

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER  
FALL 2020 ~ WINTER 2021

P.O. Box 489, Naples, NY 14512  
NHSNYinfo@gmail.com

 on Facebook: "Naples NY Historical Society" @naplesnyhistory

 on Instagram:  
@naples\_ny\_historical\_society

 on YouTube:  
"Naples Historical Society Naples, NY"



## NHS PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

(given at the annual meeting on Thursday, Nov. 19th via Zoom)

**T**he year 2020 was very difficult for the Naples Historical Society. It started out fantastic with our first Annual Chocolate Cake Contest during Naples's Annual Vintage Vines & Valentines — a great event!

But then COVID19 hit us all. All Activities, Events and Museum Openings were cancelled by default. But we still managed to move forward...

- We groomed and dedicated Beth Flory Park
- We cleaned out the Tin Shoppe
- We continued to receive and process donated items
- Blanche continued her weekly Facebook article
- The Grape Festival was cancelled but we managed to secure an EID Loan to cover our expenses (2021)
- We reduced our mortgage interest rate on the Cleveland House Museum by 2%
- We continued to enhance our buildings and gardens
- We added 17 new members
- We logged 341.75 volunteer hours with 11 volunteers working on projects and in the archives at the Morgan Hose Building
- The new History Book Club was kicked off with our co-sponsor, the Naples Library [See page 3]
- The Historic Districts initiative, led by Paul Lambiase, received over \$28,000 in grant money - so the project can proceed! [See page 4]

We are all very anxiously awaiting the COVID 19 vaccine so that we can get the events back on the calendar!

— Wayne Buchar

### Inside this Issue:

Message from our President . . . . .	1
New members since last newsletter . . . . .	4
Meet our new board member . . . . .	3
2020-2021 Officers & Directors . . . . .	4
Museum update . . . . .	2
History Book Club . . . . .	3
New acquisitions in the archives . . . . .	2
Historic Districts update . . . . .	4

### Peek into our archives via Facebook

Have you checked out our official Naples NY Historical Society Facebook page? Each week, Blanche Warner posts gems from the archives, accompanied with explanations and research. Visitors add their own memories of Naples or the folks who have lived here. The stories grow and we learn even more!

Most recently, the page featured several installments of Will Widmer's photo album from 1910, taken when he was in high school. Will was the President of Widmer's Wine Cellars and was the son of John Jacob Widmer, who was the founder of the business, a cornerstone of Naples for several decades.

If you have been enjoying the photographs and the stories that we've been sharing on Facebook, please give a thought to the volunteers who make it possible. We meet at the Morgan Hose building (on Mill St.) every Thursday from 1-3 PM to organize the amazing amount of historical material we have.

It would help us to continue with this work if you would consider becoming a member of the Society. A membership is only \$15 and you can join online. Visit this link: <https://www.naplesnyhistoricalsociety.org/become-a-member> — Thank you in advance!

Photos below of Historical Society volunteers, left to right: Trish Lambiase and John Kemp working in Beth Flory Park, Joan Luther working with textiles in the archives, Cindy Scoda doing some filing, Blanche Warner choosing photos for Facebook.



## MUSEUM UPDATES



### Cleveland House garden harvest

We started our Three Sisters Garden in 2020, and here is some of the harvest this fall (photo above): Butternut squash, scarlet beans and Haudenosaunee skunk beans, grew from seeds from Naples' local organic farm **Fruition Seeds**. The purple coneflower shown in the picture is not only a pollinator-friendly native plant, but also a traditional medicinal plant used by both Native Americans and early settlers.

This planting reflects the history between the Cleveland House and the Seneca People, as well as period appropriate Colonial garden style with a mixture of flowers, vegetables, and herbs.

— Jun Liu



## NEWS FROM THE ARCHIVES

Jerry Ludwig lived in Naples from 1986-1993, in the "old Baader place" on Rhine St. (County Rd. 12). During that time, he was project manager for the initial restoration of the Morgan Hose building. Quite a few years ago, he came across a painting of the Morgan Hose building by Rochester artist and architect, Harwood Dryer (shown in photo at page bottom left).

Recently, Jerry contacted the Naples Historical Society and offered the painting to us for our collection. Steve Lewandowski and I traveled to Rochester to take possession of the watercolor. The painting is beautiful and we will find a prominent place for it. Thank you Jerry for this very generous gift!

We were also visited by Jackie Tilghman, who is the daughter of Peter and Beverly. Jackie donated to the Society a beautiful antique spinning wheel which we will put in the Cleveland House (photo at right). Thank you to Jackie!

