

NUNDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Calendar Items

- Nunda Kiwanis Club
- Early Agricultural Life
- Impact of the Vietnam War on Livingston County
- Christmas Wreath Sale
- Christmas in Nunda
- Show & Tell
- Annual Bake Sale
- Letchworth

See Schedule on pg. 7

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Historic Nunda

Volume 2 Issue 2

Summer 2009

THE ROSE M. SHAVE COLLECTION

In 1986 the Historical Society was extremely fortunate to receive 20 paintings, 7 watercolors and 13 oils, from Mr. George Toms of Rochester, a grand nephew of Rose Shave. Betty Van Deventer Johnson donated a beautiful framed water color, a grape still life. This painting was a wedding gift to her parents in 1911. In 1995 Joan McMaster Schumaker donated another painting, bringing the total collection to 22.

Unfortunately, 21 paintings were unframed and all 14 oils needed conservation work. The Society concentrated on restoring, cleaning and framing the oils in 1997 and on framing the water colors in 1998.

In the past eleven years the Collection has grown to 33 Rose Shave paintings. Ruth Foster Cipriano donated three framed water colors (including one miniature), Patricia Galbraith and the Jane Wagor Mann Estate each donated a framed watercolor, and the Robert and Virginia Walker Estate donated two very unique oils. These unframed paintings each consist of small landscape studies grouped on board, one with 13 images and one with 3 images. These oils received extensive conservation work in 2006 and are now in the Gallery with lovely new frames. All conservation work on the Rose Shave oils has been completed by Diane Satterfield Berlyn of Hawkridge Studios in Penn Yan, NY.

Joan Schumaker donated two additional framed water colors and two framed oil paintings. One of the oil paintings had already received conservation work, but the second, "Still Life with Roses," and its period frame are in need of extensive conservation due to water damage. The Society is currently seeking grant funding and donations for this conservation project.

The Society is fortunate to have received three New York State Council on the Arts Community Arts Grants, administered through the Genesee Valley Council on the Arts (GVCA), to assist with the conservation and framing of the paintings in this Collection. These grants in 1997, 1998, and 2006 covered \$2,400 of the \$7,200 needed for these paintings. The Marjorie Ostrum Memorial Fund and additional individual donations were used to complete these projects. **THANK YOU to all who have contributed to the preservation of this marvelous Collection.**

The Rose Shave Collection has been featured in numerous programs since 1997, was on display at the Nunda Branch of M&T Bank from 1998 to 2000, and was part of over 50 works in a Rose M. Shave Exhibit at the Bertha V. B. Lederer Gallery, SUNY Genesee, in 1999.



Rose M. Shave Gallery

Nunda Historical Society Museum & Rose Shave Gallery are open on Sundays, 2 - 4 PM, April through November and at other times by arrangement. Call 468-3879 or 468-5991

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.

The President's Corner

"Leaving the Latch String Out." In pioneer times the expression meant literally that the door of the cabin was unlocked – anyone was welcome to come in to warm themselves by the fire or share in the food cooking in the hearth. All you need to do is come on in, and then leave something in return. That something could be a story or even a bit of news, so scarce on the frontier.

In modern times we can't actually leave the latch string out, but we can extend a hearty welcome to all who come to our door and share with them what resources we can. And that is just what our Historical Society does in several ways.

First, the coming of Fall marks the renewal of our historical meetings and programs. From September to June we host a variety of history programs that are free and open to everyone. We even offer a "show and tell" (December) and a picnic (June)! In addition to these regular programs, we often host special tours and activities, such as the history wagon during "Christmas in Nunda," our bi-annual History Days, and special tours for local students. We also welcome visitors on Sundays from 2-4 to visit the Museum and the Rose Shave Gallery that is highlighted in this issue of the newsletter. You can even make appointments to visit outside that regularly scheduled time to do research or visit the exhibits.

