

## September 2026 Issue



### Preserving Our Past, Inspiring Our Future



Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Time Capsule Celebration on August 8th! We were thrilled to see so many wonderful items submitted by community members for future generations to discover in 2076. In case you missed it, we're sharing PHHS President Jeri Pickett's remarks from that memorable day.

*"Good afternoon, everyone. On behalf of the Parma Hilton Historical Society, welcome! I'm Jeri Pickett, the Society President, and want to thank you for joining us as we celebrate America's 250th anniversary. Before we start I'd like to recognize the following Board Members for making this event happen: Ken Freeman, Amanda Dudley, Nancy Leport, Dave Crumb, John Toal, Margaret Whelehan, and Todd Pickett. Thank you!"*

*Today, we gather in a place where history comes full circle. Fifty years ago, during our nation's Bicentennial, the citizens of the Town of Parma and Village of Hilton looked to the future with hope. They dedicated the time capsule we honor here today, preserving pieces of their lives with the belief that one day future generations would discover who they were, what they valued, and what they hoped America would become. Today, we celebrate their vision. Their gift reminds us that history is not only about remembering the past; it is about leaving something meaningful for those who come after us.*

*Now it is our turn. As part of America's 250th anniversary, we have created a new time capsule that captures the story of our community today. Inside will be artifacts from our past and present, along with our hopes, dreams, and predictions for the future. Like those who came before us, we do not know what the next fifty years will bring. But we do know that every generation has a responsibility to preserve its history and protect the blessings of liberty for the next.*

*In just a few moments, we will, in ceremony, bury the key to this time capsule; a simple act that represents something much greater. It is a promise. A promise that this capsule will remain sealed until 2076, when our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren gather here to celebrate America's Tricentennial and discover the story we have left for them.*

*This fall, another symbol of that promise will take root right here as we plant a tree. Like our nation, it will begin small but, with time, grow stronger with each passing year. Long after we are gone, its roots will deepen, its branches will spread, and it will stand as a living reminder that great things grow when planted with faith, patience, and hope.*

*The strength of America has always been found in communities like ours; in neighbors who care for one another, families who pass down traditions, volunteers who preserve our history, and citizens who believe they can leave the world a little better than they found it.*

*May those who stand here in 2076 see not only the artifacts we preserved, but also the values we cherished: freedom, service, community, and an enduring faith in the future. May they know that in 2026, the people of Parma and Hilton believed America was worth celebrating, worth preserving, and always worth believing in. God bless the Town of Parma, the Village of Hilton, and may God continue to bless the United States of America."*



## Among the Headstones

### The Story of Parma's Revolutionary War Patriot Abraham Castle

As we continue celebrating America's 250th birthday, we're proud to honor the local patriots who helped shape the nation we know today, and the lasting legacy they left in our community. Here is the story of Abraham Castle and "Castle's Corners."

Abraham Castle was born in 1743 in Roxbury, Woodbury, Connecticut. He served with the Connecticut militia during the American Revolution, although details of his military service have not been located.

Around 1810, Abraham moved to Parma with his family and brothers, Samuel and Isaac. The Castle family settled near the corner of Route 259 and Peck Road, an area that became known as Castle's Corners.

Abraham died on August 27, 1812, and was the first person buried in the family plot on Peck Road. The site would later become known as Castle Cemetery, where members of the Castle family and other local residents were laid to rest.

Castle's Corners was originally named for the Castle brothers (Abraham, Samuel and Issac) who arrived in the area around 1810. Samuel is said to have built the house on the northeast corner (614 Peck Road) and later sold the property to Truman Hunt, at which time the corners became known as Hunt's Corners.

The Hunt family arrived in the area around 1825 and first lived in a log cabin on the southeast side of Peck Road, before moving into the house on the northeast corner. Truman died in 1838 and is buried in Hoosick Hill Cemetery (corner of Manitou and Ridge Road). He left the house to his wife Sally Porter Hunt, who lived until 1860, and is also buried at Hoosick Hill Cemetery. Castle/Hunts Corners also included a red brick schoolhouse (at 640 Peck Road) that was built in 1852 and still stands as a residence.

