



Sheldon Schoolhouse Museum
3859 Main St., Strykersville, NY

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"

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

The Schoolhouse Museum is closed from November to February, but open upon request. For appointments, call (716)863-1474 or (716)474-3156.

Research assistance is available all year.

Save the Date! On April 9, 2022, Sheldon will host the Spring Workshop of the Wyoming Co. Fed. of Historical Societies.

WHEN A NAME IS NOT THE NAME

By Julie Merchant

For those of us involved in genealogy and family history, the frustration caused by names of our ancestors morphing or being outright misspelled is commonplace, but after all, we are a nation of immigrants, many of whom did not speak English. My personal frustration is with my family name, 'Marchand'. Since I was a pre-teen, I have researched my dad's family. Sometimes a series of events has resulted in an outcome that is strangely twisted but just meant to be; or in the words of one of my cousins, "That's a Godwink".

This is the story of how Francis Marchand, the first of my paternal ancestors to be born in the United States, became Frank Marshall and how a photo album found in an attic in 1964, when I was just one year old, was delivered to my hands 57 years later.

(Continued on page 2)



Frank Jr. and sister Jennie Marshall

**INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:**

Marshall	1-3
School Bell Repair	4
Historian	5
Bien Brothers Visit	6
Fr. Jim Fugle	7
Suttell Ancestry Visit	8
Strykersville Willow Tree	11

WEST COAST FAMILY VISITS JAVA/STRYKERSVILLE



Story on
page 8

Young Edward Suttell on the family farm in Java, NY in the late 1800's

**Merry
Christmas**

(Cont. from page 1)

WHEN A NAME IS NOT THE NAME

The Marchand family came from Xanrey, France in 1832, settling in Rosiere, Jefferson County, NY. Parents Francois and Anne had fled rural, agrarian, France with their two children, Anne and Jacques, selling what little they had to afford the trip from Le Havre to New York City. Sadly, young Anne died during the journey. However, my Great, Great Grandmother Anne was pregnant during the Atlantic crossing and soon the first American, Francis Marchand, arrived. Six more children followed him, including my Great Grandfather Claude. His mother died during his birth. Limited or non-existent vital records from the mid-1800s certainly didn't make research easy. The immigrants only spoke French and until the railroad opened up the wild North Country, there was little reason to learn English. It seems as though the name was written by census takers and other officials phonetically, the way the name was pronounced with a heavy French accent; at times Marchand, Marchant or Marshaw.

Up until last year, despite the challenges, we had located most of the first generation of American Marchands. Frustratingly, we could find little information on the life and times of Francis. About five years ago, researching at the Watertown library, I found original copies of his father's probate records, which provided the location as Wyoming County, NY. Not paying attention to detail, and with another sibling having gone to Nebraska, I noted the word "Wyoming" without catching "County". Good grief! Another review put me on the path to Western New York.

The important role of the local historians was soon to become apparent. In the last 5 minutes of a four hour visit to the Wyoming Co. Historian's Office, Deputy

Co. Historian Sally Smith placed a page in front of me from a hand-written book by Josephine Daniel Almeter. It was then I realized that the Marchands were listed as Frank Marshall and his wife, Elise, as Alice, from Jefferson County, and their children Frank Jr., Virginia (Jennie), Joseph and Eugene. This led to finding them on the Sheldon Census of 1860, along with their first child, Frank Jr., age 2, so we know they were in Sheldon before 1860. Frank Sr. was a painter. Their next-door neighbors were Victor and Marie Catherine Reneaux Simon and family (Alice's sister). Alice was one of three daughters of Nicholas Vincent Reneaux and Marie Catherine Claudel. Her sister, Marie Catherine, married Victor Simon and sister Victoren wed Victor Dumas. All were born in France and came here before 1860.

I was now on the trail but we were in the midst of the Covid Pandemic, which severely limited any further research. I had Frank Jr.'s baptismal information from the small Catholic Church, St. Vincent dePaul's, that they attended in Rosier. Later in Sheldon, after the fascinating tour of St. Cecilia's by Paul Almeter, I was similarly impressed with their huge commitment to faith.

