

Inside this Issue:

President's Message: 2023-24 in Review . . .	1
Naples Red Mill Updates	2
Thank You, John Murphy	3
Historic Preservation Awards	3
How Naples got its Name	4
2024-25 Board Members	4
Looking Ahead to 2025	4



Detail of *Homeward Bound* painting by Naples artist Jane Loomis

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: 2023-24 YEAR IN REVIEW

Presented by NHS President **Trish Lambiase** at our 2024 Annual Meeting on Monday, November 18th, held at the historic Morgan Hose Building. "Previous annual reports have been organized A-Z or with numbers. This year it is all about the P's in **Preservation - Preserving the Past.**"



NHS President
Trish Lambiase

Historic Preservation Awards

(see page 3 for house descriptions)

• John & Linda Almekinder

28 Reed Street

• Matt & Cindy Burt

2 Elizabeth Street

This program recognizes and supports the efforts of individuals, businesses and organizations who have made significant contributions to the preservation of buildings, neighborhoods, traditions and other historic resources in Naples, NY.

Programs

- Cookie Sale & Holiday Boutique
- Cake decorating class with professional decorator **Hannah Erhardt**
- Chocolate Cake Contest during Vintage Vines & Valentines
- Solar Eclipse Viewing Party @ Naples Community Park & time capsule kick off
- Community Yard Sale @ Naples Community Park
- Cursive Writing Class during Naples Summer Recreation Program
- Headstone Cleaning Class
- Cleveland House summer events:
 - Raffle drawing & **Darryl Abraham** woodburning demonstration
 - Children's Day - *Mouse in the Cleveland House* story read by **Gail Rumsey** & scavenger hunt
- Research Talk & Slide Show about Naples artist **Jane Loomis**, given by Board Member **Ken Poole**

Porch Talks

given by Naples Town Historian **John Murphy** (see page 3)

- Naples POW Camp during WWII
- Naples Fires
- Naples Early Hotels

Projects

- "Hungry for History" aluminum Marker procured & installed at Memorial Town Hall – recognizing Naples Grape Pies!
- Restoration of West Hollow Cemetery by Board Member **Ken Poole** and member **Dave Bloom**
- Mural begun on container at Mill by Board Members **Kim Torpey** and **Jun Liu**

Participation

768+ VOLUNTEER HOURS!

- Morgan Hose building – 568 hours in archives, research, projects, etc.
- Cleveland House – 199 hours while open, plus gardening, cleaning, repairs, painting, and maintenance year-round
- Grape Festival – folding garments & posters, merchandise sales, set-up & clean-up
- PLUS hours at board member and committee meetings and at home; working on projects, individually and collectively; posting & engaging on social media— We love all of your participation!

Priceless Membership in NHS

160+ members:

- 85 in Naples
- 51 from other NYS locales
- 25 out of state

Presentations

- Canandaigua Chapter DAR donated an American flag that flew over their headquarters in Washington, D.C. in honor of NHS, followed by flag ceremony and tour of the Cleveland House.
- Landmark Society of Western NY added Memorial Town Hall to their 2024 "Five to Revive" list. This list calls attention to five properties (buildings, landscapes, or structures) in Western NY that are in need of investment. The LSWNY works collaboratively with owners and developers to facilitate investment and foster rehabilitation so these structures can again play an active role in their communities.

Progress on Properties

- Naples Red Mill – the waterwheel pit was cleaned out in the spring, a professional engineer was engaged to do structural drawings for a steel structure to stabilize two bulging stone walls. A stone mason gave us a quote for repointing some foundation walls. Work continues on re-siding and making more temporary windows.
- Cleveland House – A stone walkway was uncovered this fall and work has begun on restoration of the front door threshold and plinths on the original entry brought to Naples by oxen in the 1790's. The proceeds from the sale of the Carriage House this fall have paid off the mortgage and remaining funds were put in a new account fund for the rehabilitation of the building.

