

A 501 (c)3 non-profit organization

NEWSLETTER

Volume 2023 Issue 2

Summertime!

Mission Statement: *"The purpose of the Marion Historic Association is to promote the dissemination of the diverse cultural and historical heritage of the town of Marion and its connection to the history of Wayne County, the State of New York, and the United States. We are committed to educating the community and future generations through the preservation and exhibition of local historical items, artifacts and records."*



Above: Eliza Frey teaches a group of students about antique items.

Middle: MHA President Jen Hunter and Assemblyman Brian Manktelow



Below: Morgan Hunter shows students antique items.



AGTRAORDINARY SUCCESS AT MARION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Friday, May 12, was Ag Day at Marion Elementary. AG Day is wonderfully planned by Theresa Kuhn and Jenny Clark. Around 300 students from Pre-K to 6th grade had an opportunity to spend some time visiting exhibits to learn more about agriculture. Displays ranged from a maple syrup experience, farm animals, a worm farm and more.

The Historic Association was honored to be invited to participate. Students who visited our display had an interactive Erie Canal model where they learned the impact the canal had on farming, they played a game where they matched the "old" and "new" ways of farming.

We had many antique items on hand with a PLEASE DO TOUCH mentality that allowed each student to guess the use of items such as a plow, vintage milk box, glass milk bottles, a corn planter, and a recently donated apple peeler. Assemblyman Brian Manktelow was one of many visitors to our display.

Students Eliza Frey and Morgan Hunter were instrumental in the success of our display both with building a model and working throughout the day to educate students.

It was a wonderful day full of sunshine and learning. Many thanks to the Elementary School and organizers of this fantastic event. We are looking forward to participating again next year.

With warm regards,

Jen Hunter

MHA President

WHAT'S NEW AT THE MUSEUM?

WORK, WORK, WORK!

It's been a productive few months at the museum. We have had the benefit of an intern, Sam Harding, who came to us as a result of a program through the State University of New York at Geneseo. This program was recently expanded by a grant from the Gardiner Foundation and, through it, Sam gets paid to come out to work for the Marion Historic Association for 150 hours this summer. The association is also paid \$500 to sponsor Sam.

I can only tell you Sam has been a Godsend. He is from Massachusetts and comes from a family with extensive experience in museums and what that involves. He has been working with me all summer doing everything from cataloguing items, painting primer on drywall and moving materials around the building. Sam's end goal is to be a history teacher and he will also be working remotely for part of his time to build a Marion page on the ConsidertheSourceNY.org website established by the State Department of Education. I have enjoyed having his perspective on things as well as his enthusiasm and "can do" outlook.

FROM THE HISTORIAN'S DESK:

I recently gave a presentation of my program "The Newark and Marion Railway" to the Newark-Arcadia Historical Society. It was very well attended. I spoke with a man who showed me a photo postcard of the train with an inscription on the back stating that this was the train the author had arrived in Marion on. It was sent to family in Belgium and had made its way back to the US. It was a touching moment as I thought what that postcard (and train) represented to that family; a new life and an opportunity to escape the hardships of Europe at that time after the war.

We have also recently received maps of the rail line during the Ontario Midland years. Our knowledge in this area continues to expand. We still have books for sale for \$15 plus tax and shipping. Contact me at marion.ny.historian@gmail.com for your copy.

WALT MCKENNA'S BARBERSHOP BENCH

We got a call recently from Steve Schutt saying this bench was going up for auction locally and we jumped on the opportunity. The Ron McKenna Family came through and sponsored the purchase of this bench which is now on the front porch of the museum. How many of you have sat on this bench waiting for a haircut? What stories could it tell. We are grateful for the continued support of the McKenna family.



Walt McKenna was a barber in Marion for 65 years. He arrived in Marion from Rochester in 1904 and initially worked in the barber shop of Edward Snyder, located in the Clark Block, which used to be located next to the bank.

In 1979, his widow, Jennie, donated Walt's traveling barber kit to the Marion Historic Association. It includes two razors, leather strop, honing stone, scissors, black and white polka dotted cape, and sleeve garters as well as a tool used to achieve the iconic flat top. Also donated were two cups used at the barber shop.

It was said one could set their clock by Walt walking to and from work. He retired at 81 years of age.