Frank Marshall, Sr. died July 27, 1895 and his death was recorded in St. Cecilia's Church records. The same records show their son as Joseph Merchant, who died in 1898 at age 24, listed as "Suicide, from temporary insanity." Named after a half-uncle who died as a toddler, Eugene was also to die young. Alice Reneaux Marshall died in 1906. Daughter Virginia (Jennie) was nowhere to be found until a return trip to the Wyoming Co. Historian's office, where we found the original record book listing the names of the residents of the county Almshouse.



These photos were found in Frank Marshall Jr.'s albums. Julie is still in the process of identifying them. L-R, they may possibly be: Frank Jr., Joseph, Jennie, their parents Alice and Frank Marshall, Sr., and the Reneaux sisters: Alice, Marie, Victoren & their husbands.

On July 1, 1909, Virginia Merchant, age 55, feeble minded, entered the Wyoming County Home. It does not appear that she ever left. There are no entries shown in the book after 1936 and her name is not in any church death records. It would seem that after her mother's death, Jennie was unable to live on her own. It is quite possible that Jennie died while a resident there and was buried in one of those unidentified graves in the Wyoming County Home Cemetery. Frank Jr. was found working on the Augustus Daniel farm on the census of 1910. (Interestingly, their baby Josephine Daniel, age two, was the lady who would grow up and write the book in which Sally found the first clue to identify his family.) The census of 1930 shows Frank living with and working for Peter Perl on Allegheny Rd. (Rt. 77). In 1940, he is 81 and still a lodger with the Perl family. Using the power of Facebook, I posted to the Sheldon site asking if there were any residents of the Perl farm still living in the area. At the same time, I was coordinating a visit for mid-September with Jeanne Mest, the Sheldon historian. This historian's research was invaluable. She had found where Frank Jr. was buried in St. Cecilia's Cemetery and the likely location of the family home, which no longer exists. ("Mrs. Marshall" was shown on the Sheldon map of 1902, on Centerline Road, near the corner of Rt. 77.)

Thanks to Russ Reisdorf at St. John Neumann's Parish office, we learned where Frank Jr. was buried in 1944 ... alone, in a single, unmarked grave in the new section, so his parents would not have been buried near him. Their death records just say "Old Cemetery". No headstones were found for them and their names could not be found on the plot map.

My visit to the Sheldon Schoolhouse that now serves as the Town Historian's office and Museum was the culmination of at least 5 years of twists and turns... a series of Godwinks that would end with the most incredible turn of events. During the visit, I learned that the Marshall family may have been poor and that Frank Jr. played the accordion, both at the Perl's home and at dances.

But an even larger, totally unimaginable surprise was coming, when Mrs. Janet Kirsch walked in, carrying a treasure. Janet and her husband Paul had purchased the Perl farm in 1964. How amazing, to meet this woman who actually lives in the same house where

Frank Jr. once resided! Then I learned that when they moved into the farmhouse, Janet found two small but lovely photo albums in the attic, and she had kept them for the



Covers of Frank's albums

last 57 years! The inside cover showed the name, "Frank Marshall". Janet didn't know anything about the family, and she never expected to find their owner, but she held onto them anyway. Janet then handed them to me, saying that she had never been able to throw them out and was thrilled to give them to someone who cared. Perhaps "cared" is not the right word! Francis Marshall, Sr. had begun his life as Francis Marchand. The pictures from Frank, Jr.'s photo albums are the only ones we have of most of the family. Names are missing but the location of the photo studios where they were taken are helping us to identify them one by one. We now have pictures of several ancestors. My cousin Julie has an identical photo of one of them; her Grandfather Francis, first cousin to Frank Jr.!

We are born into this world and hack out an existence the best way we can, until we are no longer. Knowing the struggles of my ancestors strengthens me and puts my own life into perspective. I will be forever grateful to Janet Kirsch for the photo albums and to the historians who played a role in researching my family. All the power of the internet is not helpful when a name is not THE name.

....

Note from historian Jeanne Mest: *Who would have thought that someone would come from Virginia, seeking a forgotten family recorded with three different surnames, until a distant relative decided to change all that? Or that a person would have saved a stranger's treasured photo albums for almost 60 years, never knowing that someone would come here seeking that family?*

Thank you, Julie, for sharing your story, and bless you, Janet, for saving those albums & giving them to Julie! People must have wondered why you kept them, but you knew they were special to someone and you just could not destroy them. Things like this don't just happen. But anything is possible in Sheldon, with the amazing people who live here, as well as their ancestors.

