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LATE SUMMER NEWSLETTER | SEPTEMBER 2026 | P.O. Box 489, Naples, NY 14512 | NHSNYinfo@gmail.com | www.NaplesNYHistoricalSociety.org

Membership Support Matters

When we preserve our history, we strengthen our community.

Exploring Naples history isn't just about the past. It's about understanding how Naples became the community that we are proud to call home today, rediscovering our identity together, and inspiring future generations.

Throughout this issue, find the  icon highlighting activities made possible by membership financial support.

These places we cherish, the *traditions* we celebrate, and the *stories* that connect generations don't preserve themselves. They endure because people who

love this community choose to protect them — through the efforts of our board members and volunteers (everything we do is entirely volunteer-run, we do not have one single paid staff), all fueled by the ongoing support of our Membership.

When you become a member of the Naples Historical Society, you become part of that legacy. Your membership helps us to keep sharing the stories of the *people* who built our community, along with discovering new ones, to celebrate the *landmarks* and events that define Naples, to foster *pride* in our heritage. Every exhibit, walking tour,

Continued, back cover



Splendiferous!

splendiferous *adjective* — Remarkably fine, magnificent, splendid. colloquial and humorous, origin U.S. (a word from medieval times re-popularized in the early 1800s, according to *Oxford English Dictionary*)

Cleveland House Museum Updates

The outside transformation of the Cleveland House (CH) has been dramatic this summer, with its new paint job  by **Robert Birdsall Painting Service** securing its visual prominence at the northern gateway to the Naples village. The Buildings & Grounds committee chose Sherwin Williams 'Wild Currant' for the house and 'Biscuit' for the trim, with approval from the board. The new colors were chosen in honor of the early white settlers of Naples and their New England roots. Colonial New England period colors were dictated by natural, earth-based pigments like sienna, ochre and iron oxide. Kim Torpey created a stencil for '1794' (the date when the house was built) in a font style to match existing CH signage by Naples artist Ira Randall. (Did you know that he once had a studio in part of the Cleveland House?)

In June, NHS President **Trish Lambiase** and Past President **Wayne Buchar** met with CEO of the Landmark Society, Wayne Goodman, and historic window expert Steve Jordan to strategize restoration of the CH windows. Steve identified which panes were most likely original! Watch for information to come on window restoration.

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It's All About the Grapes

This year's official Naples Grape Festival t-shirt design is all about the star of the show! Designed by Board Member **Kim Torpey** and screen-printed by **Chris Abraham**, the shirt is 100% cotton, grape purple with purple-plum and green inks (see image below).

Pre-event Merch Sales

@ Morgan Hose Building,
22 Mill St., Naples
Thursdays from 1-3pm
8/27, 9/3, 9/10, 9/17

• T-SHIRTS

Short Sleeve \$25
Long Sleeve \$30
S, M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL

• BASEBALL CAPS \$25

khaki with purple brim, and embroidered Grapefest logo

For pre-event sales, Cash & Checks made payable to "Naples Grape Festival" accepted. All proceeds are shared by the NHS and Naples NY Rotary Club.

Scan this code to sign up to Volunteer —> during the Grape Festival



Thank You

In honor of what would have been Bill Vierhile's 100th birthday, we invited members and friends to make a donation to "Bill's Dream" to restore and transform the Naples Red Mill into a museum for future generations. We are grateful for the great response we received! ♥ Thank you to the following donors for their contributions:

Darryl & Janice Abraham
Kelli Becka
Kevin & LeeAnn Barton/
Lock Stock Restaurant
Shirley Braun
Bruce Capron
Jo Cornish
Priscilla Crawford
Sandy Elwell
Tracy & Jim Erwin
Sharon & Jack Fredericks
Jim & Elaine Hilton
David Jacobs

& Anne Peacock-Jacobs
Valerie Knoblauch
Larry Letteney
Jerry Ludwig
Bo & Patrice Lysell
Ray Mueller
Dr. Preston Pierce
Ken Poole
Diane Reynolds
Susanne Schwartz
Cindy Scoda
John Scura &
Rachel Scura Lickliter
Timothy Stone

CONTRIBUTIONS IN MEMORY OF

Coach Gary Schenk
made by Jeanne Schenk
Mabel Morehouse
made by Susan Schroeder
Beth Flory
made by Katherine Odell
The Walker, Tyler, Woodruff
and Blake Families of Naples
made by Tracy Walker
The Huber/Mann Families
made by Babette Huber
Marge Kidd
made by Caroline
Kidd Forrester
Betty Rose and Bob Dean
made by Glenn
and Barbara Reed