Folks are also welcome to help out on Monday evenings and Tuesday mornings – but watch out – we will put you to work! Each Monday from 7-9 pm the "Old Koots" along with a couple of younger apprentices work on the renovation project underway in the former bay area of the building. Tuesday mornings our loyal librarians work on a variety of collections related projects. Volunteers are always welcome!

You can also stop in at our website anytime. Just go to www.nundahistory.org and you will find a wide variety of historical resources and information, including Society news and upcoming events.

What can you give in return? How about your interest and your participation in Society activities whenever possible! If you are not a member, please join – if you are already a member, be sure to send in your renewal. More importantly, find a way to take part. Come to our monthly programs and bring a family member or friend. Share some of your time and talents with the Society by volunteering, or help preserve history by recording area memories, family histories, or local photographs of bygone days. How about contributing a local story or photograph for our next newsletter? The Society can also use any monetary contributions to help with the building renovation and other projects.

So over the next year we hope that everyone will make an effort to attend as many meetings as possible and find other ways to contribute and participate. For our part we will continue the tradition of 'leaving the latchstring out!'

Tom Cook

**Nunda Notables**

**Rose M. Shave, Nunda Painter,
1848-1925** *by Joan Schumaker*

Nunda's gifted painter Rose M. Shave was born in 1848, the youngest of four children of William and Elizabeth Shave.

In 1876 Rose attended Ingham University, the first women's college in the United States, located in LeRoy, New York. Here she was an art student of Prof. Lemuel M. Wiles, a native of Perry. Prof. Wiles had studios at both Ingham and Silver Lake that attracted students from all over the United States. In December 1877, an article in the "Nunda News" stated that "The proficiency she displayed in painting led to her engagement as a teacher after the first year in this noted art school." This was the first of many references of Miss Shave in the "News".

Rose taught at Ingham for 16 years, replacing Prof. Wiles as Director of the College of Fine Arts in 1887. She also conducted art classes here in Nunda during vacations. For five weeks in summer 1884, Rose offered lessons on Tues., Thurs., and Sat. from 9 AM – 12 or 1:30 – 4 PM for \$1 per day. In August 1884, seventy paintings by Rose and eleven of her pupils were shown at a reception attended by 160 people. The "News" reported this event as "A notable display of fine paintings."

Continued on page 3

Nunda Notables continued

Rose M. Shave



One of Rose's oil paintings sold in New York City for \$75 in 1884. In 1885, a life size crayon portrait of C.T. Metcalf, an elder in the Presbyterian Church, was on display at the local post office. This work was judged a masterpiece by local critics. The "News" also mentions that Rose "Sold a handsome screen to Philadelphia party for \$75."

The summer of 1888 found Rose studying in Paris at the Academy Julian. An exhibition of her work in 1889 resulted in an article in the "Rochester Union" which noted "the display was remarkable, chiefly for variety, elegance and originality of design." Included in this show were local LeRoy landscapes and some from the eastern part of the State.

In 1892 Ingham closed and Rose returned to Nunda where she and her sister Belle, also an artist, had just completed building a residence and studio at 49 East Street. By 1884 Belle had completed a two year course at an art school in Philadelphia and was offering instruction in drawing and painting. The sisters worked in oil, watercolor and crayon, but were mainly noted as watercolorists. Belle died in 1893, at about 45 years of age, but Rose continued to conduct painting classes at her home for all levels of students including advanced instruction for other art teachers. In 1895 the "News" noted a "South Dakota woman here to study painting under RS."

By 1895 critics ranked Rose third in the United States in Watercolor paintings of flowers. In 1898, the Academy of Design in New York accepted two of her paintings for exhibition. She also exhibited paintings around the country at

places such as the Cambridge Valley and Danbury fairs in New England.

