



Sheldon Historical Society Schoolhouse Museum Newsletter



Santa's Elves who came to help the Kiwanis Club decorate the tree at the Sheldon Schoolhouse Museum:
Back Row L-R: Jerry George, Cliff Stephan, Bob Matevia, Sandy Luderman, Steve Beechler, Wally Merlau.
Front: Barb Logel, Janet Beechler, Sue Stephan, Diane Hart, Judie Coffey, Debbie Zielinski, Jason Beechler.

We want to say a special Thank You this year to the Java Strykersville Kiwanis and the Almeter Tree Farm for providing us with a beautiful Christmas tree each year, for the past 33 Years!! What a lovely gift this has been to us and to our town.

Thank You!

K. is for Kelsey



As volunteers in 2023 cleaned the **only family monument** in the old burying grounds on Perry Road, we wondered who this family was and how they connected to the history of the town. Unlike individual headstones, which mark a single grave, a *monument* is a larger, shared memorial—often taller, more elaborate, and meant to honor an entire family line. This one belongs to the **Potter family**: a square, three-tier marble marker inscribed with the names **George, Prudence, Sally, and Lester**, standing toward the back of the cemetery where a low wall of stacked stones outlines the pioneer grounds.

With a bit of luck—or perhaps divine intervention—I stumbled upon the key to the puzzle in the files of the East Aurora Historian. Years ago, I researched a well-known family member and photographer, **John R. Potter** (Spring 2024 issue), and traveled to East Aurora hoping to learn more about his photography studios, once located in the village. I had taken quick reference photos of the few notes in a slim two-page file labeled “POTTER.” I hadn’t realized that those modest, almost forgettable pages would someday unlock the maiden name of **Prudence K. Potter**. Interestingly enough, John R Potter would name his only son George, but there is no proven connection in the Potter lines. The file contained snippets of facts on all the Potters.

Inside that thin folder were a handful of typed notes—transcriptions from an old family Bible printed in 1839 and reportedly found in a home in **Griffiths Mills**, a small hamlet of East Aurora. And there it was, plainly written:

“George Potter married Prudence Kelsey, September 10, 1821.”

“Births: George Potter born August 8, 1807, died July 14, 1852...”

“Prudence Kelsey Potter born October 18, 1807, died June 1, 1862...”

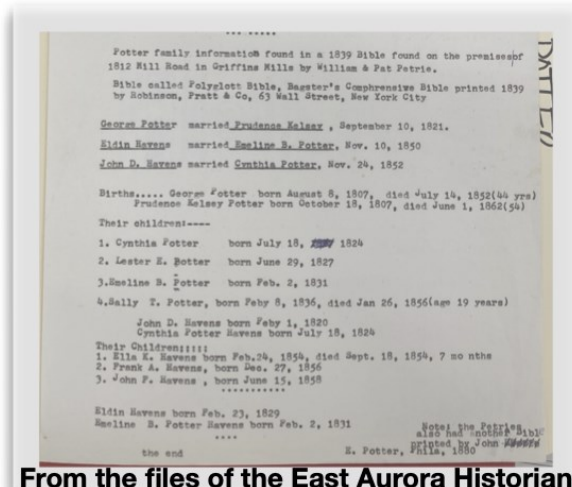
Then followed a list of their children.

The initial reaction was pure excitement—finally, a document linking the elusive “K.” on the Potter monument to the **Kelsey** family. But excitement soon turned to confusion when the typed dates didn’t neatly match the ages carved into the marble monument in the pioneer cemetery. A closer look revealed the likely explanation: the transcriber must have misread an old-fashioned “2” as a “7.” The corrected birth year, **1802**, aligns with the cemetery inscriptions and makes far more sense historically; after all, it is highly unlikely that a pair of fourteen-year-olds married in 1821.

George Potter himself remains something of a mystery, his origins still hazy despite the documents. But **Prudence Kelsey Potter now stands clearly in the historical record**, her identity finally restored. And with her, a meaningful link emerges between the Potter monument, the Kelsey family, and the earliest chapters of the town’s history.

Just a few paces from the Potter family monument stands the weathered headstone of **Betty “Betsy” Kelsey**, a tangible reminder of the early families who settled this land. Her stone, once leaning and showing signs of instability, has endured nearly two centuries in the old burying grounds. Community members have often wondered about the whereabouts of her husband, **Samuel Kelsey**, a Revolutionary War veteran of Sheldon. His marker has yet to be found, despite searches and inquiries, but it is almost certain that Samuel rests beside his wife—buried according to the customs of the time—even if his headstone has long since disappeared.

The proximity of **Betty Kelsey’s grave to the Potter monument**, and the remarkable discovery that **Prudence’s “K.” stands for Kelsey**, begins to paint a compelling genealogical picture. With these clues now in hand, it is highly likely that **Samuel and Betty Kelsey were the parents of Prudence Kelsey Potter**.



From the files of the East Aurora Historian



Betty Kelsey’s grave at the Strykersville Pioneer Cemetery before and after restoration



Until now, local researchers and historians recognized **only three or four children** of **Samuel and Betty Kelsey**. The records were sparse, and the family structure remained partly speculative. But the census, naming patterns, and newly uncovered documentation provide the missing clarity.

Samuel Kelsey arrived in **Sheldon about 1812** and is listed as head of household in both the **1820** and **1830** federal censuses. The **1820 Sheldon census** records his household as containing:

- **1 male 45 and over – Samuel** [b. 1756, age 64]
- **1 female 45 and over –** [probably his wife Betty b. 1757, age 63]
- **1 male 16–25** ~[probably Francis Hollister Kelsey b. 1797, age 21]
- **1 female 16–25** ~[possibly Prudence Kelsey, b. 1802, age 18]

By 1820, the Kelseys' older children had already married and left home, which aligns perfectly with these remaining two young adults. Based on age, timing, and other evidence, these individuals were almost certainly **Francis Hollister Kelsey** and **Prudence Kelsey**.

