

**SANBORN AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NEWS**

**2660 SAUNDERS SETTLEMENT ROAD
SANBORN, NY 14132
WWW.SANBORNFARMMUSEUM.COM**

VOLUME 30 ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2026

President's Message

HAVE A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR!

The following committees have been appointed for 2026:

- * Farm Museum —Bonnie Haskell, Curator
- * Farm Usage Schedule—Bonnie Haskell, Chairperson
- * Library/Collections—Bonnie Haskell assisted by Kailey MacSwan and Pat Korpolinski
- * Membership—Kailey MacSwan
- * Antique Show & Sale—Bonnie Haskell, Chairperson
- * Finance, Programming & Publicity—Glenn Wienke, Chairman (includes Monthly Program)
- * Farm Museum Festival—Bonnie Haskell, Chairperson
- * Farm Museum Festival Antique Engine, Tractor & Equipment Exhibits—Bill Read
- * Ways & Means Fundraiser Chairpersons - (See “ Various Events”)
- * Christmas at the Farm—Bonnie Haskell, Chairperson
- * Newsletter—Ruth Pirinelli
- * Representative at Federation Meetings—Bonnie Haskell
- * Social Media—Ruth Pirinelli

Thank you to all those who continue to help out and provide additional financial support!



A **Certificate of Appreciation** was presented to Pat Korpolinski in recognition of 25 years of volunteer work maintaining artifact collection records, doing administrative office work and bookkeeping.

Thank You, Pat!!!

Bill Read, President

VOLUNTEERS ARE CRITICAL to keep the Farm running. Please consider donating some time to this worthy cause! There are many jobs to be done!

Your Board of Trustees

Board Meetings are held at the Museum on the third Tuesday at 3:00 PM in the winter and 7:00 PM the balance of year

President- **Bill Read 716-870-6263**; Vice Pres-**Bonnie Haskell 716-957-4851**;
Recording Sec-**Ruth Pirinelli 716-471-4677**; Treasurer- **Glenn Wienke 716-731-5982**; Trustees-at-Large-
Alisha Almond 716-251-3483, Jon Brown 716-545-5545, Ron Craft 716-818-0360,
Stacey DeWyer 716-868-7737, Jim Ditzel 716-433-7439, Mike Federspiel 716-553-3278,
Gordon Hermanson 716-731-9650, Gwen King 716-297-3255, Kevin Knox 716-628-3909,
Scott McEldowney 716-471-5637, Gary Townsend 716-523-0743
Farm Museum Curator - **Bonnie Haskell 716-957-4851**
Newsletter Publisher—**Ruth Pirinelli 716-471-4677 sanbornhistorical@gmail.com**

Christmas at the Farm 2025



A wonderful time was had by all at this year's *Christmas at the Farm*! Along with Santa and presents, children had fun with the clown guy, frosting cookies, enjoying hot cocoa and a kids' menu of yummy food they all loved! The Santa Store was busy both days as was the basket auction. Thank you to all our helpers for making this a fantastic weekend!! The *Ladies First Quartet* also entertained at The Farm. Their concert and sing-along was the finishing touch for the holiday festivities!



Sanborn Area Historical Society Event Calendar 2026

- March 21 & 22 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Antique Show with Basket Auction
 Sat. & Sun.
- April 11 & 12 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Flea Market
 Sat. & Sun.
- May 3 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Car Parts Swap Meet
 Sunday
- May 16 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Pork Loin Dinner
 Saturday
- July 25 & 26 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Farm Festival
 Sat. & Sun.
- Sept. 19 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Spaghetti Dinner
 Saturday
- Oct. 17 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Ham Dinner
 Saturday
- Dec. 12 & 13 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Christmas at the Farm
 Sat. & Sun.
- Dec. 19 2 p.m. Caroling at Farm
 Saturday



