



CHARLTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

SPRING 2025

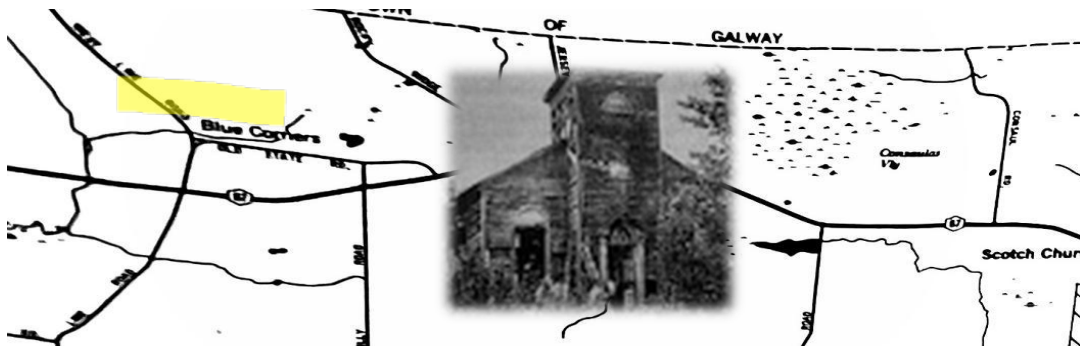
Volume 34 Number 2

<https://www.charltonnyhs.org>

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Join us on **May 7, 2025** at 7pm at the Schoolhouse, 2009 Maple Ave, Charlton.

“A STOP ALONG THE WAY”



PRESENTED BY DAVE WAITE

A Stop Along the Way is a 40-minute video narrated by Dave Waite that tells the story of the Blue Corners Hamlet, a long-forgotten crossroads in the Saratoga town of West Charlton. In its heyday, Blue Corners served as a stopping place for those carrying freight from the Mohawk Valley to Northhampton on the Sacandaga River. It is a story of the birth and demise of the hamlet as well as the wilderness that became western Saratoga County.

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

May 26-2:00 Gideon Hawley Park



Veterans Memorial Board

Our spring activities start with the Memorial Day Ceremony in Gideon Hawley Park. We gather to honor Charlton's past and present veterans. Our speaker this year will be retired Col. Mary Brandt (NY National Guard) who will return to do an update about the progress of the Legacy Project" the Capital District Veterans Memorial located on Dutch Meadows Lane, Glenville.

Charlton Verterans, to be added to the Veterans' Memorial Board, contact Pete Parker



The Charlton Historical Society's Founders' Day Weekend Saturday June 7 and Sunday, June 8

For Founders' Day 2025, the Charlton Historical Society is recognizing the West Charlton Blue Corners Hamlet. Volunteers Jason Nemec and Jill Hofmann have designed this year's Founders' Day Button. The button will be on sale for \$1.00 with the proceeds going to the Charlton Historical Society.

EVENTS



Saturday - 5k Run and Walk

Starts at 9:15 am

Go to www.charlton5k.org
to register.

Art Exhibit at Main Street Studio

June 6 10am to 7pm, 7 and 8 from 10am to 5pm

Artist's Reception: May 31, 6pm-9pm

For more detail, go to
mainstreetcharlton.com



The Museum is Open

Saturday 6/7 8:30- 12:00

Sunday 6/8 10:00 - 4:00



Party in the Park



Entertainment starts at 5:00pm and fireworks at 9:30pm

Saturday evening live music, inflatable climbing wall, games for kids, face painting, magician, food and desserts, ending with fireworks.

The 12th Founder' Day Charlton Market



Sunday from 10:00 to 3:00 at the Charlton Historical Society, 2009 Maple Avenue, Charlton. Highlights include Charlton Garden Club plant sale, live music by Tune Folk, local farm products, craft artisans, homemade baked goods, local soaps, herba remedies and gifts. Vendors should go to charltonnyhs.org to print an entry form or contact Carrie Shea at charltonhistorical@gmail.com.

Parade



Sunday at 2 PM – If you have question or wish to participate, please contact John Hussey at (518) 557-2410 or by email at jkhussey@nycap.rr.com. Entry forms can be found on charltonnyhs.org.



