

NUNDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Historic Nunda

Fall Programs Highlight Nunda

- Nunda Schools
- Medical Care in Nunda
- WW I & II
- Show & Tell

See Schedule on pg.7

**Note change of date -
Sept. 10 program
moves to Sept. 14th.**

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Summer 2008

Historical Society Celebrates 25th Birthday

In June 1983, Nunda's citizens were celebrating the Town's 175th Anniversary and a small group was working to publish the booklet "Early Years" by Marjorie Frost, Town Historian. This group decided to form the Nunda Historical Society to assist in this effort and sponsor the publication. Thus the Society was born and a most valuable booklet on Nunda was published.



Society Members at 25th Birthday Celebration

Now, as the Town celebrates its Bicentennial, the Society celebrated its 25th Anniversary with a special program on July 15th during Homecoming Week. Katherine Fritz Garrison of Belfast presented a power point program on "Four Generations of Browns in Nunda" and shared many family photos and artifacts. Katherine is the grand daughter of Harriett Fritz whose father was Dr. John Parley Brown, a local physician. Harriett was a Nunda teacher and she and Victor purchased the Rose Shave residence on East Street where they lived for many years.

After this interesting and informative program on the Browns, everyone enjoyed birthday cake and punch. Members in photo above are: Back L-R: Ralph Asmus, Charles Ostrum, Gerald Barkley, Sally Hall, George Lucas, Sally Hall, Karen Lucas, Kathleen Macomber, Alice Thompson, Joan Schumaker, Francine Ludwig, Margaret Barkley; Front L-R: Gail Diemoz, Valerie Griffing, and Tom Cook. Wish you were here!

Society Takes Active Role In Town's Bicentennial



For the past several years a number of Society members have been serving on the Town of Nunda Bicentennial Committee, chaired by Valerie Veley Griffing, Nunda Town & Village Historian. Meetings have been held at the Society's museum, the inventory of Bicentennial sale items are available at the museum, and the Society's web site at www.nundahistory.org contains a section devoted to the Bicentennial. Please note the Bicentennial information contained in this issue.

The President's Corner

Our Mission

The Society is devoted exclusively to educating present and future generations concerning the cultural, economic, social, political and technical development of the area of western New York in and around the Town and Village of Nunda.

As the current president of the Nunda Historical Society, I am pleased to welcome you to the very first issue of our official newsletter, *Historic Nunda*. We hope that the newsletter will be informative, interesting, and will encourage participation in the Society.

Historic Nunda is a new undertaking by the Society and replaces our traditional annual letter. Current members will find a summary of NHS activities over the past year as well as updates on current projects. Since we will be making copies of the newsletters available at public places throughout the area and on the internet, we hope *Historic Nunda* will encourage more individuals and families to join the Society. Whether you are joining the Society or renewing your membership you will find our new streamlined membership form enclosed in the newsletter. Please send your form in as soon as possible.

Please note that there is a checklist for committee and volunteer work on the membership form. We really need as much help as possible in these areas. If possible, please check at least one area. We understand that it is not always possible, especially for those who live far away or are elderly, but we can be pretty creative in finding things for you to do to help the Society! We also hope that you will attend as many of the Historical Society events as possible.

Don't forget that the Nunda's Bicentennial celebration lasts through December. Be sure to join your friends in neighbors in attending the upcoming events. And if you haven't gotten your Bicentennial souvenirs or purchased the special bicentennial publications, be sure to do so while supplies last!

If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions for the Society please contact me or any of the Board members. I can be reached by email at tscook@rochester.rr.com, or regular mail at PO Box 177, Nunda NY 14517. You can also call me at 585-468-5991. I look forward to serving as the NHS president!

Happy 200th birthday Nunda!

Tom Cook



Nunda Notables

Did you know that Nunda has a connection one of the new state commemorative quarters? Take a look at the Utah quarter issued in 2007. On the reverse you will see a depiction of the famous "joining of the rails" at Promontory Utah in 1869. The official photographer who captured the event that the coin celebrates, was our own Andrew Russell.

Russell was born in 1829 and moved to the Oakland area when he was six. Later the family moved into the village where Andrew went to school and became known as a fine artist, carriage painter, and handwriting teacher at one of Nunda's select schools. Joining the Union Army during the Civil War, he became a military photographer. After the War he headed west and worked for the Union Pacific Railroad, taking over 400 views. On May 10, 1869 he took one of the most famous images in American history, which is called "East and West Shaking Hands at the Laying of the Last Rail".

