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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Year in Review: 2021 Highlights

Shared by NHS President Wayne Buchar at the annual meeting on Monday, November 15th, held at Morgan Hose Building.

Though 2021 continued to bring many challenges, we kept up with monthly meetings and resumed more activities again. Looking back, we accomplished quite a bit and had a pretty exciting year!!!



Volunteers Rose Hogan, Paul Lambiase during cleanup day at the Mill

ARCHIVES

- Began process of documenting & photographing current businesses of Naples buildings, owners and employees. [see page 2]
- Transported, collected and indexed hundreds of donated items — of all sizes and weights!
- Historical research for 31 families with local ties who contacted us through our NHS website.

BOARD DUTIES

- Reviewed & updated the NHS Board of Directors Responsibilities/Duties/Policies document.
- The executive committee produced a 2022 Balanced Budget.
- Completed & submitted Technical Assistance Grant application.
- Attended workshop on treating historic headstones, sponsored by the Association of Public Historians of New York State.
- Provided general ongoing maintenance for our 5 NHS properties.

THE MILL

- Re-tarped the beams in front of the Mill using salvaged materials from the former Lyons store.
- Trees behind the Mill were cleaned out.
- Moved items from storage container back into the Mill [see page 3]

FLORY PARK

- Spring cleanup in May
- Put up the naming sign & post

MORGAN HOSE BUILDING

- Added Window Shades to protect pictures and documents from UV light.
- Installed surge suppressors.
- Searched for & resolved the ice water leak in the tower.

CLEVELAND HOUSE MUSEUM

- Did a NHS Board Member audit of items needing repair.
- Prepared paperwork for the Preserve New York Grant for an Engineering Study
- Developed a landscape plan.
- Created & planted new garden beds immediately next to the Cleveland House, a combination of Colonial Period flowering plants, herbs, vegetables, and fruits. Planted flower bulbs donated last Fall; trimmed bushes & trees.
- Restored and re-installed the flag pole.
- Added dehumidifiers.
- Completed a 360 degree high definition filming of the home's rare, preserved stenciling. This will increase access for all to the Stencil Room by providing a virtual option. [see page 3]
- Added curtains in the stencil room.
- Paid down \$5,000 on the mortgage.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

- Discussed collaboration with the Naples Central School history department on learning packets and programs about local history for students.
- Helped to create the Explore-NaplesNY Walking Tour map & brochure.
- Gave 2 guided Naples History tours.
- Provided historical photographs of Naples for Caruso's Café & Old School Café.
- Wrote a public letter to the Village expressing the board's opposition to a proposal to add parking spaces in the public park next to Bob's & Ruth's.
- Participated in the Naples Grape Festival set-up & the Naples Grape Pie Contest. [see page 4]
- Contributed design for Naples Grape Festival T-Shirts. 171 shirts were sold, yielding approximately \$2,000 profit to the Naples Grape Festival funds.
- Partnered with Bristol Valley Theater to stage a reading of the Gilbert Emery Play "The Hero" [see page 3]. Created a display to feature WWI related items from our archives, including our quilt collection, a WWI uniform, and sales of the *Naples Bands* books in the lobby.

ONLINE & DIGITAL PRESENCE

- Facebook and Instagram followers continued to grow!
- NHS website was significantly improved; new content routinely added, including a new blog to archive Naples history articles.
- Published and individually sent both printed & digital newsletters to all NHS members.

FUNDRAISING

- Barn Quilt Raffle (quilt donated to us), brought in \$2,400 in donations. [see page 3]
- Began taking orders for a new book: *Naples Bands* by Ken Poole. [see page 2]
- Provided NHS postcards for sale at multiple local retailers.

VOLUNTEERS

- Teams spent multiple work day sessions emptying the container in front of the Mill.
- We had the help of 30+ volunteers for outdoor projects and assistance in the archives.
- Overall, we logged over 1,350 volunteer hours this past year — Thank you everyone!

— Wayne Buchar



A new pictorial history of Naples businesses

The Naples Historical Society (NHS) is creating a pictorial history of Naples businesses in 2021.

