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History Talk & Art Show to honor Ira Randall

Opens Sept. 18th
+ Silent Auction of
2 original paintings,
including this one!
Details, back cover



LATE SUMMER NEWSLETTER | SEPTEMBER 2025 | P.O. Box 489, Naples, NY 14512 | NHSNYinfo@gmail.com | www.NaplesNYHistoricalSociety.org

September in Naples? You know what that means...

Grape Festival Time!



September 27 & 28, 2025

10am - 5pm RAIN OR SHINE

Rte. 21 in Naples Village on the grounds of
Memorial Town Hall & Naples High School

Find us next to Memorial Town Hall
at the Merchandise Tent, offering:

T-SHIRTS - design shown below

Long Sleeve & Short Sleeve

S, M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL

CREWNECK SWEATSHIRTS

S, M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL

BASEBALL CAPS *NEW THIS YEAR*

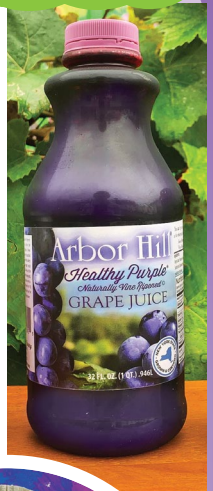
khaki with purple brim, and
embroidered Grapefest logo

ARBOR HILL

"HEALTHY PURPLE"

100% grape juice

Plus, a selection of vintage
Grapefest posters for sale!



Modelled by
Ken Poole



Grape Pie Making Class

September 13th

(Details, back cover)

Learn to bake an award
winning pie, then enter...

Grape Pie Contest

September 27th

www.naplesgrapefest.org/pie.php

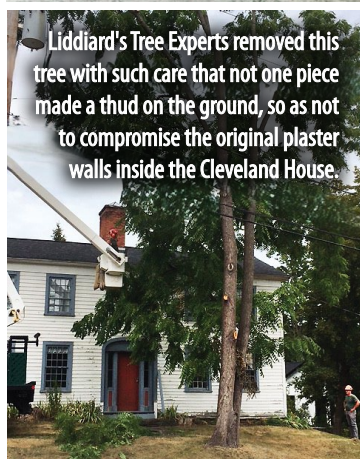


Cash, Charge & Checks
made payable to "Naples
Grape Festival" accepted.
All proceeds are shared by
the Naples Historical Society
and Naples NY Rotary Club.



Summer 2025 Updates: Preservation Activities

It's been hard not to notice the Society's preservation activities going on around the Village of Naples this summer! NHS Board Members have been leading exciting projects, and thanks to our fundraising and generous sponsors, we're able to engage the services of many local talents — not to mention, all the energy & muscle shared by volunteer helpers. *Thank you, all!*



Cleveland House Museum

Report by Trish Lambiasi

- **Peter Schmitt** completed masonry work on the top of the basement external staircase.
- **Charlie Kingsley** made repairs to both Northwest rotting corners of the building, and built a sturdy new door for the external staircase.
- **Liddiard's Tree Experts** of Middlesex removed 5 trees from around the house, in preparation for the next steps: the removal of the buildup of several years' soil to expose the stone foundation, which Peter Schmitt will check for any needed repairs.
- The entire building was measured in order to generate the CAD drawings for defining needed porch repairs.
- During a series of "work days," NHS President **Trish Lambiasi** and a team of volunteers began efforts to re-build a beautiful stone wall that once complimented the house. Level 1 Dry Stone Waller **Vincent Feucht** estimates a 40' long, 30" deep wall, to be planned.
- Board Member and Horticulturalist **Jun Liu** researched and wrote educational content for garden stake signs to highlight native plantings around the Cleveland House grounds.

Naples Red Mill

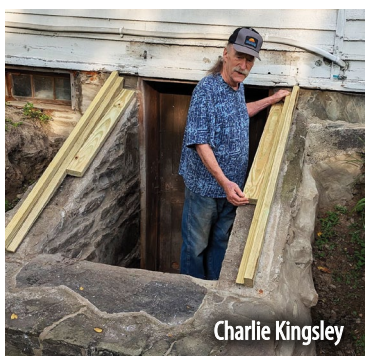
Report by Wayne Buchar

Work continues on the restoration of the Red Mill (Bill's Dream). The current focus has been on the repair/stabilization and preservation of the **Rail Station Office (RSO)** attached to the East side of the mill. It was added to the side of the Mill in about 1910. It was used as a working office to package, weigh and coordinate shipments to and from the Lehigh Valley Train Depot on Academy Street. It contained a wood stove for heat during the winter. Might it not make an interesting handicap bathroom in the future? After the RSO is stabilized it will be possible for us to complete the new Hemlock siding on the south and east sides of the mill.

Part I, phase I of our long-term plan for the Mill has been completed! The Waterwheel pit has been cleaned out, the bulging basement stone walls have been repaired and rebuilt, some outside stone foundation walls were repointed.