In later life, Andrew Russell worked as an artist, newspaper illustrator, and photographer in New York City where he died in 1902. Although his journeys took him far away from the Keshequa Valley, Russell can still be called one of "Nunda's Notables!"



Stop by the Museum to view books of Russell's Civil War and Pacific Railroad photographs.

Continued on page 3

Treasures from the Past

The July Homecoming Week for the Town of Nunda Bicentennial led to some most welcome additions to the Society's Collection. Members of the Rancheros, an award winning Nunda drum and bugle corps in the 1960's, gathered together to perform one last time as part of the Bicentennial parade. They wowed the local folks who gathered to watch the parade and even perhaps amazed themselves with their performance.

Ray Feller, a former Ranchero currently living in Seattle, Washington, played a major role in reuniting the members and spent several weeks in Nunda while the group practiced. During this time he visited the museum and found that the Society's Collection of Ranchero memorabilia consisted of trophies, some very old instruments in poor condition and a sign. In order to assure that future generations remember the Rancheros, and the subsequent Phantom Revival Corps, Ray donated instruments, music, photos, tee shirts, jackets and a full Phantom Revival uniform. Thank you Ray!

Ralph Watkins followed this with the donation of his Drum Captain's Jacket from when the Rancheros were the 1962 Western New York Volunteer Firemen Champions.

Come in and see these new additions.



Did You Know

- that the Town of Nunda's population was once 1000 more than it is today?
- that there were five hotels in the village at one time?

Nunda Notables continued



Russell's "Joining of the Rails"



The Rancheros at Nunda Bicentennial Parade

Come to one of our "Nunda" programs this fall and stop by on a Sunday afternoon (2 pm - 4 pm) to view the exhibits.

Why not return the membership envelope now - we would love to hear from you.

Special Thanks to those members who have included generous donations with their memberships over the years.

Your Historical Society & Museum

Since this is our first newsletter, we will try to introduce you to our museum, our Collection, and recent activities. We moved into the former Tunningly/Stamp building in 2000, renovated the front portion of the building, completed an addition and held a dedication of the building in 2002. We have a \$25,000 Legislative Grant that will now allow us to begin renovation of the south part of the building.

Our Collection has grown dramatically due to the generosity of Nunda area citizens. The Museum includes the Rose M. Shave Gallery, honoring a late 19th Century Nunda painter. The Society currently owns **31 Rose Shave paintings** and looks forward to adding to this Collection. **The museum is open Sundays from 2 - 4 PM, April through November, Tuesdays from 9 AM – Noon**, and other times by appointment. Call: 585-468-3879 or 585-476-2354

The Society schedules monthly programs from September through June. This past year's programs included: **"Remembering Henry Clune - He Always had a Story"** by Peter Clune, **"Antique Quilt Trunk Show"** by Karen Roll, **"Ira Ransom Weaver, I Love You."** by Leona Gelser Hawkins, **"Early 19th Century Fashion - Pre Civil War"** by Susan W. Greene, **"The Union Block - Nunda's Shopping Center for 100 Years"** by Tom Cook and Keshequa Students, **"Remembering the Arts in Nunda"** by Tom Cook, Joan Schumaker and Kathryn Fritz Garrison, **"The History of Churches in the Vicinity of Nunda"** by Hope DePuy and Sally Hall, and **"Johnny Carter: Nunda's Horatio Alger Story"** by Joan Schumaker, **"Four Generations of Browns in Nunda"** by Katherine Fritz Garrison, and **Genesee Valley Dulcimer Club Concerts** in October, December and May. A special thank you to all of these presenters for there outstanding programs.

The Society was most pleased to again receive a New York State Council on the Arts Community Arts Grant administered by the Genesee Valley Council on the Arts to assist with programs. The program by Susan Greene and the History Days coming this October are supported by this grant.

For a number of years the Society has sponsored the Annual Nunda Reunionists gathering in August. This year, because of the Bicentennial, the Alumni and Reunionist Luncheons were combined and held on July 19. Over 300 attendees enjoyed a delicious meal prepared and served most efficiently by members of the Nunda Methodist Church. After the luncheon, *200 years and Re(counting)*, a Bicentennial production directed by Patricia Lewis Browne, was enjoyed by all. This production consisted of Nunda stories, many told by Nunda folks, and was supported by a NYS Council on the Arts Community Arts Grant administered by the Genesee Valley Council on the Arts and by the Nunda Rotary Club.