Prior albums were done by former Town Historian, **Bill Vierhile**, in 2000 and in 1976. This past summer, NHS board member **Cindy Scoda** organized this project, and took new photos of people and their businesses for an updated photo book.

Finding inspiration in the NHS archives

After Cindy Scoda and her husband moved to Naples from Victor five years ago, one of the first places she spent time was in the NHS archives, following up on stories she had heard about her mother's best friend's mother, and aunt and uncle, who lived in Naples in the early 1900s. After retirement, Cindy had also begun researching her family history on Ancestry.com. Her personal connections to the research increased her curiosity, and soon she was hooked on local Naples history.

Cindy became a Society member and volunteer, and joined Blanche Warner, Trish Lambiase and Joan Luther in the archives every Thursday at the Morgan Hose Building, to organize and catalogue ephemera and artifacts about Naples. At this year's annual meeting in November, Cindy was elected to the board of trustees, and also to serve a new term as the board's secretary.

In 2020, while working in the archives during the first summer of the pandemic,

Cindy came across "old-school" photo albums of Naples businesses in 1976 & 2000, compiled by Bill Vierhile with snapshots and brief hand-written captions. Looking at the photos, it struck her that the year 2000 was already significantly in the past, and she realized it would be good timing to record modern-day businesses in Naples.

The project kicked off with announcements on the NHS Facebook page, and Cindy says she has already met with several local businesses, and has also incorporated information from Rotary presentations such as a recent one about Sutton Spoons. Working on this during the pandemic was not as difficult as one might have thought. Some of the businesses she would still like to reach include a few more B&Bs, restaurants, artists and craftspeople, and anyone else who is interested. She estimates there will be close to 100 businesses and service organizations profiled in total for 2021.

Cindy is finding the project to be a good fit for her retirement time. She has always enjoyed photography as a hobby, taking artistic pictures of flowers and the outdoors. She calls this "a fair weather project, dependent on nice weather." Her goal is to get pictures while the sun shines, and then work on putting a book together during the cooler seasons. She is making efforts to be sure she also covers seasonal businesses not open during the summer, such as Hanggi's Tree Farm.

An updated photo book

Cindy hopes to turn the information about Naples businesses into a printed book, perhaps using a service such as Shutterfly, which allows both text and photos to be arranged with ease. One idea is that the book could also become a fundraiser, with copies printed for the public to purchase, depending on interest. It might also be useful information to make available to local tourism groups.

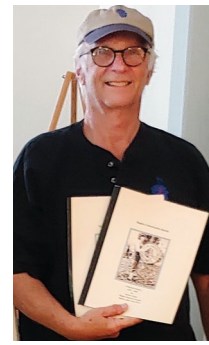
And it will become another invaluable historical document about Naples. Describing her excitement about the project, Cindy says, "Twenty years from now, someone else could be looking at these photos to see what Naples was like."

If you would like your business to be included, please contact Cindy Scoda by email at c_rella55@hotmail.com. She will get in touch with you to set up a time to visit and take photos. As a newer Neapolitan, Cindy says, "I love getting to meet people and discover all the new things happening in the hills of Naples. And when you talk to people, you can usually always find something in common!"

— Excerpts from www.NeapolitanRecord.com, June 1, 2021 article by Kim Torpey (updated to reflect newest details)

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FUNDRAISER



A few months ago, I wrote about **Ken Poole** (shown at left) and the research he was doing about the history of the bands of Naples from

the post Civil War Era up to the recent past. Well, as the weeks went by, he kept finding more and more information from former community band members and from some relatives of the directors of the bands of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The article he was writing turned into a **20 page book with many photographs and illustrations**. The Naples Historical Society is sponsoring the book as a fundraising project. Ken is very generously donating his time and effort to the Society. Ken is instrumental (no pun intended) in organizing the Community Band of more recent vintage.

The History of Naples Bands goes from the post Civil War Era up to the early 20th century. Interest picked up again during the Bicentennial celebrations of 1976. School bands are not included because this is only a history of community bands.

Anne Kennedy, the great granddaughter of Scott Sutton, the inventor of the Sutton Spoon, and well regarded Cornet player in the original Sutton Band has graciously agreed to underwrite this project by underwriting the cost to print 25 copies, if they sell out she will underwrite 25 more. This will help the Naples Historical Society to raise up to a \$1000 dollars to further curate its collections for future generations. Thank you Anne!