THE SCHOOLHOUSE BELL



For quite some time now, we have been concerned about our schoolhouse bell; was it secure up there, was it safe to ring; but it's not easy to get up there and examine it. Well, don't say anything around Paul Rambino about a job needing to be done unless you want it done! Next thing we knew, the bell was down and under repair! Paul said it was hanging by a thread, but he got it down with the help of Kyle Topreck and his sister Jessica.

He enlisted Adam Raynor to work on it and the bell underwent complete restoration, with all new bolts and parts, even the stops inside the hollow bell that keep it from clanking. Adam painted the bell, with the help of Michelle Fontaine. Getting the bell back up was another challenge. Rick Kerwin came with his big lift, so they could assemble the bell and put it back in its place. Thank you to everyone who helped with this project: Paul, Adam, Rick, Kyle, Jessica, Michelle, Wayne George and Eric Knuth.

Our bell should be good now for another 130 years or so!

Sheldon Schoolhouse #10 in early days.



The schoolhouse bell sounds bitter in youth and sweet in old age.

~Irish Proverb

"I remember my parents walking with me to the school for the annual Christmas program. It was a big deal, with our parents all coming for the program and seeing the big people in our small desks. This was always



an evening after chores were finished and for some reason I remember it always as a nice starry night. It was so nice walking along the snow covered road with my parents."

~ From the Memories of Ceal McCoy



FROM THE SCHOOLHOUSE MUSEUM AND HISTORIAN, JEANNE MEST

2021 has been a busy, exciting year, with visitors from all over, as well as many local folks. We published our Gallant Lady book and had a long-awaited visit from that lady's grandsons, Ted and Robert Bien. They enjoyed meeting Doris, Fr. Vince and Fr. Jim and remembering Mrs. VonMatt. After our visit from Diane Broomell, she contacted a newly found cousin, Ron Suttell, in Washington State and raved about our museum until he decided to pay us a visit. Ron and his family traveled here and were very happy with what they learned about their ancestors. Ron is a talented photographer and retiree from Alaska Airlines, and he made a book about their visit and shared copies with us and the new relatives he found here. Becky and Norm Suttell, along with their cousins, Jim and Ron Suttell of Strykersville, came to meet the Washington branch of the family and helped them find answers in the cemetery.

Julie Merchant came from Virginia to research her distant relatives, the Frank Marshall family.

Mike and PJ Almeter gave tours of St. Cecilia's church and cemetery to some of our guests.

Sadly, we lost a special member, Father Jim Fugle.

Our newsletter is full of many of their stories, with still more yet to come.

Many thanks are due for all this help, and I want to thank everyone who has come out to meetings, helped at the Town-Wide Sale, and especially those who came faithfully on Tuesdays to help us greet and assist our visitors.

We would also like to thank our out-going president, Mike Szucs, for all his years of service. At our last meeting of the year, we elected a new president, Laury Lakas, who takes this on along with managing the schoolroom. Betty Reisdorf was willing to return as secretary and our other officers remained in their roles.

Welcome to our newest Lifetime Member, Elaine Suttell Murray! We are very glad to have you.

We had many new members sign up this year; at last count there were 37! A great number of our new members are from outside the local area. Many are descendants of early Sheldon residents. We welcome you and hope you will continue to visit us.

We also implore our local members to please come out and get involved; we really need your help to continue this wonderful work for the future.