HISTORY SPOTLIGHT: THE WAKE - LAKEY COBBLESTONE



"Believed to have been built under the supervision of Henry Butler of Palmyra, NY, it was once the home of Capt. Ira Lakey, who made two voyages around the world in a whaling vessel as its Captain. After his retirement he owned this house from 1850-1860. Later a Mr. Covey sold it to Mr. Wake Sr. who was born in Dunnington, England, Nov. 1771. He came to America on a sailing vessel with his wife and nine children in 1831, down the St. Lawrence River, landing at Pultneyville. He settled not far from Ridge Chapel, where he and his family attended church and many lie buried in the Ridge Chapel cemetery.

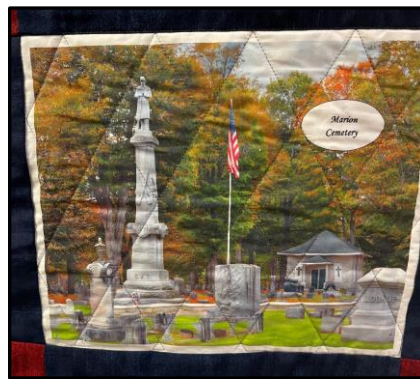
Mr. Wake had two windows lowered in the living room to please his daughter, Flora (now Mrs. Jared Nasmith) who thought the room too dark. Mr. Wake had a great variety of fruit trees on this farm, apples early and late pears and peaches." **information from Mrs. H.T. Jeffery, Historian, William Prescott Chapter, D.A.R. Newark, NY 1940

THE BICENTENNIAL QUILT POSTER IS HERE!

The quilt was recently completed by the Reverse Curves Quilt club and is on display at local venues this year.

The photos were all taken by Robert Mogray. The design was by Jorene Taylor, assembly by Elaine Blankenburg, quilting by Jean Lemmon, and binding by Sheri Whitney. Its' permanent home will be the Museum of Wayne County in Lyons, NY. The Marion blocks include the Hall Homestead on Hall Center Rd. and the Soldier's Monument at the Marion Cemetery. It is stunning in person. The bicentennial committee is working on creating either a poster or booklet so the images can be shared.

A poster has also been printed and will be available for sale for \$10. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Marion Historic Association. Contact Caryn at marion.ny.historian@gmail.com if you would like one.



WAYNE COUNTY BICENTENNIAL UPDATE

The Wayne County Bicentennial Committee has been busy. We have quite a schedule of planned events.

On August 14-19 we will start with a Torch Relay which will travel through every town in Wayne County and cover over 200 miles. This will end on August 19 with all the participating relay runners streaming into the Wayne County Fairgrounds to kick-off the fair. Runners are needed! To register, go to <https://runsignup.com/Race/NY/Palmyra/WayneCountyNYBicentennialTochRelay> to choose your one mile segment. We are also looking for escort vehicles to take segments of the event. **The runners will come through Marion on Tuesday, August 15.** Come out and cheer the runners on! Contact Caryn if you would like to volunteer.

On **August 19** we will have a Family Fun Day at the Wayne County Fairgrounds with all kinds of activities planned to close the week long celebration. Music, historical talks, historical craft demonstrations are among the many activities planned. Look for free admission tickets for adults on waynecounty200.com as the date grows closer. Children under 16 are free that day.

All towns are being encouraged to have additional preparation for their celebrations. *The Marion Committee is working on plans for this. We are hosting a performance of the International Fyfe and Drum Corps. on Sept. 3 at the Marion Town Park from 10-12 pm. If you would like to be part of the small parade leading off this event, contact Caryn at 585-738-6577.* The Marion American Legion Women's Auxiliary will be providing food for the event. *Mark your calendars for this special event.*

The Bicentennial Committee is also hosting a Heritage Music Series. On **October 14**, we are planning a musical performance called "The Remarkable, Irresistible Erie" at the Sodus High School.

Wayne County Bicentennial 2023 Events

(Updated 7/18/22 - Subject to Change)



April 11, 2023

OFFICIAL date of Wayne County's establishment as an independent county in New York State. To "kick off" the year-long celebration, a special CEREMONY will be held in Lyons (the County Seat) on the Court House steps. A reception and program will follow at the Lyons Community Center.

May 13, 2023

Bicentennial Gala at Carey Lake in Walworth

August 14-18, 2023

Torch Relay (5 days @approx. 40 miles per day) through each Town in Wayne County. The relay will begin and end at the Wayne County Fair.

