



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER SPRING 2021

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This barn quilt could be yours! Enter our *NHS Spring Raffle** to win this "Prismatic Poppy Bouquet"

Naples Historical Society members **Deb** and **Frank Lindbloom** have painted and generously donated a 3' x 3' barn quilt

for our spring raffle! With an estimated value of \$525, this multi-color quilt will enhance any barn, house, or business. This block is also eligible for listing on the Finger Lakes Barn Quilt Trail!

The quilt block is on display at Caruso's Café, 110 South Main St., Naples (www.CarusosCafe.com) now until the **drawing on May 1st**.

* **TICKETS** will be sold in person at Caruso's Café Sunday March 28th 9:30 – 12:30 and Tuesday April 20th 7:30 – 10:30. Tickets are also available from Historical Society board members.

What is a barn quilt?

A barn quilt is a large piece of wood or metal painted to look like a quilt block. The size of the square varies and once painted they are hung on the exterior of a barn, house, garage, or other building.

In the early 2000's, a barn decorating revival in the form of "barn quilts," started showing up. Their geometric patterns resemble those on old hex signs. Archaeological studies reveal hex signs were found in ancient caves carved by prehistoric peoples, and that they, perhaps, depict the sun wheel that early people are said to have worshiped. Circles and stars are predominant geometric designs, symbolizing divinity and the circle of life.

Hex signs are "painted prayers" believed to protect the barns and animals housed inside from fire, lightning, sickness and the work of evil spirits, demons and witchcraft. They might augment fertility of livestock or encourage the right balance of sun and rain for success with crops.

In Pennsylvania, they are a symbol of Pennsylvania-Dutch farmers. History tells us they were brought from the Rhineland to America by Mennonite and other German farmers in the 17th century. They were usually geometric designs, often featuring some type of star. They came in a multitude of designs, sizes, shapes, and colors, although most had a circular border. They looked like giant eyes watching over the farm from the upper front of old wooden barns. A variety of symbols were used all representing a quality such as strength, luck, love, or happiness, just to name a few. Colors, too, have significance: blue conveys protection, green abundance, red strength, white symbolized purity.



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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Cleveland House Museum will open to the public on weekends

July 24 through August 29



Front door of the Cleveland House, corner of Rt. 245 & Main St, Naples

Hours: 1-4pm each day - Specific Dates open:

July 24/25	August 14/15
July 31/August 1	August 21/22
August 7/8	August 28/29

- Watch for an upcoming announcement about two special openings in the fall as well!
- Recommendations regarding masks & appropriate social distancing will be required by all.
- Restroom closed to public.



Barn quilt trails

Today, barn quilt trails are being organized across the country. Quilt trails consist merely of many barn quilts mapped together by location to be visited and photographed. Many viewers love to drive through the countryside to see the blocks. Those following along the trail receive a map with all the locations marked. In our area we have the **Finger Lakes Barn Quilt Trail**. For more information or to print a trail map visit: <https://flxbarnquilttrail.com>

— Trish Lambiase

IN MEMORIAM

Former Honorary Director of the Historical Society **Woodlief (Woody) Thomas** passed away February 10th from complications of Alzheimer's. Woody and his wife Merrillan both served on the Board of Directors and were active volunteers in the pie tent at the Grape Festival and the historical society's ice cream socials and other events. Current board members remember Woody's "interesting insights" and his love of history. Our condolences are extended to the Thomas family. Find his full obituary online at: <https://obits.democratandchronicle.com>

FROM THE ARCHIVES



Hugh Chapman and Gene Chapman have donated to the Naples Historical Society a very large collection of the Chapman and Graves family's history.

In the late 1800s, George Graves donated the property for the 'old' cemetery and church in Riker's Hollow (Ingle-side). His daughter Maria's diaries, covering a period between 1875-1889, have been transcribed by Patricia Fritz and were also donated to the Society by Hugh Chapman in 2019.

