

NAPLES HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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MARCH 2020 NEWSLETTER

Happy Spring!

We have the first painted rock in the Beth Flory Memorial Park garden - together with the first spring blooms!



Thank you so much to artist Susan M Larysz for bringing life and magic to the park! We will have more painted rocks decorating the flower beds thanks to board member Jun Liu who is coordinating an effort to spruce up the park with plants and painted rock borders. If you would like to paint a rock, pick one from a pile in front of the air conditioning unit next to the tin shop. Just bring it back colorfully painted.

Spring is here and that means there is plenty for us to do. This is the time when we all pitch in to clean up our historical properties and inspect our buildings. With the addition of the Cleveland House, this task has become even greater. The main repair/renovation projects this year will be to repair the front porch on the Cleveland House; to continue to address the siding on the Red Mill and to repair and paint the siding on the Tin Shop. There is also a desire to empty and move the storage unit that is in front of the Red Mill. The thing that we need the most is more old barn wood siding to repair the Red Mill. We have exhausted our supply from Mr. Singer of East Bloomfield. As I drive along the roads, I see many collapsed old barns. Does anyone know of anyone willing to donate that siding?

A Message from President Wayne Buchar

It's 2020 and we have a lot to do to continue on the momentum from last year! Although being quarantined in our homes is slowing us all down, it is also giving us time to recharge our "batteries", enhance our plans, further our historical knowledge, and even to make those things in our home workshops/studios which will enhance the historic beauty of Naples. There are a number of challenges that I think about for this year. Such as how will we create a new set of quality Cleveland House Museum displays? How will we staff the Museum on open weekends this summer? How will we pay our bills (insurance, supplies, utilities etc.) if this virus doesn't relent causing us to postpone or cancel the Grape Festival? How will we save the contents of the Red Mill from deteriorating further? I know that everything will all work out and we will all continue to make 2020 another fantastic year for Naples.

Thank you to the NHS Board Members and thank you to all our members for your continued support!

Need notecards with a Naples theme?

The society has produced a "Portrait of Naples Notecards" (8 notecards with 4 scenes) created by Naples artists - Ira Randall, Cynthia Amrine, Carole A. Battle, and Kit Corti. The cards can be purchased at the Naples Apothecary and from Joseph's Market when it opens later this spring.

Thank you to all the “makers” and “bakers” for the 9th Annual Gingerbread Village “Past & Present”

And the winner is.....

The Cleveland House received the largest amount of votes for Naples Gingerbread Village 2019. Quote from the anonymous baker: “This gingerbread house was made in the spirit of local history and celebrates the new museum in Naples”.



The Cleveland House was built in 1794 by Captain Ephraim Cleveland, a Revolutionary War officer. The house was one of the first frame homes in the village and has not changed much since it was built.



This year 40 adults and 62 children were involved in creating the houses for the Gingerbread Village. Families baked and played together in the kitchen. Friends had fun. Couples continued or started a new tradition. Two teachers at NCS introduced their students to the joy of gingerbread. “Spending time together creating is a gift in itself” a mother said when they delivered their house to the Morgan Hose Building. Gingerbread House baking is not as easy as many might think. Some participants experienced that too. Music opened the event with a bag piper and closed with Christmas carols on the Fleischman Family organ and violin upstairs.



Chocolate Cake contest a success during Vintage Vines and Valentines



Thank you to all who baked a cake for the contest. We had 23 cakes – a happy challenge for our judges, who were Wayne Buchar, Mayor Brian Schenk, Jason Almekinder and Stephanie Jones.

Congratulations to this year's winners!



First Place: Chelsea Carey of Canandaigua
The Most Amazing Chocolate Cake
with Bailey’s Strawberry & Cream Frosting

Second Place: Rachael O’Connor of Naples
Chocolate Bomb

Third Place: Paul Lambiase of Naples
Milk Chocolate Cheesecake



Emily Catherine Marks Portrait update



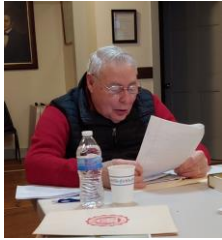
Emily Catherine Marks (1818-1903) was the wife of Naples abolitionist Billy Marks. His portrait has been preserved and hangs in the Morgan Hose building.

A few weeks ago, Klara Zold from Zold Art Conservation in Corning inspected the painting and is now examining and preparing a written report that will include a recommended treatment and cost estimate for preserving. Thank you to NHS member Rose Hogan for introducing us to her friend Klara Zold!

In the dark days of slavery many a hunted slave seeking freedom, found refuge and help from the Marks’. Like countless other women in American history, she was the humble backbone of the advancing society. We don’t think Billy Marks could have accomplished as much without her. We can see small bits of her brave actions in remaining stories, such as burning the wooden planks used for formerly enslaved people to climb into Marks’ hearse to escape to safety, so the bloodhounds would lose their trace.