I learned something interesting about our museum's beginnings. Did you know that our beautiful building was very run-down after the state closed all the small rural schools? In the 1970's, there was even talk of tearing down the building! The US Bicentennial was approaching and the people of Sheldon decided to do something to keep our history alive. They formed the Sheldon Historical Society, got a museum charter from NYS, and worked incredibly hard to remodel the schoolhouse and keep it going. I learned that we had 56 Charter Members in 1978! We are so grateful to them for all they did. I was particularly delighted to see that Norma Donnelly (author of a Gallant Lady) and her brother Louis were charter members, as well as Hayden and Mabel Spink, grandparents of Laurie Lakas. Several of our members are descended from the charter members. Many of them have passed on; some have moved away. Former Historian Anita Ripstein Hayes continues in an advisory capacity, with her vast knowledge of local history. **There are four Charter Members who have worked all these years and continue to be active and extremely important to the Sheldon Historical Society: Frank & Betty Reisdorf and Edward & Barbara Logel! You are all amazing. Thank you for all you have done over the years! We wouldn't be here, without you.**

THE BIEN BROTHERS VISIT SHELDON

By Jeanne Mest

Those who have read our book, "A Gallant Lady" may remember the story of how it came about. The Von Holzens and Von Matts were immigrants from Switzerland who settled in Sheldon and the families became life-long friends. Doris Kirsch had told me a few years ago about her correspondence with the VonMatt family members over the years and how she hoped to meet them in person someday. Her mother, Hattie VonHolzen Becker, had written faithfully for years to her friend Theresa VonMatt Bien, who moved to Michigan and eventually brought her mother, Mary VonMatt to live with her there. After these dear friends passed away, Doris and Theresa's son Ted kept in touch by letter and then by email, although they had never met in person. Then came Ted's discovery of the story of his grandmother's life, by Norma Donnelly, which he sent to Doris, who shared it with me, and we fell in love with it. Soon we were all corresponding; Ted, his brother Robert, Mary VonMatt's granddaughter Judy, Fr. Jim Fugle, and myself, all attempting to present the story for publication. We mailed out the copies of the book to our historical society membership in April, in time for the 100th anniversary of Mary and Ted VonMatt's wedding, and it was a hit. Soon people were calling and asking how to get it, and many readers contacted us, saying how they loved the story and what a wonderful person Mary VonMatt was. It was heart-warming to see how many people still have precious memories of her.

Soon, brothers Ted and Robert Bien planned their trip and traveled from Michigan to Sheldon. It was a pleasure to meet them and get acquainted in person. They had a chance to revisit their youth, seeing the places they remembered from their visits with their grandparents in Varysburg. They shared a few memories of their trip: *"One of the highlights of the trip was, of course, going back to our grandparents' house on Maxon Rd. We had a full tour of the house by Kim and Ron Leffler, who were most gracious. They let us go from room to room, and we spent an hour with them. Then we headed over to Doris's place for dinner. The next day, before heading back home, we went to downtown Varysburg for one last time and parked next to the church in between the house where Fr Jim grew up and my grandparents' house. Rob wanted to go into the Tonawanda Creek to skip stones again, so after taking off his shoes and socks, he gingerly made his way to the middle of the shallow creek. Then we headed home."*



Fr. Jim Fugle, Robert Bien, Ted Bien and Fr. Vincent Becker discussing "A Gallant Lady"

Father Jim Fugle



This edition of our newsletter is dedicated to the memory of Father Jim Fugle, who left us on October 23, 2021. Fr. James Leo Fugle was the son of Leo and Carol Conrad Fugle. Fr. Jim was only 57, but had retired early, due to health problems. After retiring, he filled in often for his fellow priests, and he continued to have a ministry of prayer on Facebook that reached far more people, beyond the walls of the Church.

“Let’s give thanks for the gift of this day God has given us, for countless blessings”

would begin each daily prayer, when he would pray for so many things, great and small, that you would never think of. His words would always lift your spirits, along with reminding you to remember to pray. It would end something like this: ***“Pray for those who most need prayers today, for those who pray every day, for those who have no one to pray with or no one to pray for them, for our veterans, our heroes & for the safety of our beloved troops.”***

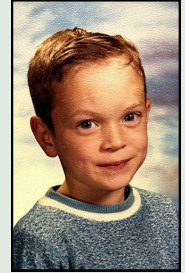
If you followed him on Facebook, you would also find yourself laughing over the corny jokes he would post or that others put there to make him laugh.

Along with his love for God, the Church and its people, Fr. Jim also loved family history. When he was up to it, he would come to the Schoolhouse Museum to research and work on his genealogy. It was important to him to be able to pass it on to his family, so they would know all he had learned about their ancestors. As we worked on our book, *A Gallant Lady*, he was so pleased to be able to help and contribute some of his memories of Ted and Mary VonMatt. It was very special that he was able to meet their grandsons when they came.