The Chapman Collection includes many scrapbooks, diaries and transcriptions of diaries, a family bible with birth, death, and marriage records, a large framed photograph of an ancestor, and many photographs (including the fun photos shown here). **Pam Graves Sweltz** has spent many hours in the Archives going through the photos and identifying as many as she can.

We thank them for this great record of a prominent Naples family.

— Blanche Warner



NAPLES HISTORIC DISTRICT INITIATIVE UPDATE — March 2021

The Landmark Society of Western New York has hired a new Preservation Projects Facilitator and plans are unfolding to move forward with this initiative. On January 15th staff from the Landmark Society and members of the Naples Historic District Committee met with Mayor Schenk to outline the next steps in this process.

Fieldwork by Landmark Society staff will commence in late March or early April, and is expected to last a few weeks. This will include further research and documentation of properties in the three historic districts proposed within the Village, plus a single property, the Fairview Cemetery, identified as eligible to receive designations on the National Register of Historic Places. Landmark Society staff will carry identification, and their work will be accomplished outside, without the need to physically enter structures. Watch for them, and if the opportunity presents itself, introduce yourself.

On February 9th, **Mayor Schenk** coordinated the first in what will be a series of public meetings held to orient residents to the benefits of National Register Designations. Landmark Society staff presented an overview of this initiative and answered questions. 206 people engaged in the live stream during this virtual event, and 455 viewed shortly thereafter for a total of 661. This meeting can be viewed on the Naples Historical Society website at <https://www.naplesnyhistoricalsociety.org/>

Draft nominations are anticipated mid-summer for forwarding to the State Historic Preservation Office. Modifications to the nominations will be made as needed, and then they will be sent to the State Preservation Board. Village property owners will receive notice announcing the nominations. If the nominations are approved by the State Preservation Board, they will then go to the National Park Service for approval and listing on the National Register.

Further public meetings regarding this initiative and the benefits of National Register Designations will be announced over the coming months. The leadership of the Village and the Town of Naples, along with the Naples Historical Society, continue to be enthusiastic and committed to this important initiative.

— Paul J. Lambiase, Chairperson, Naples Historic District Committee

Leaving Our Mark: A Small Town's History During COVID-19 (see Page 4)

Carolyn, 78, Maryland

What has surprised me? Let me start with the professional dedication of the health care workers from hospitals, doctors' offices, to nursing/assisted living homes. I took much of this for granted. These professionals— ALL— have never quit! Understaffed, underpaid, exhausted, they continue working day after day. I'm more appreciative of people who prepare takeout food, stock grocery shelves, write thoughtful articles in our local newspapers. They remain optimistic and it "rubs off". It seems that these folks want to make lives for others better no matter what it takes for them to "be there" day after day.

Ray, 76, Naples

Some friends have completely locked down. I've only seen them once in almost a year. At the same time I've spent more time talking with people on the phone/Zoom

My son-in-law in Alabama came down with COVID-19. He was not taking the precautions, ended up in the ICU for 5 days and the hospital for two weeks. My two grandsons caught it but were not very sick. Strangely my daughter didn't catch it. Strong genes I guess (hope).

Positives: Volunteering at the Open Cupboard. Donating blood. When I did get out to eat, I left bigger than usual tips.

Cindy, 67, Naples

This community has tried to pull together through these long months. There are still many occasions where people help people as much as possible. I have donated to organizations when I can and continued to order out from local restaurants in an effort to keep them in business.

GET TO KNOW OUR PRESIDENT

Wayne Buchar

NHS President

Why did you join the NHS? After researching the history of the Maxfield Inn, I learned a lot about Naples during the 1800's. A lot of that history still exists today in the buildings, homes and structures around us. With the sewers coming in and being available to national chain type businesses, I was worried that much of Naples's historic buildings on Main Street would be torn down to make room for them. I thought I could help to teach others what I learned about Naples and that the knowledge others gained would help to protect the gem of a village that we still have here.

