



Sheldon Schoolhouse  
Museum

# Sheldon Historical 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"

## SPRING WORKSHOP

On Saturday, April 9, 2022, history was made once again, when the Sheldon Historical Society hosted the Spring Workshop of the Wyoming County Federation of Historical Societies. The Federation is comprised of members from historical societies throughout Wyoming County, who get together twice a year to learn from and encourage each other.

We had hoped for a good attendance but were amazed with the response we received. We had to change the location from St. Mary's Hall to the Strykersville Fire Hall, in order to accommodate over 90 guests, the largest group ever to attend a Spring Workshop. We had guests from several towns outside of our county, including Sardinia, Holland, Lancaster and the Holland Land Company Museum. We had two excellent speakers, County Historian Cindy Amrhein and former Deputy Historian Anita Ripstein Hayes. Cindy taught us how to trace the history of our homes and Anita shared her expertise on how to protect and preserve the artifacts in our museums and follow NYS guidelines for our historical societies. Following the delicious lunch, we had Open House at our Schoolhouse Museum and P.J. Almeter gave a tour of St. Cecilia's church, cemetery and school, which was a huge hit.

***Thank you, everyone who came, and all of you who helped!***

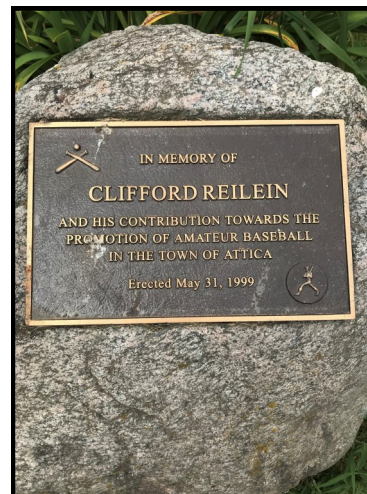
## IN MEMORY OF CLIFFORD REILEIN

AND HIS CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE PROMOTION OF  
AMATEUR BASEBALL IN THE TOWN OF ATTICA

This memorial stone and plaque has been on display for years in Attica's AYA Field. But does anyone read it and actually remember Clifford Reilein?

Clifford Reilein, a farmer and businessman in Cowlesville, was a legend in his own time. A self-made millionaire, he left most of his money to the community. The stories abound of the people he helped, yet he was a humble man who lived a simple life.

Baseball was his passion, and he thought every child should be able to play.



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**Headstone of Christina Reulein at St. John's Cemetery in Sheldon**

But how did this man accumulate so much wealth? I wanted to tell his story, but it was challenging, trying to learn about Clifford Reilein's life. Although I searched newspaper articles and asked people who knew him, I couldn't come up with any photos and found very little information. Everyone I spoke to, though, was very fond of him and pointed out what an honest, fair and moral person he was. Maybe it adds to his mystery, that there are no known photos of him.

Clifford came from humble beginnings. There is a single grave in St. John's Dutch Hollow Cemetery in Sheldon, written in German, with the name, "CHRISTINA", Geb (born) Shild, Frau (wife) of Lehnhart Reulein, born March 2, 1831, died April 12, 1855, buried in the ground. This was his grandmother.

Christina Shild was born in Michelbach, Preußen, Baden, Germany on March 2, 1831, a daughter of Jacob and Kristina Klemm Shild. At age 7, she came to this country with her parents and older sisters on the Ship Emulouz, arriving at the port of New York on August 10, 1837. They settled in Sheldon, where she married Lehnhart Reulein in 1849. Christina had four children from 1850 to 1855, and died the same day her youngest daughter was born, presumably in childbirth. Lehnhart moved to Cowlesville, where he raised his family; Frederick, Caroline, Leonard Jr. and Christina. The brothers married sisters; Frederick to Barbara Urf and Leonard, Jr. to Kate Urf. Leonard Jr. and Kate had Clifford, Maud, Harriet and Frederick.

Clifford was born June 13, 1893. He took over the family farm at age 14 when his father died.

