

# NUNDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Programs & Events

- *March 13 - Town of Portage History by Tom Cook*
- *April 14 - Charlie Chaplin program by Dennis James*
- *May 8 - John L, Sullivan Program by Brendon Heaney*
- *May 18 - Victorian Tea - see page 7*
- *June 12 - Annual Picnic with Music by Geoff Clouth*
- *July 6- Americana Day at the Museum*
- *July 18 - Society Tour to Chautauqua Lake*
- **See Schedule on page 5 for all 2019 Programs/Events**

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# Historic Nunda

Volume 9 Issue 1

Spring 2019

## The Tuscarora History Project

Tuscarora has always been an important part of our local history. Even though it is in the town of Mt. Morris, the community has been linked through families, businesses, and transportation systems to the town of Nunda. That's why the Nunda Historical Society is happy to take part in a project to document the history of this small but significant hamlet.

Last year Douglas Morgan, retired Lima Town Historian, asked us if the Society would be interested in posting Tuscarora material on our website, [www.nundahistory.org](http://www.nundahistory.org).

Doug, active for many years in Livingston County historical societies and activities, has strong ties to Tuscarora. He writes, "I am the grandson of Leslie & Ernestine (Sy & Teenie) Morgan who ran the general store in Tuscarora (the Petrie store – no longer standing) from 1932 until 1962. Growing up in Lima, NY, I would visit my grandparents for a few days in the summer where I spent time with my cousins – the Edick family. I have gone swimming in 'the crick', sledged down Schoolhouse Hill, and played on the Pennsylvania Railroad tracks even though warned by my Aunt Mary Edick to 'stay away from the tracks.' Over the years, my wife and I have attended more church services in the Tuscarora Presbyterian Church than any other church. We know more people from Tuscarora than we knew from Mendon where we lived for thirty years. We rarely missed a chicken barbeque or roast pork dinner. We have attended several 'Tusky' reunions. I grew up listening to my father's tales of Tuscarora, some of which, I assume were true! I have photographed the three principal cemeteries – Dutch Street Cemetery, Union Corners Cemetery and Scipio Road Cemetery and compiled the results into alphabetical listings for each."

Doug's long-term goal is to publish a historical reference work on Tuscarora. This is not an easy task, since much of the material available on the community and surrounding area focuses on the

*Continued on pg.2*

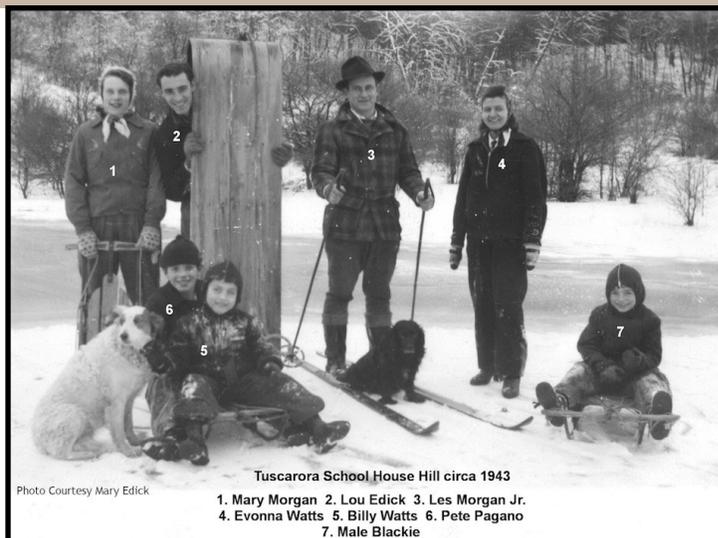


Photo Courtesy Mary Edick

Tuscarora School House Hill circa 1943

1. Mary Morgan 2. Lou Edick 3. Les Morgan Jr.  
4. Evonna Watts 5. Billy Watts 6. Pete Pagano  
7. Male Blackie

### *Tuscarora School House Hill - Number & Names circa 1943*

***Nunda Historical Society Museum & Rose Shave Gallery  
are open 10 am - noon on Tuesdays,  
2-4 pm, on 1st Sundays  
March through November,  
and at other times by arrangement.  
Call : (585) 465-0971 or 490-3302***

## The President's Corner



Another busy year is upon us!