What is one of your favorite stories from Naples, NY history? The story that Billy Marks invited Frederick Douglass to come talk here. Marks had to build a platform for him to talk from, and he offered a free pig roast dinner to all those who attended, because none of the churches would host him.

What does history teach us about ourselves? It teaches us who we are and where we came from. It reveals to us the Core Values of the people that created our village - what they believed in, what they fought for. These are our roots too. It helps us understand why we feel and act a certain way as a community.

Why is history important in our modern world? The Native Americans passed down stories from generation to generation. They were passing down the Core Values of their tribes. These stories taught right and wrong, how to behave, what was precious and sacred to them. This is also what learning about our family's history does for us. Without a strong sense of it we may not understand who we are, why we feel like we do, where we come from and how to behave in different situations. I believe that some of the violence we are seeing today is a lack of understanding of who we are and what we value.

In [one hundred years], what do you hope the Naples Historical Society will tell folks about what Naples was like [today]? That it was a community that pulled together, as it has for centuries, to support our schools, our families and that Naples once again figured out a way to make our businesses prosper. We are so happy to call Naples our home!

— Above interview originally appeared in *The Neapolitan Record* Issue 47, Sept/Oct 2019, reprinted with permission.

Maxfield Inn: Preserving the Past, Securing the Future Historian, craftsman, entrepreneur Wayne Buchar gives Naples landmark new life

By Melody Burri

Wayne Buchar has spent seven years resurrecting a decaying historic landmark in Naples.

Buchar said he could see the grace and charm of the languishing 1841 classical revival mansion immediately.

"When I first walked through, there was nothing here except a grand piano, one light fixture, about half the radiators and two beautiful sets of cut glass doors that lead into the parlor," said Buchar. "But I could see the beauty of it. Just walking around with all the cut glass in the doors and windows, the place was sparkling. It was amazing. You just don't see that anywhere."

Buchar, a former engineering program manager at Xerox, said he'd always dreamed of restoring an old home with his wife, Christine.

So in 2013, with eyes wide open and a strategy fueled by pragmatism, optimism and a never-say-die work ethic, the Buchars took ownership of the Maxfield Inn. It had lain on the market, eroding daily, for five years.

Thankfully, local officials took notice, and initiative, and intervened just in time.

"The village did everything possible to help," said Wayne Buchar. "I got a call from the mayor [Brian Schenk] who offered to meet me at the property with the building inspector and assessment officer. There was no heat — it was 23 degrees — and we sat on the floor and talked. I was really impressed with the village. If they hadn't done all that they did, I probably would have walked away."



Wayne, next to the arbor he built, reproduced to match historic photos of the inn's original gardens.

Working seven days a week from 6 to 8 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. to midnight, 12 months a year for seven years, plus vacations, Buchar logged tens of thousands of hours in back-breaking labor, meticulous restoration and reconstruction, painstaking online research and tireless sourcing of period-specific furnishings.

The extensive research that goes hand-in-hand with restoration has provided an unexpected bonus for Buchar: a hands-on education. "It's almost like space exploration, but instead of exploring the stars, you're going back in time," he said. "I almost feel like a kid. I was never into history, but if they'd done this in school, I'd have been interested." Buchar said he's had many kids who, after visiting the inn, said they wish they knew more about the village and its history.

"A lot of people are saying the young kids don't care about that stuff, and they're absolutely wrong," he said. "Half of my guests are between 25 and 35, and they are so fascinated. They expect me to know about all that and I do. They leave here and say 'someday we want to do this.'"

The promise Buchar — and village officials — saw in the Maxfield Inn seven years ago has now become a reality. Its resurrection has further boosted the community's pride, economic future and historic identity.