A fascinating twist emerged while piecing this together: **Betty Hollister Kelsey** had a daughter in **1802** and named her **Prudence**. In that very same year, Betty's younger sister, **Prudence Hollister Warner**, also gave birth to a daughter—and named her **Betsy Hollister Warner**. Betsy is the youthful form of Betty. This reciprocal naming is not accidental; it reflects a well-documented early American naming pattern that honored close relatives. Their grandmother's name, **Prudence Frances Hollister**, further reinforces the family's tradition of handing down these names through the generations. Combined with the birth year of 1802, the evidence strongly supports **Prudence Kelsey Potter** as a daughter of **Samuel and Betty**.



Another detail helps solidify the structure of the 1820 household.

The **1820 U.S. Census was officially taken on Monday, August 7, 1820**. This date matters because **Sarah Kelsey**, another previously unidentified child of Samuel and Betty, had married **Julius Sykes** on **April 2, 1820**. By August, she was living with her husband and his children and therefore does not appear in her parents' household—precisely as the census shows. This timing confirms that the remaining young woman listed with Samuel and Betty must be **Prudence**, completing the missing link in the Kelsey family line.

With Prudence **KELSEY** Potter finally identified, a long-hidden branch of the Kelsey family tree has emerged—an exciting find that reshapes everything previously known about this early pioneer family.



**FROM THE SHELDON SCHOOLHOUSE MUSEUM AND
TOWN HISTORIAN, JEANNE MEST**

**We hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and wish you a
Happy New Year from the Town of Sheldon Historical Society.**

As we begin a new year, I want to remind everyone to watch for updates on our Facebook page, "Sheldon Historical Society" and our website, "sheldonhistoricalsociety.com"

Weather permitting, we will start our meetings this year on February 19. If we can't get to the Schoolhouse we will pick an alternate site. There is so much to plan. We would like to do something special for the children on Tuesdays this summer. Please come & bring your ideas.

Thank you all for your memberships and generous donations throughout the year. It has been our privilege to bring you this newsletter and we hope you have enjoyed reading it. This year brought a change in the way it is sent to you, coming directly from the ARC Hilltop Printshop. They have done a great job.

Thinking back through the past year, there are so many people to thank. We appreciate the Sheldon Town Board for all their support as we work together to keep up the Schoolhouse Museum, for erecting our Pomeroy signs, and the hard work everyone has put in at the Strykersville Pioneer Cemetery. I also want to thank Marie Tidwell, President of the Western New York Genealogy Society, for inviting us to share the stories of our pioneer cemeteries in their Journal.

Thank you to Taina Armstrong Hoffman for sharing her ancestor's stories.

Cheryl Rupe sent us a generous donation to the Cemetery Fund, and we appreciate it.

We want to express sympathy to Mary Ann Bartz and family in the passing of Earl Bartz, a long time member of the Sheldon Historical Society.

Also we send our sympathy to Donna & Bob Kirsch in the loss of their son, Dan, and to Caroline Almeter and the family of Henry Haas.

Welcome to our newest Lifetime Members, who grew up in Sheldon, Norman and Dianne Becker of Cazenovia, Madison County, NY. Thank you for your support!

Congratulations goes to our Scholarship Winners, Allison Koch, who is studying Nursing at SUNY Brockport and Ava Yox, who is majoring in Diagnostic Medical Sonography at Alfred State College. Both ladies completed their first semester and received their checks for \$500.

Attention: H.S. seniors at Attica, Pioneer or Holland High School, it is time to start filling out those scholarship applications. Pioneer High School requires them by March 1, 2026. Applications are available at each school's Guidance Office.

We are able to give these scholarships, thanks to all your memberships and donations.

Conrad Ulrich 1823-1883

By Taina Armstrong Hoffman

Conrad Ulrich's life was shaped by motion—measured not only in miles, but in skill, discipline, and endurance. Issued in the **Kingdom of Württemberg**, Conrad's travel book states his profession was a *Uhrmachergesell* = a fully trained journeyman clockmaker and that he was born (gebürtig aus) in Talheim, district (Oberamts) of Tuttlingen.

The Wanderbuch: A Passport for a Working Life

Conrad carried with him a small but powerful document: a **Wanderbuch**.

A *Wander-Buch*—literally “travel book”—was an official work-and-travel record issued by the state. For craftsmen like Conrad, it functioned as a combination of:

- passport
- employment record
- character reference
- internal visa

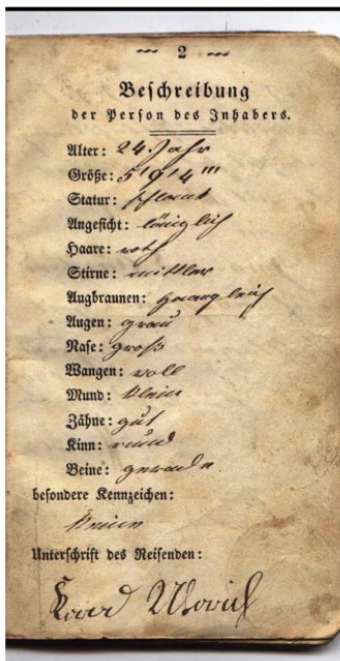
After completing an apprenticeship, a tradesman was expected to go **auf die Wanderschaft**—“on the road”—for several years. This wandering period served two purposes: it spread skilled labor where it was needed, and it ensured that craftsmen learned regional techniques beyond their home village.



The Wander Buch shown here—issued in Stuttgart—names **Conrad Ulrich**, states his profession, and records his legal right to move, work, and survive in a tightly regulated society. This confirms the Wanderbuch was **not casual paperwork**. It was a **state-controlled identity document**, enforced at the highest level of government in the **Kingdom of Württemberg**.

