



Parma Hilton Historical Society

1300 Parma Corners Road

Hilton, NY 14468

## **JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER**

**“In the New Year, never forget to thank your past years because they enabled you to reach today! Without the stairs of the past, you cannot arrive at the future!” — Mehmet Murat ildan**



# **HAPPY NEW YEAR**

## Holiday on Main



Amanda Dudley, Dave Crumb, Tom Burger, John Foster and John Toal introducing America 250 at Holiday on Main through the use of questions on the American Revolution. Note the Tricorn Hats!

## January Program – January 12 at 7 pm “When Hilton Had a Department Store”



Join us on Monday January 12th at 7pm for a presentation about the Fraser Department Store by Parma and Hilton Historian Dave Crumb.

From 1875 to 1941 brothers Allan and Evan Fraser, operated a store in Hilton (then called North Parma until 1895). The first store began as a small general store in the old Tennison Block on the corner of Main Street and South Avenue.

Riding the wave of prosperity that the arrival of the new R.W. and O Railroad brought to Hilton, the store changed location and grew to one of the largest country stores for a town the size of Hilton in Western New York. There was good luck and bad luck in this operation, but through the years it prospered and served the greater community diligently until the great depression, the automobile, and good roads signaled its decline and finale in 1941.

Presentations are held at the Hilton Community Center's Ingham Room. Located at 59 Henry Street in Hilton. Presentations are free and open to the public. See you there!

### ***What Has The Board Been Up To? A Lot!***

- ❖ Save the Date: May 11, 2026 Annual Banquet to be held at the Exempt Club.
- ❖ The America 250 Planning Committee will be meeting to decide on special events and activities for the coming celebration.
- ❖ ***Are your dues up to date? Check with Nancy Leport, [naleport@mail.com](mailto:naleport@mail.com) or call 585-943-3314 to see if you are behind. You can also pay at any Monday night program.***
- ❖ Would you like to be a member of the PHHS? Dues are \$10 for individuals and \$15 for a family up to 4. Lifetime membership is \$200. Why not consider joining and helping the PHHS continue its work into 2026 and beyond.

### **“Six Months in Review”**

As the New Year dawns many organizations share a Year in Review. Because our year does not coincide with the calendar year and we do a full year in review at the Banquet in May, we thought we would share a quick snapshot of the last **“Six Months in Review”**

- We were visible in the community through Summer Smash, Trunk or Treat and Holiday on Main.
- To ensure our financial future we appointed a “Nest Egg Committee” that has been meeting with financial advisors about what will be our best next steps.
- Making our history come alive has been a goal of our historian and assistant historians with a new historical book club held every other month at the library. We have studied two of Shirley

Cox Husted's books and are now reading Hilton USA by Leith Wright.

- Arrangements were also made to tour the Braddock Bay Lighthouse.
- Adding to our collection we have an agreement with James Hard's family to display his Civil War rifle among his other memorabilia. Many people remember Mr. Hard from his participation in local parades as one of the oldest remaining Civil War veterans. A special display is being prepared and there will be an opening of this display soon.
- The Cemetery Committee has been working to repair headstones and have dangerous trees removed from our pioneer cemetery.
- The Meeting House Renovations continue as we pursue the goal of using this historic building for programs.
- Two more historic markers are ready to be installed. One at Bartlett's Corners and another at The Wright Cemetery. Tom and Ann Burger sponsored the one at The Wright Cemetery. Another marker is in progress for Burritt Corners.
- A major revision of the Bylaws has taken place and will be presented to the membership soon.
- And last but certainly not least we celebrated the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Erie Canal with speakers who taught us about the amazing engineering feat it was and how the Erie Canal changed Western New York forever, including Parma Hilton.

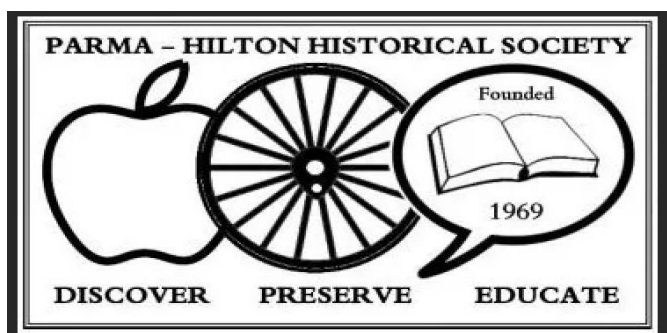
NOW WE ARE TURNING OUR ATTENTION TO



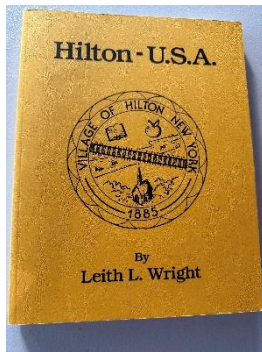
**This year we celebrate the Semiquincentennial or the Sestercentennial, Quarter Millennium or as we will refer to it America 250. Why America 250? July 4, 2026, will mark the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The Town, Village and Historical Society are planning activities to commemorate this historic event. The Parma Hilton Historical Society has two projects underway. One is a booklet about the Revolutionary War Veterans who are buried in Parma Hilton cemeteries and the other is a coloring book on the American Revolution. Be watching for more details.**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** 2026 is going to be a busy year and we could use an influx of volunteers as we plan ahead. We need volunteers for many jobs. Are you an organizer? Editor, Carpenter? Financial analyst? Social Media Guru? Project manager? Jack of all

trades? Helper? Do you like to clean (clean out)? We can use your skills and enthusiasm. Call the office or Nancy Leport at 585-943-3314.