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— Excerpts from www.roc55.com, August 22, 2020, reprinted with permission of Editor Wagner Dotto. See complete article with more information about the restoration process & photographs at: <http://www.roc55.com/features/maxfield-inn-preserving-the-past-securing-the-future/>

Living through History: Naples Library survey records stories from Neapolitans about life during COVID-19

Leaving Our Mark: A Small Town's History During COVID-19

To participate in the survey, visit www.NaplesLibrary.org and follow links to arrive at the questionnaire. There are ~25 questions — answer as many or as few as you like. Feel free to share the survey with your friends, family members, and neighbors — the more people participate, the better understanding we'll have of the impact of COVID-19.

John, 69, Naples

My wife went on a cruise in February 2020 out of Florida, and she came back with COVID before the disease was understood and before any tests were available. She was diagnosed with COVID by 2 doctors on telemedicine calls. She is left with a long term, possibly permanent, asthma-like wheeze. I showed no symptoms.

Austin, 24, Naples

I am considered an essential employee because I work for a beer/pop distributor. I have to wear a mask while working in various stores. Nothing has changed at home.

A positive? I was able to keep America drinking during the pandemic.

Penny, 65, Naples

My husband passed without ever being able to hug his children & grandchildren. It's sucked big time.

As the COVID-19 pandemic approached its notorious one-year anniversary this spring, the Naples Library released a survey to invite Neapolitans to share their own stories about what their lives have been like during the past year.

Answers collected so far reveal both common trends and unique individual experiences. One of the overarching themes has been appreciation for how the Naples community has come together to support one another. As well, many more people are taking walks, along with learning to use virtual tools like Zoom. A majority of people miss gathering in public spaces, such as Naples's live music venues, wineries and restaurants.

Shelli, 41, Naples

I am feeling hopeful yet this has worn everyone down, including me. I have a large capacity for positivity but feel it's running low trying to keep the spirits of others up. I relieve stress with exercise, sunshine and fresh air, and stretching/yoga.

I hope future generations see all the creative coping strategies that came out of the pandemic. I want them to know that what can seem negative often has a silver lining, like more time for family and more room to think creatively and do more outside. We learned how to do many things that we used to do inside, outside. Prepare for it by getting yourself a bicycle, cross-country skis and/or snowshoes.

[In the future...] We won't take for granted being able to hang out with friends and extended family, going on vacations, to parties, to church, restaurants, concerts, coffee shops, and pubs. There will continue to be outdoor seating ..., remote learning and working. A large segment of the population will continue to wear masks... and to social distance. Mental health services will finally become a priority.

Kari, 39, Middlesex

...My children's school [closed] for the rest of the 2019/2020 school year. I had to become an at home school teacher. I work weekends at a hospital so I was/am the "stay at home parent". My neighbors were afraid to be near me. At work suddenly PPE was required all day, everyday, however it was hard to find. We had to wear the same mask everyday. We also had to constantly ask for it and were asked several questions as to why one needed it. I was lucky — After the first two weeks of issues ... my sister, another health care worker, was able to give me my own supply. I carry it with me to work every weekend. I do all that I can to make it stretch. We are now in January 2021 and still have issues with PPE. I still carry my own supply. There always been a divide at work. With COVID-19 the divide is more acute. If you are not a doctor or a nurse then you don't get any of the donations to the hospital such as food, hand sanitizer, and masks, even the discounts from the stores.

Jean, 101, Sleepy Hollow

I am feeling fine. I walk once a day outside. I work on my autobiography.

History Book Club, hosted by the Naples Library & the Naples Historical Society on the second Tuesday of each month. The next 6 topics are:
April 13 – The Dust Bowl
May 11 – Prohibition
June 8 – The 1960's
July 13 – Industrial Revolution
August 10 – Colonialism
September 14 – The Gilded Age

Join us for one or all —
Visit www.NaplesLibrary.org or call 585-374-2757 to let the library know that you are interested in receiving the Zoom link information. Choose your own book to read that relates to the designated topic, and share your impressions with the group for engaging discussions.

— Trish Lambiase

HISTORY BOOK CLUB

2ND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH @ 1PM

Contact the Naples Library (see info at left) for Zoom link