On September 27, 1917, Clifford was inducted into the US Army and was soon sent overseas to join with the 129th Infantry Yankee Division. He was proud of his service during World War I, and rightly so. He was stationed in France and his job was transporting the caissons that carried the ammunition and caring for the mules that pulled them. He shared a story about getting separated from his troop once and having to take shelter in a deserted building when night fell. In the darkness, he heard someone else and was relieved to see it was another American soldier. They kept each other awake all night to keep from freezing to death. The next morning when they heard troops approaching, they saw they were Americans and rushed out. Caught in the mass of soldiers, they lost sight of each other. One regret Clifford always had was that he never knew the man's name. He always hoped to find him, and thank him for saving his life.



**WWI Soldiers with caissons**

WWI ended November 11, 1918. On March 23, 1919, he left Brest, France on the giant troop ship Leviathan, along with over 12,000 soldiers returning from war, the largest number of troops ever transported on one ship. The Leviathan ran into some trouble on their way home, just narrowly

### Clifford Reilein

COWLESVILLE — Clifford Reilein, 92, of Clinton Street died Friday (Jan. 31, 1986) in Wyoming Community Hospital, Warsaw, after a long illness.

Mr. Reilein was born June 13, 1893 in Cowlesville, a son of the late Leonard and Katherine Reilein. He took over operation of the family farm at age 14 when his father died and worked it until 1918 when he was drafted into the Army.

He served with the 129th Infantry (Yankee Division) in combat in the European Theater for two years, including the Battle of Chateau Thierry. After his discharge from the Army in 1920, he worked for Iroquois Gas, predecessor to National Fuel. He also worked as a fireman on ore carriers on the Great Lakes.

He later returned to farming and married the former Katherine Holzschuh in 1928. She died in 1982.

Reilein added to the 250-acre farm he bought after the war, developing it over the years into a 600-acre spread, of which some 350 acres were tenant maintained. He also developed his herd of dairy cattle to nearly 100 and kept it that level until the mid-1970s.

Other businesses conducted by the Wyoming County resident included a fleet of car carriers and moving vans for hire and an auto repair shop in Cowlesville.

Surviving are a sister, Harriet Reilein of Cowlesville; nieces and nephews. Mr. Reilein was a brother of the late Frederick and Maud Reilein.

Friends may call from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday at the Charles Meyer Funeral Home, Inc., Alden, where services will be at 1 p.m. Wednesday. Memorials may be made to the Folsomdale Baptist Church or to the Cowlesville Baptist Church. Interment will be in the Cowlesville Cemetery.

missing a floating mine. Just think of the lives and the futures that could have been lost that day!

On May 23, 1928, he married Katherine Holzschuh. They lived a simple life, not wanting or needing material things. I think they might be called minimalists today.

Anyone in the farming business around Cowlesville or Sheldon knew of him, and he helped several to get their start or keep going. Many stories have been told about how frugal they were. Nothing ever went to waste. One farmer said that when he went to their home to do business, he noticed they used empty cereal boxes, instead of standing file folders, for their records.

He had an incredible gift for business. Later in life, he owned several businesses in town, including a fleet of car carriers for hire. One of his jobs was as a cattle dealer. He would buy and sell cattle and take them to the market in Buffalo. Whenever Clifford took a load of anything into the city, he brought a load of something else back. Sometimes that might mean a load of fertilizer or feed. If he saw someone standing around, looking for work, he would offer them a job and bring them home, so they could get some money and food, and he let them stay as long as they wanted. What an amazing thing that was to do for his fellow man, at a time in history before there were agencies or public assistance to help the poor.

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### QUICK ACTION SAVES LEVIATHAN, WITH 12,000 TROOPS, FROM STRIKING MINE

By the Associated Press.

NEW YORK, April 25.—The giant troop ship Leviathan, with 12,000 soldier passengers, the last of six transports, to arrive here today bringing 22,972 men, missed a mine by only thirty feet while off the Grand Banks of Newfoundland Tuesday morning, its officers reported when it docked tonight.