You will find in this newsletter a listing of our programs and events for 2019. As usual, we have a good variety of monthly programs, including the return of Dennis James. If you haven't caught one of his wonderful historical music programs, be sure to join us in April! We also hope you will join us for our annual picnic in June and tour with us on our popular historical day trips this summer and fall. We are also excited to be participating in the First Annual Nunda Americana Day on Saturday, July 6th. As part of the village-wide celebration we will be hosting some history walks and numerous activities at the Historical Building, including a quilt show. Watch for details!

Actually, the list doesn't include all of this year's activities. We are also working on new exhibits for the Museum, preparing for our summer series of activities with students from the Nunda Summer Recreation Program, working on next year's historical calendar and much more. We even have some members working on future local history books!

### 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.*

There are several ways that members, near and far, can help the Society throughout the year. One way is to write down and send us your memories of Nunda and Dalton. In preparing for our next exhibit in "The Story of Nunda," we are collecting memories of the town from 1970 to 2008. These can be anything - special folks you remember, businesses, events - anything that was part of growing up and living in Nunda. These memories will help us in the development of the "Modern Times 1970-2008" exhibit and will be included in a special "memories" notebook. Numerous people have contributed memories through our Facebook page, but we can always use more!

At the same time we are collecting stories for next year's Historical Calendar - "Education in Nunda and Portage, Part II". This calendar will include photographs and information that tell the story of the Dalton and Nunda Central Schools from their organization in the late 1930s, through the 1968 merger to the modern day. Any stories that you may have - favorite teachers, classes, memories of the school buildings, classmates, events - would be very helpful. All stories will be preserved in a special notebook with some being added to the calendar or our website. Any photographs showing

school life that you would like to share would also be appreciated! (Please send copies or high resolution scans unless you are donating the originals to the Historical Society.)

So, I hope every member has the opportunity to participate in the Society this year. Whether you attend our many programs and events, volunteer at the Historical Building, or contribute your favorite memories, we appreciate your support!

*Tom Cook*

## Tuscarora History Project

*continued from Pg. 1*



**Doug Morgan**

early settlement and 19th century development. The 20th century story, which includes residents, homes, businesses and events, depends heavily on local newspapers, memories, and family photographs. Although early history is included, much of the information Doug has posted on the website deals with the last century of life in Tuscarora.

Currently, the Tuscarora section of the NHS site is divided into several parts. Visitors will find an introduction by Doug, an annotated history of Tuscarora written by Harlow C Hall in 1908, a collection of resources and short histories of the community, an annotated list of residents, and a photo album of Tuscarora families.

Doug welcomes additional memories, stories, copies of photographs and any corrections. You can contact him at Tel: 585 624 5902 or E-mail:

[djmorgan1451@gmail.com](mailto:djmorgan1451@gmail.com) You can find the Tuscarora material at <http://www.nundahistory.org/MorganTuscaroraintro.html>

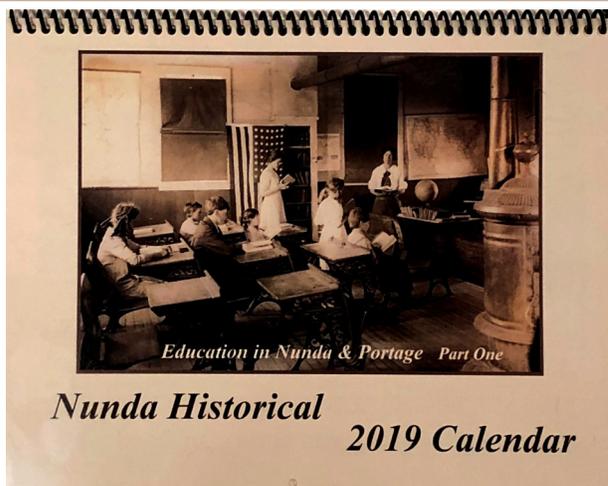
## Our Latest Historical Society Publications

### Have you picked up your copies of our latest publications?

The **2019 Nunda Historical Society Calendar** covers part one of “Education in Nunda and Portage.” The calendar introduces you to the rich history of education in Nunda and Portage, tracing the development of schools in the area from early one-room school houses to centralization in the 1930s.

