

**NUNDA
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

Calendar Items

- *One Room Schools in Western New York*
- *Nunda History Days at the Museum (see pg.6)*
- *SUNY Geneseo String Band*
- *Women in World War II*
- *Show & Tell*
- *MIJWIZES, ERHUS, & MORE*
- *Nunda's Boy Scouts*

See Schedules on pages 10 & 11 for details

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Historic Nunda

Volume 3 Issue 2

Summer 2010

Renovations Continue - Building Fund Drive Underway



Mid Morning Day 1

On May 10 & 11, a Hark Homes crew replaced the entire roof on the rear portion of the museum area of the building. The 10th was bright and sunny with all rafters in place by the end of the day. Rain threatened most of the day on the 11th, but the roof was completed before the rains came in late afternoon. A most impressive performance! The roof no longer sags and we have a large interior space that no longer needs supports that interfere with display areas. (See pg. 5)

To be safe from potential rains, all contents of the archive room were moved to the meeting room in the front of the museum. Moving a large portion of our collection was a lot of work, but the peace of mind was worth it. While most items have found their way back to the archive room, a few remain in our meeting room. Until we are able to move into a new archive space, the meeting room may seem a little crowded.



End of day 1

We are currently seeking bids for completion of the interior of the rear portion of the building and hope to have financial assistance from a Legislative Grant awarded a few years ago. This spring, uncertainty about the availability of the grant funds resulted in the Board of Directors deciding to hold a Building Fund Drive. A goal of \$25,000 was established and an appeal for financial assistance was printed in the local shopper and mailed with Keshequa Alumni Reunion materials in April. A total of \$8,680 has been donated to date from Society members who knew about the drive and from others receiving word of the drive. Donations have varied from \$5 to \$1,000. Any amount is welcomed. (Donors are listed on pages 5 & 6)

A letter to Society members and the Nunda community requesting support for the Building Fund Drive is included on page . A new brochure has also been designed to introduce the Society to those who are not familiar with our organization and will be available during this fund drive. If you have yet to donate to the Building Fund, please consider doing so now. Remember that the Society is an IRS 501 (c) 3 organization and that all gifts are completely tax deductible.

Watch for special fund raising activities such as bus tours to historic places in Western New York, a Nunda Garden Tour, and a Victorian Tea that are being planned. We hope that you will participate in some of these events.

***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

You might think that historical societies only look backwards.

It is true that we spend a lot of time and energy on the past, for the purpose of the Nunda Historical Society is to preserve, present, and promote our area's history. But to do that effectively we must also look to the future.

Our current building project and capital fund drive are examples of that forward vision. We believe that with more archival space and a larger museum area, the Society can better meet our goals and still maintain financial stability.

But there is another significant way we are building for tomorrow. We are in the early stages of creating the Nunda Historical Society's strategic plan.

The process began with a grant through the Upstate History Alliance (now Museumwise). In February the Board and some interested members met with Sally Trainor, a consultant in Museum Management and Long Range Planning. It was an interesting meeting during which we talked about the goals and needs of the Society.

It was helpful to have an "outsider" take a look at the Society and guide us in a discussion of who we are, what we do, and where we are going. (You will find a summary of Sally Trainor's report in this newsletter. See page 9) This meeting was also a prerequisite for a second grant from Museumwise. This \$3,000 grant that the Society received in June allows the Society to have Mrs. Trainor guide us through a process of creating our strategic plan.

We started the process in July. Over the coming months we will carefully examine various aspects of the Society, collect information from members and the community at large, and examine other historical societies. This will help us draw up our strategic plan that will focus our activities over the next five years.

The plan will help us make the most efficient use of our physical, human, and financial resources. It will also allow us to tap into addition grants from Museumwise, grants that will allow us to access the expertise and materials needed for projects such as exhibit planning and development, artifact conservation, and expanding educational programs.

The strategic plan will also serve as a bridge to the future. If our Historical Society is to remain effective and vibrant in the future, we must prepare to pass it on to the next generation. If the Society's has a clear mission, vision, and plan in place, future members will have an easier time taking the reins of the organization.

The Board will keep everyone posted as we work our way through this important process. Members will have an opportunity to provide input along the way and the completed plan will be available through our website and future newsletters.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at tscook@rochester.rr.com or 585-468-4991.

