

**NUNDA
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**



Historic Nunda

Volume 7 Issue 1

Spring 2017

**Programs &
Events**

- *March 8 - Local Women in Women's Suffrage*
- *April 12 - Sports in Nunda - an Overview*
- *May 7 - Flintknapper Ken Wallace*
- *May 10 - History of Nunda Fun Days*
- *July 13 - His Society Tour to Skaneateles*
- *July 23 - Dennis James on Ernestor Nazareth*
- **See Schedule on pg 6 for details and additional programs/events**

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A Look Back at Nunda Fun Days

by Sue Long

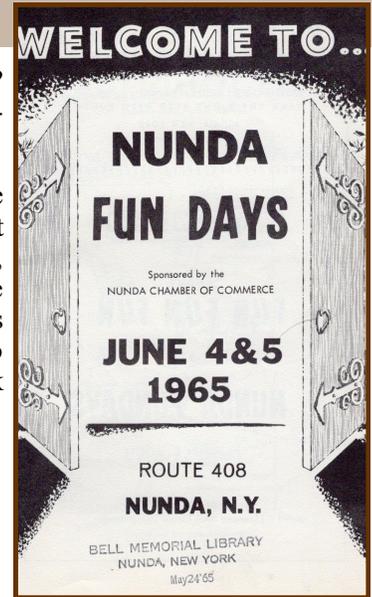
What is the biggest most popular weekend in Nunda? The first weekend in June, when residents, friends, and families all come together to enjoy Nunda Fun Days!

Did you realize that for over fifty years we have watched adorable kids in the pet parade, eaten delicious food at the many food tents, gone on the carnival rides and, of course, cheered as bands, floats, cars, and fire trucks passed during the Saturday night parade. But have you ever wondered how this all started years ago and, even more important, why? Who were the people, our family members and neighbors, who took the time and effort to make this possible?



Keshequa High School Band marches in Fun Days Parade with Rich Baehr, Instrumental Music Teacher.

Remember May 10th at 7 pm for a look back at over 50 years of Nunda Fun Days and even a look to the future of this popular local event.



On May 10 we hope to answer all your questions about Fun Days and reminisce about the "good old days" together. Using newspaper stories, photos and other artifacts, we will piece together the facts and rely on your memories to enjoy a look back at what was, and still is, a time enjoyed by young and old. If you have any photographs or slides, or maybe a ribbon for winning a 5K, please bring them to share with us.

Nunda Historical Society Museum & Rose Shave Gallery are open 10 am - noon on Tuesdays, 2-4 pm, on 1st Sundays April through October, and at other times by arrangement. Call 465-0971 or 476-2354

The President's Corner

Welcome to another new year at the Nunda Historical Society. It has been a couple of years since we published our last newsletters, so we thought we would try them again. We hope to put them out a few times a year, focusing on smaller issues that will still bring you NHS news, area history, and important upcoming events. We hope you find it interesting and useful!



We also hope that you will visit us often this year. We have a great line up of free programs and several other activities that you will find interesting. And, of course, we have a variety of exhibits and displays exploring Nunda's remarkable local history. We are also available to help you with your family and property research!

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. My email is tscook@rochester.rr.com and my cell phone is 585-465-0971..

Tom Cook

Our Mission

The Nunda Historical Society collects, researches, preserves, interprets, and promotes the history, heritage, and culture of that area of western New York in and around the Town of Nunda and educates the public through its collections and programming.

A Century of Scouting in Nunda



On Saturday, January 28th, members of the Nunda Historical Society helped Boy Scout Troop 4077 celebrate its 100 year anniversary. Member Tom Byrnes gave a presentation entitled "Memories of Troop 77 and the Genesee Council" and the Society displayed artifacts relating to Nunda's Frank Ryll, Livingston County's first Eagle Scout. Representatives from Council Headquarters in Batavia brought Frank's Eagle Medal and his scout sash to the celebration.

The NHS congratulates the Scouts of Troop 4077, their Scout Master Chris Elliot, Assistant Scout Master Bill Costello, and members of the Troop Committee for putting on such a fine event. We also thank all former Scouts, leaders, and parents for their contribution to Nunda's Scouting Program over the years!

