

Inside this Issue:

Schenk Homestead Farm CSA Raffle . . .	1
Naples Community Members.	2
Local History:	
Who were Emily & William Marks? . . .	2
Winter Photos Page.	3
Upcoming Events	4
Updated Wish List	4



New Town Historian for Naples

Congratulations to **Kenton Poole**, NHS Board Member and force of nature! To this new role, Kenton brings diverse professional experience in advertising, education, myriad creative disciplines (including Naples Mill School Program Director); volunteer activities with Canandaigua Rotary, Sonnenberg Gardens, community bands and orchestras around the Finger Lakes, and many other interests. Stop by & say hello the next time he's conducting a workshop at Fairview Cemetery! (See page 4)

SPRING NEWSLETTER | APRIL 2025 | P.O. Box 489, Naples, NY 14512 | NHSNYinfo@gmail.com | www.NaplesNYHistoricalSociety.org

ENTER TO WIN OUR SPRING RAFFLE!



About Schenk Homestead Farm

"Our mission is to make sure our farm practices improve the soil, provide pollinator habitat, and use water responsibly. Along with our environmental goals, we also aim to produce nutrient-dense food for our community of Naples, NY and beyond in the Finger Lakes.

We chose to incorporate 'Homestead' in our farm name to further emphasize our agricultural principles. By definition, homestead refers to the subsistence-based lifestyle that ties our interests as humans with those of the whole biotic community. Most people's view of the environment separates human society from nature, whereas we view ourselves as part of the ecosystem. In keeping true to our homestead name, we go the added distance to can and use other food preservation efforts to assure we are able to sustain our dietary needs in the winter months from the food we grow and raise. The land we farm is land that was historically owned and farmed by the Schenk family, dating back to the late 1800's."

— www.schenkhomesteadfarm.com/learn-more

YOU CAN WIN ~ 22 weeks of ~ FRESH • SOIL GROWN VEGETABLES



**ORGANIC PRACTICES: NO
SPRAY. NO PESTICIDES.
NO HERBICIDES. AND NO
SYNTHETIC FERTILIZERS.**

**Drawing of the Winning Ticket will be held
12:00 Noon on Sat., May 31st
at Schenk Homestead Farm
6848 Seman Road Naples NY**



Schenk Homestead Farms has graciously donated a "Small CSA Share" for 22 weeks of 5 farm fresh vegetables per week valued at \$450!

What is a CSA? Community Supported Agriculture

What does this mean? Each week you will receive a mix of 5 seasonal items. For example: 1/2 lb. salad mix, bunch of radishes, carrots, 2 seasonal items (tomatoes, potatoes, peppers, etc.) with 3 convenient pick-up locations in Naples, Geneva and Brighton. The first vegetables will be available June 12.

Learn more about the Schenk Homestead Farm CSA program at <https://www.schenkhomesteadfarm.com/csaprogram>

Where to get TICKETS?

Visit our website to purchase tickets online, or use the form included with this newsletter.
1 for \$10 or 3 for \$25



Thank you, Lauren Hirsh

Shout out to Lauren for donating her time and expertise to create new (old) framing for our portrait of Emily Catherine Holcomb Marks (1818-1903), wife of Naples abolitionist William "Billy" Marks. (See images at right) After Emily's original portrait was digitally restored by Susan Larysz and printed on canvas in 2019, the hunt was on for a frame to protect and hang the "painting." Lauren searched at places such as architectural salvage and thrift stores until she found a vintage frame that she repurposed to fit the painting of Emily. The frame's details match styles typical of the era, and coordinate well with the original frame on Billy Marks' portrait. Thank you, Lauren - We love how it came out! Stop by to see both framed portraits hanging in our headquarters in the Morgan Hose Building (open every Thursday, 1-3pm; or to make an appointment, email nhsnyinfo@gmail.com). Find Lauren Hirsh Custom Framing at 18 West Ave., Naples, NY, and on Instagram & Facebook. Email: laurenhirsh1@gmail.com

Welcome, New Neighbors!