Over 40 pages long, this calendar includes clippings from early newspapers, an article on the development of education in Nunda by the late town historian Marjorie Frost, and an article on adult education by Tom Cook that includes information about the lyceums and community Chautauquas that were once popular in Nunda. Also included are advertisements and notes from the Nunda News (1859-1982) and the schedule of upcoming events at the Nunda Historical Society.

The calendar is for sale for \$12 at the Nunda Historical Society, Nunda Family Pharmacy, Bell Memorial Library and the Nunda Government Center. You can also order it through the website [www.nundahistory.org](http://www.nundahistory.org) or eBay.



### WELCOME to the World of **KESHEQUA** GIRLS BASKETBALL



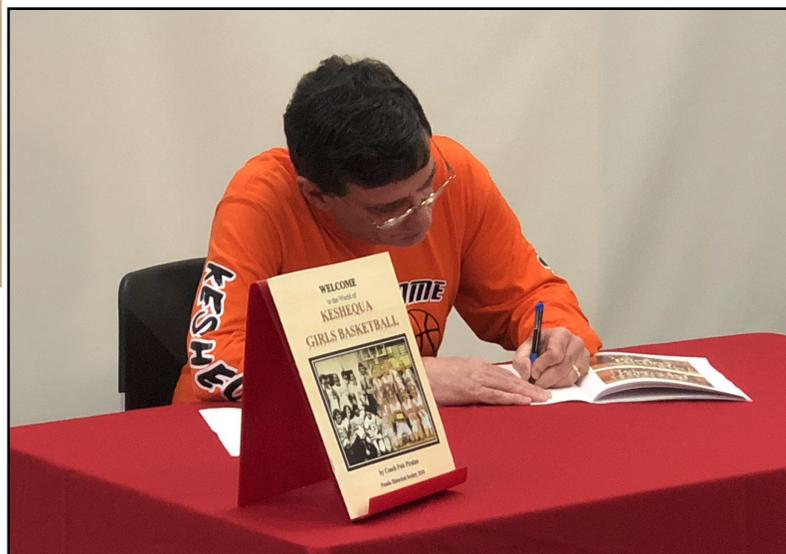
by Coach Pete Piraino  
Nunda Historical Society 2018

This soft cover book is available at the Nunda Historical Society and Nunda Family Pharmacy for \$12 and can be ordered through the Nunda Historical Society website.

**Welcome to the World of Keshequa Girls Basketball** by Coach Pete Piraino is the Society’s latest in a series of nearly a dozen local history books published since 1983. The 48 page book provides a coaches view of this successful sports program that began in 1976.

Coach Piraino details the establishment of the girls program and then shares stories of memorable teams, games and players, sprinkling in some of his favorite motivational quotes that will be familiar to his former players and their families. The book includes rosters of all the teams from 1976 to the present day and also includes dozens of photographs, many in color.

Coach Piraino at “Christmas in Nunda” Book Signing



# 2018 Year End Programs/Events



Nov. 14th - "Nunda in 1918: The War, The Homefront, The Spanish Flu, and The Vote" by Nunda Historical Society Members: President Tom provided an introduction and "The War;" Joan Schumaker presented "The Homefront;" Tom Byrnes presented "The Spanish Flu;" and Sue Long presented "The Vote"

Our Christmas Tree with antique ornaments, a toy train, and a Teddy in a toy rocker, all from the Society's Collection



Dec. 8th - Christmas in Nunda Alice Thompson & Gail Diemoz Sell Books and Calendars as Fran Ludwig spreads Christmas Cheer.



## FOR THE FARMER

Known as the "Clipper," this hand cranked wheat cleaning machine was first made in 1869 and was still being sold in 1948. Originally owned by Vern and Minnie Brant, it was donated to the Society by Karen McColl.

## ..... AND HIS WIFE Grain Cleaner Butter Churn



## From the Collection



Also hand cranked, this NEW TYPE wooden churn could make large amounts of butter in a short time. It was manufactured in Henry Bagley's shop in Nunda in the early 1870s by the Nunda Eureka Churn Company. This donation was made by the family of Eileen Cole.

