

MHS NEWSLETTER

Cobblestone houses | GCVN | 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:

315-538-0051 leave a message

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

3rd Annual Macedon Historical Society's Author's Forum Slated for October 20th, 2024

Sunday, October 20th- 2:00pm- 4:00pm Authors Forum "A Novel Idea" Hosted by MHS and the Gananda Rotary at the Macedon Center Meetinghouse, 1208 Macedon Center Rd. In addition to the Authors, the Wayne County Literacy Volunteers will be handing out FREE books. There is no admission to this event. Author's are: Marj Perez, Pam Lee, Christopher Blomgren, Sally Steinmiller Valentine, Carol Elaine Deys, Randy Kennard, Chuck Martin, Rand Darrow and Loreen Jorgensen (not pictured). Refreshments will be available. Donations are appreciated.

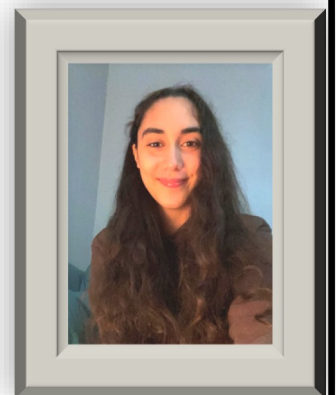


Author's will share excerpts from their stories, book signing and sales. Presentations on their creative process too.

Macedon Historical Society welcomes Maya, an intern from Nazareth University.

Maya Santiago-Smith is a Senior at Nazareth University from Rochester, New York. She is graduating this December with a Bachelors of Arts Museum, Archives, and Public History and a minor in Women and Gender Studies. Maya enjoys the study of History and how it shapes our understanding of the world. She is passionate about the preservation of history and ensuring the accessibility of information to the public.

After graduation she plans to continue her education in graduate school and receive a Masters in Library and Information Sciences and pursue archival work. While Maya is here, she is helping with scanning the material, documents etc that have been collected throughout the years. She is also helping with fundraising and new displays at the Academy. Come





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Newsletter Content

Sandy Pagano
Linda Braun

PHONE #

at the Academy
315-538-0051
Leave a message

Cobblestone presentation by Pam Becker

The Macedon Historical Society (MHS) provides a “Community Chat” on a quarterly basis at our historic Macedon Academy. On August 13th we were honored to learn about cobblestone structures from Seneca County Historian Pamela Becker. The presentation was about the importance of cobblestone buildings and how they were constructed in our area during the mid-1800’s.

Using an easily obtainable natural resource made our area the home of the most cobblestone buildings in the world! Farmers and builders would gather cobblestones from nearby lakes. These small round stones surfaced following the movement of glaciers. People would use sorting boards to separate stones by size and color. Stones were set in intricate patterns primarily on the front of the buildings, less care was



Chapman Home



Bullis Home



Baker Home

often taken on the walls not easily visible. A readily available supply of limestone helped with the quoins (corner supports) and lintels (supports above windows and doors). Sometimes bricks would be used for these features as in the Bullis House.

Ms. Becker engaged in a lively discussion with several participants including Mr. Dave Taber, a teacher and life-long resident of the area as well as Gene Bavis, Walworth Town Historian. Learning continues at the Macedon Academy.

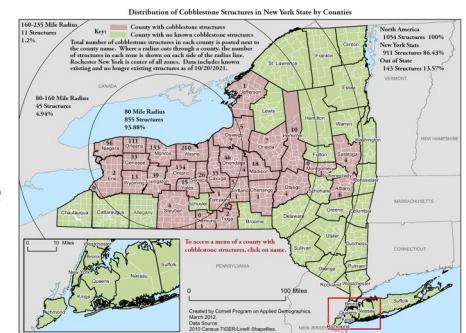
We look forward to sharing more educational and entertainment activities with our community.

There are many resources available. To learn more about cobblestone buildings in our area, check out the Wayne Historian’s Organization searchable database. <https://waynehistorians.org/Places/> Simply filter to your town, Category: Architecture and Sub-Category: Cobblestone Structures.