Tom Cook

**Nunda Notables - Nunda's Horatio Alger Story - Part II**

By Joan Schumaker

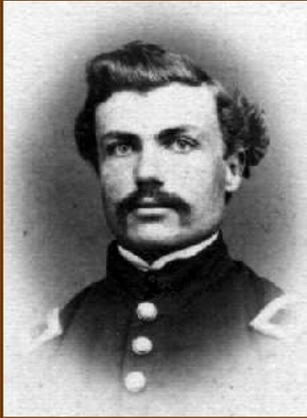
Orphan Boy, Scholar, Civil War Hero, Family Man, Oil Magnate, Philanthropist - Johnny Carter was all of these

Part I of this story, in the Winter 2010 issue of Historic Nunda, introduced you to John Carter - Orphan Boy, Scholar, and Civil War Hero. If you missed this issue, it is available at www.nundahistory.org or you may request a printed copy from the Nunda Historical Society.

Part II of John's story covers his life after the Civil War, including a variety of business interests, continued educational pursuits, family life, and philanthropy.

Continued on page 3

Nunda Notables - Col. John J. Carter *continued*



After the war John returned to Nunda, married his childhood sweetheart Emma Gibbs and moved to Pennsylvania where he opened a men's clothing store in Titusville. Business was good, he saved his money and became a prosperous merchant, civic servant and philanthropist. In 1877 he entered the profitable Upper Bradford Oil Field. In the early 80's he built and managed (for 10 years) a railroad connecting Pennsylvania cities to Olean and Wellsville in NY. In 1886 he established Riverside Farm on the west bank of the Allegheny River, stocking it with improved herds of horses and cattle. This became a favorite place to relax. In 1889 he bought and rebuilt the Titusville Iron Works, retaining his interest for 10 years.

John loved nature, protected the environment whenever he could, and enjoyed the quiet rural life at the farm. He spent leisure hours amid his wonderful library that reflected his love for history, biography, geology and general literature. In 1876, John had to become a naturalized citizen before he could qualify for a US passport to visit Ireland, his homeland. He then made several additional trips across the Atlantic to England and the continent in later years.

By 1885, John had purchased the Archbold Mansion in Titusville from Standard Oil Director John D. Archbold and was spending each hay fever season in Europe. He was also an intimate acquaintance of John D. Rockefeller, the "lord and master" of Standard Oil. Carter was a leader of the oil producers, often serving as a mediator among the producers and also between them and Standard Oil.

By 1893 John had studied geology and gained scientific knowledge essential to locating productive oil lands. He invested heavily in properties others had avoided, formed Carter Oil Company, a corporation to manage his holdings. John owned a 9,600 share controlling interest in Carter Oil, was President, and owner of the company's lands. The corporation bought his oil holdings for over \$1 million in cash and debt assumption.

John earned a Law Degree from Bucknell University in 1897, became a trustee of Bucknell and Allegheny College, and was appointed Director of the Commercial Bank of Titusville. After two knee operations in 1906 to relieve pain from a war injury, John spent 1907 in Japan for Standard Oil, examining their holdings and the potential for oil. He concluded that there was no profit in investing in oil in Japan. He returned by way of California and identified more profitable oil property for Standard Oil. In 1913 he traveled to South America, and recommended extensive purchases of oil properties for Standard Oil. He also purchased additional oil property in Oklahoma for Carter Oil. In 1915 John retired from the oil fields, having previously sold State Oil and Carter Oil to Standard Oil of New Jersey, and that November he resigned as VP and director of the Titusville Bank. John's retirement was brief. He died of heart failure after pneumonia on January 3, 1917. *"I have fought the good fight"* is inscribed at the **Carter Mausoleum in Titusville, Pennsylvania.**

John was a devoted family man. He and Emma had nine children, five of whom died in infancy. Charles, Luke, Emma and Alice, born between 1867 and 1881 were the survivors. Charles became a lawyer in Pittsburg and Luke remained in Titusville in the family business. John's wife Emma died in 1902 and he built a fine parsonage for the Baptist Church of Titusville in her memory. In 1908 John married Alice Neill.

John was a most progressive and generous employer, respected and beloved by his employees. He consistently promoted workers from within his companies and established innovative programs and business ethics that continued long after his departure. Using Carter Oil as an example: in 1904, John instituted one of the first annuity programs for employees in the US; in 1910, anticipating the future of the automobile, he built the Anschutz gasoline plant in Sistersville, the largest in the world; in 1913, paid vacations for workers were instituted; in 1915, the first eight-hour workday was instituted; and in 1918, death and sickness benefits were added to this package.



