



Winter 2024

**Lyons Heritage Society Board Members:**

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**Patricia Alena:**  
H.G Hotchkiss  
Museum Director  
95 Water St.

**Annette Harris**  
Peppermint Museum Curator

**Hours:**

May, June, September and August by appointment only

July and August on Fridays and Saturdays 10-12 and 1-3. Special days and hours for LYONS PEPPERMINT DAYS!!

315-946-4596.

**Message to our members from Peppermint Patty:**

MUSEUM NEWS: As most of you know the museum closes for the winter months, actually when the canal closes. However, the LHS continues on with our work as a historical society. Board meetings are held and Spring events are planned. See coming events in this newsletter.

As Director of the museum I am reaching out to you for support in a couple areas:

We can use help with the new archival room, filling the shelves with artifacts that need to be protected for years to come! It takes time to index, label boxes, record and arrange them for easy access. Annette could also teach you how to accession new items, which is something we could use also.

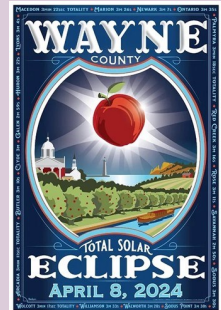
We can use help if you would just like to volunteer your time and greet visitors on open hours. We have a map/booklet that visitors can follow thru out the museum. Also, it took years, but many of the artifacts are labeled so no docent is really needed. If interested, let me know. OR, if you are interested in docenting!



**Coming Events:**

March 18 Pot Luck Dinner 5pm at the Lyons Library. Followed at 6 pm George Bastedo who will present a program on the Eclipse. George is Wayne County Director of Emergency Management.

April 8th Eclipse



April 22 – Mildred Taylor a different Taylor by Dorothy Barnes 6 pm at Lyons Public Library

May 20 – “Swamp the River (the canal)” by Steve Groat. 5 pm at the Lyons Library

**Lyons Heritage Society**

**P.O. Box 150**

**Lyons NY, 14489**

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The museum could also use help in planning and creating NEW EXHIBITS! One idea might be a rotating exhibit on PRIVATE COLLECTIONS. Right now, we have a Lyons currency collection and a glass paper weight collection on display. Those can be replaced by new ones. Do you have a DOLL COLLECTION!! TEAPOT, HAT, or famous person( I have a pretty vast collection on JFK). Let me know!! Our museum is highly secure so as not to worry.

Also, LHS is always looking for speakers for our meetings. If you or someone you know would like to share their expertise on a particular subject dealing with local or general history or a hobby to share, let me know.

The HOTCHKISS PEPPERMINT MUSEUM will open again in May, June, September and August by appointment only(call [315-946-4596](tel:315-946-4596)) and regular hours: July and August on Fridays and Saturdays 10-12 and 1-3. Special days and hours for LYONS PEPPERMINT DAYS!!

THANK YOU for your years of support for this WONDERFUL MUSEUM that we own and manage!! Let me know if anything you read interests you and you might like to pursue!

PEPPERMINT PATTY

**Dear Members,** am sorry to report the passing of one of our Heritage Society members, Edna FACER Gansz. Edna and husband (who we also lost two years ago) were active members of the Lyons Heritage Society. Much love and sympathy, we send to John and Jen Albanese for their loss. She and Mike will be greatly missed.

**New Members:** Welcome John & Sherry Gibbon from Lyons and Lou Cinelli from Canandaigua.

**The following two articles are about Myron Taylor and his family before he left Lyons. Hopefully you have read "Myron Taylor The Man Nobody Knew" by C. Evan Stewart and know Myron Taylor's prestigious life after he left Lyons.**

**51 Broad Street**

The northwest corner of Broad and Church which is now the home of Finger Lakes CAP and was given by Myron Taylor to the village



of Lyons. It has a history that parallels the story of Lyons as a village.