August 19, 2023

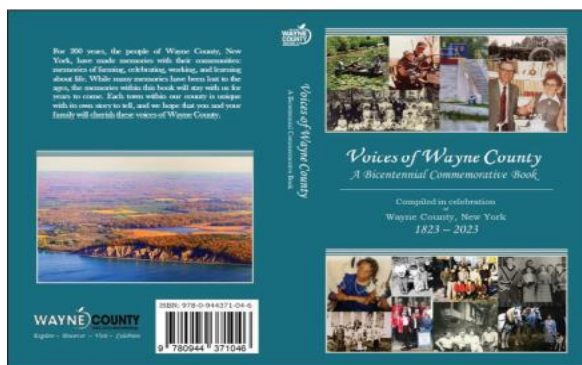
Family Fun Day at the Wayne County Fair! Reenactments, demonstrations, historical music, displays, games, and hands-on-history will make this a day to remember for "kids" of ALL ages.

Visit www.waynecounty200.com for up-to-date information



"VOICES OF WAYNE COUNTY

COMMEMORATIVE BOOK AVAILABLE!



NEXT FULL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: August 10, 2023
6:30 pm at the museum

The Bicentennial Commemorative Book "Voices of Wayne County" is now available from the Marion Historic Association. The cost will be \$25 plus \$2 for sales tax, a total of \$27. If you need it shipped, it will come book rate for an additional charge of \$4.

This 400 page book contains 140 written pieces by local residents and 120 images of Wayne County life over the past decades.

Contact historian Caryn Devlin by emailing marion.ny.historian@gmail.com or calling her at 585-738-6577 to reserve your copy and make arrangements for pick up or mailing.

This will make a wonderful gift for both current and former residents of Wayne County. It is great reading!



THE CLARK BLOCK AND BAPTIST CHURCH C. 1880's

This stereoscope view of North Main St. shows the Clark Block, Turk's Store and the Baptist Church. This was recently donated by Stephen Collward. Turk's Store was a source for "spirits" in addition to groceries since Marion had gone dry at this point. He was arrested several times for selling but it didn't seem to deter him. The Baptist Church was demolished and a new one constructed of brick after this picture was taken. The Clark Block had many businesses in it, including a jeweler, barber shop, lawyer and pharmacist at one time.

Thank you again for your membership donations to the Marion Historic Association. It helps us bring relevant programs to our community and we appreciate your support.

Important dates 2023 – all meetings at the museum unless otherwise noted

Aug. 15, 2023	10 – 2 pm	Torch Relay runs through Marion
Aug. 19, 2023	10 - 4 pm	Bicentennial Family Fun Day at the Wayne Co Fairgrounds (free children's admission)
Sept. 3, 2023	10 - 12 pm	International Fyfe and Drum performance at the Town Park
Sept. 9, 2023	9 - 4 pm	Fall Open House at the Marion Fall Festival
Oct. 12, 2023	6:30 pm	Membership Meeting
Oct. 14, 2023	2:00 pm	"The Remarkable, Irresistible Erie" music program Sodus High School
Oct. 21, 2023	6:30 – 8 pm	Haunting in the Hamlet III
Nov. 9, 2023	6:30 pm	Board Meeting
Nov. 11, 2023	10:00 am	Fall Clean Up/Holiday Decorating
Dec. 16, 2023	5:30 - 7 pm	Holiday Parade and Open House

With Many Thanks to our Corporate Sponsors and Members!

We can only accomplish our goals through the continued support of the community and our members. We currently have over eighty members plus corporate sponsors and we are grateful for their support.

MEMBERSHIPS

Memorial

Leslie Adriaansen
Carolyn Adriaansen

Art Stone
Gordon and Nancy Van Hall

Margaret Curtis
Sally and Bill Hoffman

*Mike and Jackie Tompkins in memory of Donna Adriaansen Prentice
The Lonneville children in memory of Allen and Donna Prentice and George Lonneville
Andrew and Margaret Murphy Erb in memory of A and B Roadways, Robert G. and Alice O'Brien Erb,
William G. and Pauline Luke Tamblin and Clifton Smith.
Andrew and Marjorie Erb in honor of Brian Andrew and Ashley Erb, Verdell (Paul) Jackson,
Andrew (Mickey) Erb*

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Special Thanks to:

Nick Lucci, Peter Callahan, Ken Adriaansen, John Lonneville, Burgio Plumbing, Leno Electric, Duane Smeatin, Jeff Cragg, Mark Devlin, Sam Harding

MEMBERSHIP

Dues can be mailed to Marion Hist. Assoc., PO Box 330, Marion, NY 14505
or paid **via PayPal** using our link **PayPal.Me/marionnyhistoric** or just scan the
code to link your smartphone to our Paypal page.

Levels of Membership

Corporate	\$100.00
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