Carter Mausoleum - Photo by Gary Ludwig



*Carter DAR Memorial
1930's - Nunda, NY*

Carter Oil expanded: in 1915-1926, huge oil pools were developed in Oklahoma and Kansas, holdings in the East were sold, operations were expanded in mid-continent and northwest; in 1929, Carter purchased Humble Oil & Refining Co. for \$3M and Slick-Urschel Oil leases in Oklahoma City for \$5M; and additional purchases made Carter one of the largest oil companies in US. By 1949, Carter had produced a half billion barrels of oil since 1893 and had over 4000 employees. In the 1950's, Carter gas stations were marketing products throughout the northwest. In the early 1960's, **Carter merged with Humble and ESSO to become Exxon.**

Spring 2010 Programs/Activities - *Thanks to all presenters!*



At left: Robert E. Weir Jr. during the February *Show & Tell* program where he introduced us to the *Nunda Poultry Farm* run by his uncle Lawrence Haines at the edge of the village on Mill Street. This was one of the largest poultry farms in western New York, shipping large quantities of baby chicks and ducks on the Erie railroad out of Dalton.

Robert (Bob) also presented the March program *Building the Mt. Morris Dam*, sharing his experiences as a worker building the dam in the 1950's.



Above & Rt: Author Dan Miller of LeRoy presents *Golden Era of Silver Lake*, a second March program.



Above & Rt.: *Finding the Stories in Historic NYS Photos* was the April program presented by author Richard O. Riesem



Note: In May, *Nunda's Neighbors* was presented by Jane Schryver and Paul Hoffman of Dansville. This engaging program was moved to the Nunda Methodist Church because of the roof construction at the museum. No photos available.



Below: Keshequa first grade students listen intently as they are introduced to a variety of gadgets, tools, and other items not familiar to them, but used by earlier generations to make life easier.

Above: In June, *Annual Museum Day for Keshequa First Graders* found the above former educators - Sally Hall, Mr. Greenman (i.e. Tom Cook), and Sue Long - back in the "classroom." Sally and Sue captured the attention of their young audience as they demonstrated use of items from the Society's Collection. (See photo at right) Tom, along with Joan Schumaker, showed students a PowerPoint program "Nunda Then & Now," illustrating changes in the village, schools, dress, etc from the days of earlier generations.



Spring 2010 Programs/Activities - Thanks to all presenters!
continued



The Genesee Valley Mountain Dulcimer Club entertained after the **Annual June Picnic**, providing a program that concentrated on the history of this unique American instrument. Typical songs from each era were performed by the group.

Nunda Historical Society members who also belong to the GVMDC are: Tom Cook, Sue Long, Carolyn Pollock, Joan Schumaker, Sally Hall and Ethel "Magee" Foster. Magee plays the tambourine, but has also been known to dance to a lively tune. (See right photo below)



The photo at the far left shows dulcimer players, (L-R) Janet Chatley and Missy Clark of Nunda and Jo Anne Brocklehurst of Silver Lake. Other members include: Ann Forbes and John Gordiner of Nunda, Maya Welzmueller of Hunt, Sue Hengelsberg of Perry, Karen Wissler and Alice Burdick of Dansville, Carol Preston of Avoca, Amie Alden of Geneseo, David Jackson of Penn Yan and Tina Clickner of Rochester.

This club was formed as a result of a 2006 workshop sponsored by the Nunda Historical Society and supported by a 2007 NYSCA Community Arts Grant obtained by the Society through the GVCA.

Non-Member Donors to the Building Fund *(members see pg. 6)*

A Special Thank You to the following donors

- Eva Cox Barbour*
- Richard Blankenship
- Sarah Booher
- James Byrnes
- Charles Couture
- Sharon Edwards*
- Roberta S. Grover
- Alida B LaDelfa
- Linda Byrnes Mitchell
- Nunda Station Lodge NO.682 F. & A.M.**
- Ralph E. Parker
- Ronald J. Powers*
- Carl W. Rapp Sr.
- John & Rose Weaver
- Rodney E. Willey*

*Donation of at least \$100
** Donation of at least \$500



Almost done - Day 2

Save the dates: Aug 12 - 14, 2011
Nunda Reunioists to Meet

The Reunionists did not meet in 2010, but will be meeting next year. Former residents, current residents - anyone interested in Nunda - should plan on attending. Food, Music, Village/Town tours, Cemetery Tours, ... Discover What's New, What's Changed, and What's Planned in Nunda's Village and Town.