In 1946, to commemorate the dedication of Myron Taylor's family home at 51 Broad St. to the village of Lyons, the *Lyons Republican* published a small booklet written by Helen Ennis that details the history of that parcel of land. According to the author, James Hathaway bought an inn on the lot in 1805 which

**Thank you to Sean Dobbins for his support of the Newsletters**

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was later purchased by Elias Hull as part of a judgement against Hathaway, and during his proprietorship it housed the first village library, starting in 1814. Colonel Hull trained a company of militia south of the property, on "Battle Square" and led them to defend Sodus Point in the War of 1812. The building that became the Lyons Community Center was built by Samuel Androus, brother-in-law of Deacon Newell Taft, after Androus bought the property in 1836. The brick was made in the Layton brickyard down by the Ganargua Creek.

Judge Lyman Sherwood bought the home from Taft when he moved to Lyons from Vermont. Interestingly, he was close friends with William Stewart, who lived with the Coles while attending school in Lyons. Stewart later became a U.S. Senator from Nevada as well as a gold prospector, his enterprise enabled by Rhoda Sherwood who financed his trip west. Judge Sherwood and his wife Rhoda were abolitionists, and according to Helen Ennis, established their home as a station on the Underground Railway. When the basement was being remodeled in 1945 a small, unlit room was removed from it. According to Ms. Ennis, a former slave, Old Wall, who lived in Lyons in the very early 1800's was stone-lining a well on the property and was hit by a falling bucket when the chain broke. She comments on the later justice of the Sherwood's commitment to abolition of slavery.

Judge Sherwood's son Lyman established the Lyons Musical Academy, one of two in the United States at the time. Having written a textbook on harmony, been asked to join the

Boston Conservatory (and declined), his academy drew students from all over the United States. A self-taught prodigy, he also learned to speak four other languages fluently. He was the father and teacher of William Sherwood, a nationally celebrated pianist and teacher.

The house was rented as a boarding house by Mrs. Catherine VanWickle Lyman, and it was a popular one according to her obituary. Mr. and Mrs. James Husted bought the home in 1863 for \$5,500. They renovated the house with woodwork and furniture. In 1868 Husted sold the property for \$16,000 to Mr. John Slawson of New Orleans to use as a summer home but his daughters found the village not exciting enough so he moved in his mother-in-law, Mrs. Lyman where she stayed for 30 years. In 1895 Mr. and Mrs. William Taylor moved from the east side of Broad St. across to 51 Broad and it was the Taylor home until 1944 when Myron Taylor donated \$15,000 to convert his former home into a civic center. Later he donated the funds to build a scout annex to the building. Among the many uses of the building, it was a polling place in 1944. The building and annex served Lyons for decades.

Rep. Brian Manktelow bought the property and sold it to WayneCAP, now Finger Lakes CAP.

### **Evolution of Taylor Enterprises**

Looking at old maps of Lyons, one can follow the evolution of the Taylor businesses that were in what is now Taylor Park, at the south-east corner of Geneva and Montezuma

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Company were created to allow fire insurance companies to assess their total liability in urbanized areas of the United States.

By 1889 the tannery had grown, growing south and east from the corner and also along Montezuma Street, and bears the name of Elijah's son- William Taylor. Around 1901 William's son Myron had helped secure a USPS mail bag contract and William set up shop to

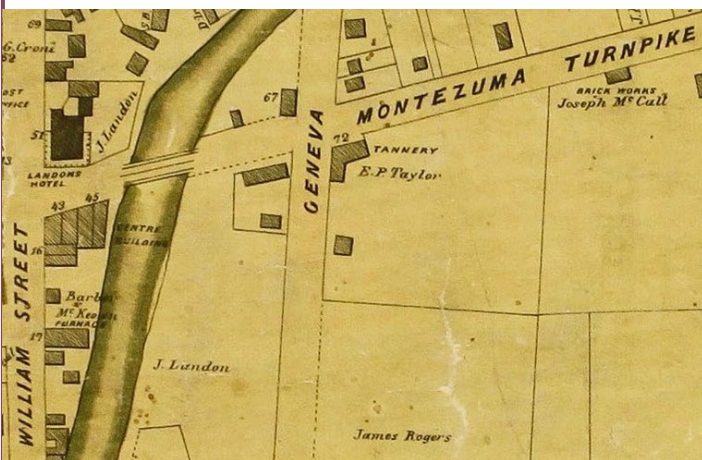


Taylor Mail Bag Factory.  
South Side Montezuma Street.