24 Portage Street



Collection in Display Room



Rose M. Shave Gallery

Did you know

- *the lands of Nunda were once part of Massachusetts?*
- *that there were four canal locks in the village?*
- *the village had two hospitals in its past? - Come to the October 8 meeting to learn about "200 Years of Medical Care in Nunda"*

Membership News - It's Renewal Time

The Society's membership year is from September 1 through August 31. **The 2007-2008 members are listed below and we sincerely thank all of you for your support.** A few faithful members missed renewing their memberships last year, but we hope to hear from you this year. Please note that the enclosed membership envelope includes a slight increase in basic memberships and a new Business Membership class. We are working to increase the Society's membership, and encourage you to renew or become a new member, and to tell your friends about us. Return the enclosed envelope with your membership today. Thank you!

John & Barbara Adams	Jerilyn M. Clark	Doris & Richard Gunther	James & Linda Mc Master
Ralph Asmus	Josephine Clinton	Sally Hall	*Jean Mc Master
Jeremiah & Susie Axtell	Sally Blair Coffey	Ed & Judy Hamilton	Wixiee Mc Master
Marcia Ayers	Tom & Anne Cook	Carolyn Hark	Natalie Mc Tarnaghan
Mary Baar	Philip A. Cox	Leona & David Hawkins	June Blair Metro
Tom & Barbara Baldwin	Ralph & Rosalee Cox	Janice E. Hudson	Donna & Art Miceli
Freeman & Jane Barber	Bill Davis	Daniel Hurlburt	Doug Morgan
Gerald & Margaret Barkley	John & Judy DeGroot	Joyce Husson	Jack & Jackie Morgan
Lucille P. Beardsley	Brewster & Hope DePuy	Paul Jones	Ken Morris
Duane & Rosemary Bennett	Gail Diemoz	Charlotte Keating	Lyle & Joan Orton
Martha Blair	Timothy & Kathleen Diemoz	Geraldine H. Kennedy	Charles Ostrum
Elmore & Janet Blair	*Michele Donovan	Jo Kirk & Chuck Strickland	David & Shirley Palmer
Cornelius & Angela Bliss	Wendy Downey	Lonnie & Bonnie Kratts	Bob & Patty Piper
George C. Blood	Richard & Julianne Dudley	Joan & Bill Larson	Joe & Rose Piraino
Vera Bowles	Alice Edwards	Anne Lawson	Peter & Sue Piraino Family
Trish Brady	Alberta Essler	James & Linda Little	Carolyn Pollock
Nicholas & Muriel Bucci	Ethel Foster	Jeff & Sue Long	Arliss & Mary Ransom
William D. Burt	Marjorie Galton	Bradley & Carolyn Lowell	Carol C. Rathbun
Thomas & Barbara Byrnes	Nancy K. Gebauer	George & Karen Lucas	Betty T. Rice
Thomas D. Caine	Cathie W. Gehrig	Gary & Fran Ludwig	Patricia Roach
Stephen & Carol Castor	Ira & Nancy Gelser	Ronald & Kathleen Macomber	Maryann Roby
Jane Piper Clark	Gerald & Helen Gibson	Nancy Mann	Tom Roffe
Harlie Clark	Don & Valerie Griffing	Sherry Marano	Larry & Elizabeth Russell

We certainly hope there are no omissions from this membership list. If we missed you, we apologize and ask that you please let us know.

Do You Know?



*Do you know
if the C. C.
Bundy Bakery
was in
Nunda?*

*If so,
where was it
located?*

*When did it
operate?*

*Who are the
two men?*

Edna Schuttee
David & Helen Swanson
Patricia Tallman-Lyman
*John Thomas Jr.
Allen & Jean Thompson
Don Thompson
Gerald & Alice Thompson
Rolland Thompson
Tom & Laura Thornton
Earl & Helen Veley
Joann Waldon
Eleanor A. Walker
George & Shirley Walsworth
Bonnie Watson
Betty Weir
Robert & Isabelle Weir
Cindy Welch
John H. Wells
George & Beverly Westcott
Donald Wilcox
Charles Woolever
Eleanor Boyd Wright
* 2008-09 Members

Bicentennial Publications Tell Nunda's History

The Bicentennial Committee has concentrated on publications that would capture and preserve Nunda's past. *Tink of Nunda* by Clarence Koeppe, a wonderful story of growing up in Nunda at the beginning of the twentieth century, was reprinted. Two other publications were completed and have been for sale: *History of Fire Fighting in Nunda* by Thomas S. Cook and Charles Ostrum and *Churches in the Town of Nunda and Vicinity* by Hope DePuy and Sally Hall.