## Historical Book Club

We will be discussing the first half of Leith Wright's Hilton, USA book on January 6 at 6:30 at the Parma Public Library. Books may be available at the library. You do not have to read the book. It's always a great discussion. Join Us!



Curator Ken Freeman is looking to borrow, for an Olympics themed display, figure skates, hockey gear (stick, skates, helmet). Any Olympics

memorabilia will be considered. We need these items no later than January 10. Call 585-748-9411, leave message.

## *What's New In the Collection by Ken Freeman*

January 2026



This actually isn't in the PHHS collection, yet. It will be, sooner or later, but I thought it was a neat piece to share with you now.

This month I have for you a cooking and baking timer, with a 3-minute egg timer, from Bud Howard's Market and Grocery. This would probably have been some sort of promotional item that was given to customers, maybe at Christmastime.

I spotted this on Ebay a while back and bought it for my own collection of Hilton and Parma items. It fits in with the Van Dorn's Service Station ashtray and the Hy's Arco ice scraper.

Since the timer has Hilton, NY on it, I was fairly certain it was the real deal, but I didn't know, when I bought it, where Bud Howard's Market was. So, time for a little research. The first "go to" book for village history, for me at least, is Leith Wright's book "Hilton USA". Long out of print, we have a copy in the PHHS book

collection, and Village Historian Dave Crumb still has a copy or two for sale. On occasion they show up on Ebay, or at the local Co-ops. I found mine at Upstate Marketplace and paid less than cover price for it.

Anyway, I digress. According to Leith, Bud operated the former Paulson's Market at the corner of Main St and South Ave. There's a nail salon in the building now. In 1950, Hart's Food Stores Co purchased the former Paulson's Market business and expanded and remodeled it into the first supermarket in Hilton. In 1965, Mauro and Nancy Sassone opened the Village Bake Shoppe in that location.

It's challenging trying to keep track of the markets and meat shops that were in the village, just from 1900 on, I hope I have the history correct.

Now, do any of you have things like the egg timer, or calendars from the service stations or any other Hilton or Parma, NY businesses? We would love to see them, and if you wanted a "Forever Home" for them, we would be the place for them to end up.

Until Next Time ~ Ken

## *January Parma Public Library Programs*

Visit [www.publicparmalibrary.org](http://www.publicparmalibrary.org) to see if you need to register.

The library is offering many holiday craft opportunities in January. Check out their offerings at the above website.

### Leo Lyons, the Rochester Jeffersons, and the Birth of the NFL

**6:30pm Tuesday, January 27, 2026**

Leo Lyons is recognized as one of the founding fathers of the NFL. He was also a starting player on Rochester's professional football team back in the early 1900s - the Rochester Jeffersons. Lyons was a pioneer of integration in professional football, created the logo for the Jeffersons (the first logo used by a professional football team), and conceptualized using football trading cards as a promotional tool for the league. Join author Jeffrey J. Miller and Leo Lyons' great-grandson John D. Steffenhagen to discuss their book about Leo Lyons' role in helping create the NFL and his work with the Rochester Jeffersons.

### ZOOM: Durand Eastman Park History with Cornell Cooperative Extension

**6:00pm Wednesday, January 28, 2026** This talk covers the history of how the park came to be, the development of the property, and some of the primary specimens held in the Durand Eastman Arboretum within the park.

## YEARBOOK SEARCH

Did you know your Historical Society has a collection of Hilton Yearbooks?

We are still looking for: anything pre 1937, 1939, 1942 1972, 1973, 1974, 1976, 1984 to 1990 and 1992, then 1997 through 2000 and 2002-2025. Do you have any of these years you would like a nice, warm, well-kept home for them to go to? We will be more than happy to adopt them.

In 1936, the yearbook was titled “The Hilton Log”? Both of these, and a second copy each of the 1937 and 1940 yearbook came to us recently in a collection of memorabilia from the Frances Kluth estate. Frances was from North Greece and graduated from HHS in 1937.



### Help us Discover Hilton History The Crimson Crier

We need your help locating copies of **The Crimson Crier**, the Hilton High School student newspaper. If you have any issues, or know where we might find some, we would like to scan them for our archives and return the originals to you. Please contact John Foster at (585) 820-8633 or email him at [FosterMonshipour@gmail.com](mailto:FosterMonshipour@gmail.com) with any information you have. Thank you for helping discover local history.

### ***Find us at:***

[www.parmahiltonhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.parmahiltonhistoricalsociety.com)

email [parmahiltonhistory@gmail.com](mailto:parmahiltonhistory@gmail.com)

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