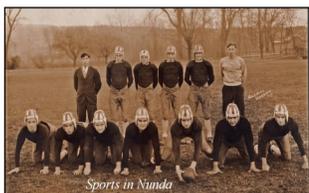


Tom Byrnes

Photos of Eagle Scouts Tom Cook & Tom Byrnes and Group by Katelyn Costello

Do you have your 2017 Calendar?

If not, **Calendars are still available. This year's theme is Sports in Nunda. Don't miss it!**



Nunda Historical Society 2017 Calendar

This 48 page calendar includes 36 photos of Nunda, Dalton, and Keshequa Central school teams, Town & Pony League teams, NYS Individual champions, and Nunda's playing fields. Also included are histories of a number of sports in Nunda.

Additional photos and sports histories are being added to our website at www.nundahistory.org Follow directions in the calendar or on the website to add your sports memories and photos to assist us in documenting the story of Sports in Nunda.

Behind the Scenes

Gail Diemoz, continue to accession new donations and work on research requests. Marge Foose is doing a great job with computerizing our collection records.

Kudos to our handymen Jeff Long and Gary Ludwig for their work in and around the building. Special thanks to Becky Pierce for painting the west wall in the main meeting room. A new gallery system was purchased for that wall and will be displaying our Roger DeMuth paintings when we open in the spring. Several new exhibits are also planned.



*Right L-R clockwise:
Fran Ludwig, Sue Long, Alice Thompson, Marge Foose and Gail Diemoz at work.*

Left: Becky Pierce painting West Meeting Room Wall



We might not be open to the public during these winter months but NHS members are still hard at work behind the scenes. Our library crew, under the leadership of Librarian

Looking for a Radio

This winter we are working on the next era for our “Story of Nunda” exhibit in our new museum area. The time period is the 1950-70 era and we are finding many interesting artifacts that will represent Nunda during those years. What we don’t have is a transistor radio from the 1950s or 60s. Remember the little ones made in Japan that you had as a kid? Perhaps you still have one tucked away with your childhood souvenirs that you would be willing to donate to the Society for the display! If you do have one, please let us know!

Doing Property Research?

If you are working on the history of your property, or would like to know where your ancestors lived in the Nunda area, the Historical Society may be able to help. We have Livingston County Maps from 1852, 1858, 1872, and 1902. Some of these maps are available on our website. A version of the 1858 map is available for viewing on the Library of Congress website. (www.loc.gov). Just put “1858 Livingston County NY Map” in the search engine on the main page.

If you are looking for deeds, the easiest thing to do is to go to the County Clerk’s Office (Livingston after 1846, Allegany before 1846) and use their computerized search engines. But if you can’t get to Geneseo or Belmont and have lots of patience, you can try the New York Land Records available for free at www.familysearch.org. To do this, go to the main page, click on either “Search” or “Records”. In the lower right hand corner it will say “Find a Collection” and you should type in “New York Land Records.” When you get to the collection, click “browse” and then Allegany or Livingston County. You can use the Grantor (seller) or Grantee (buyer) indexes to find the deed. Its a bit time consuming, but you can do it from your own home!

The Society does have some additional resources available for your property research. Be sure to contact us if you need help!

See www.nundahistory.org for the latest on programs, additions to “Nunda’s Sports History,” our Gift Shop, the History Room with ways to explore Nunda’s history and more.

Also follow the latest Society news on Facebook and don’t forget to “Like” us.

From Our Archives

by Gail Diemoz

his youth. He had an unusually fine tenor voice and was in great demand for many years as a soloist and chorus singer. He traveled to many parts of the country with the Gorton Minstrel shows.



Cornelia Seabury Townsend

For those who remember Homer Pitts as a local mail carrier for thirty years, you may be surprised to learn that he was an actor and singer in

In 1892 he married Carrie Townsend, granddaughter of the Nunda pioneer John H. Townsend. She and Homer settled down at 44 Massachusetts Street and raised a son.