Caroline and Matt Carson have purchased 101 South Main Street, site of the former "tin shop." They are planning a new, structurally sound building in the same footprint, and rejuvenating Flory Park.



Sara and Brian Hulburt (left) have purchased the Carriage House at 203 North Main Street and look forward to bringing new life to that property.

Preservation of historic structures strengthens a sense of place and creates

the opportunities to enrich the lives of future generations. While it preserves our heritage, restoration and adaptive reuse of these buildings will also increase pride in the community and further enable economic development by contributing to Naples growth and vitality. We welcome these buildings to again play an active role in our community.

— NHS President Trish Lambiasse

Who were Emily & William Marks?



Above: Portraits of Emily Catherine Holcomb Marks (1818-1903) and William "Billy" Marks (1814-1879) hang in the Morgan Hose Building. Artist(s) unknown.

"There is probably no figure from Naples' past whose name is better known to residents than that of William (Billy) Marks and he is chiefly remembered for his connection with the Underground Railroad."

Born in 1814 in Burlington, Connecticut, William Marks first arrived in Naples as a peddler of wares. "His travels took him to the home of Roderick and Rebecca Winthrop Holcomb on Cooks Point, Canandaigua Lake, and in 1839 he married their daughter, Emily Catherine. The ceremony took place in the bride's sister's home in Naples; the young couple would live nearby."

Historic newspaper articles and letters describe the Marks's many contributions to Naples. "Billy" was a successful businessman with a shop on the corner of Main and Mechanic Streets; he established a well-respected undertaking business (partnering with a local cabinet maker to build caskets, "lined and trimmed by the women of their households"); and also founded Rose Ridge Cemetery. His entire family was known for their gracious welcoming of all in the community.

"He soon became a dedicated Abolitionist. Distressed by the treatment of [enslaved people], his sentiments probably had been intensified by the cruelty of the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 under which [fugitives from slavery] were

pursued by Sheriffs and bounty hunters and when caught, sent back to their [enslavers].

"In 1851 he went to Rochester to hear Frederick Douglass speak and at that time may have arranged to become active in the Underground Railroad.

"In 1852 when Marks invited Douglass to come to address a village audience, his requests to use church premises were turned down by the Baptists, the Presbyterians and even by his own Methodists for whom he had done so much. Characteristically, he was not discouraged and set about building a platform in front of his house and issuing a town-wide invitation to all to attend the lecture and enjoy a free supper afterward. Over 300 people turned out to hear Douglass and enjoy a substantial meal.

"Both [daughters] Josephine and Imogene told the story of how Marks hid fugitives from slavery in his hearse and took them in the dead of night over the hill to the next stop, the Pitts mansion in Honeoye. Some had traveled by train by way of Elmira and walked to Naples from Atlanta. Marks owned property behind his house down the slope to the Naples creek and the fugitives were said to have walked along in the water to avoid detection by dogs before they made their way up to the Marks's house. The whole family had to be in on the dangerous business of breaking the law, risking imprisonment and a stiff fine.

"After the war he brought several [formerly enslaved people] to Naples and helped them to find work. Edward and Addie Graham and their daughter, Rose, were part of the Marks household for many years, and later Marks gave them their own home in Naples."

— Excerpts from "William Marks of Naples"

© 2003, Beth B. Flory (Past President of the NHS),

The Crooked Lake Review (www.crookedlakereview.com)

Visit our archives at the Morgan Hose Building to learn more about Emily and William Marks through historic newspapers, letters and artifacts. See also Robert Vierhile's essay about Wm. Marks at naplesnyhistoricalsociety.org/blog.

SAVE THE DATE! June 14th at the Bristol Valley Theatre

NAPLES LIBRARY PRESENTS

Frederick Douglass Day:

A Celebration of Abolitionist Frederick Douglass & his visit to speak in Naples, NY in 1852

Gather on the lawn of the BVT (Time TBD) for:

- a speech by Frederick Douglass (given by a professional reenactor)
- a Community Potluck headed by Fruition Seeds
- tabling by local non-profits/orgs, interactive displays, speeches, music, and more!

in collaboration with the Naples Historical Society, BVT, FLX Music, Fruition Seeds, and many more!



