers in the county were considered Republican. There were papers in the larger towns: Warsaw, Attica, Perry, Arcade, but none in any small towns. He chose Varysburg in the Town of Sheldon. He had a brother living in Pike, NY, but evidently he felt the town of Sheldon with Java nearby would be more receptive to a Democratic paper. In 1912, Leslie B. Scott, his wife and stepdaughter, Doris Young Scott, came to make their home in Varysburg. They lived in the house with the creek on one side and the Baptist Parsonage on the other. Long ago it was called the Crippen House. In a small shed attached to the house in the back he put his presses and immediately set to work. After some time had focused and his paper prospered he took possession of a small building next to the Edward Donnelly blacksmith shop, which was located about where the Post Office is today. On Thursday August 12, 1912, (**100 Years ago**) the first and only paper ever printed in Varysburg rolled off the presses. L. B. Scott was both editor and publisher; however Harriet Calkins very often wrote articles for the paper. As its name Sheldon Democrat implied, it had a very strong leaning toward the Democratic Party. I imagine it was greeted with great interest by the people of Varysburg and the surrounding territory. I do not know if there is a copy of that first paper in existence today, but if there were it would certainly be a treasure.

In one of the very early editions this ad was run; *wanted: A girl or boy to learn the printing trade. Good chance. Call and learn about it.* (Women's Lib back then long before it became a movement.) Ralph Balling answered the ad and was hired. He learned to set type, thus acquiring the nickname "Print." He lived with the Scott family.

Vol. 1, No.5, Sept. 26, 1912 was really an outstanding edition. In many homes today you can find that edition or at least clippings from it. In it was an account with pictures of the dedication of St. Joseph's Catholic Church at Varysburg. Sept. 22, 1912. That very fine account was used when the history of the Church was given on its 50th anniversary. Truly that edition demonstrated what a fine little paper it was and what it could meant to this small town.

It was an interesting paper with ads from local businessmen and newsy items from the little hamlets and villages near-by. The local news was given in two columns, one headed Snapshots and the other The Social Mirror. The items would amuse people of today but back then we really were a self-contained little community and it was an event when someone had a party, entertained company or traveled out of town.

From the very first, advertising played an important part, for it is well known that if a publisher wishes to make ends meet and keep the price of his subscription down, he must get some income from advertising. Many local merchant complied.

One advertisement of interest read:

Bus Lines, Henry Wilcox, Proprietor
Passengers will be called for to any train.
Leave at 7:00 and 8:30 A.M and at 5:45 and 7:30 P.M

The long black enclosed wagon similar to a covered wagon had horizontal seats running a long both sides. One could also ride down from the depot for he waited until the trains came in. The fare was.10 cents. Usually one walked to and from the depot but it was very welcome when it was raining for then the roads were a sea of mud. I am not positive but I imagine he had the contract for taking the mails to the trains and brining the incoming mails to the Post Office.). (In the next issue we will list more of the merchants who advertised.)

The paper was first offered for 15 cents to the end of the year, about 15-20 copies. This would introduce the paper. Then it would be \$1.50 or \$1.00 paid in advance for a year's subscription; quite a bargain. In an early edition of the paper it was listed that he, the publisher, had two phones.

Bell Phone 20F3 and Home 20F5. (*20 phones were on the line and 3 short rings or 5 short rings would ring both in the office and at home. Of course any of the other numerous subscribers on the line could listen in too.*)

War had been declared April 6, 1917 so the paper was beginning its show of that all-consuming interest. The flag was on the editorial header with these words: "*If anyone attempts to haul down the American Flag, shoot him on the spot.*" Joe Radman Drake. There was an article, "A General Survey of the War", also a letter from the chairman of the Liberty, Loan Committee, W.J. Humphrey, thanking the editor and all the workers for their support. The word slacker was mentioned in that edition.

As the weeks went on the paper told of the various activities of the Red Cross, Camp Fire Girls, etc. Of great interest were the accounts of the boys going off to war. When they wrote home to relatives or friends very often these letters were printed for everyone was anxious to read them. Many of the papers found their way to the boys in camp and also in France.

A band had been organized in Varysburg first under the direction of a Mr. Dody and later Mr. Sullivan. This item was in the June 21, 1917 edition.

The Varysburg Military Band-Street Concert cream lawn festival next Tuesday evening.
As this will be the first of the season, let there be a large attendance.

