

MHS NEWSLETTER

Bickford Huffman Explosion | Membership Highlight | 2024 EVENTS | [DONATE](#)

Macedon Historical Society (MHS)

MHS is a 501c3 non-profit Organization. We proudly undertake stewardship of preserving and keeping the vast historic moments captured from our community of Macedon relevant.

Historic Sites owned by MHS

The Historic Macedon Academy
1185 Macedon Center Rd.
and the Macedon Center
Meetinghouse/Macedon Grange
#326
1208 Macedon Center Rd.

Mailing Address:

PO Box 303, Macedon, NY 14502

Phone:

working on one :)

Email:

macedonacademy@gmail.com

Website:

macedonhistoricalsociety.org

Facebook Page:

Macedon NY History

If you'd like to make a donation to help keep the lights on, check out our Website at macedonhistoricalsociety.org and click the [DONATE](#) button. This will take you to MHS's Pay Pal account.

When using the website to make a donation, please check the box to share your information. MHS would like to thank you.

Or mail donations to:
MHS, PO Box 303,
Macedon, NY 14502

APHNYS (Association of Public Historians New York State) Region 11 Conference in Macedon, New York.

On April 20, 2024, 29 historians and history enthusiasts from around our region met at the Macedon Town Complex. The Association of Public Historians New York State, Region 11 holds a conference on a yearly basis. Did you know that all communities are required by law to have a designated historian? This year, Linda Braun, the Macedon Town Historian agreed to host the event. Assistance was received from Gene Bavis-Walworth Historian, Rosa Fox – Town of Huron Historian, Jane Milem – Wayne County Historian and Babette Huber – Town of Victor Historian and APHNYS Regional Coordinator.



Presenters: Ann Morton, Michael Oberg, Babette Huber, Chris Blomgren, Gene Bavis, Erika Newcombe, Linda Braun

One of our goals was to share information on how to prepare for the United States Semiquincentennial Celebration in 2026. We also heard from a variety of speakers. **Babette Huber** shared activities that New York State has taken to promote our upcoming 250th birthday. We also shared ideas on how to plan for this event.

Dr. Michael Oberg, Distinguished Professor of History at SUNY Geneseo shared his program, the *Semiquincentennial Student Fellowship Project* funded by the Gardiner Foundation. <https://historyatgeneseo.org/> It was so exciting to hear about ways he is encouraging students from all academic disciplines to get involved in history projects near their hometowns.

Erika Newcombe, a local college student and Pal-Mac Graduate (Class of 2023) shared the work that she has been doing on the Old Baptist Cemetery located on Walworth Rd. What began as a Girl Scout Gold project has transformed into a passion that she and her mother work on together. Erika is working hard to locate, identify and restore some of the headstones in this pioneer cemetery. One of her most exciting finds was of Hannah Harwood, wife of Webb Harwood a couple of Macedon's first settlers. She also located the grave-stone of Betsey Brister, the wife of Aaron Brister a former slave and entrepreneur in Palmyra. Erika shared the journey with a room full of adult historians and enthusiasts. She is a remarkable young woman, and we are VERY pleased with the progress she has made with this project. Check out the website that Erika has created at <https://sites.google.com/view/old-baptist-cemetery-macedon-n/home>.

During a special luncheon with meals created by The Local Farm Table's chef Averie Riel, we heard from **Gene Bavis**, Walworth Historian. Gene shared the work that the Wayne Historians Organization does, including the work we did

Continued on page 3

Member Highlight - Noah Orsburn**MHS OFFICERS****President**

Sandy Pagano
585-455-3798

Vice President

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Carmen A. Pagano

Secretary

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John Mullard

Archivist - Archeologist

Stephanie Petty

Co-Curator

Grace Mullard & Tari Orsburn

Special Events**Coordinators**

Linda Braun
Sandy Pagano

Grant Writer

Linda Braun

Newsletter Content

Members

MHS is all Volunteers

No Paid Staff

We are the Orsburn family, Jeff, Tari, and Noah. We are relatively new members to the historical society and we are here because of Noah's interest in history. Noah (the youngest member of the historical society) is currently a 6th grade student at Pal-Mac Middle School.