Promotions/PR/Presence

- Three newsletters (thanks to our generous sponsors for printing costs) – December, April, September
- Mill article in *2024 Naples Tourism Guide*
- Social Media numbers, at press time:
 - Facebook → 3,300+ followers
 - Instagram → 1073 followers
 - YouTube → 44 subscribers (****a committee is currently working on updating the Naples walking tours here and on our website for 2025).
- *NEW* Cleveland House Group on Facebook → 79 members

Provide

- 2 \$500 Scholarships to NHS seniors are provided annually in memory of past board members Bill Vierhile and Bill Cooper. This year's recipients were Joshua Gleason and Abigail Betrus.
- Answers to e-mail and website inquiries (Oh, we get so many interesting questions — Keep 'em coming!)

Proud Partnerships

- Naples Rotary – Grape Festival collaborators
- Caruso's Café, where we maintain a wall of Naples, NY history
- Finger Lakes Visitor's Connection Virtual Museum – Naples is part of the \$900,000 grant to add QR codes and augmented reality experiences on several historic markers. (cont. page 2)

Our Mission: The mission of the Naples Historical Society is to promote an interest in the history of Naples, New York and the surrounding area by maintaining and displaying historical collections and exhibits, and by providing educational programs.

Our Vision: The vision of the Naples Historical Society is to spread a love of the Naples community by preserving our local history, discovering new knowledge together, and sharing our resources with all.

Naples Red Mill Updates ~ December 2024



We reached our first goal for Bill's Dream!

Our \$100,000 Bill's Dream Capital Campaign goal has been reached! Funds raised to date through donations and grants are \$100,061.34; expenditures to date have been \$10,800 leaving \$89,261.34 in the fund. Thank you to everyone who has contributed, and we look forward to celebrating together in our future museum!

In the meantime, we will continue to raise the needed funds for this important project. One way to contribute is by becoming a "VIP Member".

VIP MEMBERSHIP (Very Important Preservationist) \$250 annually

This new membership category directly supports the restoration of our buildings. VIP membership dues are deposited in the Capital Reserve Fund for preservation of our historic buildings. VIP's receive free admission to all programs where a fee is charged and will be invited to a special annual VIP reception in a historic location in the summer of 2025. Consider becoming a VIP member when your dues are up for renewal.



We are only at the beginning of this ambitious project, and we continue to seek funding that will be necessary to keep moving forward. We are buoyed by all the support we have received so far, and look forward to finding more benefactors and professional grant writers.

We are grateful that donations to Bill's Dream continue to arrive, and would like to acknowledge below additional donations received since our September newsletter.

BILL VIERHILE LEVEL (\$5,000+)

PLATINUM LEVEL (\$1,000 - \$4,999)
Elizabeth (Beppy) Hawks
Hollerhorn Distilling

GOLD LEVEL (\$500 - \$999)
Diane Reynolds

SILVER LEVEL (\$250 - \$499)
Bruce Mansfield
Rick & Kate Massie in memory
of Bob & Katie Sykes
Dawn & Frank R Shumway III

BRONZE LEVEL (\$100 - \$249)
Trish Lambiase in honor of
Blanche Warner

ADDITIONAL DONORS
Winifred Best
Tibby Canfield
James Kersting

Stabilization Progress

We have received a waterwheel pit shoring design from Bison Engineering to stabilize two bulging stone walls, one in the pit and another in the foundation. A more sophisticated steel frame structure is required than originally planned, now bringing the new quote to more than double the original. Unfortunately, this new quote will deplete most of the "Bill's Dream" funds, so alternative remedies are being sought.

Past President Wayne Buchar continues work on siding replacement, thanks to **Baker Logging & Firewood** for donated siding and **Diversified Contracting** for the loan of their sky lift. Salvaged replacement beams have been repositioned to protect them until installation. Look for more progress next spring.

2024 Year in Review

(continued from page 1)

Proud Partnerships

RIT's MAGIC Studios will be producing the animations, graphics, and augmented reality. Markers in Naples slated to receive the QR codes include these locations: the Town Square, Grimes Glen, and Memorial Town Hall. Board Member **Jeff Wells** has been scanning documents for this project.