The Sheldon Democrat was truly a small town paper printing the news not only of Varysburg but the very small communities near-by. Here are some of the names of those communities, (*many are now forgotten*) *Mud Valley, Person's Corners', Buffalo Hill, Town Line, French Rd, Pleasant Valley, Sheldon Center, Harris , Orangeville Center, Creed Rd., and of course Johnsonburg Church news was printed also, as this item shows from the Sept 12, 1912 issue:

Baptist Church Services 10; 30 A.M. 7:30 P.M.
Morning subject for meditation "The Courage and Cowardice of Sin."
Evening Four grand arguments for the tenth of the Bible. Rev. F.W.Luxford, Pastor

Years went on. There were vivid accounts of the flu epidemic, the end of the war and the boys returning home, lodge news, Church and school news, the three day bazaar of the firemen in the old cheese factory at the corner of School St. and Route 98 in 1922, and exciting accounts of the fine baseball team we had around 1920. Births, deaths and marriages were also duly recorded. Then in 1922 disaster struck. Fire destroyed the printing office along with the blacksmith shop, farm implement store, and telephone office. The printing presses were destroyed but the greatest loss of all was the file of all the editions printed of the Sheldon Democrat, the only file in existence. Gone was the record of ten important years in the life of Varysburg and immediate vicinity. What a valuable source of information they would be today.

L.B. Scott decided not to continue the paper. It was taken over by Levi A Cass of Warsaw, who printed many other county papers. So now the heading read Levi A. Cass, publisher and Harriet Calkins editor. Later Mrs. Sadie Horton was named editor. They really weren't editors. They just wrote the Varysburg news. After L.B.Scott ceased being publisher and editor, it was never a paper typical of the real small community any more. Finally it was discontinued entirely. It really died at the time of the fire in 1922. It was a good little paper for that particular time, but the world was changing so perhaps it could not have survived much longer but it really was enjoyed and appreciated in those ten years it was printed.

* Where was mud valley?

Attention: We were fortunate to have several issues donated to us, folded, and packed in a cardboard box. Due to the fact that these papers were very brittle and fragile, the society is having them digitalized on a CD. This is one of our goals as a Historical Society, to preserve the history for future generations. ***Please contact the Sheldon Historical Society if you know of any original issues that exist in the area, perhaps they are tucked away in an attic. We would copy any papers and return to you, please ask around.***

Strykersville News Wy.Co. Wyoming Co. Mirror on Nov. 16, 1894

"Who is ready for winter?"

M.D. Hyman is in Warsaw attending the meeting of the Board of Supervisors.

Our school is closed this week as the teachers have gone to attend the institute.

Our barber has moved into the Spitz Shoe Shop, where he is ready to do first class work.

A. Musty has fitted up his old house for a skating rink. The opening is Thanksgiving night. (*Now that sounds like a town event to enjoy.*)

Any one wishing instructions in the Masonic order will find a private office over our general store.

Forty hour devotion was held at St. Mary's Church last week.

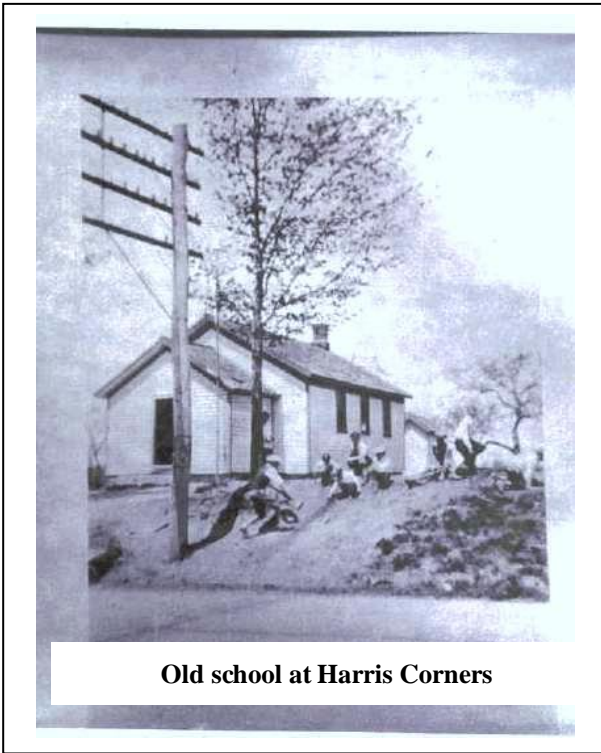
Where! Oh where! Is the sausage, sour-kraut etc. that the Democrats had ready for the celebration which never came.