Marjorie Conrad Frost, former Nunda Historian, recalled Rose as follows: "When we were kids and lived across the street from Miss Shave (as we always called her) I was fascinated by her and her house. She was a rather small woman (short anyway) and I always remember her wearing an artist's smock. She was never too busy to show us how to make simple little sketches or to let us look at the unusual art objects which were everywhere in the house. She must have brought them from France and Italy and other places she went to study and exhibit. She held receptions every year and they were high-class social events. They were also showings of her work and sometimes were held a little before Christmas so people could buy paintings for gifts, etc." Note: A newspaper article gave prices of from \$1 to \$5 for her paintings.

"---There was a fence where the hedge is now and once Bob and I reached thru the fence and picked a few currants from a bush on Miss Shave's side. She saw us and promptly reported the theft to my mother - and we were punished for it. Eating those few sour currants was really punishment enough! But on the whole she was very good to us kids - probably better than we deserved."

Miss Shave lived in her East Street home until 1925 when she died at age 77. A collection of her paintings was on display at the Bell Memorial Library in 1926. Local residents treasure their Rose Shave paintings.

Treasures from the Past - Recent donations to the Rose M. Shave Collection



"Pink Roses, 1904" From the Jane Wagor Mann Estate



"Untitled, 1891" Donated by Ruth Foster Cipriano

Spring & Summer 2009 Events

February 11th

found **Tom Thornton** talking about **“Early Portrait Photographers in Nunda and Dalton,”** discussing changes in photography through the years, and providing examples of their work.



Gail Diemoz, Tom Thornton & Tom Byrnes

“Frank ‘Rexie’ Wright - Nunda Soldier, Pharmacist, and Owner of City Drug Store” was **Joan Schumaker’s** topic on March 11. She used the new *Nunda News* digital files (see story page 6) to enhance her Power Point program on Rexie.

“Squeezebox Johnny Unfolds Accordion Tales” brought **John Quinn and Friends** to discuss the various types of accordions, show examples of some, and entertain us with lots of good music on April 8th.

Our **Spring Work Day at the Museum** took place on April 18th. Volunteers did yard work and some heavy cleaning in the Museum – windows, lights, cases, and a thorough vacuuming. **Thanks to all who took part! We will do it again next spring!**

Our **Annual Meeting** was held on May 13 with President Tom presenting his Annual Report and Joan Schumaker providing a Financial Report for the last fiscal year. Elections resulted in no change in our Board of Directors. Joan also talked about preserving Nunda’s architecture and provided informative hand outs.



Youth work crews provided by Livingston County assisted us in the summer. The young people did a great job cleaning up the property behind the building and helped get the old

bay area ready for the next stage of the renovation. The Society thanks the crews and their leaders Sarah Morris and Matt Flint, as well as Society member **Charlie Ostrum** who guided them in the renovation work. In addition to their work at the Historical Society, the crews also cleaned out old Lock 42 of the Genesee Valley Canal and worked with members **Joan Schumaker and Tom Cook** on projects in Oakwood Cemetery. These projects included cleaning gravestones, picking up debris, and edging along the roadway.



Cynthia Howk points out architectural features of Peter & Sue Piraino residence.

On May 17th about 20 interested Nunda residents went on an **“Architectural Discovery Walk of Nunda Village”** with **Cynthia Howk** of the Landmark Society of Western New York. These fortunate participants strolled several of Nunda’s streets for more than two hours, learning fascinating details of Nunda’s early architecture. This was a most interesting and enjoyable afternoon. Those who missed this experience should plan to take advantage of any future opportunity to listen and learn from Cynthia. Those of us on this walk will certainly be there!

June 10th was our **Annual Picnic** at Kiwanis Park, followed by a tour of the site of the Nunda Water Cure hosted by current property owners Cecil & Nancy Thompson.

Unfortunately, the low number responding to the **Reunionist Weekend** events caused us to cancel the Saturday Luncheon and Town of Nunda bus tour on Sunday. The Letchworth Park History Tour on August 7 attracted fifteen who spent a marvelous day at the Park. We visited the recently renovated museum, had a delightful lunch at the Glen Iris Inn, and thoroughly enjoyed our history tour with **Tom Cook**, our energetic and most knowledgeable tour guide. You should have been with us!