Frederick Douglass (daguerreotype by Samuel J. Miller, made ~1847-1852; in the collection of the Art Institute of Chicago)

WINTER PHOTOS

March 29, 2025 • Presentation on Bristol Suffragist Emily Parmely Collins - A nice coda to Women's History Month, our first educational program for the year was presented by Bristol Hills Historian, Beth Thomas, about Bristol Suffragist Emily Parmely Collins (1814-1909). We had a full house at the Morgan Hose Building, and Beth gave her usual entertaining and informative talk. Born in Bristol, NY, bright and well-read Emily became a schoolteacher at age 16 and received a salary equal to male teachers! She attended the first women's rights



convention in Seneca Falls in July 1848, inspiring her to 3 months later establish the first society in the United States focused on woman suffrage and women's rights - right here in South Bristol! She was a passionate participant in both the suffrage and abolitionist movements of the times, became good friends with Susan B. Anthony, Eliabeth Cady Stanton, and Frederick Douglass; and was acquainted with Billy Marks of Naples as well. A skilled writer, her letters, papers, published articles (including under the pen-name Justicia), and memoirs influenced many. Throughout her life, she organized others to continue activist work in Louisiana, Connecticut and elsewhere. She also served as a volunteer nurse in Virginia during the Civil War, alongside her 2 sons, and became a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Longest-lived of her "fire brand suffragist" peers, she died at age 95 in Connecticut, where she is also proudly claimed as a citizen of note. (Photo above by Blanche Warner)



February, March • Naples Red Mill Preservation activities continue - At left: Stone mason Peter Schmitt has been making significant progress with his stone pointing. About 30% of the water wheel pit is completed. He has disassembled and rebuilt the interior wall's bowed out pocket, and continues shoring up and supporting the surrounding area.

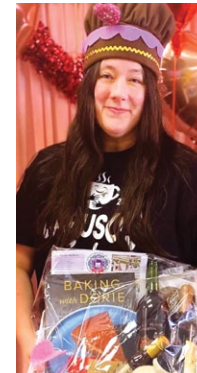


December 7, 2024 • Holiday Butique & Cookie Sale - Thank you to all the bakers who donated cookies (all sold!) alongside vintage heirloom ornaments donated by Rose Mary Hooper,

whimsical Charlie Kingsley creations, toasty mittens of repurposed wool & cashmere made by Joan Luther, and much more! NHS President Trish Lambiase and NHS member Stephanie Lipp played a duet on the Fleischman organ. Stephanie had never played an organ before, and she did really well. It's a reed organ, requiring the player to pump the bellows with their feet while playing. Trish used her right foot and Stephanie used her left foot!

February 8, 2025 • 4th annual Naples Chocolate Cake Contest & Sale - Held during Naples's 13th Vintage, Vines & Valentines, this was another successful fundraiser with bakers helping us to raise over \$500 for the NHS! A few fun highlights: 80% of the cakes used a local product (up from 50% in 2024). Eight local businesses (Arbor Hill/The Grapery, Engine 14 Brewery, Hazlitt's Red Cat Winery, Hollerhorn Distilling, Inspire Moore Winery, Naples Brew Co., Wohlschlegel's Naples Maples Farm, and Woodstead Hot Sauce) donated their delicious products for Prize Baskets.

At right, top row: Hanna Erhardt (Best Overall), Jodi Simons Caruso (Best Use of Local Products), Erin Mull (Best Appearance). Middle row: Rose Mary Carney won Honorable Mention (other Honorable Mentions were Trish Aser & Shanna Williams); Caruso's Cafe crew stopped by to sample their boss's competition. Thank you to our judges (Karin Bowersock, Noah Earle, Nancy Frelove, Natalie Kucko, Mark Obbie, and Tim Williams) for their dedication to an important job; Thank you to all the cake bakers; local business sponsors; volunteer cake cutters, servers, and clean-up crew; and cake buyers — We sold out of everything! (Photos by Jun Liu and Blanche Warner)





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

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

Historic Tax Credits for Homeowners - Free Workshop!