SCHOOLHOUSE RECORDS OPEN A WINDOW TO THE PAST

"Copy of records taken from loose paper at an annual school meeting of the freeholders and inhabitants of School District No. 1 in the Town of Sheldon at the house of Uriah Persons On the 4th day of Nov. 1823, agreeable to appointment and public notice."

So begins what is possibly the oldest record we have of the first schoolhouse in Sheldon. Comprised of the minutes from every schoolhouse meeting from 1823 to 1877 for School District No. 1 (which became No. 5) it reads like a Who's Who of pioneers of Sheldon, with many familiar names from the town's history.

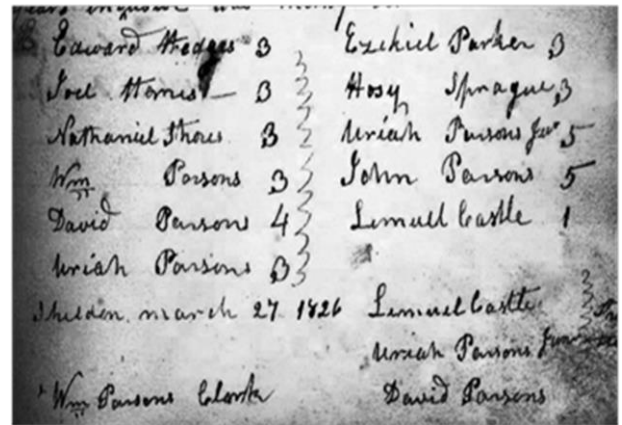
The first settlement in Sheldon was at Turners Corners, where its founder, Roswell Turner, built the first log cabin. Next was a blacksmith shop, which was also used for a school from 1807-1810, when the first schoolhouse was erected. Polly Ralph was the teacher. The first families in the northwest section of Sheldon were those of Roswell Turner, Lemuel Castle, William Stancliff, Joel Harris, Edward Hedges, Uriah Persons and several of his 12 sons. Uriah's children and grandchildren all attended the school together.



Old school at Harris Corners

During the first meeting, it was **"Resolved unanimously that the clerk be authorized to purchase a book to keep the records, to cost 50 cents"**. Up until that time, the records were kept on loose papers, and they decided that it was not necessary to transcribe them any further back than that day.

It is clear from the beginning that these men we might think of as rugged pioneers & farmers were also intelligent and well educated. Their handwriting, spelling and grammar were exceptional. So the education of their children must have been important to them. At the first meeting on record, they appointed Uriah Persons as moderator, William Stancliff as district clerk, William Persons as collector, with John Persons, Uriah Persons and Joel Harris as trustees. Lemuel, Samuel and Amos Castle, Gideon Thomas & Elkanah Brown all participated. Meetings were organized & records were written so they could be presented at any time to the Commissioner of Common Schools, noting the time & money spent.



List of pupils from the old book

"Resolved unanimously that the site for a schoolhouse be the place voted for at the last annual meeting; which was between lands owned by Uriah and David Persons, adjoining the State road, and trustees be directed to purchase the same". The location for the new schoolhouse was about 3 miles west of Turners Corners (Rtes. 20A & 77). A tax would be raised to build a new school & the old school was to be sold to Uriah Persons. Pioneer schoolhouses were built of logs, with desks of slanting boards and benches of split and hewed slabs. School lasted 6 months; the teacher's pay was \$12.15. By 1826, there were 46 students, ages 5-16. In 1832, it is noted that **"The school has been inspected. School has been kept in the seven months since the last report, by teachers duly appointed and approved. Money received from the Commissioner of Common Schools is \$13.35."**

In 1839 the school was to purchase 12 cords of red beech or hard maple wood for fuel, at a cost of 41 cents per cord. Also, a library of 45 books is mentioned. By 1856, the cost of wood had gone to \$4.00 & the job was bid off by John Mest, who was also a trustee. The moderator was Edward Hedges. At the meeting of 1863 it was again decided to build a new schoolhouse, to be 22 feet wide & 28 feet long. No further details were given.

A "back house" was built in 1868. The plans were very specific for this outhouse. It was to be built of good hemlock lumber, be 5 ft X 10 ft x 6 1/2 ft high, with a wooden plank floor. It would be divided into two parts by a partition; each having a door; each seat should have two holes. The seats are to be planed."

This job went to the lowest bidder, Nicholas Bender, to build this for \$15.25, by the middle of November 1868. About the same time, the school district was changed to No. 5. As the years passed, new names appear, such as Boyce, Meyer, Stillinger, Kelter & Keem. By 1877, the school contained "100 and 3 library books".