In the 1950s their property became the home of the Scism family. The Scisms' daughter, Joan, has written a memoir of her life in the former Pitts home for the Historical Society. The Society also has an album of Pitts-Townsend Family photos provided by Homer's great grandchild, Donna Dalton. Another donor has sent an 1886 diary belonging to Cornelia Seabury Townsend, mother of Carrie Pitts. These are just a few of our growing collection of genealogy resources to be found at the Nunda Historical Museum.



Homer Pitts,
2nd year with troupe

"Where's Third Street?"

by Tom Cook

First, Second, and Fourth are well known streets in the village. But what happened to Third Street? Our earliest village map, made by Henry Jones in 1839, doesn't have any of them. The original village plans show three streets running west from State Street - "North Street" at the north end of the new village, "Jones Street" which appears to be a bit north of present day First Street, and Portage Street, now Route 436.

Over the next dozen years the configuration changed. An 1852 map shows First and Second Streets as they are today, with Jones' North Street now Fourth Street". A "Third Street" appeared between Second and Fourth Streets. The late Town Historian Marjorie Frost wrote in a 1976 article "Massachusetts Street formerly ran straight thru to West Street and was called Third Street between State and West Streets."

But there was a problem. The map made six years later shows Third Street bisected by the Genesee Valley Canal that ran through the village. Bridges had been built at Second and Fourth Street, but a lock cut the little street in two. When map makers returned to Nunda to compile the 1872 County Atlas, Third Street had disappeared entirely. Fourth Street had returned to "North Street" to avoid confusion.

After the Canal closed in 1878 there was a chance that Third Street would reappear. Some citizens thought the street would be a good place for a railroad station for the new line being built through the village. Others saw the restored street as providing a better access to Oakwood Cemetery.

But all hopes were dashed when the Foote brothers built a warehouse at the head of Massachusetts Street in 1898. The *Nunda News* of September 24, criticized the failure to reopen the old street. "This is an improvement which should have been made long ago; but nobody moved in the matter. It would be much more convenient for all the people who visit the cemetery...to go directly across to the entrance, instead of going so far around by the station (Second Street) as they are now compelled to do. Nunda is lacking in public spirit and enterprise...."

The old street was all but forgotten. The western end must have still existed in the 1920s, for in the summer of 1922 the *Nunda News* reported that "a new iron and wire fence has been built around the property of the Standard Oil Company on Third Street." The next spring an old pumping station located at "No 2 Third Street" was destroyed by fire.

Nothing of the old street remains but its memory lives on over time whenever a local resident or astute traveler sees the signs for First, Second, and Fourth Streets and wonders, "Where's Third Street?"

See map on page 8

Nunda Historical Society Travels



For several years the Society has sponsored most successful summer and fall day trips to interesting locations in western New York and even into Pennsylvania. Here are a few of our most recent trips and information on our coming trip to Skaneateles, NY on July 13, 2017. We do hope this next tour will be as popular as those in the past and that you consider joining us.

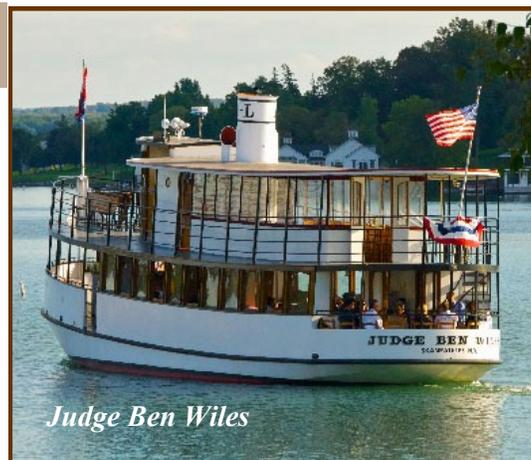
The "Everything Wright Tour" in July 2015 attracted 40 people for a trip to Buffalo where we visited Frank Lloyd Wright's

Graycliff Estate, lunched at the Buffalo Yacht Club, and spent the afternoon at the Buffalo Transportation PIERCE ARROW MUSEUM where we viewed a 1927 Buffalo Filling Station designed by Wright. We toured Wright's Martin House during a 2013 trip. On our Fall 2015 Foliage Trip, 56 people visited the Medina Railroad Museum and enjoyed a two hour train ride followed by lunch at Tillman's Historic Village Inn in Albion.