Fr. Jim’s funeral mass was held on Oct. 29 at St. Cecilia’s Church in Sheldon. The Bishop of Buffalo, Michael Fisher, was the main celebrant and over 50 priests attended. The church was packed. Memorial masses were also held at St. Joseph’s Church in Varysburg on Oct. 28, and at St. Maximillian Kolbe Church in Corfu (where he served as pastor from 2012-2017) on Nov. 4.

Again, his audience reached many more, as it was recorded and can be watched on YouTube where anyone with internet can see the beautiful church, the mass and the music which was very touching. As I watched it, all I could think was that Fr. Jim would have loved this. It was a wonderful tribute to his life.

By Jeanne Mest



At Sheldon Elementary



Jim Fugle & Scott Barvian, 1972
First Communion



Fr. Jim Fugle Saying Mass



Always with a
“thumbs up”



Playing “Taps” on Memorial Day

Generous Donations Received:

Thank you to Constance Luker, Elizabeth Love, Jeffrey Mason & Loretta Buczek

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



Edward and Martha Suttell, 1907

Excerpts from:

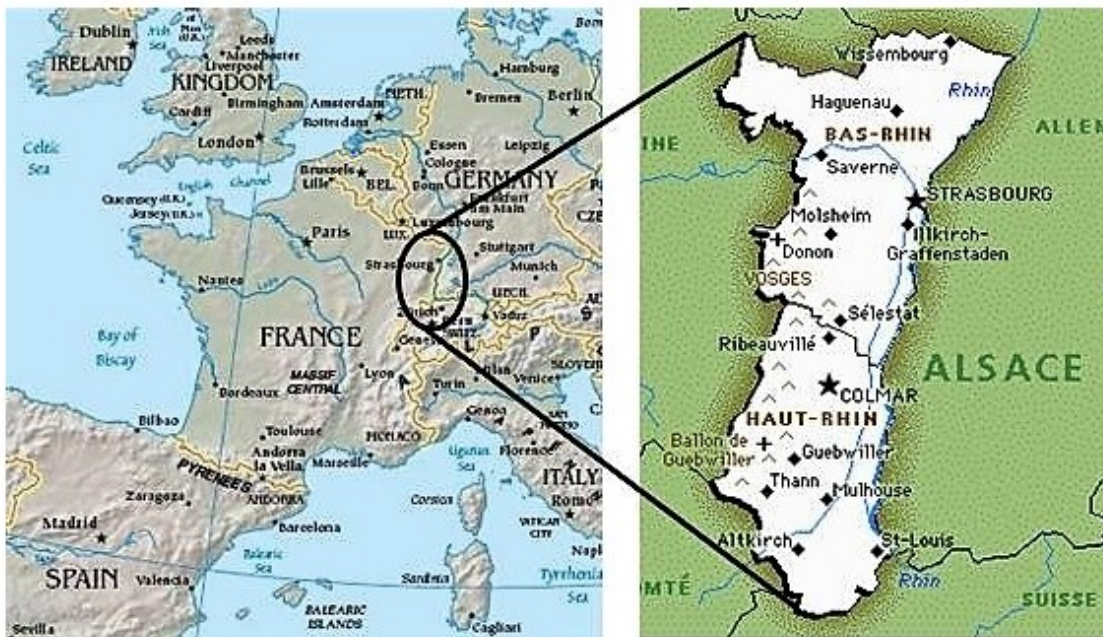
THE SUTTELL ANCESTRY VISIT

BY RONALD P. SUTTELL, TACOMA, WA

On Tuesday, August 17, 2021 our family travelled to the Java/Strykersville community to visit my father's birthplace of Java Village in 1911, and research our Suttell family heritage there. Accompanying me were my wife Kathy and son Sean Joseph Suttell, with his wife Ashley. I had always desired to visit Upstate New York, knowing my dad was born there, even though his family relocated to Michigan (Williamston Township) when he was very young. Java Village is where my father Raymond Joseph Suttell was born on March 4, 1911 to parents Edward Arthur Suttell (1882-1965) and Martha M. (*Becker*) Suttell (1881-1950). Edward lived on the family farm in Java for many years, and was the son of Amos Suttell (1849-1920)

and Helen J. (*Smith*) Suttell (1853-1937), and grandson of Jean Jacques "Jacob" Suttelle (1823-1896) and Rosa (*Mayer*) Suttelle (1825-1903). Jacob Suttelle was born in Alsace, France and is my great-great grandfather.