Like the school records kept on loose paper, much of the history of our early settlers has been lost forever. But reading through this old book and seeing their names makes you wonder whatever happened to these Sheldon pioneers who broke through the wilderness, felled the trees, planted their crops and built homes, schools and churches. Researching them is challenging because only the men's names are shown on the census until 1850. We know that some of them were Revolutionary War veterans who came from New England and New Jersey. Others served in the War of 1812 and the Civil War. Some never left Sheldon; they lived, died & are buried here. Uriah Persons & some of his children remained and are buried at the Persons Pioneer Cemetery, not far from the school. Amos and Ann Castle and William & Lucy Stancliff raised their families here and are buried at the Strykersville Pioneer Cemetery.

Many others continued to move westwards. Although Harris Corners was named after Joel and Betsey Harris, it is believed that they headed west in the 1830s in search of a new pioneer home. Two of the Hedges brothers went west around 1865. Joseph and Jane Hedges & their family ended up in Cook County, Illinois. Edward Hedges, Jr. was found in the Iowa Census a few years later with a second wife and six more children, along with his four that were born in Sheldon (and no mention of the fate of his first wife, Betsy). Although he never went to medical school, "Doctor" E.R. Hedges, as he was

known, traveled around Franklin Co., Iowa, selling medicines he made from plants and roots. One brother, John Hedges served in the Civil War and died a few years later in Sheldon. Another brother, Nathaniel Parker Hedges, remained in Sheldon where he raised a large family. He was a teacher, as were three of his daughters. Sadly, all his children died young; the whole family is buried in the Hedges family cemetery at Harris Corners. This left no descendants here, and no trace of the four houses along Big Tree Road that belonged to the Hedges families during the mid-1800s.

In the process of researching our own family history, it is interesting to see what happened to their neighbors. Learning all their stories helps us understand our ancestors and what their lives were like. Whether cutting their way through a thick forest in the earliest years, or leaving their homes in the old country, crossing the ocean and starting over in a new land, there are many exciting stories left untold. We hope you will visit us at the Sheldon Schoolhouse Museum, share some of your family stories & let us help you with your research.

We are working to document as much of our local history as we can & are grateful for any stories or pictures you may have. We will copy your pictures or if you can't come in, we would come to you with a portable scanner so your photos can be kept with your family but still shared by others in the community & in the future. So if you have any schoolhouse stories or information we can add to our files, as well as any local history that you may have to add to our files, it will be much appreciated.

Nothing is too minor, because one small tale can lead to many more, and you never know where it will take us.

Jeanne Mest, Archival Curator

Sources: Records of School No. 5 & History of the Holland Purchase & Wyoming Co.



Can you identify any of the students?



3859 Strykersville Rd.

**PO Box 122,
Strykersville, NY 14145**

“If you think Independence Day is America's defining holiday, think again. Thanksgiving deserves that title, hands-down.”
Tony Snow

The Historical Society welcomes new members! If you find local History interesting, we hope that you make a membership contribution and join us. It is open to anyone with an interest in the history of Sheldon, or a desire to volunteer services without restriction to age or place of residence. We maintain a School House Museum that is state chartered. There is always work to do to maintain this structure and to continue our research of data and archives and preserve treasured artifacts.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

DATE: _____

Highlights inside this issue include:

“The Sheldon Democrat” Local paper started in Sheldon. Next and final Meeting for the season will be **Nov. 15, 2012 @ 7:00** at the School House Museum; refreshments served. See inside for more details. Schoolhouse records open a record to the past.

Queries are welcome. We are here to help you with your genealogy or facts of past history in Sheldon.
Email us at Sheldonthistoricalsociety@hotmail.com

Make check payable to The Town of Sheldon Historical Society.

Mail To:

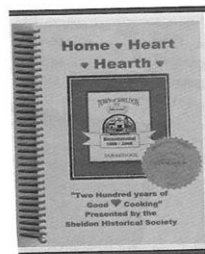
Donna Kirsch, financial secretary.
4458 Richardson Rd.,
Arcade, NY 14009



A nostalgic tabloid; you won't want to miss it.

Attention:

The date on the address label signifies the due date of your membership. Don't let your subscription lapse. Dues are \$5.00 a year and \$50.00 per person for lifetime membership. This helps us continue Historical research of the Town of Sheldon.



*We still have some award winning **Bicentennial Cookbooks** for sale. \$16.00 Do you have one for members of your family, they are very nostalgic.*

The contribution of your time, sharing your artifacts and archival material along with monetary donations are deeply appreciated.