Ice Cream Social sponsored by Saratoga County Dairy Ambassadors after the parade under the schoolhouse tent.





2025 FOUNDERS'DAY BUTTON

For Founders' Day 2025, the Charlton Historical Society is recognizing the West Charlton Blue Corners Hamlet. Volunteers Jason Nemec and Jill Hofman designed the 2025 Founders' Day button. The button will be on sale for \$1.00.

PARADE GRAND MARSHALS

David Waite



With a lifelong interest in upstate New York history, Dave Waite has researched and written about topics ranging from hermits in the Adirondacks to stage coaching in the Mohawk Valley. He has had over forty articles published by a wide range of organizations including the New York State Archives, St. Lawrence County Historical Society, Saratoga County History Roundtable, and Warren County Historical Society. He has a special interest in the Blue Corners Hamlet of West Charlton very near to where he resides.

Mary Senk Opalka



Mary is 106 years old making her the oldest resident of Charlton. This beats the previous resident of 102 years. Her father and mother (Jan "John" Senk and Haffis "Effie" Were born in Poland and arrived in the United States on Sept. 13, 1909. They lived in Amsterdam prior to purchasing and settling on 75 acres in Blue Corners. This included Meyers Tavern where Mary still lives today. John and Effie had 2 daughters: Mary and Nellie. Mary married Chester Opalka Sr and had 3 children- David Opalka, Chester Opalka Jr. and Mary *Opalka* Bramer. David did not survive infancy.



Mary Opalka states she has lived this long from the natural alkaline spring water on the property, the raw local honey she has every day and home cooked nutritious meals.

PARADE PUPPETS

We will have big puppets representing Blue Corners in this year's parade!

The story of Blue Corners as a bustling stagecoach stop has captivated our imaginations this year! Dana & Jason Nemec at Main Street Studio, along with lots of volunteers have been busy bringing elements of the busy hamlet to life through large-scale puppets that will march in this year's Founders Day parade! Thanks to Jill Hoffman and Alice Crotty for helping with historical references, they are working on making a big Innkeeper puppet that will take 3 people to carry! Two galloping paper mâché horses, a stagecoach, big ale tankards and of course a giant pie (we imagine that Charlton was always serving pies to visitors!) They still need lots of help finishing all the pieces and carrying puppets on parade day! You can visit their website to sign up for community build sessions or send them an email at info@mainstreetcharlton.com if you would like to help! Make sure to come to the parade to cheer them on!



Volunteers designing and constructing parade puppets at the Mainstreet Studio. The Next community workshop is May 16th.

June 8 the Founders' Day Parade and puppet Possession



ART EXHIBIT AT MAIN STREET STUDIO

"CHARLTON MAKES"

The exhibit features work by local painters, blacksmiths, woodworkers, ceramic artists, textile artists, writers, and more! Come see what your neighbors have been creating.

THE CHARLTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY 12TH ANNUAL

FOUNDERS DAY MARKET

A CELEBRATION OF LOCAL ROOTS & HISTORIC COMMUNITY



WHEN: Sunday, June 8th
10:00a-3:00p

WHERE: 2009 Maple Avenue,
Charlton, NY

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Local Farms & Artisans
- Charlton Garden Club Annual Plant Sale
- Homemade Baked Goods
- Local Soaps, Herbal Remedies & Gifts
- Live Music by Tune Folk

VENDORS WANTED!

Growers, Artisans,
Bakers, Crafters,
Creators - Join us for
a one day celebration
of heritage &
community!

Spaces Limited -
Reserve Today!

For more information:
Contact Carrie Shea
charltonhistorical@gmail.com

SPRING PROGRAMS EVENTS

“PAINT AND SIP”

In March, our members and guests gathered to “Paint and Sip” at the Main Street Studie to paint a picture of the Charlton Historical Society Schoolhouse.



Local artist Karen Anthony guided the class through the steps needed to create their own rendition of Charlton's Schoolhouse located on Maple Ave. We thank Tracey Lyons and Dana Nemec for planning this event.