We are starting a New Membership Year - Please Join Us

The Society's membership year is from September 1 through August 31. **2009 -2010 members are listed below. A sincere Thank You for your support. We missed hearing from a few of our regular members this past year and hope to hear from all of you in 2010-2011. Renew now by returning the form on page 8.** We are working to increase our membership numbers, so please tell your family, friends, and neighbors about us.

Note: Members donating to the Building Fund Drive are identified in bold below. Non-member donors, including some past Society members, are listed on page 5.

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

Fay & Dorcus Ace	Brewster & Hope DePuy	Jo Kirk & Chuck Strickland	Carol C. Rathbun
Caryn Adler	Edwin Dickson	*Alice R. Knittel	Betty T. Rice
+ Ralph Asmus	Timothy & Kathleen Diemoz	Joan Larson	Tom Roffe
Jeremiah & Susie Axtell	++ Gail Diemoz	Anne Lawson	Wilfred Roffe
+ Marcia Ayers	*Robert & Peggy Ellsworth	+ William R. Lindsay	Elizabeth Russell
Mary Baar	Barbara Essler	James E. & Linda G. Little	++ Roger & Darla Ryan
Freeman & Jane Barber	Richard J. & Mary Essler	Jeff & Sue Long	Jon & Valerie Ryan
+ Gerald & Margaret Barkley	*The Mark Ewing Family	Bradley & Carolyn Lowell	Robert & Lily Sanford
Jean Batzing	Alena Farmer	Terry & Connie Lowell	++ Joan Schumaker
Duane & Rosemary Bennett	Chris & Sandra Foote	+ George & Karen Lucas	William & Ruth Slight
Barbara D. Bernstein	Theron & Patricia Foote	+ Gary & Francine Ludwig	Katherine E. Smith
Elmore & Janet Blair	Ethel "Magee" Foster	Margaret Ludwig	Robert & Maxine Snelgrove
Martha Blair	Nancy K Gebauer	Kathleen & Ronald Macomber	Tom & Marjorie Stamp
Audrey DeVinney Blakley	Cathie W. Gehrig	*Keith Maker	*Maureen Mc Master Sturges
George & Chris Blood	Jerry, Stephanie, & Leah Gehrig	Sherry Marano	David & Helen Swanson
Sandra K. Bonnadonna	Ira & Nancy Gelser	James & Linda Mc Master	*Joanne Tallman
Vera Bowles	*James & Paulene Gelser	+ Jean Mc Master	John & Cathy Lee Thomas
Trish Brady	Gerald & Helen Gibson	Wixee Mc Master	++ Gerald & Alice
Phil & Sue Brooks	Karen Gibson	+ Natalie McTarnaghan	Thompson
Muriel & Nicholas Bucci	Ray & Joanne Goll	+ June Blair Metro	Allen & Jean Thompson
*Karen Bugman	Mary Ellen Graves	Donna Smith Miceli	Rolland Thompson
#Lois Buchinger	Don & Valerie Griffing	*Dan & Carol Miller	Don Thompson
William D. Burt	Reginald & Margaret Grosse	#Mary B. Moore	*Cecil & Nancy Thompson
*Richard Burt	Doris & Richard Guenther	Doug Morgan	+ Tom & Laura Thornton
++ Thomas & Barbara Byrnes	Sally Hall	Ken Morris	Earl & Helen Veley
Thomas D. Caine	+ Carolyn Hark	Marcia B. Morrison	Renee Wager
Stephen & Carol Castor	Leona & David Hawkins	* + Patti W. Moss	Eleanor A. Walker
*Ron & Virginia Mann Chasey	*# Paul Hoffman &	* + Gregory O'Connell	Robert & Isabelle Weir
Harlie Clark	Jane Schryver	#Lyle & Joan Orton	Betty Weir
Jerilyn M. Clark	Kenneth & Melva F. Holley	++ Charles Ostrum	Dr. John H. Wells
Josephine Clinton	Janice E. Hudson	David & Shirley Palmer	George & Beverly Westacott
+ Tom & Anne Cook	Dan Hurlburt	Bob & Patty Piper	#*Edward Wilson
Denny & Pat Coon	+ Joyce Hussong	Julie Piraino	*LeRoy & Teresa Wood
+ Ralph & Rosalea Cox	Valerie Jessen	Peter & Sue Piraino Family	Charles Woolever
++ Philip & Avis Cox	Francis A. Johnston	Carolyn K. Pollock	Dr. Eleanor Boyd Wright
*John & Ann Crandall	*Doris Robinson Jones	Richard & Barbara Powers	
*James Cromwell	+ Charlotte Keating	*Anne Rangere	
Bill Davis	Geraldine H. Kennedy	John & Janet Rapp	
*Jamie Davis & Katelyn	Charlotte Kernahan		
Chase Ellwood	Rashad & Esther Kirdani		

