

# MARION HISTORIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 2021 ISSUE 1



*Happy New Year!*

Wishing you all the best in the coming year and hope that this finds you healthy and safe.

## IN MEMORIAM

The local historical community lost two significant members this year.

**Carolyn Adriaansen** left us on November 18, 2020. As many of you know, she was the town historian for 43 years prior to my tenure. Renowned for her storytelling abilities and her cooking, she was always available to anyone who needed information about Marion's history. She loved Marion and those who lived here and was a great resource for all who needed perspective on local history matters



**Left:** Carolyn Adriaansen with Peter Evans, Wayne County Historian at the APHNYS awards in 2016

**Right:** Larry Ann Evans – Director of the Museum of Wayne County and Co-Chair of the Wayne County Bicentennial Committee



**Larry Ann Evans**, director of the Museum of Wayne County History and co-chair of the Wayne County Bicentennial Committee, lost her two year battle with cancer on Dec. 18, 2020. Larry Ann was well known in the local area, global theater communities as well as for her contribution to the museum as director. Her engaging personality and enthusiastic manner made the fundraisers at the museum a delight for many. She and her delightful laugh will be missed.



## WAYNE COUNTY BICENTENNIAL PLANNING *update*

The

planning for the County Bicentennial in 2023 is in full swing. Our Marion Bicentennial Committee has been formed with Jennifer Hunter as the chairperson. Jen is also the current President of the Marion Historic Association. **Our Marion Bicentennial Committee meeting for January 15, 2021 has been rescheduled to February 18, 2021.**

If you would like to be involved in the Marion committee, please contact me either by phone or 585-738-6577 or email me at [marion.ny.historian@gmail.com](mailto:marion.ny.historian@gmail.com). We are looking for members from the Legion, local churches,

school administrators/staff, businesses and any other interested folks. I appreciate your support in this wonderful celebration of our history.

**NEXT MEETING:** February 11 at 6:30 pm at the museum. We will be following CDC guidelines so wear a mask, please.

## **2021 CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

*\*\*\*CDC requirements will be followed as long as required.\*\*\**

**February 11** – Marion Historic Association Membership Meeting 6:30 pm 3794 South Main St.

**February 18** – Marion Bicentennial Committee Meeting 6:40 pm 3794 South Main St.

**March 18** – Board of Directors Meeting 6:30 pm 3794 South Main St.

**April 18** – **Program:** “Marion and the Underground Railroad” with Caryn Devlin 2:00 pm at the Museum

**April 24** – Spring Clean Up at the Museum 10:00 AM at the Museum

**May 8** – Spring Open House 10 – 4 pm at the Museum

**May 13** – Board of Directors Meeting 6:30 pm 3794 South Main St.

**June 13** – **Program:** “Marion’s One Man Crime Spree” – with Caryn Devlin 2:00 pm at the Museum

**August 19** – Membership Meeting – 6:30 pm at the Museum

**Sept. 11** – Fall Festival and Open House 10 – 3 pm

**Sept. 16** – Board of Directors Meeting 6:30 pm 3794 South Main St.

**Sept. 26** – **Program:** “The Fox Sisters” with Traci Murphy 2 pm at the museum

**Oct. 14** - Board of Directors Meeting 6:30 pm at the Museum

**Oct. 23** – Cemetery Walk 6:00 pm at the Marion Cemetery entrance on Buffalo St. Details to be Announced

**Nov. 14** – **Program:** To be determined

**Nov. 18** – Marion Historic Association Membership meeting 6:30 pm at the Museum

**Dec. 4** – Holiday Open House and Remembrance Ceremony 10 - 5 pm

## **WHAT’S HAPPENING AT THE MUSEUM?**

**Hometown Heroes Project:** We are working on getting banners done for John Denering and Jacob Hermanet. They both served in WWI. I have service information but we would love to have photos. If you have one, please contact me at [marion.ny.historian@gmail.com](mailto:marion.ny.historian@gmail.com). The Marion Historic Association is sponsoring these two veterans.

**Marion Historic Association Scholarships:** The Scholarship Committee has been meeting to determine the qualifications for eligibility for the scholarships we provide to graduating seniors. More details will be available soon.

**Construction Continues:** Now that the American Disabilities Act compliant walkway has been completed, work can begin to construct the “porch” area of the new entry. This will be worked on over the winter as time allows (Brrrrr!). In the spring, we also expect to complete the memory garden area where a new flag pole and bench will be installed in the memory of Donna and Alan Prentice and George Lonneville as a gift from the Prentice/Lonneville families.

### **Newark-Marion Railroad:**

I spoke about the possibility of a book about the history of the Newark-Marion Railroad/Railway in the last newsletter. I am pleased to announce we are partnering with local author, Richard Palmer, on this project. He has a wealth of information regarding local history including railroads, cobblestone homes and Sodus Point and the vessels who sailed there. He is collaborating with the Marion Historic Association on this project and we hope to have a book available in the next year or so.