The 35 page book will be available for a donation of \$20.00. It is in color and is well bound. Ken will sign the first 25 copies. A black and white copy is available for \$15. If you are interested in obtaining a copy, please email us at

NHSNYinfo@gmail.com.

Please include your name and address.

— Blanche Warner,
via our Facebook page



NAPLES MAIN ST.-1976



Jim LaTina, Dave Burke, Dick Cole, Chief - Ron Edgerton, Bob Ratcliffe, Bob Trischler, Hugh Chapman

Above: Page from 1976 photo album with photos and hand-written captions by Bill Vierhile. See more photos from Bill Vierhile's 1976 & 2000 collections shared on the Naples Historical Society's Facebook page.



AND THE WINNER IS... This May, Marty Chapman stopped by to pick up the beautiful Barn Quilt that his mother, Candy Chapman, won during our spring raffle. Thanks again to Deb and Frank Lindbloom for donating the quilt to the NHS!

Live stage reading of Emery's
The Hero Sunday October 24th,
@ Bristol Valley Theater, Naples



In 1921, Naples-born playwright Gilbert Emery made history as this family drama, set at the close of the first world war, opened on Broadway! After acquiring a copy of the original script, NHS board member **Sara Almekinder** (in photo at left) began planning a collaboration with BVT to bring a performance to Naples, nearly 100 years later! Leading up to this event, Sara shared several posts on our Facebook page, covering fascinating details — from where Gilbert lived in Naples to his glamorous exploits in Broadway and Hollywood, and a "virtual film festival" with links to all of his films! Sara's research about Gilbert Emery can also be found compiled and archived on our website's NEW BLOG at <https://www.naplesnyhistoricalsociety.org/blog>

Special visitors at the Cleveland House Museum this summer

Although the Cleveland House Museum was not open to the public this year, several private tours were provided to some special visitors.

To enquire about tours, please contact NHSNYinfo@gmail.com

Photos at right: 8th and 9th Generation Clevelands: Allison Baier, Bryan Pillai and son Liam; 7th Generation Clevelands: Anne

and Clete Baier; Blanche Warner and John Kucko (of Channel 8 news), after Kucko's photo calendar signing at the Naples Hotel; Mike Wasserman and assistant in stencil room. This summer Linda Lefko, Past President of the Center for Painted Wall Preservation (CPWP), and videographer, Mike Wasserman, owner of Virtually Real Solutions, visited the Cleveland House to create a **360-degree video of the stencil room** for the CPWP archives. This video can be used in the Cleveland House Museum to make experiencing the unique room accessible to all (see Wish List, page 4).



Christmas in August!

Photo at left: A rare terrazzo slab? Um, no — that's the bottom of a table from the old Sweet Shoppe. It has a lot of chewing gum on it! During the month of August, 14 volunteers worked over 71 hours on three Saturdays to remove contents of the storage container, in preparation for moving the container from the front of the Mill. Opening the doors to the container that had been closed for the



past several years was like opening Christmas presents. The Mill again is full of Naples History! Left: Naples Library's new Director, Kendyl Litwiller, cleaning off 1962 sign for the library. (photos by Blanche Warner)



Above: Charlie Kingsley holds early hand-painted signage for Vierhile's.

DONATE

To make your tax-deductible gift online or by mail, visit the **DONATE** button at [NaplesNYHistoricalSociety.org](https://www.NaplesNYHistoricalSociety.org)

Stories from Naples history help us to understand where we came from and what has been important to our community as it has grown & continues to grow. Your donations assist the preservation and sharing of these stories through our collections, exhibits and programs.

on Facebook: [@naplesnyhistory](https://www.facebook.com/naplesnyhistory)
"Naples NY Historical Society"

on Instagram:
[@naples_ny_historical_society](https://www.instagram.com/naples_ny_historical_society)

on YouTube:
Naples Historical Society Naples, NY

NAPLES GRAPE FESTIVAL: “Yesterday & Today”

By Trish Lambiase

YESTERDAY

(based on research of articles and papers in the archives of the Naples Historical Society)

The 1st Annual Naples Fair and Grape Festival took place in 1872, the same year that Naples Memorial Town Hall was completed as a memorial to the 225 Naples boys who served with the Union Army — in fact, it was the first event held in Memorial Town Hall.