Membership News - It's Renewal Time Again

The Society's membership year is from September 1 through August 31. **2008-2009 members are listed below and we sincerely thank all of you for your support.** 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. If you missed last year, please be sure to join us for 2009-2010. **Return the enclosed envelope with your membership today.**

Thanks again for your continued support. Remember this is your Historical Society!

Fay & Dorcas Ace
John & Barbara Adams
Caryn Adler
Ralph Asmus
Jeremiah & Susie Axtell
Mary Baar
Freeman & Jane Barber
Gerald & Margaret Barkley
Jean Batzing
Duane & Rosemary Bennett
+ Barbara D. Bernstein
Elmore & Janet Blair
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Audrey DeVinney Blakley
Angela & Neil Bliss
George & Chris Blood
Sandra Bonadonna
*Vera G. Bowles
Patricia Brady
Philip & Sue Brooks
Lois Buchinger
William D. Burt
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Jim Byrnes
Tammy Caine
Thomas Caine
Carolyn & Charles Carlson
Stephen & Carol Castor
Mark & Shari Caton
Jeryllyn Clark
Josephine Clinton
Tom & Anne Cook
Denman & Patricia Coon

Philip & Avis Cox
+ Ralph & Rosalee Cox
John & Judy DeGroot
Brewster & Hope DePuy
Edwin Dickson
Gail Diemoz
Timothy & Kathleen Diemoz
Michelle Donovan
Wendy Downey
Richard & Julianne Dudley
Alice Edwards
Alberta Essler
*Alena Farmer
Chris Foote
Theron & Pat Foote
Ethel Foster
Patricia Galbraith
+ Marjorie Galton
Nancy Gebauer
Cathie W. Gehrig
Ira & Nancy Gelsner
Gerald & Helen Gibson
Karen Gibson
Ray & Joanne Goll
Mary Ellen Graves
Valerie & Don Griffing
Reginald & Margaret Grosse
Doris & Dick Guenther
Sally Hall
Ed & Judy Hamilton
Carolyn Hark
Leona & David Hawkins
Ken & Melva Holley

Dan Hurlburt
Joyce Hussong
Valerie Jessen
Francis A. Johnston
++ Charlotte Keating
Geraldine Kennedy
Charlotte Kernahan
Rashad & Esther Kirdani
J Kirk & C. Strickland
Lonnie & Bonnie Kratts
Joan H. Larson
Anne Lawson
William Lindsay
James & Linda Little
Jeff & Sue Long
Terry & Connie Lowell
+ George & Karen Lucas
Gary & Francine Ludwig
Margaret Ludwig
Kathleen & Ronald Macomber
Rennay Maker
Sherry Marano
James & Linda Mc Master
+ Jean Mc Master
Wixee Mc Master
+Natalie McTarnaghan
June Blair Metro
Donna Smith Miceli
Mary B. Moore
Douglas Morgan
Ken Morris
Marcia Morrison
Lyle & Joan Orton
Charles Ostrum

David & Shirley Palmer
Julie Piraino
Rose Piraino
Carolyn Polluck
Richard & Barbara Powers
John & Janet Rapp
Carol Rathbun
Betty Rice
Maryann Roby
Tom Roffe
Elizabeth Russell
++ Roger & Darla Ryan
Leona Ryckaert
Robert & Lily Sanford
Irving & Marie Schoenacker
++ Joan Schumaker
Edna Schuttee
William & Ruth Slaughter
Robert & Maxine Snelgrove
*Tom & Marjorie Stamp
(Life Members)
David & Helen Swanson
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Robert & Isabelle Weir
Dr. John H. Wells
George & Beverly Westacott
Dr. Norman Wetterau
+ Dr. Eleanor B. Wright
Candy Zaluskii
Joyce Zeh
New 2009-10 Members
Doris Robinson Jones
Edward F. Wilson

+ Denotes a generous membership/donation of at least \$100
++ Denotes a generous membership/donation of \$300 or more
A very Special Thank You to these members.