## Happy September!



### US Holidays & Observances

- Labor Day: September 7th
- Patriot Day: September 11th
- Rosh Hashanah: September 11th-13th
- Yom Kippur: September 20th-21st
- Autumnal Equinox: September 22nd

### Fun and Unofficial Celebrations

- Star Trek Day: September 8th
- Mayflower Day: September 16th
- Autumnal Equinox: September 22nd
- National Checkers Day or Dogs in Politics Day: September 23rd

## Curator's Corner

### What's New in the Collection

I'm sure you have all heard the term “mission creep” or “going down a rabbit hole.” This story is one of those, in a good way. Back in April, before our banquet, I was looking for clear, archival page protectors for the prints of our Revolutionary War Veteran's poster that we gave out at the banquet. Side note: there's still a few of them left if you want one. Anyway, all that material is stored in the garage in a cabinet, which has a large supply of paper and envelopes that were donated to the Society long ago. I've straightened it and cleaned it out a few times in the past, but, I needed to do more to it. (Rabbit Hole Number One). So, one day I got to it, tossed out some paper that was totally irrelevant, and gave some away. There's still boxes of odd sized items that we might use in the future. I got to the last shelf, and there was a roll of gray-ish colored paper, I admit that I'd never really paid attention to in the past. I was almost going to toss it out when I realized it was (or could be) grocery paper. Not the waxy like paper that subs are wrapped in, but more the stuff that a general store would use to wrap purchases in “back in the day.” Our depiction of a general store doesn't have that, but it should. It would also need a dispenser for it, which we didn't have, at that time.

That night, while on the computer, I “Summoned Up The Goog”, typed in Antique Grocery Paper Dispenser, and Presto! A listing on that famous internet auction site. The first hit was for one that was right in my idea of a proper price range, and it looked like it needed some TLC. The second was way more money but everything was there. I admit to being a sucker for things that need work, at times. So, I bought it. Showed up a few days later, and my thoughts on it, looking at the pictures, were pretty close to reality. A bit rusty, but all there, except for the cross shaft to hold the paper. I took it down to my workshop and in about 15 minutes I had it all apart. Then it all went in my tub of EvapoRust. I learned about this stuff from lantern restorers, and if you want something that will dissolve rust, this stuff really works. It's pricey, but it also doesn't have any odor, which is good. The best part is, the instructions say you can just rinse it off in water. (Rabbit Hole Number Two).

Two days in the EvapoRust and it was clean! Next night, I got out my can of Krylon Gloss Black, and painted it all. Now comes Rabbit Hole Number Three. Yes, it looked nice in gloss black but, wouldn't a piece like this be more decorative? Since I'm a model builder, I have tons of paints on hand, and I had a tin (yes, tin) of Humbrol Copper, that I had bought probably 30 years ago. That stuff keeps nicely. So, another evening with a fine paintbrush and I had a nice decorative trim on the edges. Now, what to do about a cross shaft? Well, since I never seem to throw anything out, I had a short piece of PVC pipe, so I cut that to length and added PVC caps to the ends. So, now the general store has a grocery paper dispenser and a roll of paper. Now I have to find a place to put it. Which will most likely be the start of some enhancements for the general store this winter. A fun little project overall.

Ken Freeman  
PHHS Museum Curator



*The finished grocery store paper dispenser, thanks to Ken's hard work! What a beauty! Come see this unique piece of local history for yourself during your next visit to the museum.*



*Zellweger's General Store in 1939, located at Parma Center (the intersection of Rte 259 and Parma Center Road).*

Information & forms for PHHS events can be found at  
[www.parmahiltonhistoricalsociety.com/events/](http://www.parmahiltonhistoricalsociety.com/events/)

## Upcoming Events

ON  
GOING

### America 250 Photography Contest for All Ages

Calling photographers of all ages and skill levels! Beginning June 15th, submit your best community-inspired and patriotic-themed photos for a chance to be featured in next year's community calendar. The contest runs through October 15. Full details, including preferred digital file formats, can be found on the website listed at the top of the page.