Alsace is a relatively tiny region in the northwestern part of France that borders Germany. While it is now considered part of France, its borders haven't always been clear. The region has passed between French and German control several times since 1681, when Strasbourg was conquered by French forces. Today, Alsatian culture is a unique blend of French and German influences.



Note from editor: This illustration shows the location & details of Alsace, the original home of many of our Sheldon ancestors.



Jean Jacques "Jacob" Suttelle

Jacob immigrated to the United States in his youth, and worked for many years in the tailor's trade. Java historical map records show his name J. Suttel (*sic*) identified with a house on Lot 22, which presumably was passed down to Amos, along with the family farm when he died. He married Rosa "Rose" (Mayer) Suttelle (1825-1903) who was also from Alsace, and they had fifteen children.



Amos Suttell

After our brief stop for photos in Java Village, our entourage continued to Strykersville and the Sheldon Historical Museum, where we were warmly greeted by the wonderful staff of museum curators of the Sheldon Historical Society. We toured the facility, library and vintage school classroom. We then sat down with the curators to exchange information and look through the files that they had prepared with Suttell ancestry notes and photos. Our group was also treated to a surprise visit from other Suttell relatives, Ron's cousins Norman and James Suttell—sons of Kenneth Joseph Suttell (1910-2001) and Margaret (Bartz) Suttell (1915-2004) and believe it or not, another Ronald Suttell, son of Robert L. Suttell (1918-1985) and Elizabeth Isabelle (Kibler) Suttell (1921-1986). Norm and Jim are from nearby East Aurora, NY and Ron lives in Strykersville. Kenneth and Robert were the sons of Leonard A. Suttell, one of Edward's brothers. Thus, my father Raymond and Norm/Jim's father Kenneth were first cousins, which makes myself second cousins with Norm and Jim. Same relation for me with Ron of Strykersville.

The Sheldon Historical Society also advised that my paternal grandmother Martha *Becker* Suttell (wife of Edward) has extensive family ancestry in the Strykersville area, but unfortunately our limited time there didn't allow further research into the Becker family history.



Suttell cousins meet in Strykersville (left to right) locals Jim, Ron & Norm, and Ron of WA State (Kathy Suttell photo)

(Continued on Page 10)

(Continued from Page 9)

I do know that Martha's parents (Joseph Peter Becker, 1832-1895 and Margaret Buckenmeyer Becker, 1837-1912) were born in Germany and immigrated to the United States.

After our meeting at the Sheldon Historical Society Museum, we made a quick visit across the street to the St. John Neumann Catholic Parish. Originally established in 1885, it is an important part of our family heritage, in that my father's family was raised Catholic, and they attended this church. St. Mary's Cemetery is located a short distance from the church, next to a cornfield just off Sanders Hill Road. It was helpful to have Norm and Jim escort us directly to the graveyard, as it would not have been easy to find otherwise. Many of our Suttell ancestors are buried here, and it was a humbling experience to walk around the Suttell memorials and markers dating back to the late 1800's. My grandfather Edward had three brothers, Charles, Leonard and Francis, buried at St. Mary's, and a sister Adele H. Suttell Keem, at St. Cecilia's Cemetery in Sheldon.

Final thoughts on our ancestry trip to New York

I am eternally grateful for the assistance and warm hospitality of Jeanne Mest, Town of Sheldon Historian and her wonderful staff of curators at the museum. They lent their time and effort to answer our many questions, provided copies of materials, and arranged for other local area Suttell family members to meet us during our short visit.

I must also give credit to Diane Kaplan Broomell (descendant of Adele Keem – Edward's sister) for reaching out to my brother Jim and I while doing her own ancestry research. She shared valuable information on what she had learned about the Suttells of Java/Strykersville, and who to contact prior to our visit to New York.