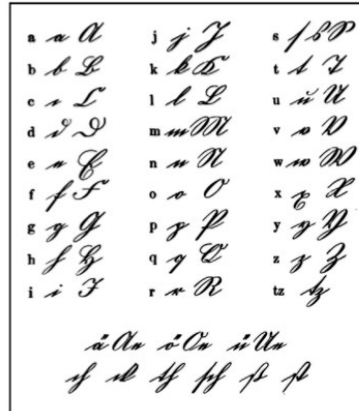
Conrad was operating legally and officially within this system.

The next page is extraordinarily informative. It tells us exactly who Conrad Ulrich was as a physical, legal, and social person in 1847, not just in name.



This is an **official physical description**, equivalent to a 19th-century ID profile.

The absence of *besondere Kennzeichen* ("special marks") indicates **no scars, deformities, or distinguishing features** recorded by authorities.



His **own signature** confirms literacy

Script is written in Kurrent.

The **h** has a tall upstroke with a loop

The loop often sits **above the midline**

Beschreibung der Person des Inhabers

Alter: **24 Jahre**
 Größe: **5'9 1/4''** [5 Fuß 9 Zoll 4 Linien]
 Statur: **schlank**
 Angesicht: **länglich**
 Haare: **braun**
 Stirne: **hoch**
 Augbraunen: **gerade**
 Augen: **grau**
 Nase: **groß**
 Wangen: **voll**
 Mund: **klein**
 Zähne: **gut**
 Kinn: **rund**
 Beine: **gerade**

besondere Kennzeichen:
keine

Unterschrift des Reisenden:
Konrad Ulrich

Description of the person of the holder

Age: **24 years**
 Height: **today's equivalent of 5'6"- 5'7"**
 Build: **slender**
 Face: **long (elongated)**
 Hair: **brown**
 Forehead: **high**
 Eyebrows: **straight**
 Eyes: **gray**
 Nose: **large**
 Cheeks: **full**
 Mouth: **small**
 Teeth: **good**
 Chin: **round**
 Legs: **straight**

Special identifying marks:
none

Signature of the traveler:
Konrad Ulrich



(page 8):
Release from Württemberg

What the handwritten German says (in substance):

It appears that Conrad was in
[Java?] 1844;

Jaha

in Java 1844.

Solo exploratory migration by young adult men, followed by a return to arrange family emigration, was a common and well-documented strategy among German-speaking migrants in the 1840s.

The authorization is dated 12 June 1847

Issued and sealed by **Royal Württemberg authorities**

The blue circular stamp is the official seal of the Royal Württemberg Oberamt Tuttlingen, applied to certify and validate the emigration authorization recorded in Conrad Ulrich's Wanderbuch.

Large circular stamp (lower left)

An official **Royal Württemberg district / state seal.**



(page 9):
Destination and timing

What this page proves beyond doubt:

From this single spread, we know:

Conrad Ulrich left Württemberg **legally**

He left at **age 24**

He was **released from Württemberg allegiance / citizenship**

His destination was **New York**

His intention was **permanent settlement**

His departure occurred in **1847**, before the 1848 revolutions

Conrad Ulrich's decision to leave Württemberg in 1847—at age twenty-four and with formal release from citizenship—reflects foresight rather than flight, placing his emigration at the critical moment just before political repression and revolution transformed mobility from a right into a risk.



This portrait of Conrad Ulrich likely dates to the late 1860s or early 1870s, depicting him in his mid-forties to early fifties. His long face, prominent nose, gray eyes, and high forehead closely match the physical description recorded in his 1847 Wanderbuch, while his full chin beard and practical clothing reflect the style of a mature, established German-American tradesman.



In later years, Conrad Ulrich repurposed his Wanderbuch as a family record, recording the births of his children and the death of an infant—transforming a document of migration into a personal archive of memory.

Although Conrad Ulrich was trained in Württemberg as a journeyman clockmaker, U.S. census records from 1860's through 1880 list his occupation as farmer, reflecting his transition to land-based livelihood and the American practice of recording current economic activity rather than formal trade training

- 1860s Conrad Ulrich lived in Holland, NY
- 1870 Conrad Ulrich owned land in Sheldon, on Lot 25, R 4. [52 acres] Census "neighbors" include: Shiltz, Kohler, Sloand, Hyman, Brevot, Metzger, and Hall.
- 1875 The Ulrichs lived in Sheldon
- In 1876 Conrad, his wife Catherine, and their younger children removed to Wheatland, Mecosta, Michigan.

U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995 (Johnsonburgh,) lot 13, R. 3,	
lot 3, R.	farmer 55.
lot 25, R.	Tuttle, Ly (h,) lot 4, R. 3, farmer 100.
lot 25, R.	TUTTLE, RANSOM, (Johnsonburgh,) lot 29, R. 3, cooper, Fozier's Corner.
(H)	Ulrich, Conrad, (Strykersville,) lot 25, R. 4, farmer 52.
lot 25, R.	Valtin, John, (Sheldon,) lot 18, R. 4, farmer 50.
lot 25, R.	Valtin, Wm., (Strykersville,) lot 36, R. 4, farmer 36.

Pages 50 & 51 list the children of Conrad & Catherine Erion Ulrich:

Andreas [Andrew] born 2 December 1851

Anna Barbra born 29 July 1856

Magdalena born 6 November 1857

Wilhelm born 6 Jan 1861 died 18 Jun 1861

Johannes born 19 May 1863

[illegible] "George" born 13 Jan 1865

Conrad born 19 Jan 1867

[also a daughter named "Katie" born 7 April 1874]

The 1880 census claims Andrew was born on the ocean and was of foreign birth. The 1870 census states that Anna Barbra, Magdalena, Johannes, George, and Conrad were all born in N.Y. Conrad's father-in-law, Jacob Erion lived with them.