- Ontario/Yates Small Historical Societies
- Naples Library, Bristol Valley Theater, Explore Naples as opportunities arise

Proceeds

- Grape Festival - record proceeds this year: \$28,530.32
- Chocolate Cake Contest revenue \$938.00
- Spring raffle raised \$1,920.00
- Bill's Dream Donations this fiscal year \$11,923.66
- Naples Turkey Trot raised \$603.00



Left: Kim Torpey, Tim Williams and Gail Rumsey at the Naples Grape Festival Merchandise Tent in front of Memorial Town Hall on September 28, 2024. Many thanks to all the festival volunteers, organizers & revelers, this year's festival was an outstanding success! All the planning and setting up before the festival, folding tshirts & hoodies, rolling posters, staffing the merchandise and pie contest booths, tearing down after - could not have been done without our volunteers' help. Indeed, through rain & shine, we talked with many old and new friends, welcomed a few new members, and mostly just had a lot of fun. We hope you'll all join us again next year! (Photo by Trish Lambiase)

Right: Custom artwork created by Darryl Abraham, for our Spring raffle Winner, Greta Selin-Love, depicting an early fall day at her home. Greta says, "I am so grateful for this beautiful day, our amazing community, and for my new Darryl piece!" Thank you to Darryl for his generous donation of his talents for our fundraiser, and to everyone who entered the raffle. We're always looking for fun and creative new fundraising opportunities — Reach out if you'd like to help! nhsnyinfo@gmail.com (Photo by Greta Selin-Love)



Congratulations to this year's Historic Preservation Award Winners!

by Trish Lambiase

During our Annual Meeting in November, we presented awards to homeowners of two properties this year. Both properties are located in historic districts.

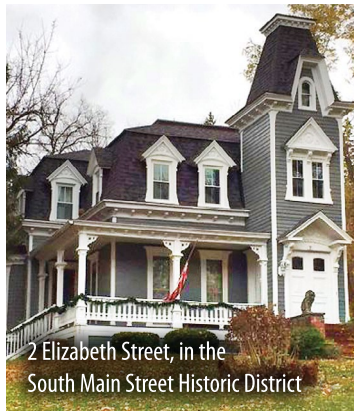


28 Reed Street,
in the Central Naples Historic District

John and Linda Almekinder purchased their house in 1981 and have been renovating and restoring ever since. It is a Second Empire home with an ornate wood shingle mansard roof, decorative lintel trim and gable hood, built sometime

between 1874 and 1904. Period furnishings include a wood burning cook stove and cast-iron kitchen sink. The footprint of the original house remains intact with 8" wide painted pine floors throughout. Cherry or gum wood window and door moldings are all original as well as a curved open staircase.

Their most recent and noticeable project is the beautiful new exterior paint colors (shown in the photo above). Minor repairs around the mansard areas were made and will continue. The Almekinders are proud of their home and will continue to maintain it as one of the many lovely homes and buildings in the Naples community.



2 Elizabeth Street, in the
South Main Street Historic District

Cindy and Matt Burt purchased their house in 2000 and have also been renovating and restoring it ever since. It is a Second Empire home as well, circa 1860 with an Italianate style corner wrap-around porch with decorative posts and brackets.

Initially most work was done inside, modernizing and up-

dating while keeping the Victorian and French influences. More recently, front porch decking and stairs were rebuilt. This year 16 second story windows and sills were replaced; and the mansard roof, turret and dormers were sided with architectural shingles to resemble the color and appearance of the original slate that could not be restored. Damaged clapboards and eaves were replaced, and the house was painted a stately medium gray with white trim. Future plans are to remove the first story storm windows and repair and paint the original 92" tall windows.

House legends include its reference to the Domm house or the haunted house. Several members of the Domm family have stopped by over the years, sharing memories. Gid Hanggi remembers his mom sending him to the basement to retrieve his dad during prohibition as it was a speakeasy of sorts. There are still remnants of a small bar in the basement. If anyone has any more knowledge or stories of the house, the Burts would love to hear them.