Summer 2026 Preservation Progress



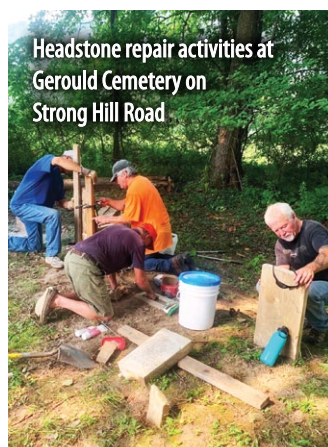
Cleveland House Museum,
a visual treat from every angle
this summer



Trish Lambiase & crew,
building a new stone wall for the
Cleveland House



Wayne Buchar & Paul Lambiase
refurbishing the museum's
fireplace display



Headstone repair activities at
Gerould Cemetery on
Strong Hill Road

Cleveland House Museum

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Past President **Wayne Buchar** is working with local architect **Shanna Williams** on drawings for the porch repair, to get a building permit. Quotes are being reviewed for doing this repair and soffit trim repair.

Charlie Kingsley and **Wayne** have nearly finished the full cleaning of the basement, a laborious and important task.

Construction to replace an original, crumbling stone wall has begun, led by **Trish Lambiase** every Saturday, 9-11am unless raining. All help welcome - join us, no experience necessary, or just stop by to say hello. Be a part of CH history by signing and dating a stone and leaving it in our parking lot. Stone of all shapes and sizes will be used in the wall.

Naples Red Mill

Wayne Buchar continues design work for the extended front porch, to enable the usage of the RSO ("Rail Station Office") door to the outside and create a standing platform to aid in RSO front siding replacement. Shanna Williams will help with the design and drawing approvals for the Building Permit. Thank you to Shanna, who is donating her time for these projects.

Morgan Hose Building

The "Archive Angels" enjoyed a visit from Cassidy Percoco, Curator of the John Wehle Gallery, Genesee Country Village & Museum (GCV) in July. She viewed our textile storage and shared suggestions for categorizing, and more useful resources. This is part of our strategic plan to review and update collection policies and procedures. In mid-August, Cassidy treated the Angels to

a reciprocal "backstage tour" of the GCV gallery's archives and fascinating preservation techniques. Wow, what an inspiring field trip! Visit the NHS Archive Angels at the Morgan Hose Building during open hours every Thursday, 1-3pm.

Pioneer Cemeteries

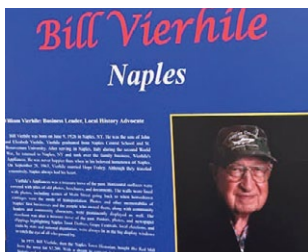
Naples Town Historian **Ken Poole** leads repair and restoration efforts at local pioneer cemeteries each Wednesday. The group's main activity this summer has been at the Gerould Cemetery on Strong Hill Road, where several footstones were recovered, inspiring Ken to share, "In praise of the lowly footstone: Many headstones are not oriented to the east leaving us to guess where the body actually is; footstones define the cemetery plot space and where the inhabitant rests. They also help us when there is no headstone, the initials carved into them often give us a clue in determining who is buried there. In the 18th/19th century the space between the headstone and footstone was considered sacred and was not to be stepped on. The modern large 360 lawnmower spelled the end of the foot stone as they needed the space to maneuver around the cemetery. And finally, to my eye they offer a visual rhythm to the cemetery layout that headstones don't offer.

This summer we spent a lot of time finding, digging up and matching foot stones to their headstones. We are fortunate in Naples to have as many as we do. Many cemeteries have lost theirs. As always a huge thank you to the Town of Naples for underwriting this project. A big thank you to the 'Gravers' David Bloom, Chip Weismiller, Kevin Johnson, Mike Kolzac and Donna LaChance for consistently showing up and doing the hard work." — Ken Poole

HOT SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS



June 6, 2026 • Watkestown Day at Old Town Square/ Kiandaga Park — In the spirit of America 250, the NHS collaborated with local businesses to celebrate "Naples today and the Watkestown roots that started it all," within the location of Watkestown, the 1790s settlement that later became Naples! Visitors to the park and surroundings followed in the footsteps of Naples founders, learning more about the history of each location. Highlights included a live blacksmithing demonstration, guided walks by Tracy Erwin and Naples Historian Kenton Poole, crafting events and live music at various businesses, as well as opportunities to meet folks from Hospeace House, Naples Rotary, Bristol Valley Theatre, and the Kiandaga Chapter of the D.A.R.