Morgan Hose Building

Next time you visit, appreciate the nice job by Charlie Kingsley on the stairs at our main entry: a tidy paint job and installation of easier-to-grab railings on both sides of the steps, plus copper caps on the posts.



Fairview Cemetery

(Recently added to the National Register of Historic Places)

- Significant progress has been made on headstone cleaning and restoration, thanks to the ongoing work of **Ken Poole** and **Dave Bloom** and many volunteers who accepted the invitation to join them on Wednesdays throughout the summer.
- There is a possibility that the stone of Ephraim Cleveland has been found..!
- We are working with the Town of Naples on tree and brush removal.
- Several iris bulbs were planted to enhance the cemetery entrance: donations from **Jeanne Cease**, and native plantings relocated from the Cleveland House.



How you can support Bill Vierhile's dream to restore and transform the Naples Red Mill to become a museum for future generations:

- Make a **recurring annual donation** (Click the DONATE button on our website and then "Yearly" on the Zeffy form.)
- Make a donation to **honor your loved one(s)**, acknowledged in our newsletters and in the future Naples History Center.
- If you are a **professional grant writer**, we would love your assistance as we seek more opportunities.

Make a tax-deductible gift:

- NaplesNYHistoricalSociety.org/donate
- Send a check by US Mail to

P.O. Box 489

Naples, NY 14512

- Scan the QR code at right to visit our DONATE form online —>



Scholarships Awarded to NCS 2025 graduates



Each year the Naples Historical Society awards two \$500 scholarships to Naples students who have a lively interest in history. Congratulations to the Class of 2025's recipient of the Bill Cooper Memorial Award, **Polly Bay**, who will further her education in the field of Environment and Sustainability; and to the 2025 recipient of the Bill Vierhile Memorial Award, **Landon Gleichauf**, who is furthering his education in the field of Engineering. *Best of luck to you both!*

Spring Raffle Winner!



May 31, 2025 - Mike Terry was the lucky winner of our spring raffle prize: 22 weeks of local produce with a "Small CSA Share" subscription worth \$450, generously donated by Amanda and Jeremiah Grisa of Schenk Homestead Farm. What's the best part of participating in a local CSA? Mike says, "Skipping the produce section when grocery shopping, and the wonderful variety of vegetables." NHS Member Tim Massa also tried the CSA this summer and appreciates learning "more connection to the farmers' plight, such as accommodations made due to drought. Grocery stores keep it laid on but that's because they go to several sources, often hundreds of miles away, and without the quality and flavor." Thank you to everyone who purchased raffle tickets. Funds raised netted over \$1,200 to support the Society and our mission. (Photo above by Jun Liu: Mike Terry, Amanda Grisa and her children at the Schenk Homestead Farm stand)

SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS

(Photos by
Blanche Warner)



April 25, 2025 - "The Big Reveal" in front of Memorial Town Hall
NHS President Trish Lambiase and John French (Rotarian and President of the Naples Grape Festival LLC) unveiled a new marker to commemorate the origin of Grape Pie in Naples, New York! In 2024, the Naples Historical Society applied for a grant from the William G. Pomeroy Foundation, in their "Hungry for History" category, which recognizes historically significant local and regional foods. NHS Board Members researched archival materials for substantiation and the grant was awarded. The new marker came to Naples last fall, just waiting to be revealed this spring on National Historic Marker Day, which is the last Friday each April, inviting volunteers and communities to come together to maintain and celebrate their markers.

June 14, 2025 - Frederick Douglass Day, in front of Bristol Valley Theater

Photos, L to R: Naples Town Historian Ken Poole set the stage with historical information about 19th century Naples abolitionist and Underground Railroad conductor William Marks, who invited Douglass to speak in Naples;



Frederick Douglass Re-enactor Michael Marshall of Rochester shared a modern interpretation of Douglass's famous 1852 speech, "What to the Slave is the 4th of July?"; Petra Page-Mann brought William Marks's wife and fellow abolitionist, Emily Holcomb Marks, to life in a moving speech; the Kiandaga chapter of the DAR shared information. Also enjoyed by the all ages crowd, the Hopefully Choir from Rochester gave a great performance, and community members brought delicious foods for a potluck meal in the Naples Fire Hall. *This special event was held in collaboration with several community organizers, including the Naples Library, Bristol Valley Theater, FLX Music, Fruition Seeds, and Naples Historical Society. Thank you to the Naples Fire Dept. for generously offering their hall for our community potluck.*