Did you know that there are estimated to be 911 structures in NY state alone? Of those 210 are in Wayne County, 134 in Ontario County, 133 in Monroe County and 26 in Seneca County. Here is a link a very good website on Cobblestone Structures: <https://www.cobblestonemuseum.org>.

If you are interested in learning more about the Macedon Historical Society, check out our website at <https://www.macedonhistoricalsociety.org> or on Facebook at Macedon NY History. *Submitted by Linda Braun, Town Historian*



Events from our Neighbors

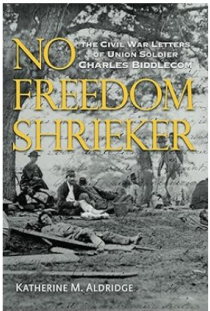
Our Neighbor Walworth Historical Societies' events 2024
Open House with Allen Hopkins Music October 6th, 2:00 - 4:00PM
 2257 Academy Street, Walworth, NY
"Soup & Stone"- Lunch and a program about Cobblestone Masonry - November 18th NOON at the Lodge in Ginegaw Park.
More information [Walworth Newsletter](#)



The Historic Macedon Academy is a beautiful amenity for the residents of Macedon. Did you know there is a museum inside the Academy with displays of businesses, clothing, military and items of days gone by. The Academy also has an auditorium with stage that can sit 100 people for performances of any kind Tours are given upon request 315-538-0051 or email curatormhs@gmail.com

"NO FREEDOM SHRIEKER" by Dr. Katie Aldrich Durrant

Among the piles of knickknacks, haystacks, dust and debris abandoned in her historic barn, Katie Aldridge Durrant, discovered a box containing the Civil War letters of Charles Freeman Biddlecom. Painstakingly transcribing and lightly editing more than 100 letters written by the soldier to his wife during his service, Ms



Emma Biddlecom Sweet was the daughter to Charlie Biddlecom. Her historic marker is in front of the Macedon Town Hall

(Aldridge) Durrant resurrected the voice of the Civil War combat soldier. The tone and character of Charlie's detailed accounts of the war compelled Ms. (Aldridge) Durrant to find out more. From letters written throughout Grant's Overland and Richmond-Petersburg campaigns, the reader gains an insider's view of the war, fear, hunger, sickness, longing and concern for those left behind, and detailed insights about the political climate. Composed from a perspective forged in an Upstate New York community closely linked to the abolitionist cause, woman's suffrage, and the Quaker philosophy, in *No Freedom Shrieker*, the reader will learn how Charlie's background shaped his actions and evolving view of the war.

**JOIN US, Sunday,
 November 10th, 2024 at
 2:00pm at the Macedon Center Meetinghouse and listen to the letters of Civil War time, from Charlie Biddlecom read by Katie Aldridge Durrant and music accompaniment by LeMay & Reese**

**Heritage Builders
 2023-2024**



J.D.Chapman
 AGENCY, INC.

Serving all your insurance needs since 1958



Crossmolina Band



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.

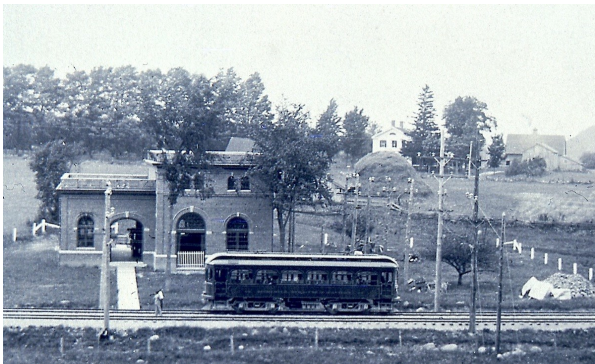
The Rochester, Syracuse and Eastern Railroad

The Rochester, Syracuse and Eastern Railroad was incorporated on Nov 7, 1901 for the purpose of constructing an electric high speed double track railroad between Rochester and Syracuse. Clifford D. Beebe and about 12 business men from Syracuse promoted the line. The group was known as the Beebe Syndicate.