June 13, 2026 • Bill Vierhile's 100th Birthday Celebration at Morgan Hose Building — A wonderful early summer evening for reminiscing, laughing, and no shortage of delicious cupcakes & ice cream cake. After unveiling a "Changemakers" display about Bill (courtesy of Ontario County Historical Society - shown at left; see it now in the window of what was once Vierhile's Appliance Store on Main St.), NHS Past Presidents Wayne Buchar and John Murphy each spoke of Bill's passion for Naples and preserving our history, Skip Miller talked about Bill's devotion to Naples Rotary (he never missed a meeting!), and then stories flowed from the others gathered. Thank you to everyone who joined us and to all the volunteers who made this possible.



July 11, August 2 & 29, 2026 • Special Presentations at the Cleveland House Museum — Many thanks to our summer presenters! Nationally acclaimed quilt artist **Pat Pauly** (at right, with one of our quilts), joined us twice to present "Naples Quilts in the Quilting Universe," an entertaining and informative talk that gave us new appreciation for how well the quilts from our archives preserve the stories of Naples. **Deb Meek**, owner of Two Black Dog Crafts in Canandaigua, gave an engrossing talk from the front porch about the history of barn quilts and showed several examples of her popular creations. At left, Kate Barber and grandchildren on opening day, adding the first "blocks" to our paper quilt. (Photos by Kim Torpey)



July 21, 2026 • V.I.P. Reception — This year's event to thank our "Very Important Preservationists" was held at Hometown Winery, right next door to the Cleveland House Museum, open for guests to wander



over to explore during the balmy evening. Lively conversation yielded some great new ideas for future projects, and all enjoyed delicious food from Lock Stock Restaurant in the beautifully restored setting (once the carriage house to the Cleveland House). What a great night! (Photos by Jun Liu)



August 15, 2026 • Cleveland House Scale Model Dedication — Congratulations to NCS student **Maddox Mannella**, recipient of the Naples Historical Society's 2026 Historic Preservation Award* for making a beautiful model of the Cleveland House Museum as an independent project during the past school year. It started as an idea introduced during our January NHS board meeting as an opportunity for educational collaboration to celebrate America 250. In February, Mr. Ayers's entire Advanced Architecture class toured the Cleveland House, learned its history and measured every inch of every room to start the project. Wayne Buchar provided CAD drawings of the house and served as an advisor for technical and structural questions. We thank NCS Asst. Principal Heather Clark, Chad Ayers, and Naples Central School for their collaboration on this lasting gift to the historical society and the community! *Our Historic Preservation Awards program recognizes and supports the efforts of individuals, and others who have made significant contributions to the preservation of buildings, neighborhoods, traditions and other historic resources in Naples. Senator Pam Helming, who was unable to attend in person, also provided a citation for Maddox's outstanding work on this project. (Photo by Cindy Scoda)



Scholarships Awarded to NCS 2026 graduates



Each year the Naples Historical Society awards two \$500 scholarships to two Naples Central School students selected by the school. Congratulations to the Class of 2026's recipient of the Bill Cooper Memorial Award, **Robert Cowell**, who will use award funds to purchase a laptop; and to the 2026 recipient of the Bill Vierhile Memorial Award, **Alessandra Figueiredo**, who will study marketing at St. Bonaventure. *Best of luck to you both!*

Coming Soon: Our Next 5-Year Strategic Plan

On Saturday, June 20th, board members attended an in-person Strategic Planning retreat at the Morgan Hose Building, facilitated by **Barbara Paxton** of Board-Strong, as part of our grant award from the Documentary Heritage & Preservation Services of New York. It was so productive that we were inspired to adopt a streamlined "Consent Agenda" approval process at monthly board meetings so that we have more time for brainstorming and strategizing when all board members are together each month.

In July, the committee began a "back & forth" process with Barbara, meeting weekly to draft our new 5-year strategic plan defining goals, tactics, timelines, and assigning responsible parties for each action item. We anticipate having our new plan completed before November's annual meeting.

STOP, DON'T RECYCLE THIS PAPER! (*yet*)

Please share our newsletter with a neighbor & invite them to join NHS!