When the Naples Agricultural Fair was established in the 1880's, the grape festivals became a part of that fair, usually held the first complete weekend in September. Alas, moving into the next century, the Naples Fair became a victim of WWII, as were the grape events.

Decades later, in 1961, the Village of Naples created the Naples Public Relations Commission to promote two local activities: the Naples Creek Rainbow Trout Derby and the Naples Grape Festival.

Some famous people who were part of the festival in the 1960's included U.S. Senator Robert Kennedy, news radio personality Paul Harvey and circus clown Emmett Kelly, Jr. Unfortunately, the grape festival was discontinued again after 1971 due to unruly crowds causing destruction and traffic and parking problems.

After a 16-year absence, the Naples Grape and Wine Festival was revived in 1988, to herald the 100th anniversary of Widmer's



Scenes along Main St., Naples during the Naples Grape Festival, 1965: Waiting for the parade to begin (photo by Jean Otto-Macintosh); Senator Robert F. Kennedy addresses festival crowd (D&C photo by Dick Eisenhart, via NHS archives)



Wine Cellars and to serve as the start of the Town of Naples' bicentennial celebration. In 1989, Naples Bicentennial year, the festival was made a two-day event featuring arts and crafts, music and a grape pie contest.

The grape pie contest was a great attraction. Rochester food writers and editors judged the first contest. After the contest, the winning pies were auctioned piece by piece to benefit the Naples Library. Numerous pies were baked throughout the village by people who all had “a secret recipe”. However, none of the top ten bakers entered the pie contest because they all thought they were number one!

In 1990, the event became co-sponsored by the Naples Historical Society and Naples Rotary. A coordinator was hired and members of each organization took turns acting as chairperson for four years.

In 2008, due to insurance concerns, an agreement was made to declare Naples Rotary the sole owner of the festival with insurance coverage under Rotary International. The “Naples Grape and Arts Festival LLC”

was formed with festival proceeds divided between the Naples Historical Society and Naples Rotary.

TODAY

After serving as the festival's executive director for 18 years, **Donna Scott** retired at the close of the 2021 event. This presented the two co-sponsors of the festival, The Naples Historical Society and Naples Rotary, the opportunity to examine the internal workings of this great community event.

A new “Naples Grape and Arts Festival LLC” structure is beginning to take shape with a transparent and community designed focus. An executive committee has been formed with **Tom Hawks** as President, **Jo Anne Alliet** as Director of Operations, and a committee of stakeholders that includes representatives from Rotary, the Naples Historical Society, Naples Central School, businesses, local government and the community. Ideas are being formulated and will be announced soon...stay tuned!

Scenes from 2021 Grape Festival, L to R: Folding festival Tshirts inside Morgan Hose: Margo Ulmer, Cindy Scoda, Joan Luther, Rose Hogan, Trish Lambiase; tamping down mulch near Arbor Hill tent: T. Lambiase, Blanche Warner, Holly Deussenberg; Treasurer Nancy Linehan; Rotarians Judy Miller and Tom Hawks greet Brahm-Moore Wine Tent visitors. (photos by B. Warner)



2022 Wish List

- 👉 Gift cards for office products
- 👉 3 sponsors to underwrite newsletter printing (\$175.00 each)
- 👉 Approximately \$2,700 for computer/ monitor equipment for showing Cleveland House stencil room 360 video
- 👉 Kodak SCANZA digital film and slide scanner for use in the archives (approximately \$175)

*Thank you to everyone who has donated to our efforts! If you are interested in contributing towards this wish list, please contact **NHSNYinfo@gmail.com***



2021-2022 Officers & Board Members

President:	Directors:
Trish Lambiase	Sara Almekinder
Vice President:	Jun Liu
Blanche Warner	Joan Luther
Secretary:	Shane Stone
Cindy Scoda	Michael Terry
Treasurer:	Kim Torpey
Nancy Linehan	Margo Ulmer