Noah has always been fascinated by the military and American History. He was a member of the History Club and Research Club in 4th and 5th grades, where he got to learn more about the Bullis family and did a project for the bicentennial.

He enjoyed field trips to the Bullis House and local cemeteries and helped create a website for his project. Additionally, last



spring, he played a Union Soldier and drummer boy in the local Bullis Musical.

In the past few years, we have traveled to Washington DC, Albany, and Boston to see so many of the places he has learned about. Some highlights for him included seeing the Enola Gay,

Arlington Cemetery, and the White House in DC. In Boston, we saw many sights on the Freedom Trail and were able to be a part of the 250th anniversary and reenactment of the Boston Tea Party, this past December.

Noah's interest in history and music is perfectly matched for him as a member of the Towpath Volunteers Fife and Drum Corps. Since joining last July, he has carried the banner, assisted the color guard, and is learning both the snare and bass drums. Last summer, he participated in the World Fife and Drum Friendship Festival hosted by the Towpath Volunteers. Our next opportunity sends us to St. Tropez, France, in August, for the 80th anniversary of the liberation of the Riviera from German Forces.

We are happy to be a part of the historical society and bring some youthful energy. Hopefully Noah's interest in history can help inspire more younger people to learn more about history and be active participants in it. Our history will live on through our children, let's teach them about it and get them involved!



APHSNY Session - continued from page 1

for this past year's Bicentennial. Specifically, he shared the Wayne Historians Web-site <https://waynehistorians.org/>. This site contains thousands of records of historic places and notable people. It is a wonderful resource created by local historians. The site has been designed and maintained by Jim Paprocki. We encourage everyone to explore the site.

Chris Blomgren, a Social Studies teacher for 30 years shared the concepts and strategies that his business *Historic Pursuits* uses to help teach, engage, and inspire young people. His hands on approach to learning was contagious! Check out his offerings at <https://www.historicpursuits.org/>.

Our last presenter was **Ann Morton**, archaeologist, and owner of Morton's Archaeological Services. Her business is a Cultural Resource Survey firm mortonarchaeology.com/. Ann's program titled Archeology 101 was designed to show the lay person what to look for when investigating or coming upon historic sites. She shared several different excavations that she has worked on and explained how things work when they begin discovering artifacts.

The afternoon concluded with questions and answers. Everyone seemed to have a fabulous day and enjoyed sharing ideas especially their love of history with others. We look forward to getting together again next year!

Submitted by: *Linda Braun, Macedon Town Historian*

The Tradition continues

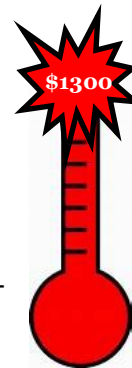


20' x 30' American Flag

The Community has stepped forward and the goal of \$1300 has been met. The Flag was ordered in April in time for the Memorial Day Observance. Donations that pushed over the goal were:

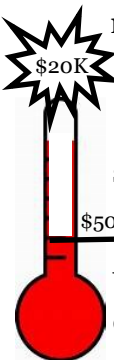
Sons of the American Legion Philip Steiger Squad
494 American Legion Auxiliary Philip Steiger Unit
494

Ellen & Dennis Benjamin donated in honor of Howard & Charlotte Bradley and Howard & Ruth Wiedrick and there were several anonymous donations.



AUDITORIUM at the Macedon Academy is in need of HEAT & AC

MHS hasn't quite reached the goal of \$20,000 - currently approximately \$5000 is in the restricted fund. MHS has applied for a grant for this project it is a matching grant, which means 1/2 of the funds needs to be met. Please consider making a donation for a New HVAC system in the Academy. Click [DONATE](#) and you will be transferred to MHS's PAYPAL Charity Account.



The goal is accessibility all year long.



HVAC SYSTEM for the Academy

Heritage Builders

2023-2024



To become a
HERITAGE BUILDER
sponsors

donate over \$1000
financially or with
in-kind service during
MHS's fiscal year.