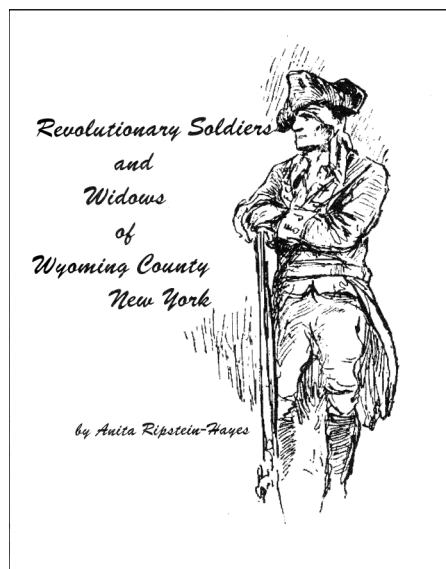
WELL KNOWN AUTHOR WRITES BOOK ON EARLY SHELDON HISTORY

Anita Ripstein-Hayes was Sheldon Historian during the time of the Bicentennial, in the late 1970's, and went on to become Deputy Wyoming County Historian, writing several books on various towns and numerous articles of Historical Wyoming.

Mrs. Hayes has agreed to write a special book for us on the Early History of Sheldon, with untold stories of those first settlers that she has accumulated for many years.

The book will be available at the Schoolhouse Museum and at our Semiquincentennial Celebrations. They will also be available by mail.

She is also updating her book, *Revolutionary Soldiers and Widows of Wyoming County, New York*, to include additional information that was not available previously. This book is like a Bible, when researching Revolutionary War veterans, but it was out of print. This updated version is going to be very helpful to all the towns in the County, as their historians plan events to observe their Revolutionary War history.



Thank you for your Generous Donations to the Sheldon Historical Society

In Memory of: John H. Knab, by Joan Knab

John F. & Gladys Glaser Almeter, by Kristen Almeter

Earl Bartz, by Ed & Barbara Logel

*Robert Barvian and Mary Barvian Conrad, by Sharon
Moeller and Ed & Barbara Logel*

*Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Simons, by Jeff & Mary Feinstein of
Alexandria, VA*

**Memberships, Memorials & Donations to the
Sheldon Historical Society may be sent to: PO Box 122, Strykersville, NY 14145**

SHELDON CENTER

BY JEANNE MEST

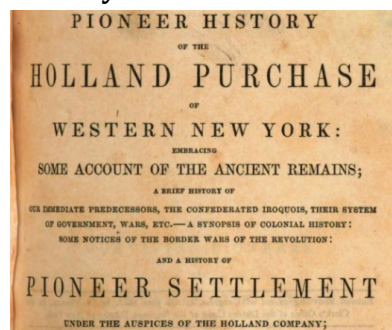
HERE IN THE CENTER OF TOWN
STOOD A HOTEL, STORE, POST
OFFICE, MILLINERY, TAVERN
CHEESE FACTORY, BLACKSMITH
CHURCH & SCHOOL 1803-1925

The inscription above is my suggested wording in an application I recently sent to the William G. Pomeroy Foundation. I'm hoping we may receive a historic roadside marker to illustrate how important Sheldon Center was to the Town of Sheldon.

The area which became the Town of Sheldon in Wyoming County, NY, was previously part of the Town of Batavia, in Genesee County. It was set off March 19, 1808, as the Town of Sheldon, which included all the towns of Attica, Bennington, Java, Arcade, Orangeville, Wethersfield, and part of Eagle. In 1840 Wyoming County was separated from Genesee.

Sheldon Center is exactly in the middle of the town, at the intersection of Centerline Road and Route 77. These corners have been the location of Sheldon School No.3, St. John's Protestant Episcopal Church, George Metzger's Tavern, the U.S. Post Office, Millinery Shop, Blacksmith's Shop, two hotels (one being the Sheldon Center Hotel) two general stores, and the Sheldon Town Hall, where all town business was conducted.

A great deal of history happened at that corner. The first church in the town of Sheldon was St. John's Protestant Episcopal Church, built and incorporated in 1811. St. John's was the first of that denomination west of the Genesee River. It was attended by many of the first settlers, including Judge Dr. Lemuel Chipman. Judge Chipman and Oliver Phelps purchased all the newly surveyed land in what would become the town of Sheldon from the Holland Land Company and sold it to the new settlers. Lemuel Chipman was a Revolutionary War veteran who spent his last years living in Sheldon near his sons Lemuel Jr. and Fitch Chipman. It was said that the church burned down during a political rally but such a record could not be found. We have the documents of incorporation, along with records from the Pioneer History of the Holland Purchase, by Orsamus Turner and the church convention.



A Protestant Episcopal church was established in Sheldon, in 1811. The first church wardens were Joshua Mitchell and Fitch Chipman; the vestrymen were:—John Rolph, John W. Coleman, Seneca Reed, James Case, Philo Welton, James Ward. This was the first Episcopal church organized upon the Purchase. Bishop Hobart has visited this church when there was no other west of Allen's Hill, Ontario county, in his diocese.

The first Post Office at Sheldon Center was established in 1810 and Fitch Chipman was the first Postmaster. In 1816 the first regular store was opened by Messrs. Potter and Wilson.

Bela Satterlee wrote a letter which was published in Wyoming County Times on April 29, 1895, about people and things in the town of Sheldon. It has helped to identify where many of the early buildings and houses were. He stated that in 1816, his father, John Satterlee, built their house on South Street, a little past the cemetery, a little past the Crandall place. The First Episcopal Church was built on East Street when he was a small boy. He said at the northwest corner of the green lived Mr. Abbott, who made potash. Mr. Hoard was on West Street. The Baldwin brothers had the store. He also mentions Mr. Fischer, a shoemaker who lost a leg in War of 1812; Esquire Jackson, Mr. Frink, Mr. Feagles, and Deacon Orange Buell.