Did You Know?

- At one time, six passenger trains and six to eight freight trains a day operated on the Pennsylvania Railroad, Rochester Branch, between Rochester and Olean. This rail bed is now being developed into the Genesee Valley Greenway, a 90 mile multi-use trail.
- In the early part of the twentieth century, a commuter train ran daily between Nunda and Rochester.

* Early 2009-10 Renewals

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

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.

NYS Newspapers On-Line

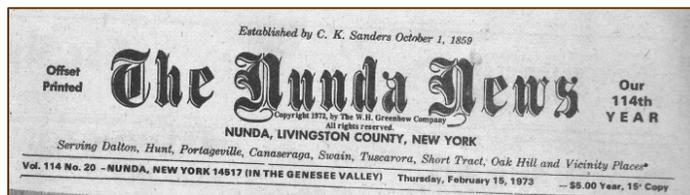
by Joan Schumaker

In late January I learned of a most useful web site: www.fultonhistory.com. Those of you familiar with this site know that you may access many New York State newspapers, historic NYS documents, photographs, and post cards to assist with your research and genealogy projects. Surprisingly, there were many small newspapers included with those of our major cities.

Tom Tryniski, webmaster of the site, appeared to be seeking newspapers to add to the collection. The Nunda Historical Society Board of Directors had been thinking about digitizing the microfilm records of The Nunda News, our local newspaper from 1859 into the 1980s, so we contacted Tom. After a few e-mails, and within a couple days, we started the process of making The Nunda News available to the world.

We sent about 65 roles of microfilm to Tom via UPS. He scanned the film and returned them to us via UPS in less than a week. The pdf files were then OCR'd (word recognized), a process that took about three weeks. In less than one month after sending the microfilm to Tom, the finished pdf files, with an index to make them searchable, were sent to us on a hard drive. We returned Tom's

hard drive after transferring the files to our own hard drive at the Society. Meanwhile, Tom had put the Nunda News into his on-line data base and we directed researchers by linking our web-site: www.nundahistory.org with www.funtonhistory.com.



Having The Nunda News on-line and searchable is most valuable to researchers who are not in the Nunda area. For those of us in the area, having searchable pdf files of the Nunda News on computers at the Society and at our local library is truly a great convenience.

The total cost for this project was the cost of sending the film and drives by UPS. However, private donations were sent to Tom's web site as a small thank you for all his efforts.

I would encourage other organizations to make their newspaper archives more accessible by taking advantage of the service Tom Tryniski so generously and expertly provides.

Tom's contact information is, E-mail: tryniski@fultonhistory.com or Phone: 315-402-2327

Bicentennial Publication examines the "Development of the Nunda School System"

The latest in a series of local history books is now available. The book, the "Development of the Nunda School System", traces the evolution of schools in the Nunda area from log cabins to the modern school facility.

Author Sandy Bonadonna, a retired teacher from the Keshequa School District, drew on a wide variety of resources when researching the book. She first did the work for a college course at SUNY Geneseo back in the 1970s. The Historical Society approached her two years ago and asked if she would update the work to be part of a series of books published in celebration of the Town of Nunda's Bicentennial in 2008. Although she now lives in Florida much of the year, Sandy worked through thirty years of Board of Education minutes, documents, and area newspapers in order to bring the original story into the 21st century.

The book focuses on two centuries of school buildings in Nunda, beginning with the Bates School House in pioneer times. Mrs. Bonadonna carefully documents each of the small district schools in the vicinity of the village, and examines the development of the Nunda's Literary Institute, Select Schools, and Academy, the latter being opened on the grounds of the present day school on Mill Street in 1867.