## 2019 Society Programs & Events

The Nunda Historical Society & Rose M. Shave Gallery are open 10 am - noon on Tuesdays, from 2 - 4 pm on 1<sup>st</sup> Sundays in March through November, and at other times by appointment [call (585) 465-0971 or 490-3302]. On first Sundays, a new display, a special artifact, or an activity/demonstration will be featured. Check our Facebook Page or website at [www.nundahistory.org](http://www.nundahistory.org) for details. Historical programs, offered monthly March through December, are usually the second Wednesday of the month but may also be scheduled on some Sundays.

**Sunday, March 3, 2-4 PM** - Nunda Museum and Rose M. Shave Gallery Open (see above)

**Wednesday, March 13, 7 PM** - *Rambles Through History: Exploring the past along the Genesee Valley Greenway in the Town of Portage* by Tom Cook. Tom will explore the fascinating history of lands along the GVG from the days of the Seneca Indians to the early 20th century.

**Sunday, April 7, 2-4 PM** - Nunda Museum and Rose M. Shave Gallery Open. (see above)

**Sunday, April 14, 2:30 PM** - *The Charlie Chaplin Mutual Film Comedies* by Dennis James. In 1916, Mutual Studios hired Chaplin to make 12 two-reel comedies and gave him complete creative control. Learn how this experience resulted in Chaplin's maturation into making full length feature films. Dennis will provide period-authentic historical revival musical scorings to accompany three of the Chaplin films from this project.

**Sunday, May 5, 2-4 PM** - Nunda Museum and Rose M. Shave Gallery Open. (see above)

**Wednesday, May 8, 7 PM** - *Life Is A Fight! A Night with John L. Sullivan* accurately portrayed and life story by Brendon Heaney.

**Saturday, May 18** - NHS Victorian Tea

**Thursday, May 30 - Saturday June 1** Visit our Booth at Nunda Fun Days!

**Sunday, June 2, 2-4 PM** - Nunda Museum and Rose M. Shave Gallery Open (see above)

**Wednesday, June 12, 6 PM** Annual Picnic at the NHS Pavilion (bring own table service and dish-to-pass) followed by *Songs of the 1950s & 1960s* by Geoff Clough at 7 PM. Everyone is invited to the picnic and the program to follow in the museum.

**Saturday, July 6, 10 AM - 3 PM** - Visit the NHS Museum & Rose Shave Gallery as part of **Nunda's Americana Day**. In the Museum: Quilt Exhibit and other special displays/activities. Outside the Museum: History Encampment

**Sunday, July 7, 2-4 PM** - Nunda Museum and Rose M. Shave Gallery Open (see above)

**Thursday, July 18, 8 AM - 6:30 PM** - NHS Summer Trip to Jamestown - Enjoy a 1 ½ hr narrated History Tour of Chautauqua Lake and a Chicken BBQ aboard the **Chautauqua Belle Steamboat** and visit the new **National Comedy Center**, the first state-of-the-art museum dedicated to telling the vital story of comedy in America. More than 50 immersive exhibits take visitors on an interactive journey through comedy history, from early vaudeville acts to the latest viral memes.

**Sunday, August 4, 2-4 PM** - Nunda Museum and Rose M. Shave Gallery Open (see above)

**Sunday, September 1, 2-4 PM** - Nunda Museum and Rose M. Shave Gallery Open (see above)

**Wednesday, September 11, 7 PM** - *Remembering Nunda Area Businesses Part IV* Part of a Series of talks by local residents sharing memories of businesses that are no longer found in Nunda. The Nunda Casket Company, Black Smith Shops and Coal Businesses are featured this year.

**Sunday, October, 2-4 PM** - Nunda Museum and Rose M. Shave Gallery Open (see above)

**Wednesday, October 9, 7 PM** - *The Barn Building Legacy of J. T. Wells & Sons* by Dick Thomas (Photographer), Barb Chapman (Wheatland Town Historian) and Katie Andres (Legacy Project Coordinator). From 1886-1942 Wells and his sons built over 200 barns throughout western NY. Fewer than 50 remain. The trusses inside a Wells barn remind one of a cathedral. Learn about the history and architecture of these magnificent structures that remain.

