



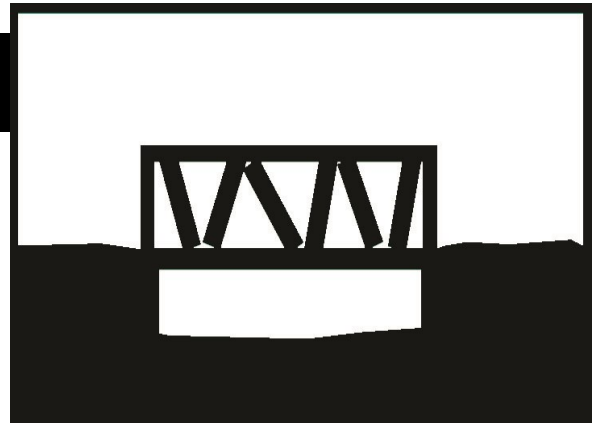
The Bridge

March 2018 Bakers Bridge Historical Association

Sherry Volk, Editor Bakersbridge.org

Program at 7:30 p.m. Meetinghouse

March 19, 2018 Jim Ninos



BBHA president, Jim Ninos is preparing his talk on Miss Hazel Humphreys. He requests that if anyone has stories about, or memories of her, they forward them to him by March 12, 2018.



Treasurer's Report
Sherman Clarke
 Checking account **\$3274.10**
 Savings account **\$5573.48**

2018 Programs

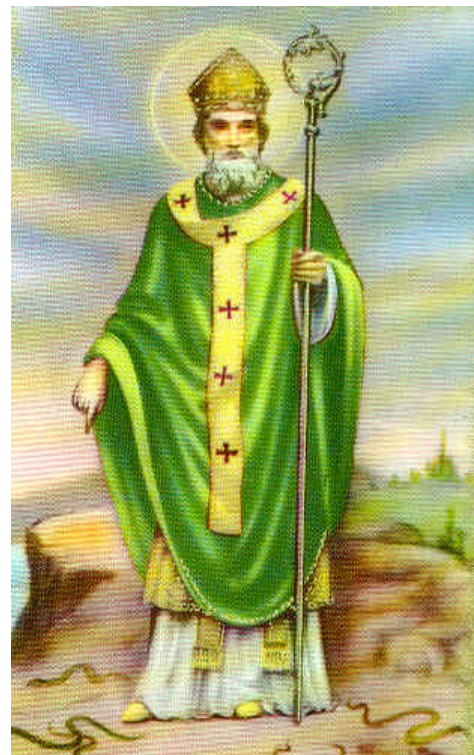
**March 19-Jim Ninos-
Hazel Humphreys**

April 16- Steve Appleby from the El-dred, PA, World War II Museum

May 18- Annual Field Trip to the El-dred, PA, World War II Museum, followed by lunch on your own at Spragues' (optional)



Current membership: 95/97, as follows; 61 paid, 1 in nursing home, 34 life memberships, 2 unpaid. Our diligent membership chair, Mary-Lou Cartledge, also forwards the following: 52 newsletters mailed, 37 emailed.



Scotty MacCrea: the Story of His Family

February 19, 2018

Scotty began his story by talking about growing up in Niagara Falls, NY. Half of his family lived in Canada and most of them still spoke Gaelic. His grandmother would mix English and Gaelic when she was upset. Scotty learned to speak Gaelic, French, and some German. He talked about people who are multilingual, and the thinking processes involved. One's mind must shift gears and one must think in the language which you're speaking.

His grandmother bought the farm in Alfred, at the intersection of Waterwells and Lake Roads. He visited as a child, and later came to live there. This was during World War II when ration cards were a way of life. Everything from gas to meat, sugar to coffee, was limited. His mother, a photographer, was injured, so at the age of twelve, Scotty came to live with his grandmother in Alfred.

