
DUANESBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter

Volume 11, Issue 2

October 2023

Directors' Message

Dear Members,

We have had a very productive 2023. Our May 21st "Remembering Those Who Serve" showcased our current Military collection but also provided us with a means of reaching out to the community to find military information about veterans not listed in our archives. We now have a military record form which we provide to be filled out for family members who have served or are currently serving. Contact us at dhsrac450@gmail.com or 518-895-2632 to obtain a form.

A service was held at our flagpole with Reverend Anthony Gorsuch offering opening and closing prayers. As the Patriot Riders honored those who serve, a flag raising was assisted by SSGT Christopher Smalls and the Girl Scout Cadet Troop led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Singing of "God Bless America" followed. Art Crandall and Steve Schrade both spoke on the importance and the sacrifices that the military men and women undergo by recounting personal and family experiences. The Hot Pots singing group provided a nostalgic and moving melody of patriotic songs.

On September 9th our Open House honored the town's farming tradition featuring Cindy McKeon's feed sack aprons and milk bottle collection, a 4-H display, farm photos, wool spinners, rug hooking by Katie O'Brien, a weaver from CeCe's Wool and her "Little Moo" the Jacob sheep, Ken Trudell's maple syrup, vintage tools, butter making with Co-operative Extension, a timber framing demonstration by Kim Balfour and Joel Carahar, our local Honey House Meadery and free ice cream from Hannaford Market.

Our monthly program meetings at Bishop Scully Hall are well attended and provide the opportunity to enjoy newly researched topics that spur old memories.

Thank you for your continued support and interest in the mission of the Duanesburg Historical Society. Please encourage your friends, neighbors and family members to join us. \$10 per year, 2 newsletters, 9 high interest programs a year and a July picnic ... and the bonus of knowing that each member supports the preservation of history in the town of Duanesburg.

Leonard M. Van Buren - President
Shirley Martin - Vice President
Howard Ohlhous - Treasurer
Marsha Brown - Secretary
Directors: Cindy McKeon, Carol Plue, Pat Van Buren, David Vincent, Carl Wiedemann



Raising the flag – May 21, 2023

A Soldier's Story

In June of 2022 Orlando and Yvonne Orsini of Scotch Ridge Road, Duaneburg, NY donated a WW I Army uniform to the Duaneburg Historical Society. They found the uniform in their attic and although they did not know who the uniform belonged to, they were aware that there was a "sad" story associated with the uniform – but did not know the details.



Walter A Looman

Walter was inducted March 1, 1918, at Camp Green, North Carolina. He was assigned to Company "L", 39th infantry, fourth division regulars. He sailed on the SS Lenape, May 10th, 1918, from Hoboken N.J. and was killed in action in the Battle of Argonne, France, September 26, 1918. Walter was buried in the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery in France. A cross was erected at his grave in Meuse-Argonne and a monument (cenotaph) was placed in Vale Cemetery in Schenectady, NY.

The uniform and his possessions were most likely sent to his mother, Minna, back home where they stayed in her possession until her death in 1947 and then given to Wiley Looman, her son and brother of Walter A. Looman and thus wound up in the attic of the home Scotch Ridge Road for the Orsinis to find.



Walter Looman's Uniform

Thanks to Bruce Barton, Howard Ohlhaus and Len Van Buren who researched this story.

The Soldiers Lullaby

William North served as an officer in the continental army during the Revolutionary War which ended in 1783. That year the Society of the Cincinnati was formed by a group of former officers. North was an original member. The Society of the Cincinnati still exists and is now the nation's oldest patriotic organization, headquartered in Washington, D.C. It promotes knowledge and appreciation of the achievement of American independence.



In 1787, North married Mary Duane, the daughter of James Duane and built a home in Duaneburg. Together, they had six children. He served as a state assemblyman and as a senator in Washington during his political career.

The following song was written by William North and sung at a meeting of the Society of Cincinnati in 1824.

The war-worn Soldier, poor and friendless,
Lifts to heaven a suppliant eye;
His Country's free—He did his duty—
Sweet thought! To grief 'tis lullaby,
Lullaby, lullaby, lullaby, lullaby.
Sweet thought! To grief 'tis lullaby.

What though age and care oppress him,
And piercing pains wring forth a sigh,
His duty done—the sweet remembrance,
Shall sooth him with its lullaby.
Lullaby, &c.

His food though scant, his raiment rags,
His bed the earth, his roof the sky,
His duty done—the sweet remembrance,
Shall sooth him with its lullaby.
Lullaby, &c.

When the weary March is ended,
And, Halt! Is ordered from on high,
Angels gathering round the soldier,
Shall sing his requiem, lullaby.
Lullaby, &c.

Remembering Those Who Served - May 21, 2023



Pat Van Buren addresses attendees



The Hot Pots singing patriotic songs

Farming Heritage Open House – September 9, 2023



Debbie Griswald, Cornell Cooperative Extension with butter making demonstration



Little Moo the Jacob's Sheep



Cindy McKeon – Feed Sack History



Name That Tool
Becky Watrous & Mark Weinheimer



Kenny & Brian Trudell – Maple Syrup



Nicole Kelly & Anna Engstrom enjoy Hannaford ice cream



Golden Fleece Spinners
Danielle Bombard & Jennifer Riley



Bill Green – Honey House Meadery



Kim Balfour – Timber Framing

Do You Have Christmas Photos to Share?

Mark Collins is preparing a slide show (Powerpoint) for our December 18th program. He is looking for photos of Christmas memories that members would like to share at the membership meeting. If you have photos please send a scan to Mark at the following address: one1948olda@gmail.com. Or you bring the photos to the meeting.



Funding Archival Material

We continue to acquire many interesting and pertinent items for our collection. All the materials that we receive from photos, post cards, documents, maps, rare local ledgers, ephemera, memorabilia, or clothing -- all require preservation in appropriate acid-free archival boxes or albums to keep them safe from deterioration with environmental exposure.



Archival Storage Boxes

We spend approximately \$400-\$500 each year for archival materials. Prices for archival boxes range from \$10.00 to \$45.00 according to size and specific need. If you would like to support this fund, we are accepting donations earmarked just for purchasing acid-free archival materials. Checks may be sent to Duanesburg Historical Society, PO Box 421, Duanesburg, NY 12056. Thank you.

Are You A Member?

The Duanesburg Historical Society was formed in 1944 for the purpose of discovery, preservation, and dissemination of our local and regional history. If you are not a member, please consider joining. Your support is important.

Membership Application

Choose the membership that is right for you and enjoy the benefits of supporting your Historical Society. If you are not a current member, we hope that you will consider joining.

Dues \$10.00 Adults \$1.00 students

From July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023

Lifetime Membership - \$150.00

Name(s) _____

Telephone # _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____
(optional – not shared)

Make checks payable to: Duanesburg Historical Society
PO Box 421
Duanesburg, New York 12056