*SS Leviathan*, originally built in Germany as *Vaterland* (meaning "Fatherland" in German), was an ocean liner which regularly crossed the North Atlantic from 1914 to 1934. She sailed as *Vaterland* for less than a year before her early career was halted by the start of World War I. In 1917, she was seized by the US government and renamed *Leviathan*. She would become known by this name for the majority of her career, both as a troopship during World War I and later as the flagship of the United States Lines. As a side note, in the Bible, the Leviathan was a huge sea monster.



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During my research, I learned that Clifford had made arrangements for a spring and a pump to supply water off one of his farms, down across Cayuga Creek to several homes in Cowlesville that didn't have wells on their property. He had a 99 year agreement put in place, which his nephew renewed, in order to insure that Clifford's wishes would continue to be respected.

A great niece of Clifford shared some memories: *"He was a small man, probably around 5'7" or so. His clothes always looked too big for him. He owned 311 acres between Urf and Folsomdale Roads. His farm abutted Kittsleys on the east. He only had an 8th grade education but my father respected his business acumen and street smarts. My dad told me that Clifford started to loan money while in the service and did quite well; mostly, said my dad, because people underestimated him and thought him to be just a good ole country boy. During the 1920's, he had dances in his barn. I found a newspaper article that said the Glor Orchestra played there on Friday nights.*

*One story my dad loved to tell was about Clifford and the bank robbery. I believe it was the Buffalo Savings Bank. I found an article that said the Buffalo Savings Bank was robbed in June 1966, so that seems right. Clifford was coming back from hauling cattle to Buffalo when he got pulled over by the police. He kept a cigar box with quite a bit of cash in it on the front seat of his cattle truck. When the police saw that, they took him in. He did not look like someone who would have cash like that. Clifford thought it was pretty funny and went through the motions. He asked if he could have his one phone call, and used it to call the president of the bank. The bank president asked to speak to the police and Clifford was quickly released."*

Katherine passed away in October 1982 and Clifford on January 31, 1986, at the age of 92. Clifford was dressed in his World War I uniform when he was laid to rest. Interment was at the Cowlesville Cemetery.

I always thought a person's will was private, but they are actually a matter of public record. Clifford's will showed how very much he cared for others. After paying his final expenses, his first order of business was to leave \$50,000 in a special fund, "To be used for the enjoyment of amateur baseball by participants of all ages in the Town of Bennington and towns contiguous in Erie and Wyoming County, and such other places in Erie and Wyoming County as my Trustees shall determine from time to time. "



Reilein's old barn as it looks today

Folsomdale Cemetery at the corner of Reilein & Kern Roads. The home of Clifford and Kate was on Reilein Rd. just north of the cemetery.

In 1938, Hollywood came to Cowlesville to film a scene for the movie, *The Great Waltz*. The location was an old covered bridge on the farm of Clifford and Kate Reilein.

### Bridge Repaired By WPA Used By Movie Company

COWLESVILLE, N. Y. (UP)—an ancient covered bridge, recently renovated by the Works Progress Administration, has saved the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer motion picture company the cost of sending a camera crew to Austria.

Because the bridge—last of its type in western New York—and the surrounding rolling, wooded countryside was considered by studio officials to match a typical countryside scene near Vienna, the farm of Clifford Reilein was used for a setting of the film, "The Great Waltz."

The location is near Folsomdale, where President Grover Cleveland courted the girl who became his wife.

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Arcade, New York  
COVERED BRIDGE DAYS~



Ellis-Chesbro Bridge, Bennington,  
The Last Covered Bridge in Western New York.  
(Photo taken c1926 by Mrs. Elise C. Emt.)

It was a score and more years ago that it became apparent that the Ellis bridge might be replaced by a modern span, it having been condemned as unsafe. Being the last of the town's historic spans, the County bowed to public sentiment and carried out a major job of restoration. Historically minded and sentimental visitors have flocked to the scene these many years. It is one of the most frequently photographed spots in the area. Seldom does one stop at the structure for any length of time before at least another car of visitors will halt on a similar errand. During the filming of the Hollywood production, "The Great Waltz," shots were taken at the bridge with the actors in costume. These scenes were used for publicity by the producer although local theatergoers reported they did not see the bridge in the final version of the film.

