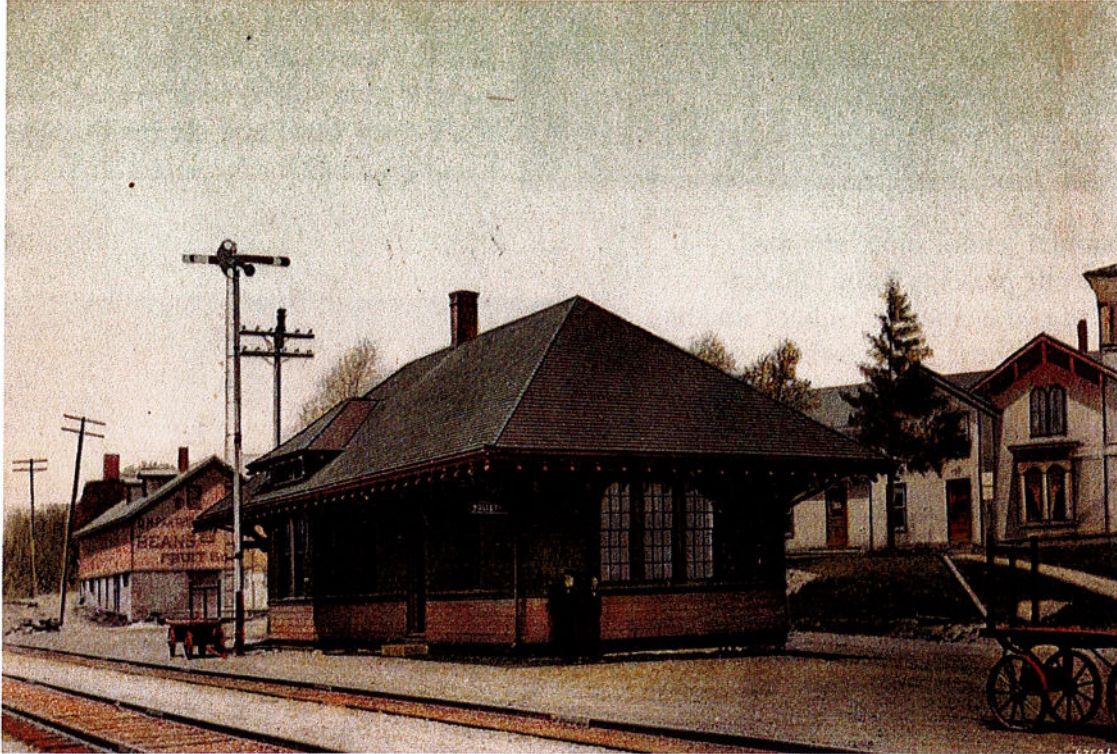


Yesterday & Today

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Our village train depot, shown here at its original location on Hudson Street. Behind the depot is the home of Col. John Berry. The residence later became the Hillcrest Hotel, remaining in business into the 1970's before being torn down.

Welcome to our newsletter! Years ago, from 1988 through 1991, our Historical Society provided a quarterly newsletter to our members. It was a means of offering information on our events and activities, and it also featured historical information in keeping with our goal of preserving the past for the future. What I wrote 35 years ago remains just as relevant today: "Through this newsletter, we hope you will learn about and appreciate the rich heritage which our community and past residents have given us." It boggles the mind to know that we have been a chartered historical society for nearly forty years! It is because of dedicated members such as yourselves that we still exist and for that we thank you. At our July monthly meeting we decided to resurrect our newsletter. Our goal is to keep the membership informed, offer something tangible for being a member, and hopefully bring new members into the fold. Please contact me if there are items you would like to see featured in these pages. We are initially planning on three newsletters per year, a spring, summer, and fall editions. Our meetings are the first Wednesday of the month in the Holley Library community room at 10:00am. Hope to see you there!

Raymond Santoro
Newsletter Editor



FLAG DAY CELEBRATION

On a warm and sunny July 14, the annual Flag Day Parade came through the village and ended up in front of our museum. Comprised of students up through sixth grade, each student carried an American flag or banner. Olivia Rebis and Grayson Kelley did the narration, and along with several awards, the elementary band and chorus displayed their musical talents for the assembled crowd.

Newly appointed school superintendent Karrie Schiavone presents Good Citizenship awards to two elementary school students. This years' Catherine B. Press awards went to fifth grade students Mya Gerringer and Chase Lasher.



Holley began its Flag Day celebration in 1957 when school teacher Virginia Robb and students gathered for an assembly in the elementary school auditorium.