Surveying began in 1902. Construction started in August, 1904. The first section of the line opened for regular service between Newark and Macedon on July 2, 1906. Construction was completed and through-service between Rochester and Syracuse began on Dec 19, 1909.



A Syracuse bound trolley stopped in Macedon. The ticket office was located at the extreme right edge of the photo.



The Macedon substation. The farm in the background was the location of the section house after it was moved from its original location.

Electric power for the line was generated at 33,000 volts ac (alternating current) in a company owned coal fired power plant in Lyons. From there it was transmitted to substations that were spaced about every 10 miles along the line. In 1912 the Lyons plant was sold to a commercial power utility and from then on power was purchased from outside sources. The substations received the high voltage ac and reduced and converted it to 650 volts dc (direct current) for use by the trolley cars. One of the substations was located along the line in Macedon. The building still exists and is located at the end of Beebe Road (possibly named for Clifford D. Beebe).

The line was divided into 8 maintenance sections each approximately 10 miles long. A crew consisting of a foreman and 4 men (plus 2 additional men in summer) was responsible for track and roadway in their section. The track was walked twice a day to check for defects or broken rails. A section house was placed next to the track to store tools and a hand car. There was a section house in Macedon that was probably located near what is now the intersection of Route 31 and Beebe Road. It was moved to a farm and used as a garage or shed and still existed until recently.

The RS&E right of way (ROW) entered Macedon from the west about .4 mile south of present Route 31. It crossed Route 31 at Beebe Road (which was constructed on the trolley ROW). Continuing east it crossed Canandaigua Road about 600 feet north of Route 31 and entered Main Street about at Drumlin Drive. After passing through the village on Main Street the line resumed on private ROW to Palmyra. This section of ROW was used for the construction of the current path of Route 31.



The Macedon section house as it appeared in 2015. It no longer exists.

Although many villages on the RS&E had stations, Macedon did not. There was a ticket office located in a store front in the building that still exists at 97-101 Main Street. A standard octagonal waiting shelter was placed at many country road crossings. There were seven in the town.

The line was never very profitable and became the Rochester & Syracuse Railroad in 1917 during a restructuring. As more passengers left the electric cars for automobiles deficits increased during the late 1920s and the end drew near. Operations on the line came to an end with the last cars running on June 27, 1931.



The Historic Macedon Academy, includes a museum, which houses a collection of artifacts, photographs, and other historical items related to the town's history. The museum is open to the public and provides visitors with a glimpse into the Macedon communities past. The society also organizes, concerts, events and activities throughout the year, including lectures, tours, and workshops, to promote the town's heritage.

Membership

Update Meeting

2nd Tuesday of the Month
6:00pm

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

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. Grants can NOT be used for operational expenses. That's where dues and donations needed.

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 .

MACEDON HISTORICAL SOCIETY's Calendar 2024

Sunday, September 29th - 2:00pm Jane Milem, WC Historian—will be leading a presentation on navigating the Wayne County Website, historical sites and re-searching. Presentation is at the Historic Macedon Academy.

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

Sunday, November 10th - 2:00pm a reading of Civil War letters of Charlie Biddlecom to his wife Esther Lapham Biddlecom, from the book “No Freedom Shriekers” by Dr. Katie Aldrich Durrant with Americana Folk music intertwined by LaMay & Reese and 315ers - Charlie Biddlecom’s lived in Macedon. Macedon Center Meetinghouse

Sunday, December 1st—Holiday Appreciation Open House - 2:00pm - 4:30 with a Holiday Concert with Denny & Kathi Brunner. Come see Santa & Mrs. Claus. The lighting of the Tribute Tree is at 4:30 (\$2.00 you can purchase a wooden ornament, write a tribute and hand it on the tree. Event is at the Macedon Center Meetinghouse

Sunday, December 8th 2:00pm at the Macedon Center Meetinghouse— “Christmas Carol”- Mr. Kim Tenreiro performing Charles Dicken’s classic tale of reclamation and salvation. A dramatic one-man performance that brings to life over 30 characters during the show. This is co-hosted with Gananda Rotary.

More details to follow.

All events are free admission unless stated.