In October 2016, 45 people traveled to Eldred, PA for a most interesting guided tour of the Eldred WWII Museum, lunch at Sprague's Maple Farm Restaurant & Pancake House in Portville, NY, a visit to the Historic Palmer Opera House in Cuba to view the Cuba Cheese Museum and enjoy a Matinee of Silent Films with Dennis James at the Piano. The Cuba Cheese Shop was our last stop before leaving for home. (See group photo above taken at Sprague's)

Travel to Skaneateles on July 13th

Plan to join us on our July 13, 2017 trip to Skaneateles where we will enjoy a two-hour Lunch Cruise on Skaneateles Lake, a visit to the John D. Barrow Art Gallery with its Hudson River School style paintings of Skaneateles landscapes, and free time to visit the many interesting shops or relax in the park by the lake. We will cruise with Mid-Lakes Navigation on the Judge Ben Wiles <http://www.midlakesnav.com/group-rates>. The Lunch Menu is: *Soup du jour*, Choice of: *BBQ Beef Sandwich Platter* or *Baked Stuffed Chicken Breast*, *Dessert*, *Coffee*, *Hot Tea* or *Lemonade*. Registration is required by June 29 and cost will be \$80 for members and \$90 for non-members.



Judge Ben Wiles

Left: John D. Barrow Art Gallery



Additional details and reservation forms will be available in May on our website and will be sent to Society members and past Society travelers. **Reservations and payment must be made by June 29.** Questions? Call Sue Long, 468-3413 or Fran Ludwig, 476-2749

Nunda Historical Society 2017 Programs & Events

Note: Programs, unless noted otherwise, meet at 24 Portage Street in Nunda (March – December). Programs are not being scheduled in January and February, but additional programs/events have been added in the spring, summer, and fall months. From March through December, regular programs are usually the second Wednesday of the month at 7 pm unless otherwise noted. In April through October, First Sunday Workshops/Programs begin at 2:30 pm.

- Wednesday, **March 8**, 7 pm – *“The Female Perspective: Local Women in the Woman’s Suffrage Movement”* by Amie Alden
 *Sunday, **April 2**, 2:30 pm - **Native American Workshop** (details pending)
 Wednesday, **April 12**, 7 pm – *“Sports in Nunda:”* An overview of the new NHS project. Come and bring your favorite sports memories and photographs!
 Sunday, **May 7**, 2:30 pm - **Flintknapper Ken Wallace**
 Wednesday, **May 10**, 7 pm - **Annual Meeting & “A History of Nunda Fun Days”** by Sue Long
 Sunday, **June 4**, 2:30 pm – **19th Century Games**
 Wednesday **June 14**, 6 pm – *Picnic & Special Musical Entertainment* – watch for details
 Sunday, **July 2**, 2:30 pm - **Quoits**
 Thursday, **July 13**, 8 am–6:30 pm - *Nunda Historical Society Summer Tour* – Travel to Skaneateles for a Lunch Cruise on Skaneateles Lake, a visit to the John D. Barrows Art Gallery, and free time to visit the many interesting shops or relax in the park to enjoy the lake.
 *Sunday, **July 23**, 2:30 pm – *“Ernesto Nazareth: the Pianero of Brazil”* by Dennis James* - Dennis James returns to introduce us to another obscure historical composer. Ernesto Nazareth was a South American version of Ragtime composers in the US, mixing his classical piano repertoire studies in Europe with the indigenous dance music of Brazil - and in the process he created an entire genre of solo piano salon music. He classified his music as “Brazilian tangos,” since the Argentine tango and polka dances were considered fashionable at the time. His piano repertoire is now part of the teaching programs of both classical and popular styles, as Nazareth once served at the boundary between these two worlds.
 Sunday, **August 6**, 2:30 pm - *“Tole Painting - the Folk Art of Decorative Painting”* by Diane Freiner
 Sunday, **Sept. 10**, 2:30 pm - **Celebration of Grandparents - Old Fashioned Day** (old time chores, household items, crafts)
 Wednesday, **Sept 13**, 7 pm - *“The Pittsburgh, Shawmut & Northern RR”* by Ken Clark
 October (Date TBA) **Fall Foliage Tour** – Watch for details on our destination and plan to join us.
 Saturday, **Oct. 7**, 9 am - 3pm - *NHS Annual Yard & Bake Sale* – Watch for details on how to donate items for the yard and bake sale and plan to come and shop.
 Sunday, **Oct. 8**, 2:30 pm - **Exploring Local History - a walking tour**
 Wednesday, **Oct 11**, 7 pm – *“Nunda Businesses, Part II”* by NHS Staff
 Wednesday, **Nov 8**, 7 pm – *“Queen of the Bremen – The True Story of an American Child Trapped in Germany during World War II.”* Marlies Adams DiFante
 Wednesday, **Dec 13**, 7 pm – *“Annual Show & Tell”* Bring your favorite collectible, Nunda story or “What’s It?” to share and enjoy holiday refreshments.