Thursday, April 24th 7pm @ Morgan Hose Building, 22 Mill St., Naples

Presented by the Preservation Leagues of NYS and Landmark Society of WNY; Sponsored by the Village of Naples and Naples Historical Society. Learn how the 20% NYS Historic Homeownership Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program can help you save money on repairs and upgrades to your home. **Who should attend?** All are welcome but this workshop is specifically geared to homeowners in National Register historic districts, including: Central Naples Historic District, Naples Viniculture Historic District, Naples South Main Street Historic District. For listings of properties within each of these districts, visit the "Historic Districts" tab on our website.

"The Big Reveal"

Friday, April 25th 12noon @ Memorial Town Hall, Main Street, Naples

You are invited to "The Big Reveal" of a new Naples Historic Marker! (Hmmm, what could this one be for?!) Historic markers across the nation provide a glimpse into the past and preserve history for future generations. On the last Friday in April each year, National Historic Marker Day invites volunteers and communities to come together to maintain and celebrate their markers. According to **The Historical Marker Database**, more than 209,000 markers are installed throughout the United States. Come see the newest marker to be added to the database during "The Big Reveal". If you are not able to attend in person, "The Big Reveal" will be broadcast live on our Facebook page.

Cleveland House Plant Give & Take

Sat., May 17th 9am-1pm @ Cleveland House Museum, corner of Main St. & Rt. 245

GIVE a donation and TAKE as many plants and bulbs as you can dig! In preparation for foundation work this summer around the Cleveland House, all plants must be removed. We'll provide some pots, or bring your own container(s). Suggested donation: \$5 per gallon pot. Donations are much appreciated for making the new garden for the community to enjoy. Bulbs, biennials and perennials will be available. Our gardener, NHS Board Member **Jun Liu**, will be on site to share ideas about low-maintenance planting.

Headstone Cleaning - Hybrid Class

July 12th 10am @ Morgan Hose Building and Fairview Cemetery

Dave Bloom, NHS member and self-proclaimed cemetery hound who calls himself "The Grave-stone Guy," will present on the proper cleaning of historic gravestones in the Morgan Hose Building for the first hour, then the class will travel to Fairview Cemetery for hands-on cleaning of some historic headstones. Registration Required at: www.naplesnyhistoricalsociety.org/events

Headstone Repair - Hybrid Class

July 19th 10am @ Morgan Hose Building and Fairview Cemetery

Our presenter is **Dave Bloom**, NHS member and self-proclaimed cemetery hound who calls himself "The Grave-stone Guy". He will present on headstone repair in the Morgan Hose Building for the first hour then the class will travel to Fairview Cemetery for hands-on repair of some historic headstones. Registration Required at: www.naplesnyhistoricalsociety.org/events

Wednesdays at Fairview Cemetery during the spring and summer - Dave Bloom and NHS Board Member **Ken Poole** will be cleaning, restoring and repairing gravestones in the cemetery, stop by and lend a hand or just say hello.

Grape Pie Making Class

September 13th 12noon @ Trinity Federated Church Kitchen

Learn how to make a grape pie from former Grape Festival Pie Contest winner Meghanne Freivald. This is excellent practice if you would like to participate in the contest yourself on Saturday, September 27th at this year's Grape Festival.

Thank you!

...to NHS Member

Susan Koon

for sponsoring the printing of
this issue of our newsletter.

2025 Wish List

- ✓ Rolls of Forever stamps
- ✓ Wegmans gift cards for 2025 events
- ✓ More member involvement!

Interested in contributing to our wish list or any of our other initiatives? Please contact us at NHSNYinfo@gmail.com

Visit our website

NaplesNYHistoricalSociety.org

- To make your tax-deductible gift, click on the DONATE button
- Click on "History Articles" to check out our growing collection of fun & fascinating reads!



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



on YouTube:
"Naples Historical Society
Naples, NY"



on Facebook:
[@naplesnyhistory](https://www.facebook.com/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 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.