Another article, *Early Recollections in the Town of Sheldon*, by Orson Warren, was printed in the Western New Yorker on March 20, 1903. Orson Warren's father, Ammi Warren, came from Washington Co. to Sheldon Center in 1815. He describes the wilderness, wolves, bear, and pioneer life. The maps and copies of the census show the names and the businesses that existed there.

EARLY RECOLLECTIONS IN THE TOWN OF SHELDON BY ORSON WARREN

This was printed in the Western New Yorker on March 20, 1903. The author presented it to the Pioneers at Silver Lake in 1903 & it was reprinted in Historical Wyoming in May 1950.

My father, Ammi Warren, came from Washington Co., this state, in the month of February 1815 with two yoke of oxen and one sled on which were the wife and two children, beside all the Bloomfield, Ontario came by way of Bloomfield, Ontario Co., where an uncle, Judge Chipman lived, who was an agent for the Holland Purchase. A brother, Gideon had worked for this uncle and earned this land, which was Lot #9 in this town. From Bloomfield they came to Geneseo, then to Warsaw, then west to Sheldon Center, then by marked trees to the southeast corner of the town, where the brothers had been the law the year before, clearing a little space and building log houses. My father had taken up his land, his lot was No. 1. I think the lots were numbered from south to north, and eight in a line, that brought nine and one side by side. A son of Judge Chipman, Lemuel by name, owned several hundred acres near what is now the North Java Railroad Station.

In the spring father cleared a quarter of an acre, the timber being mostly elm. This piece was planted to potatoes. It did not require any care and yielded 60 bushels. In June the brothers walked back to Bloomfield and worked through haying and harvesting for their uncle, leaving their wives and little ones alone in the woods. Gideon Warren married Judge Chipman's adopted daughter, a sister of my father. Betsey was the wife of Judge Webster of Warsaw. There was then a road from Warsaw to Sheldon Center, with no crossroads. There was plenty of game in the forests, bear, deer, wild cats and wolves. As the flocks increased, great care had to be taken to keep them from the animals. The sheep had to be shut up in the barn yard at night. One day when the brothers were at the Center on business and did not get home until night had fallen, the sheep were not housed. The wolves were heard, the men went out with their dogs which drove the wolves over the brush fence. There was a large pack of them. One sheep was eaten, several others bitten.

A neighbor was away from home one day, when a bear came, climbed into the pen and took their only hog away into the woods. The wife who saw it came over and told father, who followed with a gun, and found Mr. Bear dining on pork. He shot at him but only succeeded in frightening him away. A trap was set near the pen next morning. They had the bear.

I was born in the year 1816, what was known as poverty year. There was a frost every month, and it is a well authenticated fact that most of the children born that year lived to a good old age. There was an ashery at Sheldon Center, owned by Eleazor Baldwin. I remember when about a dozen years old, we had horses. Father and I would rise very early, get to the ashery about sunrise, take on a load of potash, go up over Barbour Hill, then north and then east through Varysburg, then to Attica, then to Batavia, then to Pine Hill, where we stopped for the night. The next day to Brockport, the nearest point on the canal, where we exchanged our load for groceries and dry and wet goods. The wet goods, whiskey, was fifteen cents a gallon, of dry goods, calico was three shillings a yard, tea was one dollar a pound, tobacco two shillings a pound. Cheese at this time brought four cents and butter six cents a pound. A load of butter drawn to Buffalo brought but six pence per pound, part of it in trade at that. Oats were cut with a sickle, threshed with flail, cleaned up by hand, drawn to Batavia, sold for ten cents a bushel. Taxes were high on account of the building of the canal. My brother, Squire, and I, when in our teens, were one evening chopping down a tree in which the dogs had treed a coon. For light we had a tallow candle set inside a perforated tin globe. While busily at work we heard from the knoll back of us, the scream of a woman, as we thought. In a moment it was repeated. The dogs in a fright started for home, closely followed by us boys. Next morning, it was found that a panther had passed right over the place where we stood.

The first school house in the neighborhood was built about one and a half miles west of

what is now Royce's Corners. It was built of logs heated by a stone back fire place, with a stick chimney plastered inside with clay mixed with straw for mortar. The books we used were old English Reader, Daboll's Arithmetic and Webster's spelling book. Elder Jenkins of Attica, a Freewill Baptist preacher, used to come up occasionally and hold services, when the people would come from miles around to hear the word. He was a good singer. One old hymn from Watts hymn book, which he sang, comes to my mind. The first verse was like this: *"An awful truth and it is so, that all mankind the harvest know. Jesus the wheat, Satan the tares, for that the word of truth declares. For soon the harvest time will come and angels about the harvest home."*

A traveling shoemaker, Gilbert L. Harrison, a Scotchman, went from house to house; the people furnished the leather and he made the shoes. Boots were not worn then. The nearest store was at Sheldon Center, the doctor was Hastings, of Orangeville Center. I remember well the Mason Morgan murder. The two political parties took such sides, they were called Masons and Anti-Masons.

The young people at their parties played much the same games as now; blind man's bluff, and snap and catch; quite often danced. One night in winter there was a party at a house on the farm now owned by Edgar Warren, the fiddler was Sanford Sherman. In the night he broke a fiddle string. He hired a boy to go to his house two miles away on foot through the woods for another string for which he received six pence, and thought he was well paid.

The road from North Java to Varysburg through Johnsonburg was made in 1831. At that time the Tonawanda Creek was many times larger than now. It ran mostly through the woods where the sun could not act upon it, and was fed by numberless springs which have become dried up as the land became enlivated.

The first president I voted for was General Harrison.

Orson Warren, North Java, N.Y.

Sheldon Map of 1853

Some names from the 1820 Census at the right are the same as those names on the map.