MHS appreciates all
types of donations.

Our Mission Statement

To promote and encourage historical research and preservation regarding the community of Macedon NY and to disseminate that information.

Membership

Update Meeting

2nd Tuesday of the Month 6:00pm

Monthly Board of Directors
and Stakeholders Meetings
(all members are welcome)

Membership Meetings
& Community Chat
May 14, August 13,
November 12, 2024

Membership

All Members are encouraged to partake in contributing suggestions, insight, guidance etc. in support of the continued efforts of MHS.

Membership dues:

Individuals	\$25
Family	\$30

Dues and donations are used to maintain the buildings. MHS applies for grants for projects, such as painting the buildings, shoring up foundations, ADA Bathrooms, etc.

If you'd like to donate or become a member you can mail a check to:
Macedon Historical Society
PO Box 303, Macedon, NY 14502

Or use the donation/membership buttons on our website .

macedonhistoricalsociety.org
and click the donation button, or drop down menu to membership.

Phone Number for MHS at the Academy

315-538-0051
leave a message

Celebration of Nettie's Birthday

On Saturday, March 23rd approximately 80 people from Macedon and the surrounding area took advantage of a rare opportunity to see inside the historic Bullis House located on Canandaigua Rd.

Our gracious host, Mr. Jeffrey Henley, allowed us to walk around this cobblestone home

that was completed in 1842. Our

open house included a birthday celebration for a local benefactor, Miss. Nettie Bullis. She would have been 131 years old on that day. My apologies to those who read my previous article where I incorrectly wrote 101 years!

The patriarch Charles Bullis was born in Manchester, Vermont in 1786.

He married his wife Eleanor in 1812. In 1839 they moved to New York and settled in Macedon. From 1841 to 1979, four generations of the Bullis family lived in their cobblestone home which is listed on the National Register.

Some of the more amazing things we learned were that the home did not have any electricity, plumbing or heat, other than a fireplace until 1980! Nettie lived in a trailer outside of the home where her brother Charlie resided. A couple of folks visiting recalled Charlie. Mr. Maxwell remembered how he used to sometimes drive Charlie places. Judy Snyder of Palmyra shared that her mother-in-law Rosalie cooked and played cards with Nettie the last couple years of her life.

The house is just beautiful! It is my understanding that when cobblestone homes were built it took approximately 3 years. This was due to the need for the cement and stones to set properly. This home was built between 1839 and 1842. It is a Federal style, cobblestone house consisting of a 2-story main block with a 1½-story frame wing. It is constructed of irregular, rough, moderate sized cobbles.



KEEP UP TO DATE
with the Macedon Historical Society

macedonhistoricalsociety.org or

Facebook: [Macedon NY History](https://www.facebook.com/MacedonNYHistory)

Celebration of Nettie's Birthday - continued

The house is among the approximately 170 surviving cobblestone buildings in Wayne County. Did you know that Wayne County New York is the home to 20% of the cobblestone buildings in the world?

The cobblestone design is characterized by rows of rough, rounded field stones of irregular shape and moderate size, and separated by horizontal mortar joints in the shape of a projecting V-shape. While most cobblestone structures had quoins and lintels of limestone or sandstone, the Charles Bullis House is one of only eight cobblestone buildings in Wayne

County with brick quoins and lintels.

The interior of the house has been well preserved. The fireplace, with its white mantel and stone hearth is simply beautiful. Mr. Henley has a very large, framed map of Wayne County hung above it. The floors are wide planks with square nails.

What I found most stunning were the windows. Because of the thickness of the exterior walls, the windows were designed so that their interior frames were angled. This allows the light to fill the room in a very special way.

It was noted that all of the hardware on the doors was original. The center

staircase had what I believe to be marble inlay in the null post. The railing was shorter than those required with today's standards. The staircase was open at the top allowing access to four rooms on the second floor.