Next he bequeathed \$50,000 to each local church, and did not forget the fire companies. Then he left the remainder of his estate in separate trusts set up for many relatives, friends and former employees, thus insuring they would always be provided for.

An estate of \$1,000,000 in 1986 would be comparable to about \$2,600,000 today. It amazes me that someone could earn and save that much money and then give it all away. Clifford's sister Harriet outlived him and a few years later, she left an estate of \$600,000 to be divided and given to friends, relatives, churches and missionaries who each received 1/17th of her estate.

When it came to money, one of Clifford's favorite sayings was, "I hope they have as much fun spending it as I had making it!" Thanks to him, generations have benefitted from his generosity. Today his legacy continues, as children gather once again in the ball field and the cry is heard, "Batter Up!"

By Jeanne Mest

*Author's note: When our son took his little boy to start T-ball for the first time on the fields where he had played baseball so many times himself, he stopped with a friend to look at the stone. While reflecting on the memorial, he wondered how many people knew the story of Clifford Reilein and his generosity.*



## THE PUBLIC BURYING GROUND STRYKERSVILLE PIONEER CEMETERY

The Strykersville Pioneer Cemetery is located on Perry Road, just north of the intersection of Perry and Route 78. It was first opened for burials in 1811 and was active until 1867, when a new one opened on the other side of town.

Soon after the Holland Land Company had surveyed the area, settlers began to arrive in what would become the town of Sheldon. Most of the first pioneers in Strykersville were from New England and other states along the east coast. Often the men were veterans of the Revolutionary War who brought their families west for a fresh start after the horrors of war.

The first road in Sheldon was laid out in 1803, and ran from Geneseo, New York to Lake Erie. Known as Big Tree Road (now Route 20A), it was an old Indian trail and the entire area was solid forest, which had to be cut through and burned in order to clear the land. The first pioneers to arrive in Sheldon were Lemuel Chipman and Roswell Turner, who settled near Big Tree Road. It must have taken some time to cut a road through the woods all the way to the southwest part of Sheldon, which became Strykersville.

Garret Stryker, William Richardson and Philo Stevens were the first to purchase land in Lots 33 and 25. Strykersville's earliest residents probably did not think of themselves as pioneers. When it was time to start a cemetery, they referred to it as "The Public Burying Ground". The first available land record shows that sometime before 1826, Philo Stevens set aside 100 rods, deeded to Joseph Buttrick, Supervisor of the Town of Sheldon, for a Burying Ground.

Later, in 1851, John Dumas deeds some more land, to the cemetery trustees: *"This Indenture made the 26<sup>th</sup> day of September in the year One Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty-One, between John B. Dumas of the Town of Sheldon in the County of Wyoming in the State of New York, party of the first part, and Joseph Emery of the Town of Wales in the County of Erie and the State of New York, Milo Warner of the Town of Java in the County of Wyoming and the State of New York, Curtiss L. Plant, Harry S. Turner and Nelson Arnold of the Town of Sheldon and the County of Wyoming and the State of New York, Trustees of the Public Burying Ground of Strykersville in the said Town of Sheldon."*

The first recorded burial in 1811 was for Nancy Stryker, age 3, followed by her 12 year old sister Betsy in 1815. They were daughters of Garret and Saloma Stryker, who came from Richfield, NY, bringing their eight children with them. The hamlet of Strykersville was named after the Strykers. It seems fitting that they were honored this way. They were the first family that settled here and dealt with the hardships of pioneer life, and had to bury three of their children at a young age in the cemetery.

Today the town does some trimming and mowing, but when I was exploring it in 2018, the cemetery was very overgrown. This made it a little difficult walking through and looking for headstones, but there were many of them. I had been told there was one Revolutionary soldier's grave there. What a delight it was to find not one but four graves of Revolutionary War soldiers and one from the War of 1812, with newer markers which may have been placed by the DAR. I looked around and realized I was surrounded by the stories of many lives, long forgotten, in this old burying ground. Since then, I have been able to verify at least one more soldier from each war, and there may be more, just judging by the number of flags placed there on Memorial Day.