Streets. The oldest, the Bevan map of 1852, shows Elijah Pomeroy Taylor's tannery on the corner extending 50 feet along both streets. According to the Rev. F. W. Kneeland of the Baptist Church in Lyons (1909), the Taylor tannery dates to 1822. However, it appears that it did not occupy the site until at least 1847. The previous owner's wife sold the property after her husband was accidentally shot at the site.

### Bevan map section

Later maps produced by The Sanborn Map



make them beginning in 1902.

A fire destroyed the mail-bag factory in 1904. Soon after, and with the financial assistance of local businessmen, William was able to build a brick structure in which his expanding business could prosper.

In the 1911 map, The American Commercial Corporation Inc. (AMCC), Tannery and U.S. Mail Bag Manufacturing Plant extends for over half the streetside footage of the property.

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In 1910 the AMCC was relocated from Trenton NJ, absorbed the tannery and mail-bag factory and produced “a complete line of leather and canvas goods”.

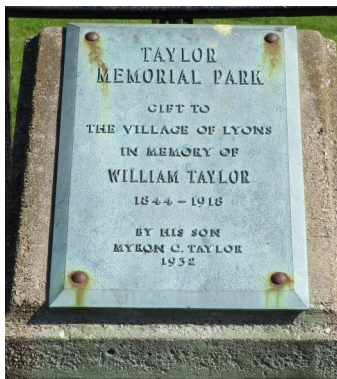
William was owner and manager. His son, Myron Charles Taylor, was president.

1911 Sanborn map section (U.S. Mail Bag M'FG building should have been colored red to indicate it being brick as in previous image)

In 1932 Myron gave Taylor Park to the village in memory of his father.



Enlarged Brick Replacement



The picture is the Town Park Obelisk monument which is being moved to Taylor Park and is not yet installed there. Taylor park is due to have handicapped access soon according to Jim Brady Lyons Town Supervisor. The Central Park is due to receive a life size bronze statue memorializing Civil War Soldiers of the 111<sup>th</sup> NY Volunteer Regiment that is being donated. See [lyonstown.com](http://lyonstown.com) “what is happening in Central Park” for more details.

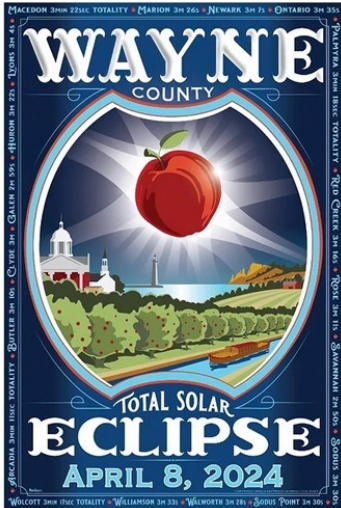
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The Holiday Boutique at the Wayne County Museum on December 1 and 2nd was successful for the Heritage Society. We sold many peppermint themed items according to chairperson Phil Dodson pictured. Marcia Bilancini was one of several volunteers working our booth.

### Total Eclipse (of the Heart) Exhibit and activities Planned for April in Lyons



The Museum of Wayne County and partners have a host of activities planned for our high anticipated April 8th eclipse this year. An exhibit on past eclipses and a model of this year's eclipse opening March 11 at the museum, "The Great American Watch Party" at the Community Center and an "Eclipse on the Erie" at the old American Legion on Water St. will all welcome people to experience this historical event. The official Wayne County poster, designed by Dr. Tyler Nordgren for the county is available for purchase at the museum or online, as are magnets

#### Our Corporate Members:

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