Yesterday - Stories from Old Nunda by Thomas S. Cook will be available soon. Other publications to be completed this fall are: *Development of the Nunda School System* by Sandra Bonadonna, *200 Years of Medical Care in the Town of Nunda* by Thomas E. Byrnes, and *Historical Sketches of Nunda*.



Sally Hall, Val Griffin, & Hope DePuy with publication on Nunda Churches

Other Bicentennial Sale Items



A must have: The **Nunda Bicentennial Plate**, an 8.25" ivory Japanese porcelain coupe plate with circa 1900 photo of the Nunda Village Square, is rimmed with gold and is part of a limited edition of 250. Plates are back stamped with the following:

The Town of Nunda was founded March 11, 1808 as part of Allegany County, located in the southern tier of Western New York, and annexed to Livingston County in 1848. In the Seneca Indian language, "Nunda" relates to hills and a popular translation is "where the valley meets the hills." Pictured is the Nunda Village Public Square looking south, circa 1900. The square is bordered by two commercial blocks, "Merchants' Row" on the east and the "Farmers' Exchange" on the west, built between 1831 and 1834.

Limited Edition ____ of 250

Also Available:

Bicentennial Logo Pins
Bicentennial Logo Hats
Logo Tee Shirts
Logo Sweat Shirts
Bicentennial Postage Stamps

Nunda Post Cards &
Envelopes with Bicentennial
Postal Cancellations

2008 Historic Nunda Calendars

There are still a few 2008 Historic Nunda Calendars available. Check out the historic photos, facts from Nunda's past, Gazebo Concert Dates, coming Nunda Historical Society programs, and a complete list of all Bicentennial Events. These beautiful calendars will be Collector's Items.

Fall 2008 Programs & Events

The Society usually meets on the **second Wednesday of each month (except for July and August) at 7 pm.** **Note: some meetings may be on Sundays. All meetings, except those noted, will be in the Historical Society Building at 24 Portage Street.** Any Changes in location or time will be advertised. Note that all meeting places are handicapped accessible. The location and time of special events are noted when the event is advertised.

Sunday, Sept 14, 2:30 PM Note New Day & Time: “Development of the Nunda School System” - Sandra Bonadonna will talk about the material she gathered for the coming Town of Nunda Bicentennial publication on Nunda schools. The Nunda Literary Institute, Nunda Academy, and other early educational opportunities available to Nunda’s youth will be discussed. A power point program will be used to show some of the education buildings used over the years.

Wednesday, Oct. 8: “200 Years of Medical Care in Nunda” - Thomas Byrnes will present material from another Town of Nunda Bicentennial publication that will trace Nunda’s many practitioners of medicine and related professions. Do you remember Dr. Schneckenburger, Dr. Insley, or another doctor in Nunda’s past? If so, bring your stories to share. Were you born in one of Nunda’s hospitals? The Family Pharmacy, formerly Byrnes Pharmacy for 70 years, is in an 1830’s building that has always housed a pharmacy. Join us for interesting facts from Nunda’s medical past.

Saturday, Oct. 11 (9 am - 4 pm): 8th Annual Historical Society Yard Sale - The Sale of items other than clothing at the Society Building, 24 Portage Street. **Note: Tentative date/place due to building renovations - watch for notices.**

Weds & Thurs. Oct. 22-23rd, 9 AM - 4 PM: “Nunda History Days - A Celebration of Nunda’s Rich History”* Enjoy demonstrations, exhibits, tours, and speakers, including walking tours of Oakwood Cemetery and Nunda’s historic village square. **Cushing’s Battery A**, a group of Civil War re-enactors, will “encamp” on the Museum grounds and demonstrate many aspects of Civil War life. A variety of presentations and demonstrations on architecture, knitting, crocheting, cemetery symbolism, and childhood games are planned. **Missy Clark**, of Barkertown Sutlers, will provide spinning and weaving demonstrations and other local artists and craftspeople will be invited to participate. The Genesee Valley Mountain Dulcimer Club will perform.