**Thursday, October 17** (*Tentative Date for Fall NHS Tour*) Schedule to be determined.

**Sunday, November 3** - Nunda Museum and Rose M. Shave Gallery Open (see above)

**Sunday, November 10, 2:30 PM** - *18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> Century Medicine: The American Revolution to the American Civil War* by Les Buell. Les taught American history for 34 years, has been a Civil War reenactor for 20 years, and is an active member of the Society of Civil War Surgeons and the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick, Maryland.

**Saturday, December 8, 12 - 5 PM** - "Christmas in Nunda" - Local history talks, exhibits, & Music

**Wednesday, December 11, 7 PM** - Annual Show and Tell

## The Society Travels to Chautauqua Lake on July 18, 2019

Join us for a relaxing 1 ½ hour steamboat ride on the Chautauqua Belle as we learn about the history of the Chautauqua Lake area and enjoy a chicken barbeque. We spend the afternoon at the popular NEW National Comedy Museum in Jamestown. We leave Nunda at 8 am and return by 6:30 pm.



Mathew Stage grew up on Chautauqua Lake, started working at the age of 8 or 9 on public vessels, such as the Celebration, Miss Rose, the Summer Wind, and Frolic. In 2007, at age 18 and with 10 years of experience in the tour boat industry, Mat formed US Steam Lines Ltd to purchase the steamer Chautauqua Belle that had been put up for a scrap auction. Beginning on a multi-year restoration project, Mat attempted to keep every part of the Chautauqua Belle original to builder James Webster's design.

Following his passion of becoming a Captain on a cruise ship, Mat graduated from the SUNY Maritime College with an Unlimited 3rd mate license, and now sails with Oceania Cruise Lines on their flagship Riviera, as second officer with day-to-day responsibilities, as the officer on the bridge. While he continues to work towards his goal of being a Captain on a cruise ship, his first love is still Chautauqua Lake and the Chautauqua Belle where he is known as Captain Mat.

A daily history tour features the late 1800s history of the Chautauqua Lake area. According to local historian Helen Ebersole, "The Running Commentary by the personnel is an accurate, worthwhile and colorful review of lake history!" In addition to the History Tours, the Chautauqua Belle caters dozens of parties, receptions, or weddings, each year, running almost daily throughout the summer. 1 of 5 operating steamboats left in North America, the Belle is one of the most photographed and well-known icons in Western New York. Her classic Steamboat lines, tall stacks and gingerbread lattice have been seen in photos all over the world. [www.269belle.com](http://www.269belle.com)



At about 12:30 pm we leave Chautauqua Lake and Mayville for Jamestown and the National Comedy Museum. [www.comedycenter.org](http://www.comedycenter.org)

The National Comedy Center is the first state-of-the-art museum dedicated to telling the vital story of comedy in America. As a nonprofit cultural institution, the museum celebrates comedy's great minds and unique voices, from Charlie Chaplin to Dave Chappelle. Exclusive collections and world-class exhibits give comedy fans an unprecedented behind-the-scenes look at the time-honed creative processes that have elevated entertainment to an art.

More than 50 immersive exhibits take visitors on an interactive journey through comedy history, from early vaudeville acts to the latest viral memes. Cutting-edge personalization technology makes the entire experience unique: After creating a humor profile, visitors can explore content tailored to their individual tastes, from broad slapstick to edgy satire. Along with educational games and fun competitions, guests can step into the shoes of comedy pros, trying their hand at cartooning, comedy writing, live stand-up, and faux pie fights—or simply cheer on their friends. Visitors will leave the museum with a profound appreciation for comedy icons and innovators, as well as the tremendous influence of humor on how we think, live, and laugh.