Venue Locations:

Historic Macedon Academy - 1185 Macedon Center Rd. Limited Parking on the Lawn. Additional parking at the Methodist Church parking lot 2 houses west of the Academy

Historic Macedon Center Meetinghouse - 1208 Macedon Center Rd.

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

Be sure to check out your local Historical Society's for that unique gift. Most museums have small gift items available. Some Museums have Gift Shops.



Macedon Center Meetinghouse can be your next venue



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 315-538-0051 leave a mes-

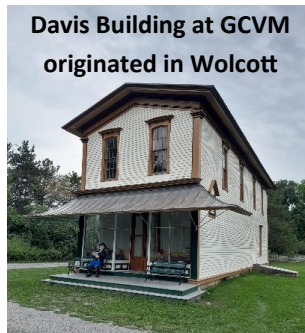


sage or email curatormhs@gmail.com Check out MHS website under Facility use forms.

Macedonhistoricalsociety.org

Genesee Country Village Museum - being a guest

On August 3rd, the Macedon Historical Society (MHS) had the privilege of participating in an event sponsored by the Genesee Country Village and Museum. The event titled *Hometown History Expo* included about 20 local museums and historical societies. It was a chance for us to share the amazing history of Macedon with many from our region.



Groups from our area were located at Davis Hall, a building that was built in 1884 and relocated from South Butler, Wayne County. Other groups included the Wayne County Museum, 1816 Farmington Quaker Meetinghouse, South Butler Historical Society, and the Town of Ontario Historical and Landmark Preservation Society.

Special thanks to Carmen and Sandy Pagano and Isobell Braun for assisting with our booth. Volunteers are the heart of so many organizations. A passion for history and learning was on display at this event. Our very own General John Bullis even made an appearance!

The GCVM offered a couple of presentations to participants during the day. At these events we learned about ways to market our groups better and ways to preserve artifacts.

It was a great opportunity to make new friends and to share our history with others. If you are interested in learning more about the Macedon Historical Society, check out our website at <https://www.macedonhistoricalsociety.org/> or on Facebook at Macedon NY History.

Submitted by Macedon Town Historian & Secretary to MHS, Linda Braun



Town of Ontario Historical & Landmark Preservation Society



Charles Lenhart and Judy Wellman
1816 Farmington Quaker Meetinghouse



Butler Historical Preservation Society
Lori Schmidt & Randy Orbaker

 **Keep up to date by following: Facebook at Macedon NY History**
or
Macedonhistoricalsociety.org website

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
315-538-0051
macedonhistoricalsociety.org
FB: Macedon NY History

A GHOST STORY OF CHRISTMAS

A Christmas Carol



SAVE THE DATE
December 8th, 2024

PRESENTING

Mr. Kim Tenreiro performing Charles Dickens' classic tale of reclamation and salvation.

A dramatic one-man performance that brings to life over 30 characters during the show.

Mature audience suggested

All proceeds from the performance are donated to a variety of local charities

In the spirit of keeping Christmas well

Did you know that the town of Macedon has a museum inside the Historic Macedon Academy



Period clothing borrowed from the WC Museum in Lyons

Textile display at the Historic Academy/Museum in Macedon Center. With the assistant of our intern from Nazareth, Maya Santiago-Smith, the museum side of the Academy has transpired into times gone by with wearing apparel borrowed from the Wayne County Museum in Lyons under the direction of Deb Hall. The Macedon Museum is open Monday, Wednesday & Friday 10:00am - 2:00pm during the fall. Tours can be scheduled by calling 315-538-0051



Several items donated by the Henning Family



Voting Box and Ballot



Side Saddle donated by Marj Perez



Under the children's clothing, appears the Band Uniforms from Palmyra High School and Macedon High School prior to the merging of the two schools.



Help Keep the lights on and make a donation to MHS before the years out. Grants do not fund operational expenses. MHS looks to you for support.

To make a donation please mail a check to: MHS PO Box 303, Macedon, NY 14502 and mark in the description the intent or log onto macedonhistoricalsociety.org Donation - make sure you mark the box to share your information with MHS (only), a receipt & thank you will be sent. Your consideration will be felt by generations to come.