Museum staff: Jeanne Mest, Carol Felski, Barbara Logel, Mary Ann Metzger, Pat Lefort (sitting) along with Ron & Kathy Suttell (r) and son Sean Suttell (far left) (Ashley Suttell photo)

Note From Historian: "We enjoyed meeting and assisting Ron and family and are so grateful to them for creating that beautiful book about their visit and generously sharing copies with our museum and family members. Our readers are welcome to visit the museum and read Ron's entire book about their visit.

A special thank you to Norm and Becky Suttell, for coming to meet Diane on her visit and then returning with Jim and Ron to meet Ron Suttell and his family, taking them to the cemetery and making them feel so welcome! "



ARTWORK, CRAFTS AND HANDIWORK NEEDED

At present, we have a display of local authors at the museum. Being impressed by the varied talents in the area, we would like to showcase other local talent, PAST and PRESENT.

We are looking for examples of original artwork, woodworking, carvings, textiles, any craft or handiwork. It would be a loan to the museum for approximately a year. If you have a special item that your grandparents created or something representing your own talent that you would like to share, please contact us. You can write, email or call. The display will be open in the Spring of 2022. All items will be secure and returned safely. We do not need them immediately, but would like to know what items will be available.

Please contact Barb Logel (716)863-1474,
logel1@aol.com, Sheldon Historical Society,
PO Box 122, Strykersville, NY 14145.

LET YOUR TALENT SHINE!



MYSTERY OF THE STRYKERSVILLE WILLOW TREE IS SOLVED

The Stryker Willow Tree has been gone almost 80 years now, and most residents don't remember it. We've been trying to find the location, in order to apply for a grant for a sign from the William C. Pomeroy Foundation's Legends and Lore program. We learned the site was the present day home of Jeanette Mejak, right next door to the Flip Side Restaurant! Our very own Barbara Logel recognized the old barn in the rear of the old tree photo, as still standing behind Jeanette's home, after seeing it so many times on her walks through town. Jeanette had never heard the legend, but said they always wondered why a willow tree kept sprouting there, trying to grow, coming back even after they pulled it out many times.

That confirmed it was the correct location. So we had what we needed; the landowner's permission and GPS position, enabling us to apply for the W. G. Pomeroy Foundation's Legends and Lore Historic Sign program.

A historical marker would help to keep the memory alive, not only of the tree, but of our early pioneers who cleared the forest and established the town of Strykersville.

In January we will begin the process of applying for signs for some other historic locations in Sheldon. Hopefully our Schoolhouse Museum, which is over 130 years old, will qualify.

UPCOMING EVENT: 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF SWYERS FAMILY REUNION JULY 9 & 10, 2022

The George Schweyer family came to Western New York in 1834, settling in the Dutch Hollow Area. The original spelling of the name "Schweyer" gradually change to the modern spelling "Swyers". Variations have included: Schweiier, Schwier, and Swyears. The family began holding family reunions Labor Day week-end 1922. The 100th Swyers' Family Reunion will be held July 9 & 10, 2022 with activities planned for several places in Wyoming County. The Swyers' Family genealogy committee is looking for family members who can help fill in some of the blanks in the genealogy and help update the Genealogy. If you are one of those family members, please reach out though the Swyers Facebook page (Meagan Main/Jessica Hibbard/Siobhan Fagan) or contact Marilyn Swyers at maswyers@gmail.com or Kay Swyers at swyersw@gmail.com. The committee is hoping to have an updated genealogy available for the reunion.



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

**Research assistance is available
throughout the year.**

*For inquiries please contact
Jeanne Mest, Town Historian,
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. Previous newsletters, see
<https://townofsheldon.com> or on
Facebook: History of the Town of
Sheldon, NY.*

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

Sheldon Historical Society Officers:
President - Laury Lakas
Vice President - Carol Felski
Secretary - Elizabeth Reisdorf
Financial Secretary - Donna Kirsch
Archival Curator - Jeanne Mest

Board Members:
P.J. Almeter, Chairman;
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

**Town of Sheldon Historian and
Newsletter Editor - Jeanne Mest**
townofsheldonhistorian@gmail.com

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

Sheldon Historical Society Membership

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

Membership Application or Renewal

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

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Email _____

Annual Memberships:

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

___ \$75 Lifetime Membership

___ Would like to make a Donation