Family History Presented

Bob Metcalf gave a presentation recently to the Naples Historical Society Board about his ancestor, Jabez Metcalf. Jabez was one of the first settlers of Naples (Watkinstown then) and was one of the most successful businessmen and politicians during the frontier community's first twenty years of existence. Jabez, with good friend Major Benjamin Clark built the first raceway and sawmill. Jabez also saw an urgent need for a tavern and inn so he turned the first floor of his home on Mt. Pleasant Street into the Metcalf Tavern. In April 1796 he was elected the first assessor, the first animal poundmaster and town supervisor.



Revolutionary War Veteran Capt. Jabez Metcalf (1747-1813) is buried in Fairview Cemetery.

*The words on his stone are:
"Death is a debt to nature due
which I have paid and so will you."*



Some additions to our collections

Hugh and Lori Chapman recently donated a collection (several boxes) of diaries and scrapbooks. The diaries, many of them transcribed, give a good idea of daily life in Ingleside in the last century. The scrapbooks contain obituaries, weddings, news of the day, photos of the family and postcards of the surrounding area.

We have received scrapbooks and ephemera from **Carl and Roberta Rex**.

Framed Naples Theater movie posters from **Evelin Ward** have also been added to our collections.

Shirley Gardner donated a wooden bucket, bed, child's high chair, a child's wicker carriage, and butter churn. A *Loyal Temperance Legion Yearbook*, dated 1929, a drawing and concrete use book were donated by **Janis Pridmore**.

Arbor Hill Grapery and the **Brahm Family** have donated "old" bottles of Widmer wine and other Widmer ephemera.

Todd and Pam Anderson donated an original watercolor of the Red Mill and Morgan Hose Building painted by artist Lisa Forster Beach.

Linda Almekinder has provided us with several Widmer's wine glasses - a great addition to our wine display. A Paymaster Checkwriter used by the Village of Naples has been donated by the Village.

And.....

Tom MacAllister (Mac's Woods) donated ash and white oak boards for shelving in the Morgan Hose Building. Wainscoting from our "wish list" was donated by **Paul Miller** and **Cheri Trimble Miller**.

Wish list items still needed include:

- ▶ iPad Pro
- ▶ Bird Bath (not plastic) for Beth Flory Park
- ▶ 42" Smart TV
- ▶ Funds for archival supplies and Cleveland House display panels
- ▶ Three 40" long widow boxes (wood or metal)

Thank you to everyone for your donations!



Earlier this month Antone Olney brought his computer hardware class to the Morgan Hose Building to assemble a working computer from several donated pieces. We are in need of a computer with *Windows 10* since all of our computers currently are running on *Windows 7* which is no longer supported. Anyone have a computer or lap top to donate?

Historic District Committee Formed

Last year, The Landmark Society of Western New York recommended in their “Naples Historic Resources Survey” the potential for three distinct National Register – eligible historic districts as well as Fairview Cemetery. Recently, a committee has been formed to help the Village of Naples apply to the New York State Historic Preservation Office to have these districts listed on the **National Register of Historic Places**. While such designation would not constrain property and business owners in any way, it would make available tax credits and other opportunities. It also attracts new residents, businesses, and visitors, and recognizes and documents the community’s development and history. To assist with the cost of this important project, a grant application is being sent to the preservation League of New York State. **Watch for announcements on public meetings which will be scheduled over the coming months to answer your questions.**

The Historic District Committee Members appointed by Village of Naples Board of Trustees are:

Chair: **Paul Lambiase**, Joint Planning Board Member and NHS Member

Vice-Chair: **Linda Almekinder**, Co-Chair Naples Joint Planning Board

Wayne Buchar, President, Naples Historical Society (NHS)

Trish Lambiase, Vice President, NHS

John Murphy, Naples Town Historian

Mike Terry, NHS Board Member

Blanche Warner, NHS Board Member

Museum news

The Cleveland House Museum is scheduled to open on June 27th and will be open on Saturday’s and Sunday’s, Noon – 4:00, through August 30th. Board members and Committees are busy working on displays.

Anyone interested in volunteering as a docent please e-mail us at NHSNYinfo@gmail.com

Training will be provided and a board member will be present at the Cleveland House each day to assist.

Make 2020 a year to instill pride in our community by helping us preserve and share Naples past for future generations (your children and grandchildren) by:

- Learning about our area’s rich history by attending our upcoming programs
- Investing in our future by helping us to maintain our buildings and grounds
- Becoming a docent for our Cleveland House Museum this summer
- Helping to organize our volumes of papers, artifacts and photos in the archives at Morgan Hose Building
- Joining our growing corps of enthusiastic, engaged, and energetic volunteers

Interested? E-mail us at NHSNYinfo@gmail.com