Memorial Donations (in addition to those listed in the Winter 2010 issue) were received for the following: **Gary Ayers, and Hubert "Bud" Mc Master, Thank you for selecting the Society as a means of remembering these special people. Other Donations: Robert & Esther Smith**

+ Denotes generous membership/donations of at least \$100
 ++ Denotes generous membership/donations of \$500 or more
A very Special Thank You to these members.

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.

* New Member
 # Early 2010-11 Member

Contribute to our Building Fund Drive and/or Become a Member

Dear Members of the Nunda Community,

As discussed in this newsletter, the Society has made gains in renovating the Nunda Historical Society building. Our new roof is built and paid for, and we are putting the next stage out to bid this fall.

In April, we decided to hold a Building Fund Drive with a goal of \$25,000, but this is the first announcement of this drive to members and the Nunda Community at large. So far we have raised about one-third of the \$25,000 and we need your help to reach or possibly exceed this goal.

If you have already contributed to the building fund – thank you so much! If you haven't – now is a good time. Any amount that you can send will be greatly appreciated.

If you are a Society member, remember that this is the beginning of a new membership year and please include your renewal. If you are not a member, consider joining us this year as we continue to work to preserve Nunda's history for this and future generations.

Thank You and Best wishes,

*Tom Cook, President
Nunda Historical Society.*

Please see Membership/Building Drive Fund form on next page.

Treasures From the Past

The chest and its contents pictured here were donated to our Collection by the Rotary Club of Nunda. This chest was the last product made by the Nunda Casket Company, Nunda's longest continuous factory (1825-1979) that was located on South State Street between Nunda Lumber and the Keshequa Creek. This factory started as Henry C. Jones's cabinet factory in about 1820 and was the site of Nunda's first water and electric companies under direction of Herbert and Oscar Willard and S.F. Whitcomb

Included with the chest were: the June 13, 1928 Certificate recognizing the Nunda Club as Rotary International Club #2912; a silver tray awarded the club in 1967 for 25 years of perfect attendance at the NYS Bowling Tournament held in Syracuse; a Certificate from Club # 712 for "Service Above Self" to Victims of the flood of 1972; a club photo taken at Nunda Central School during the 1968 celebration of the club's 40th anniversary; a plaque from the Nunda Boy Scout Troop #77 celebrating the Rotary Club's 50 year anniversary in 1978; and early files.

Members pictured in the 1968 photo are: Jules Beckary, Russell Bonadonna, Sam Bonadonna, Tom Byrnes, Ray Chamberlin, Brewster DePuy, Earl DePuy, James P. Doyle, Harold Estes, Dennis Feldman, Norm Foote, Robert L. Fox, Leon Goldthwait, Jack Gaedeke, Frank Hall, Birger Halvorsen, Jack Holmes, Lawrence "Butch" Mann, H.F. "Bud" Mc Master, Jim Parker, Rog Piper, Floyd Ryan, Al Slawson, Dr. John Stoll, Lawrence Van Slyke, Bob Weir Jr., Dana Willard, and Ken Willard. Members missing from this photo are: Gary Gelser and Ivan "Chief" Mc Coll.



Nunda Historical Society 2010 - 2011 Membership & Building Fund Drive

Name _____ Tel: _____

Street/Box # _____ *e-mail: _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ *Your e-mail address will not be shared
with those outside the Society*

Membership Level: Youth: \$5 _____; Individual: \$10 _____; Supporting: \$25 _____;

Family (includes husband, wife & children at home): \$15 _____; Contributing: \$50 _____;

Sponsor (organizations and businesses): \$100 _____;

Memorial Contribution: \$ _____ (specify name)

Building Fund Drive donation: \$ _____ Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Note: The NHS is a not-for-profit 501 (c)3 charitable organization. Your membership/gift is fully tax deductible.