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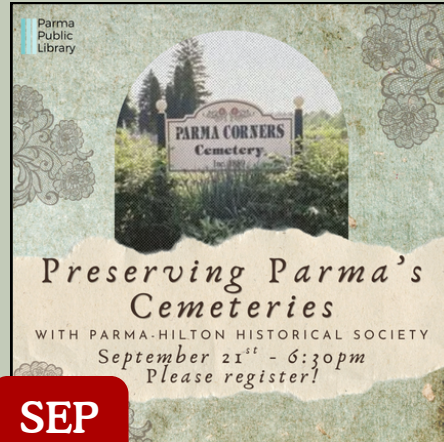
### Historical Marker Coloring Contest Ends

Last call to enter our very special coloring contest! Pick up a coloring page from the Parma Public Library, the PHHS Museum, or on our website. Prizes will be awarded by age group and entries will be displayed for the public.

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### Historical Society Book Club Meeting: *This Fierce People* by Alan Pell Crawford

Join the Parma-Hilton Historical Society for their next community book club! This month we'll discuss *This Fierce People: The Untold Story of America's Revolutionary War in the South* by Alan Pell Crawford. Help us celebrate the 250th anniversary of America's founding this year by learning something new (and old)! The meeting will take place at 6:30 at the library Meeting Room. Please visit the library website events calendar to register your seat.

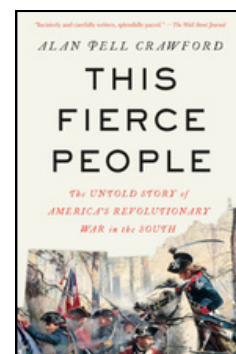


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### Preserving Parma's Cemeteries Presentation at the Parma Public Library

Join Amanda Dudley, Assistant Village of Hilton Historian, to explore the pioneer cemeteries within the Town of Parma. We'll focus on their historical significance, locations, and ongoing restoration efforts. In commemoration of America's 250th anniversary, Amanda will also highlight the Revolutionary War veterans interred in these cemeteries! Don't miss this special local history event! Please register by visiting the library's website.

Want to join us?  
Copies of all Historical  
Book Club books are  
available to borrow at  
the Parma Library!



Information & forms for PHHS events can be found at  
[www.parmahiltonhistoricalsociety.com/events/](http://www.parmahiltonhistoricalsociety.com/events/)

## Upcoming Events

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Parma Public Library Programs (just a few, of many!)

Visit <https://www.parmapubliclibrary.org> for more!

**September 1st - Voicing the Constitution: An American 250 Celebration Event!**  
<https://calendar.libraryweb.org/event/16838790>

**September 9th - Parma Library Non-Fiction Book Club reads Who is Government?** The Untold Story of Public Service by Michael Lewis  
<https://calendar.libraryweb.org/event/15931640>

**September 17th - An American Tradition: Songs of Protest and Hope**  
<https://calendar.libraryweb.org/event/17322696>

**September 21st - Preserving Parma's Cemeteries with the Parma-Hilton Historical Society**  
<https://calendar.libraryweb.org/event/17014275>



## A New Season of History, Stories & Speakers Begins!

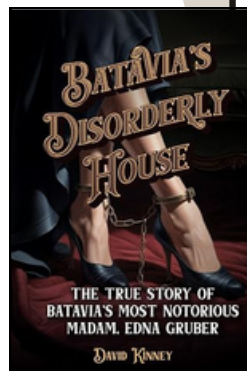
PHHS Monthly Programs and Historical Lecture Series:  
New Location, Same Great Programs!

We're excited to kick off our monthly presentation series again this September! Join us on the **2nd Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.** as we welcome engaging guest speakers and presenters who cover a variety of topics related to local history and other subjects of general interest. Meetings are free and open to the public, unless otherwise noted.