Macedon is indebted to Nettie Bullis for her generous contributions. We encourage anyone who is interested in preserving our history to check out the Macedon Historical Society (MHS). The MHS owns and maintains two buildings in Macedon Center, the Macedon Academy and the Macedon Center Meetinghouse. We meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month. For more information check out our Facebook Page – *Macedon NY History* or contact us at macedonacademy@gmail.com. Our mailing address is P.O. Box 303, Macedon, NY 14502. Lastly, we can be found on the internet at <https://www.macedonhistoricalsociety.org/>.

Written by Linda Braun, Macedon Town Historian and MHS Secretary



MHS FUNDRAISER - GARAGE SALE LOOKING for DONATIONS

Do you have stuff to clear out and don't have time to deal with setting up your own garage sale?

Donate your trash to treasures to the Macedon Historical Society, Saturday May 25th and Sunday May 26, 2024 at the Macedon Center Meetinghouse 1208 Macedon Center Rd. (Route 31F) between the hours of 1:00 - 4:00PM. Or call to set up a time. 585-455-3798

GARAGE SALE

June 8 & 9
2024

Option I

☐ I would like to drop off items for the Garage Sale. I understand the items will become the property of the Macedon Historical Society and can be sold or disposed of at MHS's discretion.

Please **do not drop off Appliances, clothing, large exercise equipment, personal care items, curtain rods, pharmaceuticals, bowling balls, computers or electronics that do not work.**

Option II

☐ I (vendor) would like to set up my own booth area at 1208 Macedon Center Rd, for my own sales spot at this very visible location. The cost is \$10 per space. All items after the Garage Sale will be disposed of by vendor.

To reserve your spot or to donate items call or text to 585-455-3798 or email curatormhs@gmail.com

ICE CREAM SOCIAL and 1st Annual CRAFT FAIR July 28, 2024



*Artists and Crafters wanted
at the Macedon Center Meetinghouse*

and 1st Annual

CRAFT FAIR



SUNDAY, JULY 28th, 2024
Craft Fair 9:00am - 4:00pm
Free Ice Cream 1:00 - 4:00pm
Crossmolina Concert - 2:00pm

Music by Crossmolina



To reserve your spot for the Craft Fair
call 585-455-3798
Space is limited at the
Macedon Center Meetinghouse
1208 Macedon Center Rd.
Perfect visible location.

DEADLINE to reserve
your booth space is July
15th, 2024

MACEDON HISTORICAL SOCIETY's Calendar 2024

Monday, May 27th- 10:00AM Memorial Day Observance at the Macedon Erie Street Cemetery

Saturday & Sunday June 8 & 9 Saturday; 9:00am—4:00pm Sunday; 9:00am—2:00pm on Sunday MHS Fundraiser Garage Sale at the Meetinghouse Lawn

Sunday, June 30th 2:00pm—4:00pm Open House at the Historic Macedon Academy Program TBA

Sunday, July 28th 9:00am—4:00pm Ice Cream Social and Craft Fair—Meetinghouse Lawn and inside

Saturday, August 3rd—Genesee Country Village & Museum—MHS Booth 10:00am—4:00pm

Tuesday, August 13th—Stakeholders/Board Members meeting 5:30pm—Community Chat 6:30pm

Saturday, August 31st- Lock 30 Heritage Festival Noon til Dusk

Sunday, September 29th - Jane Milem, WC Historian—researching the Website for your family and towns

Sunday, October 20th- 2:00pm—4:00pm Authors Forum “A novel idea” Hosted by MHS and the Gananda Rotary at the Macedon Center Meetinghouse

Tuesday, November 12th—5:30pm Stakeholders/Board Members Meeting 6:30pm Community Chat

Sunday, December 1st—Holiday Appreciation Open House— 2:00pm Holiday Concert 3:00pm Santa & Mrs Claus 4:00 Tree lighting Ceremony Macedon Center Meetinghouse

Sunday, December 8th 1:00pm at the Macedon Center Meetinghouse—Kim Tenreiro “Christmas Carol”

For more information on these events call 315-538-0051 leave a message or check out MHS's website: macedonhistoricalsociety.org

New Events will be added throughout the year—Keep in touch with FB Macedon NY History

Thank you to the Bullis Fund through Rochester Area Community Foundation the Meetinghouse is accessible to all.