Thank you, John Murphy, for your time as our Naples Town Historian

by Kim Torpey

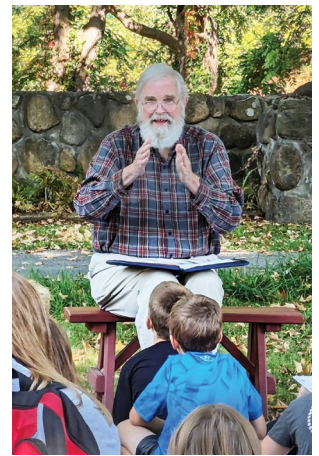
John Murphy has one of those minds that can file away information and pull it back out again with precise detail. He says, "I've just always been wired that way." For the past 7 years, John has shared those skills to benefit our community, helping to organize and preserve the historical society's collection, offering informative talks on a range of popular Naples topics, and introducing school children to Naples history, which he admits has been his favorite part.

Growing up in Fairport, John's father fostered his passion for history with regular visits to local places of historical significance. As a young adult, John fell in love with the Bristol hills, frequenting Bristol Mountain for live music, and even briefly bartending at the Purple Pig. In the 1970s, his career as a special education teacher with BOCES took him around the state. When presented with an opportunity to return to this area, he centered a compass on Bristol Mountain and drew a 10-mile radius to determine options. His pencil landed on Naples and Bloomfield, where he and his wife, Jan, an art teacher, each respectively found employment in education.

John fondly recalls spending "hours and hours" with Bill Vierhile when Bill was the Town Historian, going through the society's collections in the Red Mill. "I was fascinated by Bill's love of Naples history." In 2018, with encouragement from John Cowley and Bill Cooper, John stepped into the role himself, a few years after Bill Vierhile passed. In this role, he has been generous with his skills, energies and resources: donations of new equipment to keep the NHS up to date; maintenance of public spaces (regular lawn-mowing, landscaping, diseased tree removals); oversight on the extensive remediation project to preserve artifacts within the Old Mill from Powderpost Beetles, renovation of the Morgan Hose Building basement — and his most enjoyed pastime: leading entertaining public walking tours and porch talks. What are the most popular topics with people? Stories about the founding of the village and the overlapping time period with the Native Seneca who lived here; and military stories, such as learning about Neapolitans who participated in the War of 1812 ("several are buried in Fairview Cemetery"), the Civil War ("Over 200 men served in the Union Army"), and WW2. His favorite audiences are school children, who get a kick out of imagining what school was like for early Neapolitans, such as walking several miles to school each day, and a teacher hired just for punishment!

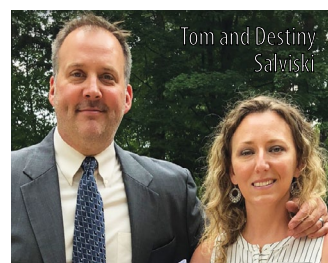
At the end of this year, John Murphy will step down from the official title of Naples Town Historian, though he looks forward to continuing collaboration with NCS educational programs and working with young students.

Through the years, he has developed his own affection for Naples. "People here have a lot of pride in this community, and work hard to protect it." He notes that learning our history enables us to see the continuation of that pride, even when "there've been many rough times — When you look back, we've gone through a lot. And we seem to have survived."



John Murphy teaching NCS 3rd graders about Naples history at Fairview Cemetery (photo by Blanche Warner)

MEET OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBER



Tom Salviski

We are pleased to welcome Tom Salviski as a new board member of the Naples Historic Society. Tom earned his bachelor's degree in Technology Education from SUNY Oswego and began his career as an educator before transitioning into real estate brokerage and development. Over the past 20 years, he has developed and restored numerous historical properties throughout the greater Rochester area. Four years ago, Tom and his family moved to Naples after purchasing and revitalizing the historic Naples Hotel, further deepening their connection to the town's rich history.

How Naples Got Its Name?