The Comedy Center, opened in August 2018, has close to 100 reviews on Trip Advisor, consistently receiving 5 stars. Here are a few recent reviews:



*"What a great way to spend a day! The museum is state of the art, high tech, but totally user friendly. The whole visit is personalized, informative, and just plain fun!"*

Cost of Tour: \$115 members, \$125 non-members.  
Payment and Registration Due by July 8, 2019  
Registration Form at [www.nundahistory.org](http://www.nundahistory.org) Send to: Nunda Historical Society, PO Box 341, Nunda, NY

*"The technology is amazing. A lot of hands on interactive experiences. There is both history and entertainment. There are a lot of places to sit throughout the center to enjoy the entertainment"*

## Membership News - Renew or Become a New Member

The Society's membership year is from September 1 through August 31. We announced this year's membership drive last fall and followed up with a list of **2018-19 Members in our Fall 2018 issue of Historic Nunda**. A number of members have joined/renewed since the fall newsletter and we are pleased to recognize them in the list below. **THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT - It IS APPRECIATED**

For those who have yet to join us for 2018-19, please renew or become a new member by using the enclosed envelope or go to our website. There you can download a membership form to mail in or you can complete your membership and payment online. Your financial support is most important to the success of the Society.

*Thank You for Helping the Society Fulfill Its Mission*

### 2018-19 Members

#### *Added since last newsletter*

Jeremiah & Susie Axtell  
Michael Bauer  
#Harold Bauer &  
Gayle Mosher  
Duane & Rosemary Bennett  
Audrey Blakley  
Sandra Bonadonna  
Alberta Brown  
Lois Buchinger  
Darryl Carpenter  
Ronald & Virginia Chasey  
Jerilyn Clark  
Josephine Clinton  
\*Julia Donovan  
Robert & Michele Donovan  
Richard & Julianne Dudley  
Barbara Essler  
Richard & Mary Essler  
Theron & Patricia Foote

Cathie Gehrig  
\*Luanne Gelser  
Helen Gibson  
\*Karen Gibson  
#Beth Griswold  
Mary Ellen Graves  
\*Sally Hall  
\*Caroline Hark  
Kenneth & Melva Holly  
#\*David Hurley  
Joyce Hussong  
#Byron F. Jefferies  
Valerie D. Jessen  
Charlotte Keating  
James Keating  
Geraldine Kennedy  
Charlotte Kernahan  
Alice Knittel  
Lonnie & Bonnie Kratts  
Joe Lindstrom  
Terry & Connie Lowell  
Sherry & Annette Marano

Dorothy Marcy  
\*Mary Jane Mc Master  
Mary Moore  
Doug Morgan  
Marlene Noden  
\*Bob & Patty Piper  
\*Julie Piraino  
Carolyn Pollock  
Barbara Randall  
Anne & Paul Rangere  
Jean Richmond  
Vanessa Robertson  
Bob & Donna Russell  
Adrian & Noreen Sanford  
Debbie & Dale Sanford  
Sherman & Beverly Sanford  
\*Nedra Smith  
\*Sue Smith  
\*Maxine Snelgrove  
\*Stephanie Spittal  
David Swanson  
\*Alice Thompson

Allen & Jean Thompson  
Don Thompson  
John Thompson  
\*Rolland Thompson  
Evelyn Van Dorn  
Dutch VanRy  
Earl Veley  
Renee Wager  
Margie Wallin  
Isabelle Weir  
George & Beverly Westacott  
Don & Pam Wilcox  
#George Wildrick  
#Roberta Willard  
Fred & Sharon Willis

*\* Membership/Donations  
of \$100 or more. Thank  
You!  
# New Member in 2018-  
19. Welcome!*

## Additional Donations since Fall Newsletter

*Thank You for Your  
Thoughtfulness*

### Memorials Donor/in Memory of

Carolyn Biven  
Charles Ostrum  
Barbara Essler  
David Essler

\*Luanne Gelser  
Nancy Thompson  
\*Karen Gibson  
Donald & Norma  
Gibson  
Maureen Goho  
Gerald Goho

David Swanson  
Helen Swanson  
Isabelle Weir  
Robert E. Weir Jr.