Recently, Barb Robb Phillips stopped by the museum and donated several items that had belonged to her mother Virginia Robb. Along with a Flag Day tee shirt and a world map, Barb gave us an article written by reporter Rich Bright from the 1960's. I found it quite interesting and have reprinted it here:

“Holley Sports 2 Green Malls – And No Parking Meters”

In these days when urban planners are singing the praises of downtown redevelopment, complete with the picturesque green center malls, residents of Holley, Orleans County, are displaying a ho-hum attitude. This village of nearly 2,000 inhabitants has sported a pair of tree-bedecked malls, “the public square,” since shucking its original moniker of “Salt Port” in 1824. Two little green oases in an otherwise two-block central business district sea of asphalt make Holley a place to be remembered by the traveler and urban planner alike.

Mayor Mark McCrillis explains that when he is away from home, tells people he's from Holley, they often say, “Isn't that the place with the little green square?”

“In the spring we are planning to transplant a couple of pine trees in the mall where one is almost dead,” he said. “These trees are nice when they are decorated with Christmas lights. We're not sure what's hurting the one that's dying now, perhaps it's salt from the street. I read something about that happening in Rochester.”

But if you're getting the idea that Holley's center malls are mere scenery enhancers- forget it! They

make possible a near doubling in the number of parking spaces available over what a regular two-lane main street would afford. There is parallel parking on opposite sides of the mall and diagonal parking in front of stores on the southeast side of the public square. And nowhere in Holley is there a “nickel gobbler” rearing its mercenary head. This includes the municipal parking lot back of the bank building where over 100 cars can be accommodated, McCrillis stressed.

“We don't have any parking meters, only a two-hour limit on cars parking on the square. We had to have the limit because a lot of people who work in Rochester were parking their cars and riding with others, which meant those places were taken all day.

“The only time parking becomes a problem is Friday night, when the bank remains open until 7:30 – then it's a madhouse. Any other time though, you can usually find a space without much trouble.”

With only two of the square stores unoccupied, it appears that Holley's founding fathers were virtual forerunners of the present-day urban planners. “Our stores always have been well occupied with the possible exception of during World War II,” McCrillis explains. But Holley isn't sitting back smugly on its inherited laurels. Planning for the future is currently a lively village topic. Last fall the first village planning board was appointed and charged with drawing up a “master plan” to insure orderly growth.

Most of Holley's shoppers come from the towns of Murray, Clarendon to the south and Kendall to the north – Orleans County's eastern tier. “I suppose they come to Holley because they can park without charge and can find plenty of space,” McCrillis admits with a smile. “I guess that has a lot to do with it.”