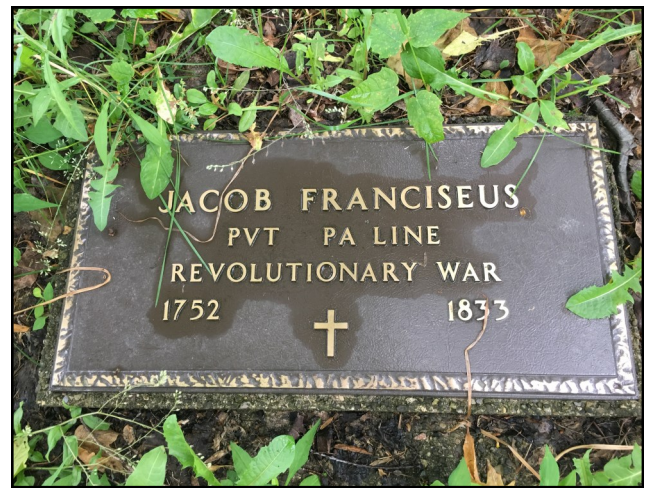


**Soldiers of the American Revolutionary War who later moved to this area:**

- Omri Warner**
- Joseph Barber**
- Jacob Franciseus**
- Jacob Turner**
- Samuel Kelsey.**

**The following were settlers who went to serve in Buffalo during the War of 1812:**

- Garret Stryker**
- Benjamin Hicks**
- Jacob Franciscus, Jr.**



## Heroes of the Revolutionary War and War of 1812 from Sheldon

**Joseph Barber** was born June 3, 1744 in Rehoboth, Massachusetts. He married Lydia Miller and had eight children. Joseph was a Private in the Continental Line, Revolutionary War, and came to Strykersville in his old age. On Sept. 17, 1823, he left Massachusetts with his son, Joseph Jr., wife and 10 children, bound for Java. Joseph Jr. drove a wagon drawn by two yoke of oxen, carrying his family and 3500 lbs. of household goods. The wagon had a cover of sole leather, costing \$40, which he used later to make boots and shoes. Another wagon, drawn by a single horse, carried his aged father, 79 years old and totally blind. He died a few months later, on Jan. 17, 1824. (From the Biography of Lester Barber)

**Jacob Turner** came to Sheldon before 1814, with his wife Sally and son William. He was a Private in the NY Regiment, Rev. War, and died at Sheldon in 1820. He is mentioned in the History of Wyoming Co. as having built the first sawmill, with Calvin Rogers, in 1814.

**Omri Warner** was born in Waterbury, Connecticut, in 1762 and served as a Private in Brewer's Regt., Massachusetts Line. He married Prudence Hollister and had 10 children before she died in Vermont in 1822. He came to Sheldon with his second wife, Catherine Warner. Prudence and her sister Betty were daughters of Captain Francis Hollister, a sea captain who died at Havana in 1777. Betty married Samuel Kelsey, and came to Strykersville, where she was buried in 1831.

**Samuel Kelsey** was born in New Hartford, CT, where he was a Private in the Connecticut Militia. He enlisted in 1775 and they marched to Albany, then to Crown Point; then went by water through Lake Champlain under the command of General Schuyler, then with General Montgomery and helped take St. Johns after a siege of six weeks. He was an early settler in Strykersville, having bought land in Lot 35, died and was buried in 1838 in the Pioneer Cemetery. His tombstone has not been found, although that of his wife Betty is still visible. Their daughter Candace married Jeremiah Waterman, another early settler, who died in 1827.

**Jacob Franciseus** was a Private in the PA Line. He was one of the earliest settlers in Sheldon and died in 1833. His son, Jacob Jr., was killed at Niagara in the War of 1812. Jacob Sr. became the heir of his son's land grant.