****I want to help save mailing costs and also promote the Society. In the future, please put my copy of the newsletter in a public place and***

- send me a pdf copy of the newsletter*
- send me a link to the on-line version*

_____ *Please use my e-mail for special notices but use regular mail for my newsletter.*

Return this form with dues/donations to: NUNDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOX 341
NUNDA, NY 14517- 0341

Did You Know?

That Nunda's early telephone companies published their directories in the *Nunda News*? The Nunda Telephone Company listed its 165 subscribers in the News of February 18, 1905. According to the list you could reach Dr. C. J Carrick at his residence on Mill Street at 520 or call Northway Brothers Dry Good Store on State Street at 235. Asking the operator for 127-c would get you Isaac Goldsmith's grist mill in Oakland. For the complete directly as found in the *News*, go to the history room found on the NHS website, www.nundahistory.org

Incidentally, there were other telephone companies serving Nunda at the time.; the Business Men's Telephone Company of Nunda and the Livingston Rural Telephone Company of Dalton. The Tuscarora Telephone Company came to Nunda in 1912 and in 1918 service from this company cost \$15 per year.

Also of Interest -

"County Museum Safeguards Relics" was an article in the February 24, 1933 *Nunda News*. The Livingston County Historical Society, founded in 1876, had moved into the cobblestone school on Center Street in Geneseo. This new museum provided increased space for the County Society to store and display "relics" of local interest and citizens were urged to search their attics for items to add to the collection.

*Over the past few years the museum
has been receiving a "face-lift."
You should plan a visit..*

From the Outside In; A Look at the Nunda Historical Society - Part 1

Sometimes it is helpful to get a glimpse of yourself through others' eyes. The Society had just that chance when we met with consultant Sally Trainor last February as part of a GET READY Grant through Museumwise, formerly Upstate History Alliance. The meeting lasted half a day, and the Board and interested members had the opportunity to discuss the Society, the Museum, and the role and importance of strategic and long range planning.

Mrs. Trainor provided a report based upon this meeting. Excerpts from this interesting document follow and give us an "outsider's" view of the Society. The full report is available at www.nundahistory.org or can be obtained by writing Tom Cook, Box 177, Nunda NY. Comments will appear in parenthesis.

"Founded in 1983, the Nunda Historical Society is chartered by the NYS Department of Education. It received its absolute charter in 1995. It has about 200 members and an extremely active board of 12 members who perform all managerial, curatorial, and educational functions of the Society. This exemplary engaged board has become aware of the need for planning in order to formulate a logical future for their Historical Society. The Museum is run entirely by volunteers, who provide a variety of professions and skills to the organization including teaching, business management, history, and art. Their annual operating budget is approximately \$15,000 per year.

The Historical Society owns many artifacts associated with Nunda and maintains a collection of Nunda history and genealogy materials. Many of their print materials, which are available for sale, were developed in preparation for the bicentennial of the founding of Nunda in 1808. Almost the entire collection is on display on shelving and in locked cases in the main exhibit space. Though there are labels, the artifacts are not interpreted in a themed exhibit nor is there facility to rotate delicate materials off exhibit. Though the collection is accessioned, there is need to review and update the collections policy and plan. The Society has purchased PastPerfect but has yet to be trained in its use.

Public access is provided free of charge ... with at least two members providing information services and security for the collections The Society's well-attended monthly meetings (September through June) provide programs, planned a year at a time, ... They annually produce a locally themed calendar, replete with historical photos and information and dates of important local occurrences, both past and current. There is a well-designed, up-to-date website and Historic Nunda, their twice-yearly newsletter, provides timely information on Society events and well-written articles of historic interest. Their bi-annual History Days, planned with input from local teachers, introduce 200 young people to local and regional history. ... There has been commendable success with fund raising for building renovations, programming, and conservation from NYS CA re-grant funds through the Genesee Valley Council on the Arts and the Lower Hudson Conference, the NYS Legislature, and private donations.

The Historical Society's stated purpose in seeking the GET READY grant was to examine the following issues:

- Develop a plan and a new vision to give direction to the Museum as it renovates its space, plans interpretive strategies, and provides secure storage for its collections.
- Move forward with essential repairs to their building as well as performing a capital needs assessment.