### **Pomeroy Historic Markers:**

The next two markers have been received. One will honor the Marion Fire Department and be placed in front of the Town Hall which was originally built as the Fire Hall. The other will honor the library building and its use as a school, as a Grange Hall and as a library. Traci Whitney is choosing a location for that marker and a dedication ceremony for both markers will be held in the spring. The William Pomeroy Foundation is a non-profit organization that sponsors historic markers all over the country as well as research into blood disorders. We are grateful for their generous support of history in our town. These markers are paid for by a grant we received from the Pomeroy Foundation and are valued at over \$1100.00 each. As you know, we have already installed one marker marking the location of the old railroad depot for the Newark-Marion Railroad in Oct. 2020 on Buffalo St.

## **WHEN THE CIRCUS CAME TO TOWN**



In the late 1800's and early 1900's the circus coming to town was one of the most exciting things that could happen. Small boys raced to watch the parade of animals and performers leading all to the tents for the next performance. In the 1890's the *Cole and Lockwood Circus* and *Santelle Circus* set up in town. In 1893 Marion had its first “Big Top” performance when the *Great London Circus* pitched its mammoth tents in town. A news article reads “Charles Lee’s Great London Circus Museum and Menagerie and Royal Roman Hippodrome.”

Newspaper clippings assured local audiences that “There is nothing low or vulgar to shock the moral sensibilities of any one.”

In the 1900’s the *Al F. Wheeler* circus often opened in Marion in early May after boarding many of its animals here all winter. In 1909 the circus contained 70 people, 30 wagons and 70 horses. The field used was just off Mill St. on the other side of the railroad tracks. According to a June 26, 1908 article in the Marion Enterprise the Wheeler circus was struck by a storm that tore their tents to shreds and injured many while in Springville (Ohio?). “Mr. Wheeler loses many thousand dollars by this storm much to the regret of his Marion friends.” The Wheeler show came back in 1910 “bigger and better than ever” with new acts and features. With him at this time were Prof. Perriett and his “wonderful airship Skyscrayper” which made “two sensational flights” as part of the performance.

Another circus that performed in Marion was *Smith’s Colossal Shows Circus Museum Menagerie*. Children were admitted for 15 cents and adults for 25 cents. When the circus was in Newark, a train ticket for a round trip with admission to the circus was 75 cents with a special train run just for the show. In 1913 the *Tompkins Real Wild West and Cooper and Whitby Combined Shows* under the charge of George Forepaugh put on a show.

**Future Newsletters** If you have any topics you would like information on, send them to me at [marion.ny.historian@gmail.com](mailto:marion.ny.historian@gmail.com). I would be happy to research an article and publish it in the newsletter for everyone. Thank you again for your membership donations to the Marion Historic Association. It helps us bring relevant programs to our community and we appreciate your support.

*Caryn Devlin*, Historian

*With Many Thanks to our Corporate Sponsors and Members!*

Without the continued support of the community, we can do nothing. We currently have forty-seven members plus three corporate sponsors!

**Corporate Sponsors:** Jemstar Construction, Inc. Williams Farms, LLC, Seneca Foods Inc.

**Legacy:** Leslie Adriaansen Art Stone Margaret Curtis  
Carolyn Adriaansen

**Patrons:** Barry Thorne George and Brenda Strickland Don Bushart  
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Wendy Cook	Debi and Jim Christie	Robert and Janet DeRidder
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Mark and Caryn Devlin	William and Barbara DeWandel	
Beth and Carmen Bushart	Mary Devlin	Richard and Gwen Shoales
Liz and Gene Bavis	John and Barbara Stevens	The Bovet Families



**MARION HISTORIC ASSOCIATION**

PO Box 330  
 Marion, NY 14505  
 Email: [marion.ny.historian@gmail.com](mailto:marion.ny.historian@gmail.com)

*Mission: "Dedicated to collecting, preserving and celebrating the Heritage of Marion – to aid in historic projects and the work of the town historian – and to be closely associated with the Town Museum, and to work towards its expansion"*



The Marion Historic Association welcomes anyone with an interest in local history. We work closely with the Marion Museum at Jennie's House to support the projects there to make Marion history come alive for all its residents; past, present and future. Your support is needed to continue this work. Please consider becoming a member of the Marion Historic Association and adding your skills, talents and Marion memories to those of those who have strived to preserve our history previously.

**Levels of Membership**

Student	\$5.00	___
Individual	\$7.00	___
Family	\$10.00	___
Supporter	\$25.00	___
Sponsor	\$50.00	___
Patron	\$100.00	___

**Officers 2020**

Jennifer Frey, President  
 John Lonneville, Vice-President  
 Theresa Kuhn, Secretary  
 Nancy Spinning, Treasurer  
 Caryn Devlin, Historian

**Board of Directors:**

John Bovet  
 Ron Lonneville  
 Joe Bovet  
 Karen Hayden  
 Mary Jane Devlin

**Dues can be mailed to Marion Hist. Assoc., PO Box 330, Marion, NY 14505**

**Volunteer Opportunities:**

We have many projects large and small that we need your help in completing.

- I am interested in lending my skills and talents on a project. Call me!
- I am interested in sponsoring a renovation project. Call me!
- I am joining ! Add me to your email newsletter.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_