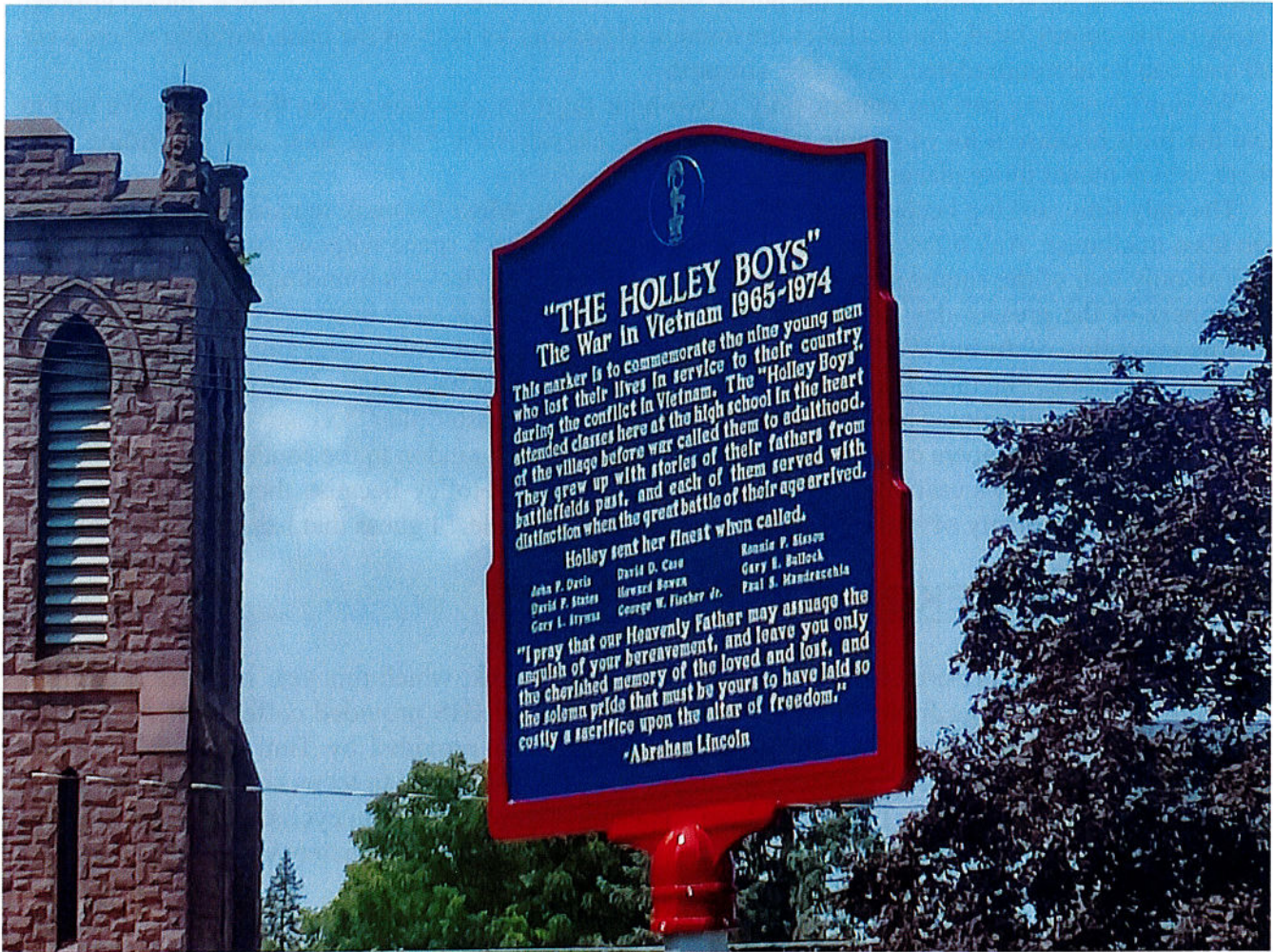
CANAL BIKE TREK 2024

Monday, July 8 saw the return of the annual Erie Canal Bike Trek, which this year included more than 520 cyclists ranging in age from 7 to 85. As in the past, the MHHS provided coffee, fresh water and Gatorade along with fresh pastries. The coffee was generously provided by Tim Horton's while our society paid for the Gatorade and pastries. We also set out a sign-up book to let us know where the riders come from. In addition to many US states, there are also a number of foreign cyclists. This year the bike committee did not leave us with hats and tee-shirts but instead provided our society with a \$300 donation. Our many thanks to the members who showed up and helped out.



Cyclists coming through Holley take a break to get a snack and beverage. On the right: Danny Mawn, Wendy and John Kenney, and Lewis DeFilipps take a well-deserved break from preparing water, coffee, and Gatorade.

MEMORIAL DAY SIGN DEDICATION



On a chilly, rainy Memorial Day, a historical marker was dedicated in front of the old high school to commemorate the nine Holley boys lost during the Vietnam War. A grant for the sign was obtained by Melissa Ierlan and subsequent funding was provided by our historical society. The two-sided sign has the names of those lost accompanied by a poignant quote from Abraham Lincoln.

SENIOR AWARDS

In June, the MHHS presented \$100 awards to two graduating seniors. Hayli Rose Kuellertz received the award for the senior showing the most improvement in history. Ryleigh Elizabeth Weader received the second award in honor of Bill Mayer, a member of our society and former Holley Village Police Chief. This is awarded to a senior who is going to college to pursue a degree in Criminal Justice. Both of these awards were increased this year from \$50 to \$100. Congratulations to Hayli and Ryleigh and all members of the Class of 2024.

HANDICAP RAMP



In July an ADA complaint ramp for those with disabilities was installed on the east and north sides of the depot by Fonte Surgical Supply Company. Now those visitors who struggle to climb steps have an easy access to our museum. Funding for the ramp came from a sizable donation from the Town of Murray.

LOUISE LUSK

In December we said good-bye to our dear friend and Charter Member, Louise Lusk. Louise was with us from the very beginning, when our historical society was formed in 1985. She was active through the years in all of our events, and her husband Dix was instrumental in securing the necessary funding to purchase our windows for the depot. Louise had attended our December meeting at library and seemed to be in fine health, but she suffered from heart issues and passed away a week later. A loyal member to the end, Louise's son Mark donated yearbooks and a wealth of information on Louise's high school class of 1949 to the museum.

Upcoming Dates:

- August 17, 2024: Village Wide Garage Sale
- September 4: Murray-Holley Meeting @ Public Library 10am
- October 5: Memory Walk behind museum
- October 26: Fall Festival
- December 7: Tree lighting in the square
- December 20: Basket Raffle (at the Library)



Memory Flashback: The Class of 1949 enjoys their 35th High School Reunion
How many of these friendly faces do you recognize?

— MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION —

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Membership type (check one): **Annually**

SINGLE \$ 5.00

FAMILY \$10.00

LIFETIME \$50.00

Clip and mail to Murray-Holley Historical Society, P.O. Box 346,
Holley, New York 14470. Attention: Membership Secretary.