During our conversation, these issues also arose: Need to find funding for capital projects, Research funding sources, Need to review the existing Collections Policy, Need to expand appropriate storage for the Collection, Cultivate a collection that best documents the history of the area., Need to develop an interpretive plan for exhibit space, Need to examine present funding streams to ascertain that they are valid and will continue

Every activity and wish has an incumbent need, i.e. more volunteers, systematic scheduling capabilities, an annual plan to govern the succession of activities, and on and on. Thus the issues that must be addressed include:

- Set priorities for near and long term, review and revise mission and create a vision to accommodate priorities.
- Strengthen collections policy. Commence cataloging the collections using PastPerfect following best practices for nomenclature, provenance, etc, and what constitutes the permanent collection, its themes, strengths, and weaknesses.
- Analyze the strengths and weaknesses of the collection so that use can be made of it in interpreting the Town's evolution over time.

Addressing the above issues will require research on assessment and funding opportunities (*several potential funding sources are listed*), formal assessment of the collection, discussion with personnel at similar institutions, and a self study. The Board understands that a strategic plan will provide appropriate phasing of these activities.

It is apparent that the society Board is very committed to strengthening and professionalizing their institution and are convinced that they must plan carefully to accomplish this. I found them to be exceptionally well motivated and alert to funding and training opportunities. Jointly they bring a variety of experiences and skills that have already been translated into assuring the continuation of their Museum and collection. They are to be congratulated on their commitment of resources and energy to this ongoing effort. "

(Part 2, in the next newsletter, will include progress on strategic planning using a GET SET GRANT, also from Museumwise.)

Nunda History Days Coming October 13th & 14th

Want to spend an exciting day exploring history? Come to the Nunda Historical Society's biennial Nunda History Days on October 13th and 14th. Each day promises a variety of experiences for individuals and families of all ages. The events run from 9 to 11:30 and 12:30 to 3.

Here are some of the scheduled adventures: *(Note: This schedule is subject to change.)*

Atlatl demonstration by Doug Bassett. (Wed & Th) Come and try throwing a spear the way the first inhabitants of the Keshequa Valley did thousands of years ago. (Kiwanis East Athletic Field)

18th Century encampment by the Moses Van Campen Long Rifles (Wed & Th) What was it like living on the frontier in the late 18th early 19th century? What were the tools and clothing of the day? How was food prepared? These are just some of the questions that will be answered by these early pioneer folks. (NHS Lawn)

Oakwood Canal Lock Walk with Joan Schumaker (Wed & Th) – Follow the Greenway in Oakland along some of the seventeen Genesee Valley Canal locks that once existed between Nunda and Oakland. Hear the story of the bustling canal days in Nunda. (Meet at Greenway crossing on Oakland Road just north of 436)

“What is it?” by the Nunda Historical Society (W & Th) - Visitors will be challenged to identify household objects that once were common in and around Nunda houses. (NHS Building, South Room)

The Tools of Yesterday by Dave Palmer (Th) West Sparta Town Historian Dave Palmer will show the visitor how important wood was to the people of the 1800s through old wood tools and other important wood products.

A Visit with Goodwife Clark (Wed & Th) What was it like to spin your own clothing in the 18th and early 19th century? Missy Clark of Barkertown Sutlers will show you and talk about a woman's life in that period of America's history. (NHS Museum)

History of Photography by Tom Thornton (W) Learn about Nunda's local photographers and the challenges they faced as they photographed Nunda in the 19th and early 20th century. Mr. Thornton, a local resident who studied at the George Eastman house, will tell the story through images and artifacts. (NHS Building, South Room)

Traditional Music with Sue Henglesburg (Wed & Th)- Folks singer and musician Sue Henglesberg will explore 19th century folk music with the hammered dulcimer and banjo. (NHS Museum)

Playing Sweet Music on the Appalachian Mountain Dulcimer (Wed & Thurs) Would you like to learn to play a traditional American instrument? Get a free lesson from a member of the Genesee Valley Mountain Dulcimer Club (NHS Building, South Room)

Flintknapping Demonstration by Ken Wallace (Wed) Mr. Wallace is one of the premium flintknappers in the United States. He will demonstrate and describe how native people made the fine flint tools still found in local fields today. (NHS Building, South Room)

Traveling through time in the Village Square with Tom Cook (W)- Nunda's village square is over 175 years old and has many stories to tell. Visitors will hear many of the stories and see maps and images that show the changes which have occurred in this historic part of Nunda. (Meet in front of M&T Bank.)