U P C O M I N G E V E N T S

<https://www.naplesnyhistoricalsociety.org/events>



Naples Grape Festival

Sat., Sept. 26th & Sun., Sept. 27th
10am - 5pm both days **RAIN OR SHINE**
Along Rt. 21/Main Street, Naples, NY
on the grounds of Memorial Town Hall
and Naples Central High School



Find us at the **Grape Pie Contest** and at the **Official Merchandise Tent**, offering shirts, hats, Arbor Hill "Healthy Purple" 100% grape juice, vintage Grapefest posters & more! *Cash, Charge & Checks made payable to "Naples Grape Festival" accepted. All proceeds are shared by the Naples Historical Society and Naples NY Rotary Club.*

World's Greatest Grape Pie Contest

Sponsored by JOSEPH'S WAYSIDE MARKET of Naples

Saturday, September 26th Street, Naples, NY



Since the early 1950's, when the grape pie was introduced and became popular in the Naples area, over 50,000 grape pies are baked and sold annually throughout our community during the fall season. This event celebrates each year's "World Champion Grape Pie Baker" in the Grape Pie Capital of the World!

- Pie drop off at the Grape Pie Tent between 9 am and 12 pm
- Judging at the pie tent at 12noon - based on (1) appearance, (2) taste, and (3) texture
- Pies will be displayed in the tent and then sold by the slice on Saturday afternoon.
- Winners announced and awarded prizes after judging (usually between 1-2 pm) at the Grape Pie Tent.

Tile insert trivets awarded for first through third places and a cash prize of \$50 for first place winner.

If you would like to participate, please read through **ALL OFFICIAL RULES & necessary information at:**
<https://naplesgrapefest.org/downloads/grapepiecontestentryform.pdf>

Naples Historical Society Annual Meeting

Special Program: "Doc & Katy Abraham — The Importance of Plants"

Monday, November 16th 7:00 pm @ Morgan Hose Building, 22 Mill Street, Naples, NY

All members invited. We get the business out of the way first: Nominate yourself or others to serve on our board (**Are you interested? For more information, reach out to us at nhsnyinfo@gmail.com**), then vote on new or renewing terms for our board members and next year's officers. Learn the results then & there - Is there a more satisfying voter experience?! Then stay to enjoy our special screening of a video produced in 1992 of **Doc & Katy Abraham's** presentation to Priscilla Crawford's 4th grade class all about the importance of plants, filled with useful information and best of all, lots of reasons to smile!

Cookie Sale & Holiday Boutique BAKERS & ARTISTS DONATIONS REQUESTED

Saturday, December 5th Noon - 5:00 pm @ Morgan Hose Building, 22 Mill Street, Naples, NY

We're inviting all bakers and artists to help us to raise funds, and spread cheer to neighbors who are too busy to bake or are looking for that perfect unique, local holiday gift. **Drop off baked cookies in clear plastic bags (such as sandwich or freezer bag) or donate a piece of your art at Morgan Hose Building 11:30am-12:30pm Dec. 5th (day of the event).** Join us in making the holiday season a little sweeter for everyone!

2027 is the 50th Anniversary of the Naples Historical Society!

To celebrate, our plans include focus on Naples during the past 50 years, 1977-2027 — modern history! We will start an anniversary committee in December. Would you like to join us with your energy, enthusiasm and fun ideas? Let us know at nhsnyinfo@gmail.com (And something else to think about... Watch for more information about how to become an official sponsor of our 2027 V.I.P. reception — We've got fun celebratory plans in the works!)

Membership Matters

(continued from page 1)

...educational program, and preservation project is made possible by people like you who believe our history matters.

If you've enjoyed discovering stories from Naples' rich past or appreciate the character and charm that make our village unique, please consider becoming a member. Help to ensure that this important work continues. Membership is more than a contribution — it's a commitment to the future of our community.

**Become a
Member
Today**

Scan to learn more —>



2026 Wish List

- ✓ Sponsorship of newsletter printing (\$225)
- ✓ Rolls of Forever stamps
- ✓ Gift cards (\$50) for office and cleaning supplies
- ✓ And we always welcome volunteer involvement!



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



on YouTube: "Naples
Historical Society Naples, NY"



on Facebook: @naplesnyhistory
"Naples NY Historical Society"



Join our Facebook Group!
"Cleveland House Museum -
Naples NY History"

Our Mission: The mission of the Naples Historical Society is to promote a deeper interest in the history of Naples by preserving our historic buildings, curating historical materials, doing historical research, and offering educational presentations and 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.