July 18, 2025 - V.I.P. Reception at the Historic Maxfield Inn

On a balmy summer evening, our VIP Members mingled with NHS Board Members and enjoyed a flavorful buffet of seasonal treats catered by Roots Cafe; a tour of the gardens by Board Member Jun Liu, who planned and tends the formal English-style gardens full of native plantings; a tour of the inn by NHS Past President & inn proprietor Wayne Buchar, about Maxfield family history, fun stories and surprise discoveries during restoration, as well as new information learned from present-day visitors, a reminder that the stories from history are always unfolding. You can come to next year's reception by becoming a VIP — that is, a "Very Important Preservationist." VIP dues (\$250 annually) are deposited in the Capital Reserve Fund for preservation of our historic buildings (See more at left about this summer's preservation activities!) Visit our website to learn more about VIP Membership perks, and to sign up. *Thank You to all of our current VIP Members!*



July 19, 2025 - Headstone Repair Class

Back by popular demand, "Gravestone Guy" Dave Bloom (above) and Naples Town Historian Ken Poole hosted an instructional presentation at Morgan Hose Building followed by immediate hands-on experience at Fairview Cemetery, just off North Main St in Naples. Ken and volunteers continued the work in Fairview this summer - an exciting project that has stirred a lot of interest and sharing of stories new and old about the people interred there.



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

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

Grape Pie Making Class

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 10TH

September 13th 12noon @ Trinity Federated Church Kitchen, 123 N. Main Street, Naples

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, or just to enjoy the uniquely Naples tradition of baking grape pies! **PARTICIPANTS:** Please bring an apron, a pie plate and rolling pin. Ingredients will be provided. You will bring home a delicious pie to bake. Fee: \$15/person includes ingredients & instruction. **All bakers must be pre-registered.** To register online, scan QR code at left, or visit www.naplesnyhistoricalsociety.org/events



History Talk & Art Show Honor Naples Artist Ira Randall

@ Bristol Hills Historical Society Grange Building, 6457 State Route 64, Naples, NY

Lecture by Naples Town Historian Kenton Poole

• Thursday, Sept. 18, 7 - 9 pm

Randall Exhibit Open Hours

• Thursday, Sept. 18, 6 - 9 pm

• Friday, Sept. 19, 5 - 8 pm

• Saturday, Sept. 20
10 am - noon & 3 - 6 pm

• Sunday, Sept. 21
10 am - noon & 3 - 6 pm

Nearly four decades after his death, a local artist renowned for his paintings of landscapes and landmarks in the Bristol Hills and Naples will be remembered with an exclusive exhibition of dozens of his original paintings in a show that opens with a free lecture on his life and art. Longtime Naples artist and teacher **Ira Randall** "is a local legend," said Naples historian **Kenton Poole**, who spent months researching Randall's career and assembling the exhibition of his art on loan from collectors. "The amount of history he lived through is incredible," said Poole, who will use his talk on Randall's life from 1903 to 1986 as a window into life in Naples and the Bristol Hills in the early and mid-20th Century.

Randall, who taught in Naples schools for 30 years, was a self-taught artist. Hundreds of his paintings from his prolific career decorate the homes of people throughout the region. In talking to Randall's family, friends, and other collectors of his paintings, Poole obtained permission to exhibit dozens of Randall's paintings. "Ira did his paintings *en plein air*, meaning on the scene outdoors, usually all in one day, so there are hundreds of paintings in existence," Poole said. In his later years, Randall served as art director at the Woodcroftery Shops in Wayland, where he made decorative bowls and baskets.

** Poole's lecture and portions of the exhibition will take place in the Grange's second-floor auditorium, which is not handicap-accessible. Some of the paintings from the exhibition will be on display on the handicap-accessible first floor.*

** His talk and the exhibition are jointly sponsored by the Naples Historical Society and the Bristol Hills Historical Society.*

Naples Historical Society Annual Meeting

Special Program by Wayne Buchar: "History of the Orange Inn"

Monday, November 17th 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 become a board member, then vote on new or renewing terms for our board members and next year's officers. (Is there a more satisfying voter experience?) Then stay to enjoy the sure-to-be entertaining and informative talk by NHS Past President **Wayne Buchar**.

Cookie Sale & Holiday Boutique ~ BAKERS NEEDED! ~

Saturday, December 6th Noon - 5:00 pm @ Morgan Hose Building, 22 Mill Street, Naples, NY

We're inviting all bakers to share your sweetest holiday spirit - family favorites or dazzling new creations; festive, fancy, or classic, your donations of cookies will help us raise funds, and spread cheer to neighbors who are too busy to bake. Drop off goodies in clear plastic bags (such as sandwich or freezer bag) at Morgan Hose Building 11:30am-12:30pm Dec. 6th (day of the event). Join us in making the holiday season a little sweeter for everyone!



Beth Flory
(1927 - 2018)

*In memory of Naples Historical Society Past President, **Beth Flory**, (photo at left) the printing of our Summer 2025 newsletter is sponsored by the Odell family.*

2025 Wish List

- ✓ Window A/C Unit (\$400)
- ✓ Rolls of Forever stamps
- ✓ Wegmans gift cards for our event supplies
- ✓ More volunteer 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!



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[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.