Names on the Map of 1853, clockwise, are:

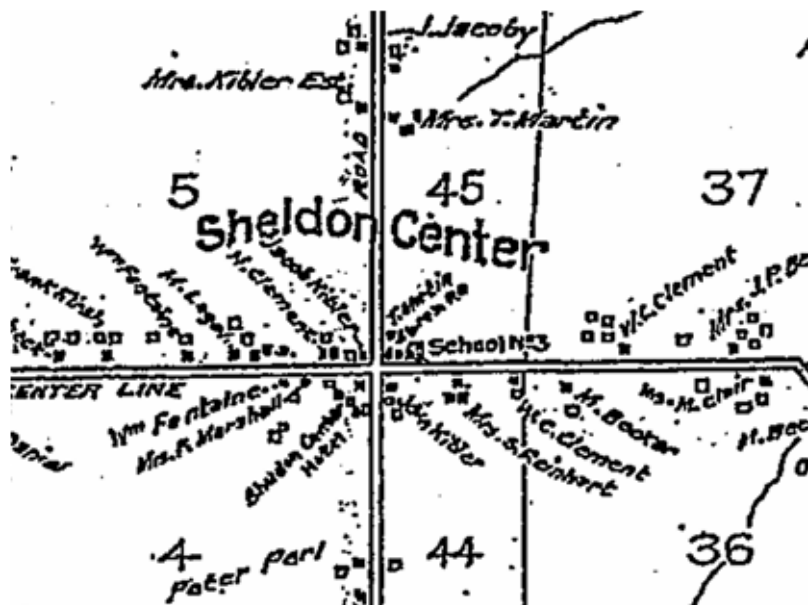
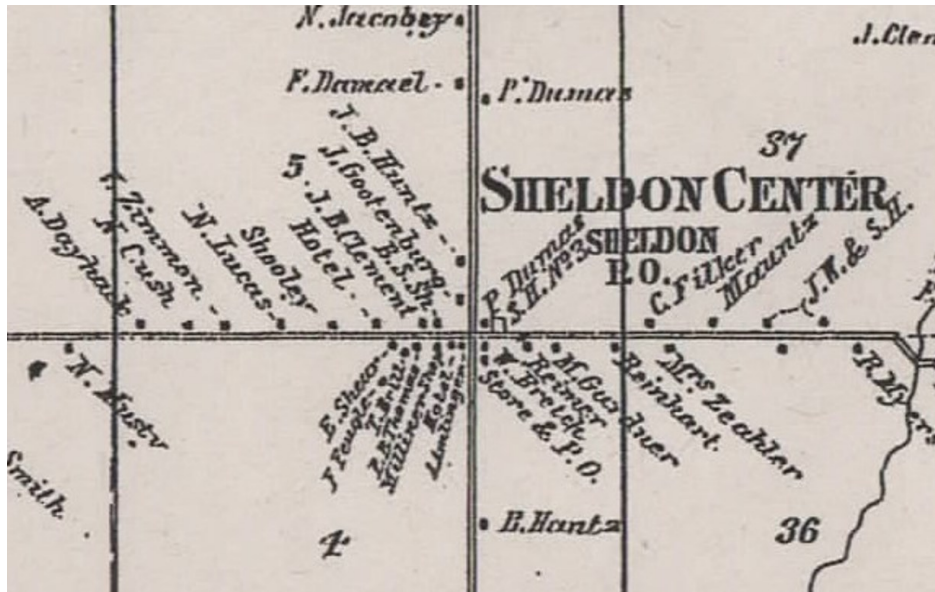
H. Dumas, School No. 3, Church, Store, Crandall, Satterlee, George Metzger's Tavern, Store, Nicholas Obertein, Fitch Chipman, Postmaster, Post Office, Blacksmith's Shop, John Kirsch (Cush). They match the descriptions given in Bela Satterlee's article.

Herman Fisher
 Fitch Chipman
 Nathaniel G. Hunsale
 Abner W. Wood
 John Satterlee
 John Crandall
 John J. Hunsale
 Amos W. Wood
 Elijah Woodcock
 Seth Gates
 Horace S. Turner
 Lewis Marks
 Ebenezer Jackson
 James A. Rogers
 Theophilus Humphrey
 Abel Merrill
 Horatio Merrill
 Joseph Case
 Daniel Jones
 Jerad W. Barber
 James Barber



SHELDON MAP 1866

In 1866, some of the names around Sheldon Corners are (clockwise):
 P. Dumas, S.H. (School House) No.3, Mrs. Zahler, Reinhart, M. Reimer, W. Bretch,
 Store and Post Office, Hotel, Millinery Shop, P.B. Thomas, Brill, Feugle, E. Shero,
 Shooley (Joseph Shoner), Hotel, J.B. Clement, Blacksmith's Shop, J. Gootenburg,
 J.B. Huntz

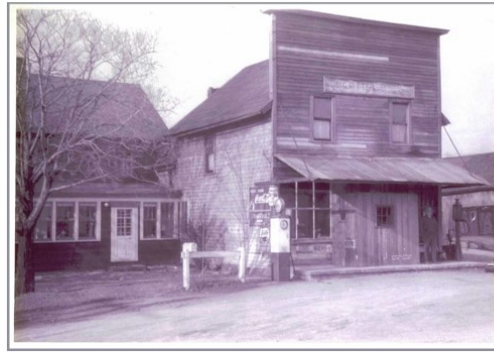


SHELDON MAP 1902

T. Martin, School #3,
 Clement, Becer (Becker),
 Clement, Mrs. S. Reinhart,
 John Kibler, Sheldon Center
 Hotel, Mrs. Frank Marshall,
 William Fontaine, N. Logel,
 M. Clement, Jacob Kibler



Theodore Martin General Merchandise



Ed G. Riter General Merchandise

The Martin Store and the Riter Store were the same building. Riter evidently owned it later, due to the gas pump.