* This performance is made possible with funds from the Decentralization Program, a re-grant program of the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Council on the Arts and administered by Livingston Arts, home of The Genesee Valley Council on the Arts.

Membership News *cont.*

Returning Members for 2016-17: Carolyn Carlson, Vicki Goll,
 % Jane Schryver & Paul Hoffman, Carolyn Lowell, +Rolland Thompson,

New Members for 2016-17: Karen & Douglas Amrhein, Phillip Bracchi, Beverly Clark, Gail Kelley, Lynne Lawson, Debbie Sanford, Harry & Sharon Westacott, Dennis Wood

Deceased Members (2015-17) Included:

Chuck Carlson, Steve Castor, Wendy Howard Downey, Bill Lindsay, Brad Lowell, Charles Ostrum, Dorothy Paine, Robert Snelgrove, Marjorie & Tom Stamp, Helen Schumaker Swanson, Gerald Thompson, Betty Squires Weir, and Robert Weir Jr.

Memorial Donations for these and other members will be included in our next newsletter.

+ Denotes a generous 2016-17 membership/donation of \$100 to \$299
 ++ Denotes a generous 2016-17 membership/donation of \$300 to \$499
 # Denotes a generous 2016-17 membership/donation of \$500 to \$999
 % Denotes a generous 2016-17 membership/donation of \$ 1,000 or more
A very Special Thank You to all!

. If you find an error or if we missed you, we apologize and ask that you please let us know.

Membership News - Renew or Become a New Member

The Society's membership year is from September 1 through August 31. Last year's **2015-2016 members are listed below. An * denotes those renewing for 2016-17.** If you have yet to renew or become a new member, please use the enclosed envelope or membership form from our website. A Special Welcome to returning and new members listed on the previous page. We are very glad to have you with us. .

Members in bold donated to a Spring 2016 Fund Drive for continued museum renovations and exhibits. Thank You! Other donors are listed on pg 8. This fund drive is ongoing to help offset the \$23K spent on the Stamp Annex.

Thanks to all for Your Continued Support. Remember this is Your Historical Society! Please Visit.