THE MOVEABLE FEAST

In April we gathered at the Schoolhouse for wine and Hors d'oeuvres. For the dinner, guests went to the homes of John and Carrie Shea, TJ and Tracey Lyons, or Mari Fettke. For the dessert, everyone met up at Mari's home. As you can see from the pictures, everyone had an enjoyable time.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The founding and lasting success of the Charlton Historical Society has been totally dependent on our volunteers. Every aspect of the success is at the hands of those who spend a few hours or those who have spent many hours for many years. Here's where volunteers are needed.

Museum and Schoolhouse

- Periodic cleaning: Dusting, Vacuuming, Glass Cleaning, Program Set Up and Clean Up
- Helping Curator with displays and documents
- Museum Volunteers: Be a docent during Founders Day Weekend (6/7 8:30 to 11 and 6/8) and/or Saturday/Sunday Summer hours (2 hr. Commitment 2 to 4)

Programs

- Moveable Feast – Dinner Hosts are needed.
- Holiday Party – Raffle, entertainment
- Memorial Day Ceremony – Set Up, Refreshments, Handing Out Programs
- Children's Programs
- Fund Raisers

Charlton Heritage 5K Run and Walk (Major Fund Raiser that keeps CHS going.)

- Course Set Up and Monitoring
- Marshals
- Course Safety Team
- Tent set-up and take down.
- Stuffing Goodie Bags
- Food Table Workers
- Event Clean-up
- Announcers/race starter
- Singer of National Anthem
- Registration – June 7th 7:30 to 10 AM, especially those with their cell phone for QR lookups
- Photographers

Publicity and Marketing

Recording History

- Research and record the lives of people of our town.
- Work on a supplement to CHARLTON HISTORIES & STORIES published in 1959 on happenings since 1959 to the present.
- Support Jill with the digital scanning project

Maintenance tasks as they arise.

Parade

- Recruiting parade participants
- Requesting road closure from county
- Invite politicians to march and take part in the proclamation.
- Recruit marching band(s)

Librarian Curator

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMINDERS

- You will be alerted by email about important information concerning CHS.



A race day/week prep. workshop is scheduled for Monday June 2 at 7pm in the CHS Schoolhouse, 2009 Maple Avenue.

The race training runs are going to be held every Friday morning (beginning 5/2) and every Wednesday evening (beginning 5/7), through race week. Info and registration for the runs can be found at www.ptimmersion.net/run

- Race Registration is open. Go to www.charlton5k.org
- May 7 at 7:00 pm– David Waite program on Blue Corners - Schoolhouse
- May 26 at 2:00—Memorial Day Ceremony’s Gideon Hawley Park. Rain – Town Hall
- June 7 and 8 Founders Day

June 7 -5K Race and Run Kids Run at 9:15 am 5K at 10:00 am

5:00 pm Party in the Park at 5:00, Fireworks at 9:30 - Elmer Smith Park

June 8 – Founders’ Day Market 10:00 am on the Schoolhouse Lawn

Parade and Puppet Procession - 2:00

Proclamation on the Museum Steps – After the Parade

Ice Cream Social after the Proclamation.

The Museum is opened on Saturday 8:30 to 12:00, Sunday 10:00 am to 4:00.

2025 OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

Co-President	Alice Crotty	Newsletter	518 399-4153
Co-President	Jill Hofman	Chair. Digital Scanning Committee	518 378-6865
Vice-President	Pat Parker	Race Sponsors & Communications	518-882-9099
Secretary	Nancy Bellamy		518 399-8508
Cor. Secretary	Jill Hofmann		518 378-6865
Treasurer	Susan York		518 399-3797
Investment Funs	Bob Fenton	Committee Chair of Fund	518 882-6009
Curator	Open		
Trustee	Ken Crotty	Buildings & Grounds/Web Site	518 764-5210
Trustee	Don Davis	CHS Historian/Investment Fund	518 557-8679
Trustee	Chuck Latham	Genealogy Buff	518 384-0130
Trustee	TJ Lyons	5K Race Director/Building & Grounds	518 948-0626
Trustee	Tracey Lyons.	Programs Committee	518 577-0785
Trustee	Carrie Shea	Digital Scanning Committee	518 791-3172
Trustee	Jason Nemec	Craftsman/Digital Scanning Committee.	518 256-1816

Please Contact a Trustee when you have a question and/or comments.