### Non Member Donations

\*Hark Homes, LLC

### Building/Exhibit Fund

Jerilyn Clark  
\*Bob & Patty Piper  
Bob & Donna Russell  
\*Karen Gibson

## Victorian Tea Coming on May 18th - Save the Date



This year the **theme of our Victorian Tea is again Nunda's Dowling Family**, documented in the recent publication, *Elmwood*. The Tea is **Saturday, May 18 with one seating at 1:00 pm** at the Holy Angels Church Parish Center, 21 Mass. St., Nunda. This was the home of Chauncy Sanders, founder of the Nunda News, our local newspaper from 1859 to 1983. Featured will be a variety of teas, finger sandwiches, and desserts, with many dishes made from original Dowling Family recipes,

**Reservations required since seating is limited. Call Fran Ludwig at 585-476-2749 Adults \$12, children under 8 free**, with payment to the Nunda Historical Society, PO Box 341, Nunda, NY 14517

## NUNDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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nhs@frontier.com  
[www.nundahistory.org](http://www.nundahistory.org)

*Like us on facebook*

### 2018—2019 Board of Directors

Tom Cook - President  
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Vice President  
Barbara Byrnes -  
Recording Secretary  
Francine Ludwig -  
Corresponding Secretary  
Joan Schumaker -  
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Gail Diemoz -  
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Thomas Byrnes  
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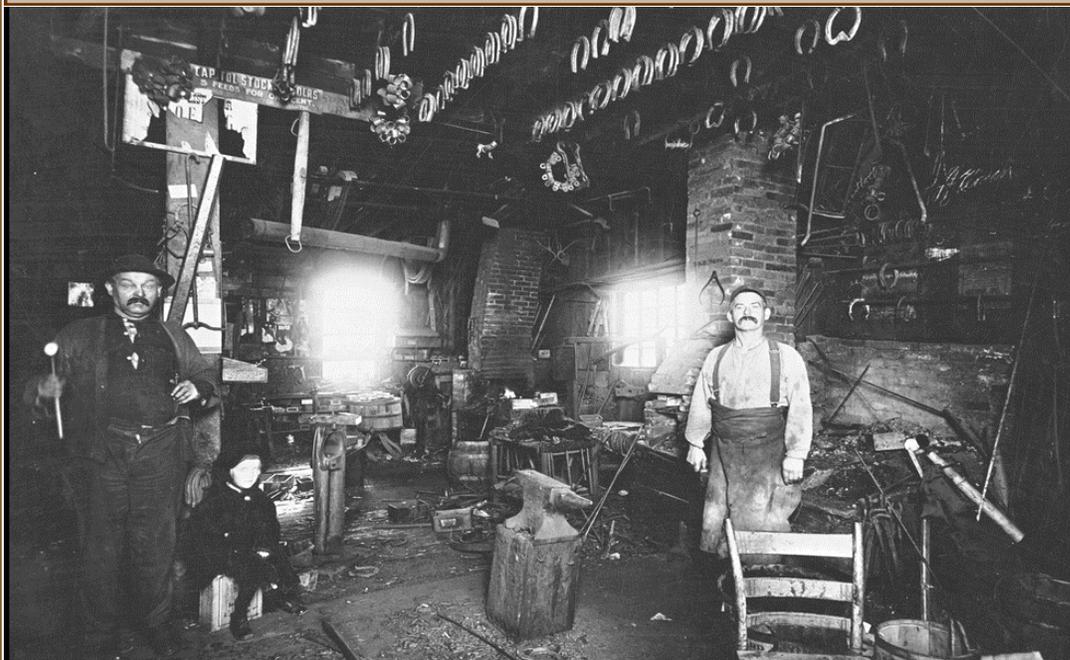
#### Assistant Librarians

Marge Foose  
Sue Long  
Alice Thompson

Newsletter Editor  
Joan Schumaker

Photographs by  
Tom Cook &  
Joan Schumaker

## Barrett's Blacksmith Shop in Early 1900s



Patrick "Pat" Barrett, pictured here in his well known State Street blacksmith shop. was a member of Hook and Ladder Company #2, a talented actor playing Irish characters in local entertainment, and took much interest in village affairs. Unfortunately, Pat died of a heart attack in 1918 at age 59.

**Nunda's Early Blacksmiths will be included in the Society's September 11th program "Remembering Nunda Businesses Part IV."**

*See [www.nundahistory.org](http://www.nundahistory.org) for updates: everything happening at the Society, our Gift Shop, the History Room with ways to explore Nunda's history, and more.*

*Visit Often—This is Your Historical Society*