Doing History in Oakwood Cemetery with Tom Cook (Th) – Hear the story of Nunda's historic Oakwood Cemetery and learn how to unlock the history of the gravestones found there in a 20 minute talk. (Meet at West St. Entrance of Oakwood Cemetery)

Understanding Native Artifacts by John Gordinier. (Th) Mr. Gordinier, part of a field archeological team from Rochester Museum and Science Center, will show and discuss how projectile points (arrowheads) and other artifacts help us understand the native history of the Genesee Valley. (NHS Building, South Room.)

Explore the Nunda Museum and Rose Shave Gallery (Wed & Th) Take a trip through time by examining the many local artifacts in the Museum and enjoy the wonderful work of Nunda's premier artist, Rose Shave. (NHS Museum & Rose Shave Gallery)

Jim Kimball and Friends (Wed 7PM) Enjoy old time fiddle music and other traditional songs at the Nunda Historical Society meeting held in the Museum.

The programs are free, open to the public, and available through the generous support of a New York State Council on the Arts Community Arts Grant administered by the Genesee Valley Council on the Arts. All are handicapped accessible, but the Cemetery tours and Canal walks may present some difficulties to wheelchairs. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Tom Cook at 468-5991 or tscook@rochester.rr.com.

Celebrating Charlie 90 Years Young

On July 2, 2010, Charles Ostrum, one of the Society's most valued board members, turned 90. The entire Society Board, and some spouses, surprised Charlie with a birthday dinner and party at Bill's Restaurant.



Standing L-R: Jerry & Alice Thompson, Phil & Avis Cox, Kathy & Ron Macomber, Sally Hall, Jeff & Sue Long, Charlie, Margaret Barkley, Tom & Barb Byrnes, Gail Diemoz, Joan Schumaker Front L-R: Tom Cook and Jerry Barkley
Missing from photo: Fran & Gary Ludwig

Dinner, Cards, Flowers, Balloons, Cake and a special gift for Charlie were all part of a most enjoyable evening. **We all wish Charlie many more healthy and active years AND WE DID SURPRISE HIM!**

2010 - 2011 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.

Wednesday, Sept. 8 - "One Room Schools of Western New York" - John & Sue Babbitt

Wednesday & Thursday, Oct. 13 -14 Nunda History Days at the Museum* - Students and other visitors are introduced to Native American artifacts, the lives of early pioneers and soldiers, early music, and more. (See details on page 6)

Wednesday, Oct. 13 - "SUNY Geneseo String Band"* - Jim Kimball & Friends - This program is part of History Days and is offered as part of the regular monthly meetings of the Society.

Wednesday, Nov. 10 - "Women in World War II" - Dr. James Somerville, SUNY Geneseo Retired History Professor, has researched the roles of women during WWII and will relate their stories.

Wednesday, Dec. 8 - "Show & Tell" - Members share items of special interest from their collections.

Wednesday, Jan. 12 - "MIJWIZES, ERHUS, & MORE" - Larry Hoyt Discover some outrageous facts about music. A rare and unusual music showcase.

Wednesday, Feb. 9 - "Nunda's Boy Scout Troop #77 & the Genesee Council" - Thomas Byrnes, retired Pharmacist and Eagle Scout, will discuss the development and activities of Nunda's Boy Scout Troop.

Remaining 2011 programs will be listed in the next *Historic Nunda*

**Supported by a Community Arts Grant from the NYS Council on the Arts through the Genesee Valley Council on the Arts*

Watch for other events sponsored by the Nunda Historical Society

NUNDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Visit us on line

2010—2011

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Early Nunda - 1904



All Aboard! This photograph captures the Keshequa Lodge's masonic "train" as it left the "station" in front of the Livingston House in July of 1904. The "engine" was George Rathbun's new \$1700 traction engine which pulled four lumber wagons full of local residents heading toward Daniel Price's woods for their first annual picnic. Unfortunately a downpour forced the train to reroute to the Academy of Music where the picnic banquet was held. The Academy of Music, later the Nunda Movie Theater, was on the site of the Bell Memorial Library parking area. The *Truth* was a Nunda newspaper published and edited by Edward Koeppel at the turn of the century.

This photograph and many others from the Nunda Historical Society and other sources will be featured in *Nunda, Portage, and Genesee Falls* by Tom Cook. This book, by Arcadia Publishing, is scheduled for release in the summer of 2011.