*The Nunda Third Academy built in 1867
on the current KCS school grounds.*

Continued on Page 7

Nunda School System Continued

Using maps and other illustrations, the author follows the story of the Academy building through its development into the Union Free School and the Nunda High School. In 1939 work began on the "new" Nunda Central School which decades later merged with Dalton Central School to become Keshequa Central School District.

Although Mrs. Bonadonna concentrates on the school facilities, the book provides interesting glimpses into the education system, school life, and the role the Nunda community has played in the school.

"Development of the Nunda School System" is available for \$10.00 from the Nunda Family Pharmacy, Bell Memorial Library, Nunda Town & Village Offices, and the Nunda Historical Society Museum Building. It may also be ordered through the mail by sending \$13.00 to the Nunda Historical Society, Box 341, Nunda, NY 14517.

Bicentennial Items

Still Available:

7 Local History Books
DVDs and VHS tapes of
"200 Years & (Re)counting"
Bicentennial Postage Stamps
Nunda Post Cards &
Envelopes with Bicentennial
Postal Cancellations

1/2 Price Items

Bicentennial Porcelain Plates
Bicentennial Logo Pins
Bicentennial Logo Hats
Logo Tee Shirts
Logo Sweat Shirts

Fall 2009 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.

Note: The Society will not have its Yard Sale this year. Look for us next year.

Wednesday, Sept. 9: "*Story of the Nunda Kiwanis*" - Gus Marano

Wednesday, October 14: "*Early Agricultural Life - In Harmony with Nature*" - Tom Roffe,
Town of Leicester Historian

Wednesday, Nov. 11: "*The Impact of the Vietnam War on Livingston County*" - Amie Alden,
Livingston County Historian

November - December: Christmas Wreath Sale - Wreaths will be available November 28. Call 585-468-3879

Fri. Dec. 4, 3:00 - 7:00 pm; Sat. Dec. 5, 10:00 am - 7:00 pm: Christmas in Nunda-At the Museum. The Society will be selling local history books, coverlets, 2010 Calendars, and remaining Bicentennial items. On Saturday afternoon Society members will be tour guides on the History Wagons. Watch for a **Genesee Mountain Dulcimer Club** performance with extra dulcimers available for folks to try during an informal setting. Information: call 468-5991 or 476-2354

Wednesday, Dec. 9: "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. 12, 9:00 am - ?: **Annual Bake Sale at Nunda Lumber & Hardware** - Donate & buy baked goods.

Wednesday, Jan. 13: "Pic-Nic to Portage Falls; A visit to the Glen Iris Estate in the days of Wm P. Letchworth" - Thomas S. Cook - We will journey through time back to visit Mr. Letchworth's Glen Iris Estate through photographs, maps, and stories.

Did You Know?

- You can find a link to a US President in our own Oakwood Cemetery? Elijah N Lincoln and his wife Martha are buried in the older part of the cemetery. According to his obituary in the Nunda News of November 19, 1920, Elijah was the second cousin of President Lincoln. Martha lived out her life in Nunda, and joined her late husband in their family plot in 1936. You can find their impressive marker near the western end of Old Section 2.

NUNDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Visit us on line

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Early Nunda *Dalton General Store ~1900*



Charles E. Maker, Dalton produce buyer, relaxes in his well stocked store. Born in 1842, he engaged in the egg-buying business at age 22. By 1880 he averaged 1,000 dozen a day at a shilling a dozen. These were shipped out via the Erie R.R. as fast as his buyers brought them in. He also dealt largely in maple sugar, potatoes, apples and beans; the last boatload of salt which came up the Genesee Valley Canal was consigned to him. His father, Rev. A. Maker, was in business with him in the early years, the firm being known as A. & C. Maker. His son, Archie Maker, was associated with him later and owned the original of this photo. Charles died at age 94 after being struck by a car. This store was one of those that burned in the disastrous fire of Oct. 1943.