**Benjamin Hicks** was born in 1789 in Pittstown, NY, married Cynthia Ward and served in the War of 1812 at Sackett's Harbor, before coming to Sheldon.

**Garrett Stryker** marched to the defense of his neighbors on the Niagara Frontier, when the Sheldon Militia was called into active duty in the War of 1812. For years after the war the family preserved a cannon ball which Stryker picked up at Buffalo the time it burned. He saw it rolling on the ground, it having been shot over from Canada. Garrett is buried with his wife, Saloma, and at least three of their children.

**All of the above are laid to rest in the Pioneer Cemetery.**





There is a wooden sign in the center of the cemetery. These photos show that several flags had been placed there on the grave sites of soldiers who fought in the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812.

There are at least 125 known burials of early pioneers in this “Public Burying Ground”. Having all these veterans of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 is something people need to know and can be proud of. This historic cemetery is an important part of our town’s history. It really needs to be taken better care of, so that people can walk about in it and learn about our local history. Perhaps we can find some volunteers who could help clear it up a little.

In 2026, the United States will be celebrating our 250th Anniversary of the Revolutionary War. Hopefully we will be able to commemorate the heroes from our town who have their final resting place in the Strykersville Pioneer Cemetery.

We have submitted an application to the Pomeroy Foundation, to request a roadside sign that could be put in front of the cemetery, but we won’t know the result for a few more months.

At our last meeting, there were some other great ideas brought up of ways that we could educate people about our past. Won’t you join with us in our quest to bring to life the history of our town?

By Jeanne Mest



Headstones of the Stryker Family



Nancy and Betsey Stryker



**Attica News, Thursday, June 9, 1904**

**Obituary**

The death of J.B. Almeter, a prominent farmer and well known carpenter, took place Friday evening at his home, at J.B. Almeter's or Perry's crossing, on the B.A. & A.R.R., owing to a fall from the roof of his new barn which he was building.

Mr. Almeter was putting on the roof boards on the evening of the previous Wednesday, when in some way he lost his balance and fell from the gambrel at the perloin plate to the ground, a distance of 39 feet.

He was picked up unconscious, with severe fractures and bruises, but upon the arrival of medical aid hopes were entertained of saving his life. Yet, a change for the worse on Friday speedily determined his fate.

He was born in the town of Sheldon in which he always lived, at different places, 49 years ago, and was very popular and widely known and his demise was a shocking incident to the entire community and was felt as a personal affliction by all who knew him.

He distinguished himself with that qualification of heart which is always indicative of a noble being, inconsiderate of himself and of regard for others. The deceased leaves a widow and eleven children eight sons and three daughters mourning his unwarned and untimely departure. The funeral was held at N. Java, from St. Nicholas' church on Monday and the large attendance at the services bespeaks the condolence of a sympathizing public.

## J.B. Almeter and Anna Meyer

Anna Meyer, daughter of John Meyer and Catherine Schunk, married John Bertis Almeter on Jan. 14, 1880. John Bert and Anna were 19 and 20 when they married. In the next 24 years, they had twelve children born to them.

John Bert was a well-known farmer and carpenter. His name has appeared in various historical records; for example, in the journal of F.W. Kehl, Frank mentions going to J.B. Almeter's on Jan. 7 to order a new flat runner sleigh and he goes back to pick it up on Jan. 29. In various times in that journal he mentions taking sheep and hogs to J.B. Almeter's at Perry Crossing. John Bert Almeter appears to have been a very busy and talented man. He was building a new barn in 1904 when he fell from the gambrel and died later of his injuries, leaving Anna with 12 children to raise; 9 of them ranging in age from 3-16. Some of their sons may have been old enough to run the farm, but life must have been quite a struggle for Anna. Eight years went by before she married for the 2nd time, to Albert Francis Romesser, who had never married or had children.

In October 1929, her sister Mary Ann Meyer Logel was killed in Buffalo, when she was hit by a street car. Then Anna died in 1930, followed by Albert Romesser in 1942. John Bert, Albert and Anna are buried next to each other at St. Nicholas Cemetery in North Java, with a beautiful headstone with each one's name and dates on each side.