The area now known as “Naples, NY” was initially settled by the Seneca Nation, who called their settlement Nundawao. The first white settlers came in 1789, and called their settlement Watkinstown, after one of the original settler families, the Watkins. In 1794, the name was changed to Middletown, because it was halfway between Canandaigua and Bath by stage coach. In 1808, the name was changed to Naples. Neapolitan lore attributes this name to a European aristocrat who visited in the 1790s and said the area reminded him of Naples, Italy. Historic newspaper accounts describe a French duke who visited several communities in this area around 1795, including the Metcalf Tavern, whose former building still stands on Mt. Pleasant Street:

“The first tavern in Naples was started about 1794 by Jabez Metcalf, near the old Town House, a few rods west of the main highway, in what was then the center of the settlement. It was on sloping land and had two stories in front and one in the rear. It was not large, but large enough to have a good sized ball room. This tavern did business for twenty years or more, and is principally famous for having had Louis Philippe of France [...] as a guest while he was wandering through this country in disguise [in exile].”

— “Old Taverns in Naples and Vicinity”, *Naples News*, January 24, 1901

“In 1795 the Duke of Liancourt, going from Bath to Canandaigua, passed through Middletown and, stopping at Captain Metcalf’s tavern, spent the night. This was after the downfall of Louis XVI, and members of the Bourbon family were obliged to leave France, and the Duke, who was heir apparent of the French throne, came to America and [...] traveled quite extensively throughout this part of Ontario County.”

— “History of Naples” by Jane Mills, 1896; republished in *The Naples Record*, October 14, 1936

“The same year [1795], the Duke of Liancourt, afterward [known as] Louis Philippe, the citizen king of the French, in company with Captain Williamson, stayed one night at the house of Capt. Jabez Metcalf.”

— “Annals of Naples” by Seymour H. Sutton, 1853; republished in *The Naples Record*, September 5, 1928

The story remembered by Neapolitans goes on to say that the Duke declared that the only other place in the world with as much natural beauty was Naples, Italy. These words traveled through Middletown, and in 1808, the village leaders adopted the name “Naples.”



Looks like Naples to me!

Louis Philippe I, Citizen King of the French 1830-1848 (Portrait by Franz Xaver Winterhalter, 1848)

Season's Greetings & BEST WISHES TO ALL FOR A **HAPPY NEW YEAR** FILLED WITH **PEACE + GOOD HEALTH** from All of Us at the Naples Historical Society

2024-2025 Officers & Board Members

President:	Directors:
Trish Lambiase	Wayne Buchar
Vice President:	Jun Liu
Blanche Warner	Joan Luther
	Ken Poole
Secretary:	Tom Salviski
Cindy Scoda	Michael Terry
Treasurer:	Kim Torpey
Will Sutherby	Jeff Wells

- on YouTube: Naples Historical Society Naples, NY
- on Instagram: @naples_ny_historical_society
- on Facebook: @naplesnyhistory “Naples NY Historical Society” & “Cleveland House Museum - Naples NY History”

Thank you to members **Jack and Sharon Fredericks**, who sponsored the printing of this issue of our newsletter. Let us know if you would like to sponsor the printing of our next newsletter for \$190.00

Coming in Summer 2025: Our new video-guided walking tour of Naples, including the site of the former Metcalf Tavern!

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2025



February 8th
Saturday, 1-4pm
 @ Morgan Hose Building,
 22 Mill Street, Naples
 (during Vintage Vines & Valentines)

Fairview Cemetery Renovations to continue under the supervision of Ken Poole and Dave Bloom

Headstone preservation activities led to several exciting conversations on our Facebook page this past year, revealing new mysteries, preserving old stories, and beautifying this historic treasure. Watch for news about Ken's next plans for this popular landmark.

Abolitionists & Suffragists: Local Allies of Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass

(Spring date TBA) We are excited to invite our neighbors from the **Bristol Hills Historical Society** to share their popular talk on how the Naples-to-Rochester region's giants of the abolitionist and suffrage movements — Frederick Douglass, Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Matilda Joslyn Gage, Helen Pitts, William Marks, and Emily Parmely Collins — all met here, and how they forged friendships and cooperation in their missions. Learn how their local speeches, events, and activism helped lead to the post-Civil War constitutional amendments and to a more just America.