



**Harpersfield  
Historical Society  
2025  
Newsletter**



Thanks to our community, we have completed a successful eleventh year of our building programs at our museum. Our exhibits include a typical farm kitchen of the early 1800's, a replica of a one room schoolhouse, and a popular celebration of the resort hotels of the past. Continuing is a slide show celebrating the veterans who have been buried in 17 local cemeteries. A gallery of Lamont Warner paintings is on display. What makes a walk through the exhibits so meaningful is the array of artifacts all donated from town residents. We are the only collector of town history and welcome anything you can contribute. Pictures, albums, letters, diaries, report cards, historical books, and contracts are only a few of the categories we collect.

On Tuesday August 13, 2025 at 6 PM we had our regular scheduled monthly meeting. In the afternoon of that day we had more than half a dozen college students working as a community service project. At first they received a tour of our facility with a view of showing them how to use data bases in their own research projects. After they went to work helping us move some of the heavy materials that we older people were unable to take care of. They also were rewarded with a Cheese Cake for their work. It was a win - win situation for all concerned.

That evening before the meeting, we held an award ceremony for two of our retiring senior members, Bill Boyle Sr. and Tom Kendall, where each received a plaque for their service. Several family members were present and it was a proud moment for all concerned. Two more awards are being presented in the near future to Harpersfield Historical Society members who have retired from our workforce.

We have over 200 lifetime members in the Harpersfield Historical Society but our workforce is falling to dangerously low numbers due to members moving away, retiring, medically unable to serve, or like me getting too old to participate. We need workers in every phase of our operation. Call Bill Nicholson at 607 405 7500 for a tour of our facility and a look at all of the work opportunities that we have available.

During the meeting itself on August 13<sup>th</sup> we spoke of completed projects:

1. Brass donation Plaques for all of the Lamont Warner paintings along with a frame for a

single painting. 2. Four service award plaques. 3. Monogramed "Harpersfield Historical Society" shirts for our working staff.

Projects that are in the works: 1. A joint venture with The Stamford Village Library involving several years of old newspapers being digitized. These will be on line and on our website for your use in mid-September. 2. One of our Historic road signs that was damaged last winter, is in the process of being repaired by Bloomville Casting. 3. The McClaury family donated fifteen boxes of records. 4. Members were asked to consider the idea of a community center on our property, to be used for all types of public events. We would like your input as well. 5. We are planning for a visit by Darryl Harper and his family from "Harpersfield, Ohio" in August this year.

Yes, the Ohio, Harper family did come on the sixteenth of August, and we had a wonderful and productive day. Many documents were exchanged, family ties were explored. Darryl Harper was not only related to Alexander Harper, but also to the Hendry and McClaury families. He and his wife visited the gravesite of Thomas Hendry on Gaffey Rd. We will work with him on a permanent marker for this gravesite.

We are celebrating the agricultural roots of the town. We have many farm implements in our barn, with more being added. A slide show is being shown of existing barns in Harpersfield, along with a list of property holders and their land locations. This project is being broadened with ariel photos of land forms of the Town of Harpersfield. Some of our members are working on setting up a display of many of our old tools, along with a brief description of their use.

We are open from Memorial Day to Labor Day on Saturdays, from 11 AM until 2 PM. At any other time, we will open for class trips, clubs, or small groups by appointment. Call (607) 405 7500. We also feature lesson plans for teachers regarding, "The Grand Hotel Era". We can have a representative come to your site and do a presentation. Getting to our website is easy. Just put "Harpersfield Historical Society NY" into your computer and click on our website page. The HHS Gmail is "[Harpersfieldhistorical@Gmail.com](mailto:Harpersfieldhistorical@Gmail.com)", write to us there if you wish.

Our annual endowment appeal letter is enclosed, please give it your consideration. Thank you to those who have contributed in the past.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Nicholson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Bill Nicholson, President