We're also excited to begin this new season in a new location! We'll be moving from the Ingham Room at the Community Center to the beautiful new meeting room at the Hilton Fire Hall. We're looking forward to this wonderful new space and hope you'll join us there!

Be sure to visit our events webpage:  
<https://www.parmahiltonhistoricalsociety.com/events/> for upcoming presentation topics and dates.

*Meetings will now be held at the Hilton Fire Department Meeting Room*



Our first program will be:  
**September 8th, 2026**

*Batavia's Disorderly House:  
The True Story of Batavia's  
Most Notorious Madame,  
presented by David Kinney*

PHHS on YouTube: [www.youtube.com/@parmahiltonhistoricalsociety](http://www.youtube.com/@parmahiltonhistoricalsociety)

## Society Happenings & Highlights

### PHHS Members Featured on The Big H Podcast

Thank you to Mike Heise, host of The Big H Podcast, for welcoming so many of our board members onto the show this year! In this podcast, Mike highlights the rich history, local culture, and personal stories that make the Parma Hilton such a special community. Most recently, our Treasurer Dave Almeter was featured on Episode 108. If you haven't checked it out yet, give The Big H Podcast a listen on YouTube or wherever you find your podcasts!



### Honoring Revolutionary War Veterans at Mount Hope Cemetery



On August 26th, Dave Almeter and I attended an impressive event at Mount Hope Cemetery to commemorate the Revolutionary War Veterans reinterred there in 1841. Present were members of the Order of Free Masons, DAR, SAR, and the Grand Mason of New York from Albany. The program centered on the Ambuscade of a Scouting group, part of Sullivan's Campaign in Western New York in 1779. It happened near Genesee near Cuylerville (then Little Beards Town). Lt. Thomas Boyd and Sergeant Michael Parker were to lead a small group of Scouts to spy on the Tories and Natives in the area. The orders were to keep the group small and NOT engage in any action. Those orders were not followed; the group instead of 5 or 6 became 26, and one member shot a Seneca Indian standing in the distance. Soon after several more Senecas came into sight and began to run. The Sullivan Scouts began to chase them and were suddenly trapped and encircled in a group of several hundred of the enemy.

A few scouts escaped, but many were killed. Boyd and Parker were interrogated. Tory Joseph Brandt, a Mason, saw Patriot Thomas Boyd give a Masonic signal for help. He signaled back to what seemed a message that he would be spared. However, Brandt left the scene and John Butler of Butler's Rangers, a Tory group, was left in charge. Boyd and Parker gave no information during their interrogation. Subsequently they suffered a gruesome death at the hands of their enemies, after which their bodies were dismembered and left on the scene. The next day their remains were found by members of the army and buried at that location where today a New York State Historical Marker tells the story.

The event honored the Scouts who lost their lives in September 1779 and helped preserve the difficult history surrounding the conflict. This was the Revolutionary War battle site closest to Monroe County. Their remains were reinterred at Mount Hope Cemetery in 1841, where the DAR and SAR placed wreaths on their graves. As one speaker noted, **"Cemeteries are not only final resting places for the dead, but classrooms for the living."**

Dave Crumb  
Historian, Town of Parma Historian



**September 2026**

**Museum Hours: Sundays 2-4p or by appointment  
April 1st – November 30th / Closed on major holidays**

## From our Camera Roll



L-R: Chuck Leport, PHHS Museum Curator Ken Freeman, and Former PHHS Membership Chair Kathy Edsall waiting for the Time Capsule Ceremony to kick off on August 8th.

Assistant Village Historian Amanda Dudley tells PHHS members and community patrons about our special America 250 publications that help celebrate and preserve our history during this special milestone year.



Museum docent and former PHHS President John Foster shows a young visitor the amazing steam-powered machine shop model built by Don Stilson during a recent visit to the museum.

## Get in Touch!

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

Facebook: Parma Hilton Historical Society

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

Phone: 585-392-9496

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**Thank you to our friends at the  
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Recreation for their continued support!**