Railroads, Wagons and Bicycles

By Kathleen Lafler Bird

The Sanborn railroad station played an important role in obtaining merchandise for the B.N. Lafler & Son General Store on North Ridge in the Town of Cambria. Burt purchased the store in 1892 when the business model was supply and demand. Customers could place special orders but they had to wait patiently for the delivery by railroad. It was necessary for Burt to travel to the railroad station periodically to pick up orders and supplies for his store. The closest station was in Ransomville to the north, but the road from North Ridge to that village went through the ancient lakebed of Lake Ontario. The water table in that area was close to the surface,



making it swampy, and during certain times of year it was impassable in a horse-drawn wagon. Another option was the New York Central Railroad Falls Road Branch station in Sanborn at the top of the Niagara escarpment. To drive up the escarpment was a challenge in the old days as the cut-through at Pekin was a dream more than five decades in the future. Burt's son, Huey Lafler, said their best route was to travel south on Shawnee Road to the top of the escarpment at Upper Mountain Road. From there the rest of the journey to Sanborn was relatively flat.

Looking south on the road to Pekin Hill at the top of the escarpment circa 1910-20

Huey often accompanied his father on these trips to pick up freight. One November it started to snow as they reached Lower Mountain Road. By the time their horse-drawn buckboard crested Shawnee Hill the snow was so deep and falling so heavily that they decided to seek shelter at a farm nearby on Upper Mountain Road. The farmer who lived there was very obliging and allowed Burt and Huey to stay there for three days until they could move on to Sanborn.

Huey also made use of the Sanborn railroad station for travel in 1914-1917 when he attended high school in Tonawanda, residing with relatives during the week. Huey wrote in his memoir that his bicycle went back and forth with him on the train. "When I reached the station (at Sanborn) I would bike the rest of the way to my home on North Ridge for the weekends. I checked my bicycle and it went along in the baggage and on the same train. That trip cost 48 cents. They were putting in the first paved road then between Pekin and Sanborn."



B.N. Lafler & Son delivery wagon and Orlo Durfy, the first driver.

In the late 1890s Burt decided he could increase the store's customer base by offering home delivery of merchandise. The original delivery wagon was built by his uncles, Charlie and Loren Parker, on the second floor of a barn on the farm of Edward Lafler, Burt's brother. As they neared completion of the project, the Parker brothers realized that the wagon would not fit through the barn door. They cut an exit in the side of the barn and lowered the wagon to the ground. Burt hired drivers for the route until Huey took it over in 1920. The horse drawn wagon was used until 1922, when deliveries were converted to a motorized truck. He found the horse-drawn wagon more efficient as he could stock orders in the back while the horses, being very familiar with the route, moved on to the next customer's home. Driving a truck took more time as only one task could be performed at a time. The delivery route covered a seven-mile radius, and Huey knew everyone along the route. Deliveries continued until 1942 when gasoline and tire rationing during World War II made it impractical. Today, the facade of the general store and some of its equipment is on display at the Sanborn Historical Society Farm Museum. The remainder of the building was razed in the mid-1970s. Then along came Amazon!

SANBORN AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE

January 27—7:00 p.m.—"The Music of Ireland" by Don Dwyer

February 24—7:00 p.m.—"1st Ladies" by Janet Karnes

March 24—7:00 p.m.—"1950 Dolls" by Carol Buckland

The museum is closed for the winter.

**Regular Meetings are held at the Farm Museum on the
4th Tuesday at 7:00 PM (unless otherwise noted).**

Sanborn Area Historical Society
PO Box 172, Sanborn, NY 14132
PUBLISHED QTLY



**Visit our website at
www.sanbornfarmmuseum.com**

**Find us on Facebook at
Sanborn Farm Museum-Official**

**Membership Dues: Sanborn Area Historical Society
(Annual Dues are \$15 for Family; \$10 for Individual; \$100 for Patron, Business, Professional)**

DON'T FORGET TO PAY YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES!

**Make checks payable to: Sanborn Area Historical Society, PO Box 172, Sanborn, NY 14132
We are a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit society. Donations are appreciated in the form
of cash or artifacts.**

**Donations are tax deductible in accordance with the law.
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