Funds were received early part of 2024 to make the Meetinghouse wheelchair accessible. Haak Home Improvements demoed the existing 2 powder rooms to make one ADA compliant bathroom. While Tom was demoing the area, he found a hidden window. Let there be light. New lights were installed in the kitchen and large classroom. In addition, Lowes donated a new hot water heater for the Meetinghouse. Electrical upgrades and the panel boxes at the Academy and the Meetinghouse were upgraded as well.

Macedon Center will be a destination spot for the Macedon Community and visitors.

Call to reserve the Macedon Center Meetinghouse for your family reunions, craft fairs, presentations, bridal or baby showers, graduation parties or community events. 585-455-3798



MHS Celebrates Earth Day at a Local Level

On Saturday April 27th several young people, residents and members of the Macedon Historical Society gathered at the Macedon Academy and Macedon Center Meetinghouse to do some spring cleaning in recognition of Earth Day.

What a tremendous response from our Scouting community! We were so pleased with their response to our request for assistance. Young boys from Cub Scout Pack 166 worked very hard alongside Scouts from Troops 96,166, and 5113! It was a wonderful show of teamwork and fun as the scouts worked together to rake up our side and back lawns. They also assisted adults who were working hard to tidy up the back risers of our auditorium. Sorting and removing chairs that were broken and had seen better days resulted in a fun chain gang passing them down the fire escape!



Once done with the outside, these young people explored the inside of the Academy, especially the 2nd floor auditorium. There was quite a debate to determine who got the chance to vacuum our very steep stairway! Moms and dads are probably all wondering why this interest has been lying dormant when they clean their own homes! Sweeping, vacuuming, dusting was happening all over the building.



Adults were not to be left out. Special thanks to all of the Scout leaders and chaperones, their participation and transportation were much appreciated! Thank you to MHS members, Gananda Rotary and other Macedon residents for their time and dedication in helping to clean up these buildings.

In the end we had some time to wait until our reward of a pizza party was delivered by MAC's Pizza Shack! Until it arrived, we pretended the stage had a campfire on it and we- the kids and I, gathered around to sing some familiar camp fire songs. We were taken on a "*Lion Hunt*" and then led by one of the older scouts on a rather lengthy song that got faster and faster! Some of the older kids and adults reminisced about days at Camp Cutler, as well as National and World Jamborees. The kids just loved it, and as a daughter of a former scout leader and sister to Boy Scouts, I remembered how excited my family was with scouting and singing around the campfire.

Thank you to the Macedon Community for all of their help. We encourage anyone who is interested in preserving our history to check out the Macedon Historical Society. The MHS owns and maintains two buildings in Macedon Center, the Macedon Academy and the Macedon Center Meetinghouse. We meet at the Academy, 1185 Macedon Center Rd., the 2nd Tuesday of each month. For more information check out our Facebook Page – *Macedon NY History* or contact us at macedonacademy@gmail.com. Our mailing address is P.O. Box 303, Macedon, NY 14502. Lastly, we can be found on the internet at <https://www.macedonhistoricalsociety.org/>

Written by Linda Braun, Town Historian and MHS Secretary

Meet at the Macedon Center Meetinghouse



Looking for a venue to hold your parties, graduation, craft show, a place to hold lessons, meet and greet? Look no further. The Macedon Center Meetinghouse is your ticket to a fun time. Large main floor, Kitchen access, heated, A/C and ample parking.

Call 585-455-3798 or email curatormhs@gmail.com Check out MHS website under Facility use forms.

Macedonhistoricalsociety.org



Jamming Session with the Brunners

MHS PROGRAMS held at the Historic Macedon Academy

April's Program, MHS, welcomed Cindy Russell. She shared her love of her collection of the Dick and Jane books that were a staple in many



classrooms. These books were used in the primary schools for reading from 1930's through the 1960's. The books changed as the times changed, war, Civil Rights, the dynamic of the family unit and also modified for precocial schools. Many of her books were on display for attendees to browse through.