Theodore Martin was born December 21, 1866, the son of Theodore Martin and Margarethe Heintz. He married and settled in Sheldon, initially as a farmer. In the 1900 U.S. Census, Theodore was living on his farm, but is listed as Post Master. By 1910, Theodore had opened a general store in Sheldon Center. The Census lists his occupation as Merchant in a Grocery and Country Store. By 1920, Theodore had returned to farming and sold the store to Ed Riter.

People came to Sheldon Center to pay their taxes. They held a caucus and political events. One such gathering in 1860 brought hundreds of people, many from other towns.

SHELDON CENTER, WYOMING COUNTY November 1, 1860

Editors of Morning Express:

The largest gathering of Republicans ever seen in our town has been held here this afternoon and evening. The people were out in their majesty.

Speeches were made by Hon. Augustus Frank, our Member of Congress, Hon. W.J. Humphrey, L.W. Smith and Thomas Corlett, Esqrs.

Henry Barthig, Esq. of Buffalo, addressed the Germans, who turned out in numbers. A large force of Wide Awakes, accompanied by the Warsaw and Attica brass bands, were present, from Warsaw, Attica, Bennington and Wales. The Republicans of Sheldon are feeling well over their meeting, numbering as it did several hundred people, more than one hundred being Wide Awakers.

Sheldon will give a good account of herself on Tuesday next.

Nov. 1, 1860 Large gathering of several hundred Republicans including Wide Awakes. Bands played, dignitaries spoke, many attended from nearby towns. They are hopeful for a good turnout on Election Day. The Democrats and the Know Nothings had a small turnout to their meeting.

The Wide Awakes were a powerful youth political movement in the North during the 1860 U.S. presidential campaign, consisting of young men who organized massive, torchlight parades to support Abraham Lincoln and the Republican Party's anti-slavery platform, ultimately helping elect Lincoln and galvanize political action before the Civil War. Wearing distinctive uniforms, they created a visible, militaristic, and disciplined show of force that electrified the election, increased youth political engagement, and demonstrated the growing abolitionist sentiment. Members wore black capes, caps, and carried oil lanterns or torches, creating spectacular night parades. They used symbols like axes (referencing Lincoln as a "Rail Splitter") and open eyes (representing awareness) Their goals were to support Lincoln, oppose slavery, defend free speech and mobilize voters, particularly young people.

During the Bicentennial, Sheldon Center was chosen as the site for the Revolutionary War Memorial in Sheldon. Along with it being a tribute to the soldiers named, it also marks an important part of the town's history. These articles give us an idea of what that celebration was like and how we could continue the traditions they began.

The Western New-Yorker.

VOLUME 25

WYOMING COUNTY, N. Y., MARCH 29, 1905.

NUMBER 12

BICENTENNIAL PLANS

The Town of Sheldon Bicentennial Committee is planning to erect a memorial to all men from the Town who fought in any conflict in the service of the U.S.A. from 1776. This will be at Sheldon Center. An American Flag donated by Barber Conable and also a Bicentennial Flag donated by the Committee of the State of New York will be flown from a flag pole erected at this site. The public is invited to attend this service which will be May 30. Anyone wishing to do so can join the Wyoming Co. Wagon Train scheduled for this summer.

Varysburg

Sunday, May 30, the Town of Sheldon celebrated its Bicentennial Day. A ceremony, dedicating a bronze plaque, flag pole and flags was held at Sheldon Center. Guest speakers were: Barber Conable, Dale Volker, Vincent Graber, John Wilson and Earl Dominesey.

After the dedication, a Bicentennial parade, proceeded from the site to Sheldon, where there was a judging of beards and costumes at St. Cecilia's.

A chicken barbeque was held together with many booths. A dance was held in the evening in the church sheds.

The Bicentennial Committee of the Town of Sheldon would like to thank everyone who had any part in making the eventful day so wonderful and memorable.

Celebration in Sheldon Sunday

SHELDON - The Bicentennial celebration will be held at 2PM Sunday at Route 77 and Centerline Road, Sheldon Center, with a flag and plaque dedication. A parade will follow. Costumes and beards will be judged during the afternoon and at 4PM, a chicken barbeque will be served. A dance is scheduled at 9PM.

Sheldon Bicentennial Events Are On Sunday

VARYSBURG—The Town of Sheldon is celebrating the Bicentennial Sunday at Sheldon Center. Dedication of flags and plaque will be at 2 p.m., followed by a parade of floats, etc.

The costume and beard judging will take place after the parade at St. Cecilia's hall. At 4 p.m. there will be a chicken barbecue and a dance will be from 9 to 1 with music by Junior Victor's band. Varysburg will have several floats in the parade.

Goodwill State

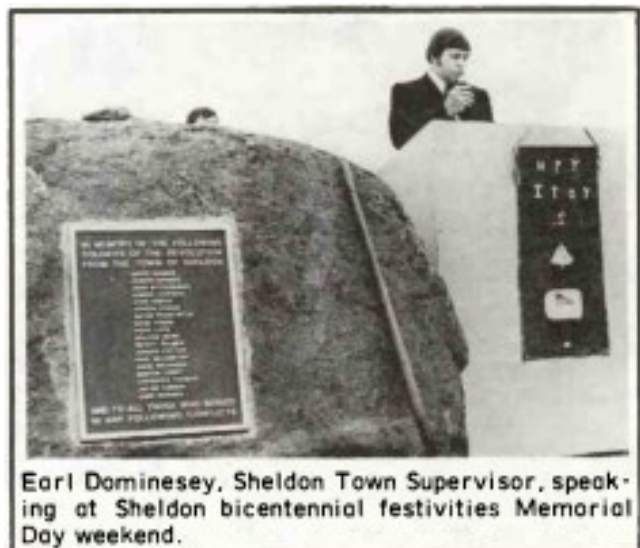
Cusmano attended the Lions Club convention over the weekend at the Concord Hotel in Monticello.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Becker were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Lefort of Strykersville.