Perhaps some of their descendants will read this and tell us more about this interesting family. We would love to hear from you.







FROM THE SCHOOLHOUSE MUSEUM  
AND HISTORIAN, JEANNE MEST

Trees

I think that I shall never see  
a poem as lovely as a tree.  
A tree whose hungry mouth is prest  
Against the sweet earth's flowing breast;  
A tree that looks at God all day,  
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;  
A tree that may in summer wear  
A nest of robins in her hair;  
Upon whose bosom snow has lain;  
Who intimately lives with rain.  
Poems are made by fools like me,  
But only God can make a tree.

By Joyce Kilmer

Does anyone know if children still memorize poems like this in school? Our Aunt Leona can still recite it by heart. I wonder if her teacher at Sheldon School No. 5 could have imagined that her student would still remember it, at age 102! It seems so appropriate to think of now, with Earth Day, Arbor Day, and here in Strykersville, the Old Stryker Willow Tree! Last year we shared the story of the Stryker Willow (See August & December 2021). The location was found and we applied to the William Pomeroy Foundation and received a grant for their Legends and Lore sign. It is the first historical roadside sign we have received in our town since 1932. We will be installing and unveiling it soon!

We want to welcome all our new members; Jan Suttell, Diane Hennessey, Randel Kibler, Andrew Perl, Karen Sutton, Pam Bennett, Debra Marx, and Michele Schubert. New Lifetime members are Paul Bien, Robert Bien, Alice Schiltz Hamed, Larry Perl and Paula & Timothy Wassink. Whitney Kehl, Marge Murray and Dave George changed theirs to Lifetime. If I have forgotten anyone, please let me know. We are glad to have each and every one of you and hope that everyone who lives locally will join us at our meetings. We would love to have your company and fresh ideas.

Currently we are in the process of updating displays and planning for the upcoming Town Wide Yard Sale on June 4 to 5. We will be open all day and then will be open on Tuesday afternoons from 1:00-4:00 through September.

**Generous Donations Received:**

*Thank you to Sharon Daniel, Janet Fontaine, Marcia Kelly, Diana George, Dave Almeter, Janet Kirsch, Marge Long, Ann Holmes, Larry Hyman, John Knab, Janet Palmateer, Becky Suttell & Marilyn Crow.*

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

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

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Research assistance is available  
throughout the year.

For inquiries please contact *Jeanne Mest, Town Historian, email: townofsheldonhistorian@gmail.com, 716-474-3156 or mail: 470 Rt. 20A, Strykersville, NY 14145.*

*Newsletter compiled and edited by Jeanne Mest, with the assistance of creator/consultant Mary Ann Metzger, Scott Barvian and many volunteers. Submissions welcome; please send articles or any questions to Historian. Newsletters can be emailed. Large print versions are available. For previous newsletters, see <http://www.townofsheldon.com> or Facebook: History of the Town of Sheldon, NY.*

**Sheldon Historical Society Officers:**

President - Laury Lakas  
Vice President - Carol Felski  
Secretary - Elizabeth Reisdorf  
Financial Secretary - Donna Kirsch  
Archival Curator - Jeanne Mest  
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Janet Kirsch, Barbara Logel,  
Elaine Almeter, Judie Coffey, Steve Lakas  
Museum Curator - Barbara Logel  
Classroom Curator & Town of Orangeville Historian - Laury Lakas  
[laurylakas@gmail.com](mailto:laurylakas@gmail.com)  
Town of Sheldon Historian and Newsletter Editor - Jeanne Mest  
[townofsheldonhistorian@gmail.com](mailto:townofsheldonhistorian@gmail.com)

**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!

**2022-2023 Membership Application or Renewal**

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ New Member      \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Renewal

\_\_\_\_\_ \$12 Annual Membership July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023

\_\_\_\_\_ \$75 Lifetime Membership

\_\_\_\_\_ Would like to make a Donation In Memory/Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Complimentary - Current Members Only 80+