May's Program was Bryant Cemetery (The Old Baptist Cemetery) on Walworth Road. Erika and mom, Dee Newcombe, gave a very informative presentation focusing on the interned Revolutionary soldiers and families that were buried there. Erika began this journey 3 years ago as a Girl Scout Gold Project. She is now in college. She and her mom have uncovered items that have changed documentation in local history. Their enthusiasm is contagious.



Dee & Erika Newcombe

[Erika's Presentation](#)

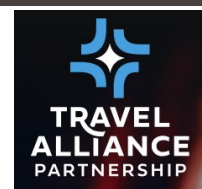


Thank you to the 2023-2024 Corporate Sponsors



124 Pittsford-Palmyra Road, Macedon, NY 14502
(585) 223-1222

It may be little now, but MHS expects it to be a focal point during the holidays. Thank you to Wayside for donating and planting this Norwegian Spruce to grow and flourish for the Annual Holiday Party with Tree Lighting Ceremony at the Macedon Center Meetinghouse. One more reason to make Macedon Center your destination for the Holidays.



Formerly Break the Ice Media

Macedon Academy Alma Mater

*"May the wreath you have won
never wither, nor the star of your
glory dim.*

*Published in the 1841-1891
Academy History*

Remember to
check on
"Share my
name" so MHS
can match it to
the payment.
To confirm
your donation/or
membership email
curatormhs@gmail.com



SCAN ME

Macedon Historical Society
P O Box 303
1185 Macedon Center Rd.
Macedon, NY 14502

macedonhistoricalsociety.org
FB: Macedon NY History



Macedon Historical Society

PRESERVING THE HISTORY OF MACEDON, NY



SAVE THE DATE August 31, 2024



KIDS ZONE CRAFTERS

FOOD VENDORS MUSIC

ORGANIZATIONS BEER & WINE

Always looking for Volunteers

Contact Linda Braun
historian@macedontown.net



MONTHLY MACEDON HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETINGS

2nd Tuesday of the Month 5:30pm
**Monthly Board of Directors, Officers
& Trustees**
(all members are welcome)
**Stakeholders/Membership Meetings
& Community Chat 6:30pm on**
August 13 & November 12, 2024

April through November
Historic Macedon Academy
1185 Macedon Ctr. Rd., Macedon
February & March
Macedon Center Meetinghouse
1208 Macedon Center Rd., Macedon

All are welcome—Refreshments available

*Garage Sale at the
Meetinghouse
1208 Macedon Center Rd.
June 8 & 9, 2024
9:00AM - 4:30PM
Proceeds benefit the
Macedon Historical Society*



*and 1st
Annual*



Sunday, July 28th, 2024 9:00-4:00
Macedon Center Meetinghouse 12 08 Macedon Center Rd.

Thank you to our new and renewing members of the Macedon Historical Society.
**Partnering with the community to ensure the history of Macedon is shared
and kept for generations to come.**

Carm & Sandy Pagano
Kathy Murphy
Linda Braun
Carol Elaine & Richard Deys
Daniel & Tess Eggert
David Gardner
David Taber
Stephanie Holland
Gene & Liz Bavis
Ken & Kathy Halloran
Reginald & Mary Neale
Marile Waterstraet
Steve & Tricia Kuntz
Grace & John Mullard

Carl & Eloise Prostka
Marin Miner
Flora Straight
Lona & Stan Breitkopf
Don & Joanne Reeners
Brian & Jean Kelly
Al & Jan Plumb
Linda & Dick Rosin
Lorrie Cervello
Russell Birdsall
Jen Birdsall
Jacob Ovenshire
Lyle Jenks
Randy Kennard

Pat Stevens-Brate
Judy Longyear
Jane Milem
Tari, Jeff & Noah Orsburn
Ginny Young
Deb & Ron Hall
Norman & Rita Corey
Jean & Mert Bartels

***MHS Members are the backbone
of the organization with their
continued support, be it,
financially, volunteering at
events and fundraisers or with
in-kind services and /or
donations.***