November - December: Christmas Wreath Sale - Watch for notices or call 585-468-3879. Wreaths will be available November 29.

Wednesday, Nov. 12: “On the Home Front - Nunda during World War I & II” - What was happening in Nunda during these war years to help with the war effort? What organizations formed, who was involved and how effective were they? Did you know that Nunda’s Foote Manufacturing Company worked around the clock (three shifts) producing concrete pavers to create air fields for the allies during WWII and received special US Government recognition for their efforts? Come and learn how Nunda reacted during these war years.

Fri. Dec. 5, 3:30 - 7:30 pm; Sat. Dec. 6, 10:30 am - 7:30 pm: Christmas in Nunda-At the Museum. The Society and Bicentennial Committee will be selling books, coverlets, 2009 Calendars, and Bicentennial items. **Genesee Mountain Dulcimer Club Concert 2-4 pm on the 6th.** Extra dulcimers available for folks to try during informal setting on afternoon of 6th. Information: call 468-5991 or 476-2354

Wednesday, Dec. 10: “Show & Tell” - Society members and guests share some of their favorite collectibles and provide one of our most popular programs. Recent Society acquisitions are displayed and refreshments will be served.

Sat. Dec. 13, 9:00 am - ?: Annual Bake Sale at Nunda Lumber & Hardware - Donate & buy baked goods.
* Partly funded through a New York State Council on the Arts Community Arts Grant administered by the Genesee Valley Council on the Arts

NUNDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

24 Portage Street
PO Box 341
Nunda, NY 14517-0341

Phone: 585-468-5420
nundahs@localnet.com
www.nundahistory.org

Visit us on line

2008-09

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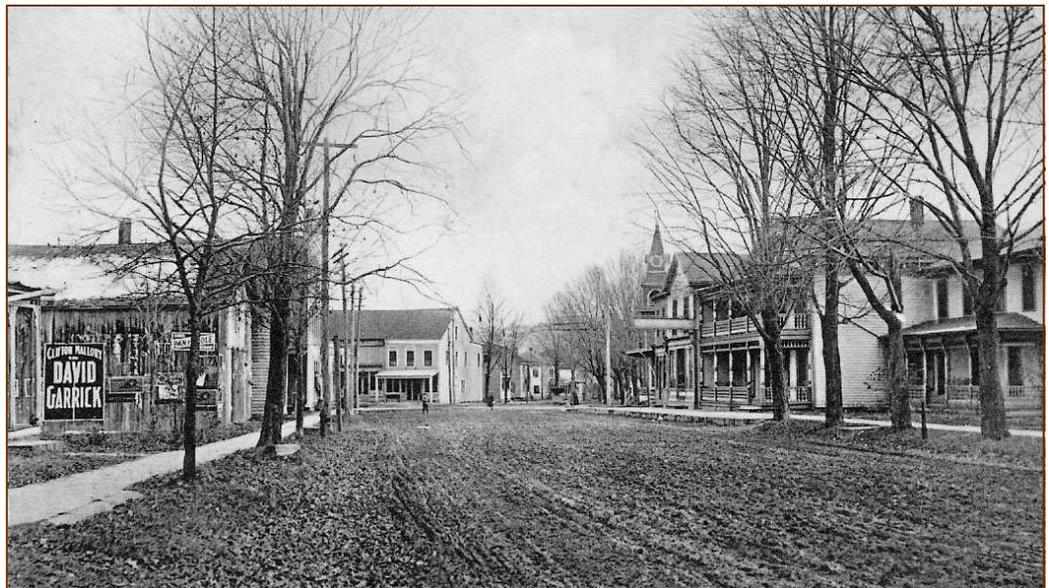
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Early Nunda



Portage Street, looking East to State Street, in early 1900's

Note dirt street and plank sidewalks. The St. John Hotel on the south side was replaced by Rusty's Texaco and Gibson's Mobile stations and now Sugarcreek. Across the street, a blacksmith shop became Jim Jackson's Garage/ Chevrolet Dealership and in 1934, Earl Mc Master's Garage/Pontiac-GMC Dealership. Mc Master Garage, now owned and operated by James McMaster, has been at this location for over 74 years.