Mr. and Mrs. Heineman were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Everett Embt of West Barre.

Mrs. Bea Keenan returned home after a trip to St. Croix in the Virgin Islands.

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Clark and Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Chamberlain were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Stanger at



Earl Dominesey, Sheldon Town Supervisor, speaking at Sheldon bicentennial festivities Memorial Day weekend.



MAY 30, 2026—A COMMUNITY CELEBRATION AT SHELDON CENTER

Dedication of Newly Updated Revolutionary War Monument & Memorial Garden

We will have Special Speakers, Dignitaries, Local Families & Visitors

Time Capsule, Refreshments & Fun

On May 30, 1976, during America's Bicentennial, a memorial boulder and a plaque listing the names of the known Revolutionary War Soldiers from the Town of Sheldon was dedicated in a very special celebration.

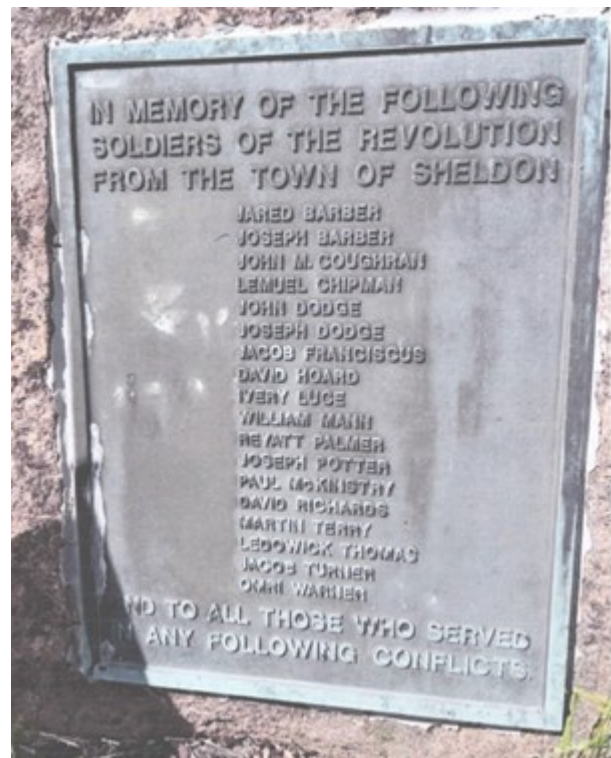
Now, 50 years later, we will meet there again for another historic day, to add a second monument to stand alongside the original, listing the names of several Revolutionary War Veterans who were not included in the original memorial. Our historians and volunteers have researched and found these names, which deserve to be remembered along with the rest.

The site of the Revolutionary Memorial Boulder is on a small piece of land that was donated to the town for this purpose, by the Schloss family. They owned the home on the land where Sheldon School No. 3 was located, near the intersection of Route 77 and Centerline Road, across from the town hall.

With the help of our town and volunteers, we hope to add some benches and new flower beds along with the new memorial, and make this historic site a welcoming place to visitors as well as the community.

Volunteers are needed and donations are welcomed. Flowers and other needed materials may be donated.

Note to Volunteers: Since some of us are on both committees, we are planning a joint meeting on March 5, for the Rev. War Monument/Memorial garden and Cemetery Tours at 6:00 pm, at the Schoolhouse Museum.



Original Plaque dedicated in 1976



It isn't too late to be part of our **AMERICA'S 250TH Committee**. We would love to have your help with our plans, so feel free to join in with us any time. **Volunteers are needed.**

We will be having various events all year. Here are just a few:

An **OLD TYME PICNIC** September 12 with Old Fashioned Games, Food and Fun on the lawn at Farmcraft Brewery. Including an all **American Tradition—** an **Apple Pie Contest & Auction**.

On October 3 we will have a **PIONEER CEMETERY TOUR** - Come meet town founders and Patriots. Living History with interpreters at the Strykersville Pioneer Cemetery. Let us know if you want to dress up and portray one of our ancestors.

In November, we will have **Beers, Beards and Barbecue**, at the Flip Side.

We will also have a float in the Strykersville Firemen's Parade & the Wyoming Co. Fair.



Another exciting element of the Bicentennial in 1976 was the Wyoming County Bicentennial Wagon Train, a county wide journey with over 500 people participating. Many of our readers were children who took this once-in-a-lifetime trek. Please let us know if you have stories or photos to share in our next newsletter.

Sheldon Historical Society
Schoolhouse Museum
3859 Main Street, PO Box 122
Strykersville, NY 14145

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Try our QR Code for donations or to
pay for membership!

Research assistance is available
throughout the year.

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Articles welcome; please send to
Historian. Newsletters can be sent by
email or mail. For previous newsletters,
see website or contact Historian.

Sheldon Historical Society Officers:

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Barbara Logel, Elaine Almeter,
Judie Coffey, Steve Lakas, Missy Kehl
Museum Curator - Barbara Logel
Classroom Curator & Town of
Orangeville Historian - Laury Lakas
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Newsletter Editor - Jeanne Mest

Sheldon Historical Society Membership

Being a member of the Sheldon Historical Society means being
part of preserving history. Your dues and donations help maintain
our museum and historical artifacts and contribute to scholarships.
As a member, you may vote and receive newsletters at no cost. The
membership year is from July 1 through the following June 30.

Please renew yearly and let us know of any address changes.
If you are currently a member, we thank you for your support!

Please send a check payable to the Sheldon Historical Society to
PO Box 122, Strykersville, NY 14145

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____ Phone _____

_____ NEW MEMBER _____ MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

_____ \$12 Annual Membership July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026

_____ \$75 Lifetime Membership

_____ Making a Donation in Memory or Honor of _____

<https://www.sheldonhistoricalsociety.com>