John & Barbara Adams	*Frank & Linda Foley	+*George & Karen Lucas	*Carolyn C. Tenney
*Jeremiah & Susie Axtell	Marge Foose	*Gary & Fran Ludwig	Alan J. Tessier
*Marcia Ayers	Marianne Foote	*Kathleen & Ronald Macomber	+Cecil Thompson
Mary Baar	+*Theron & Patricia Foote	Keith Maker	*Don Thompson
Barbara Bacon	Jody Fraser	Sidney & Nancy Mann	+*Gerald & Alice Thompson
*Gerald & Margaret Barkley	Jeremy Galton	Thomas & Susan Mann	+*Hugh & Barb Thompson
Michael Bauer	+*Paul & Nancy Gebauer	*Sherry Marano	*John & Linda Thompson
*Duane & Rosemary Bennett	Cathie & Leah Gehrig	*James & Linda Mc Master	+*Tom & Laura Thornton
+*Barbara Bernstein	*Ira & Nancy Gelsner	+*Mary Jane Mc Master	*Charles & Glenda Van Ry
Lewis Bickle	*Jim & Pauline Gelsner	Wixmlee Mc Master	*Evelyn Vandorn
Catherine Biven	+*Gerry Getman	*June Blair Metro	*Jim VanSickle
Martha Blair	Michael Giblin	*Donna Smith Miceli	*Earl Veley
+*Audrey Blakley	*Helen Gibson	*Mary B. Moore	Marchelle Vianese
Richard Blankenship	+*Karen Gibson	Doug Morgan	Mary Pat Vogel
*George Blood	*Maureen Goho	Ken Morris	Nancy M. Vogt
Patrick & Kathleen Bly	Ray & Joanne Goll	Mary Foote Mueller	JoAnn Waldon
*Sandra Bonadonna	*John Gordinier Family	Marlene Noden	Mary Ann & Olivia Walker
*Sarah Booher	+Thomas & Joyce Gormel	Dorothy Paine	Merilee Walker
Trish Brady	Mary Ellen Graves	*David & Shirley Palmer	*Linda & Steve Walker
Phil & Sue Brooks	*Don & Valerie Griffing	*Ralph Parker	*Mergie Wallin
+*Alberta Brown	+*Reginald & Margaret Grosse	*Alex & Becky Pierce Family	Glenn & Lorraine Walsworth
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*Lois Buchinger	*Doris Guenther	+*Julie Piraino	Ken & Brenda Weaver
Roberta Buczkowski	+*Sharon Hagens	Peter & Sue Piraino Family	*Carl & Carol Weber
*William D. Burt	+Sally Hall	Carolyn Pollock	Joyce Wechsler
Jim Byrnes	Carolyn Hark	+*Dick & Barb Powers	*Isabelle Weir
*Thomas & Barbara Byrnes	Victoria Harris	*Barbara Randall	Betty Weir
Thomas D. Caine	Leona & David Hawkins	R. Ferris Randall	Ron & Val Werner
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+*Harlie Clark	+Nancy Holler	John & Janet Rapp	#*Norman & Nancy Wetterau
*Jerilyn M. Clark	*Kenneth & Melva Holly	Carolisa Meade Ray	
*Josephine Clinton	Janet Hughes	*Jean Richmond	*Edward Wilson
*Rae Cohen	*Daniel Hurlburt	Marta S. Ringelberg	*LeRoy & Teresa Wood
+*Tom & Anne Cook	+*Joyce Hussong	*Roll-n-View Farm	*Charles Woolever
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Hope DePuy	Jo Kirk & Chuck Strickland	%*Joan Schumaker	
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Robert & Michele Donovan	Leonora Letchworth	*Stephanie Spittal	
Wendy Downey	#*William R. Lindsay	*Wanda Spruill	
*Julianne & Richard Dudley	Bill & Nancy Lissow	Tim & Tina Stoufer	
Revere & Marie Durnion	James & Linda Little	*Maureen Mc Master Sturges	
Robert & Peggy Ellsworth	+*Harold (Bud) Long	*David & Helen Swanson	
Alberta Essler	*Jeff & Sue Long	*Jeffrey Swanson	
Alena Farmer	*Terry & Connie Lowell	*Clayton Taft	

(See Page 6 for Key & more members)

NUNDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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1852 Nunda Village Map



Non-member 2016 Donors Thank You!

- +Baldwin Business Services
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- +Sanford Cattle Trucking
- +Seating Inc
- +Allyson Jefferis
- Gerald Kernahan
- James Kernahan
- Tracy & Gail Lawson
- Terrance Yount

- **Fifth Annual Bill Truax Memorial Golf Tournament & Benefit Auction**
(See Pg 6 for Key)