— Blanche Warner



#### ABOUT THE ARTIST OF OUR NEW WATERCOLOR

### Harwood B. Dryer: architect, artist and preservationist

By Arlene Wright Vanderlinde

**Harwood Brownell Dryer** (1895-1992), received elementary and secondary schooling at Brighton School #1, and at East High School. He began to study architecture in 1914 at Cornell University's College of Architecture. He worked as a draughtsman in his father's architectural firm during the summers, until he graduated in 1918. He was a draughtsman for a short time in 1919 for the firm of Gordon and Kaelber before returning to his father's firm as an architect. For a number of years Harwood attended evening school at Mechanics Institute and the University of Rochester studying fine and applied art. In 1924, he spent the summer in Europe in further study in art and landscape architecture. In 1923 his father took him into partnership under the name of O.W. Dryer and H.B. Dryer. The firm name was later changed to Dryer and Dryer. They specialized in school and church design. In 1951, his father O. W. Dryer

retired. Harwood kept the firm name of Dryer and Dryer until his father died in 1957. Commissions executed by the partnership include East Rochester Grade School, Fairport High School, Brockport Central High School, Honeoye Falls High School, Durand

Eastman School, Wesley Methodist Church, Unit Parts Rochester Corporation, Whiting Buick Building and residential work. Among the churches he designed were: The First Presbyterian Church of Williamson, NY; The Lutheran Concordia Church; Park Avenue Baptist Church Sunday School addition; Second Reformed Church and the First Dutch Reformed Church. (Partial list)

The firm of H. B. Dryer continued to be fully active until Harwood Dryer retired in 1976. Mr. Dryer was very interested in historic preservation and was a great supporter of the Landmark Society. He continued working on preservation projects after retirement. In 1954, as president of the Rochester Historical Society, Harwood Dryer was responsible for saving the Livingston Park Seminary from destruction, by arranging for the building to be disassembled and stored. He also supervised the reassembly of the structure at the Genesee Country Museum. He was responsible for the restoration of several other buildings at the Mumford museum, through his designs and advocacy. Harwood Dryer was an active artist, specializing in watercolors. He was president of the Rochester Art Club (1945-48) and a board member at the Memorial Art Gallery. He was also a charter member of the Rochester Ad Club and a Past President of the Rochester Society of Architects and the American Institute of Architects.

— excerpt reprinted with permission from *HISTORIC BRIGHTON NEWS* Volume 11 Summer 2010 Number 3

## WELCOME OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBER



### Stephen Lewandowski

**Stephen Lewandowski** has published fourteen books of poetry, and his poems and essays have appeared in regional and national environmental and literary journals and anthologies. He was student of poet Howard Nemerov, a graduate assistant to philosophical essayist William Gass and later studied with folklorist Louis Jones (*Things That Go Bump in the Night*).

Lewandowski was employed in environmental conservation work, especially watershed protection, for over forty years. He is now retired.

He has volunteered with multiple local community groups, including, Ontario Pathways Rails-to-Trails, Finger Lakes Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy, 1816 Farmington Quaker Meeting-house Museum, Cumming Nature Center, Friends of Ganondagan State Historic Site, Canandaigua Lake Watershed, Finger Lakes Land Trust, Coalition for

Steve Lewandowski, portrait by Clayton Adams, taken during the Naples Historical Society's Hat Show in the Morgan Hose Building during "Vintage Vines & Valentines" in February 2018.

Hemlock and Canadice Lakes; and has also served on the Naples Village Board of Trustees, and as Advisory Council to the Dean, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell University.

As well, he has contributed editorial experience to quarterly newsletters for the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association, Friends of Ganondagan State Historic Site, Ontario Pathways, and the Lake Ontario Coastal Initiative. He is currently a regular contributor to *The Owl Light News* (see his newest piece in the December 2020 issue).

His most recent books of poetry are *Under Foot* from May Apple Press in Woodstock, NY (2014), *Last Settler in the Finger Lakes* from Foothills Publishing in Avoca, NY (2015) and *I Swear* from Bullhead Books of Ashland, KY (2018). His *Hard Work in Low Places* will be published by Tigers Bark Press of Rochester, NY in 2020.

#### Can you tell us a little bit about yourself?

I was born in early 1947 in Canandaigua but lived at least 25 years in Naples. My family had a cottage on Coye Point next to the Coyes.

#### Why did you join the Naples Historical Society (NHS)? I was asked.

**One of your favorite stories from Naples, NY history?** Bob of Bob & Irv's told me about dynamiting fish in Naples Creek.

#### Why is history important in our modern world?

I'm not sure it is. Groups like NHS will try to make it so.

#### You are a published poet. What do you do when you're seeking inspiration?

I've never had to seek inspiration; it jumps at me.

#### What's the most recent book you've read and felt moved by?

*Forgotten Allies: The Oneida Indians and the American Revolution* by Glathaar and Martin and *The Divided Ground: Indians, Settlers, and the Northern Borderland of the American Revolution* by Alan Taylor go well together.

#### In 2120, what do you hope the Naples Historical Society will tell folks about what Naples was like in 2020?

What a groovy place it was.

#### Anything else you would like to add?

I like prehistory as well as history. There's a lot to learn.



### HISTORY BOOK CLUB

Discover history together through literature with the Naples Library and Naples Historical Society.

Historical periods will include Civil War Era, Indigenous Americans, American Revolution, Presidents, Black History and the Suffrage Movement

Join us via Zoom the second Tuesday of every month @ 1pm



The Naples Library and the Historical Society have partnered to start a history book club on the second Tuesday of each month. The next 3 topics are:

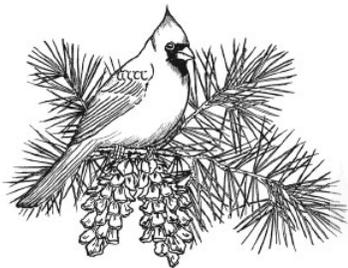
January 12th — Presidents

February 9th — Black History

March 9th — Suffrage Movement

Join us for one or all — Visit [www.NaplesLibrary.org](http://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



# Naples Historic District Initiative Update

## December 2020

**I**n 2018-2019 the Landmark Society of Western New York, in contract with the Village and Town of Naples, completed a reconnaissance-level historic resource survey of the Village and surrounding areas. The final survey report, released in mid-2019, identified three historic districts within the Village, plus a single property, the Fairview Cemetery, as eligible to receive designations on the National Register of Historic Places. The Landmark Society of Western New York was subsequently contracted as consultant to accomplish the considerable effort needed to develop and submit Final National Register nominations.

The Naples Historic District Committee membership, comprised primarily of members of the Naples Historical Society, was formally recognized by the Naples Village Board at their February 18, 2020 meeting and charged with pursuing national register designations. This charge involves both administrative and fund raising components.

Throughout early-mid 2020, Committee efforts went towards grant writing and raising local funds to support this initiative. To date over \$33,000 has been raised towards a

total goal of nearly \$38,000. This includes \$18,150 from the Preservation League of New York, \$10,000 from the Rochester Area Community Foundation, and over \$5,000 in generous donations from Historical Society members and the local community. Further fund raising and grant writing efforts will resume once Final Register Nominations have been approved.

The Landmark Society was to have started work on this project in mid-2020, but was delayed by staffing issues and constraints due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Staff issues have been resolved with the hiring of a new Preservation Projects Facilitator, and we anticipate the extensive research and field work associated with this project will commence during winter-spring 2020, as pandemic concerns ease with the availability of vaccines.

Planned public meetings regarding the benefits of National Register Designations will be announced when they can be safely hosted. 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

The complete, final Historic Resources Survey (PDF document) can be accessed at <https://bit.ly/2XjIFY5> or, visit [www.NaplesNYHistoricalSociety.org](http://www.NaplesNYHistoricalSociety.org) & look for the link under "Resources" tab

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

We welcome the following new members (since the last newsletter) and thank them for their interest in, and support of, the Historical Society:

Shelli Altopp-Miller  
Tibby Canfield  
Michael Coffey  
Rachell & Steve Cromwell  
Sheryl France  
Donna Gentner  
Ron & Marlese Hawkins  
B J Johanningmeier  
John Kemp

Rebeca Lombardo  
Robin Lostetter  
Henry W. Miller  
Debbie Mosher  
Dan Odell  
Old School Café  
Lauren Robinson  
Marie Wood Howle

And... Thank you re-  
newing members! Given  
how challenging the year  
has been, the Naples  
Historical Society is es-  
pecially grateful for your  
continued commitment  
to our work.

— Trish Lambiase



## JOIN US!

We are now planning events for 2021, in the hopes that we will be able to actually carry out these plans. Please invite your friends to join us, and consider renewing your membership and/or making a generous contribution to the society. Find more information on our website at: <https://www.naplesnyhistoricalsociety.org/become-a-member>



## 2020-2021 Officers & Board Members

President:  
Wayne Buchar  
Vice President:  
Trish Lambiase  
Secretary:  
Bo Lysell  
Treasurer:  
Nancy Linehan

Directors:  
Sara Almekinder  
John Cowley  
Steve Lewandowski  
Jun Liu  
Michael Terry  
Kim Torpey  
Blanche Warner