He talked about places in Alfred that had an impact on the war, mentioning Rogers Machine Shop on North Main Street (current location of Alfred's post office). He remembers Reuben Armstrong's Hardware (later moved upstairs on Main Street, then to 833 Route 244, Alfred Station, now Tinkertown Hardware). The villagers during that period were still using horses to pull buggies called "democratic" wagons. According to MacCrea, one thing that describes Alfred and its people; they are eccentric individuals, and he mentioned Hazel Humphreys as an example.

Bartering was a way of life in Alfred. There were three grocery stores and people would trade goods for things they needed. An example was June Moland, who would trade her eggs and butter. He recalled that people, when they would go to town to buy goods, would ask for butter made by a particular person, for example. Beef was at a premium as it went to the soldiers so the only thing available was chicken. He talked about women left at home, who had to conquer their fears and take on the responsibilities that they were faced with in day to day living; jobs, finance, and family. "It was something they had to get through."

As soldiers returned from the war, many had Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), though they called it "shell shock." He talked about a friend of the family who had a problem with this when he would drink. His mind would go back to a combat situation; it was quite scary.

It was MacCrea's grandmother who named the farm Locustbrae because of the Locust trees that covered the farm. The great room in the house was the scene of great dances. (Interesting, because Seventh Day Baptists (SDBs) were opposed to dancing.) There have been numerous poems written about the farm. He remembers the beautiful Christmases of yesterday. His grandmother would string cranberries and popcorn, and the family would hang candles on the tree with his grandmother's jewelry. The family still gathers at the house for Christmas. The roads were never plowed, just packed down with snow and ice.

MacCrea's Scottish religion is Sabbatarian, familiar to residents because of SDBs. Sabbath is observed from sundown Friday to sundown Saturday. Scotty told about the special Act of Congress allowing the post office to close on the Sabbath, and stay open half a day on Sunday.

In closing, he remarked that he is rich in all things except money, "I'm the luckiest man on earth." He has had the great blessing of having performed marriage ceremonies for all his grandchildren except one, and that one wants him to perform their ceremony, which he looks forward to in the future. *Summary by Jim Ninos*



Locustbrae farm, so named by Scotty MacCrea's grandmother for the many locust trees on the property. "Brae" is a Scots word meaning "hillside or bank." MacCrea and his wife, Delores Zimmerman, raised their two sons here. Their son, Rory, and his wife Deborah Buckwalter, raised their five sons here as well.

Photo by Jim Ninos

The Sidewalks of (Alfred) New York

The sidewalks of Alfred have always been friendly. We walked...or ran, to the school bus. We walked...or ran, to friends' houses. We walked...or ran, to Sabbath School before church on Saturdays. We walked...or ran, to one of two grocery stores (Glover or Jacox). We walked...or ran, to Alumni Hall to see movies. We proceeded with utmost care so we wouldn't step on the cracks, 'cause we didn't want to break our mothers' backs.

In the late 1940s, and in the 1950s, the sidewalks were large sheets of flagstone; very smooth, but with seams that sometimes were not quite "seamless." When we wrapped the leather straps around our ankles and tightened the toe clamps to hold our heavy metal roller skates on our shoes, we would drop the key into a pocket and roll away, bumpity bump, on the resounding, hollow-sounding stone. One really needed sturdy leather shoes for the front clamp to hold securely, because sneakers were too flexible and might pop out of the clamp, resulting in a painful Achilles tendon bruise, or sometimes a gouge, when the metal heel of the skate flipped up and back. It happened often enough, anyway. We had scabs upon the scabs on our skinned knees from taking falls, but we never gave up the fun. One particularly daring run was to go to the top of Terrace Street and try to get all the way to Main Street without wiping out. Most times, though, we cruised along Main, Park, West University, and Church Streets.

A pair of skates could do duty quite awhile as our feet grew, because there was a nut underneath the foot's arch that could be loosened and the skate could be lengthened, somewhat like an extensible table. In the advertisement photo, just above the right front wheel, you may see the square end of the bolt that tightened the toe clamp. There was neither "right" nor "left" to the skates. In the photo of the key, the short perpendicular part has the square opening which was used as a wrench to tighten the that clamp. In the longer part of the key, the hex opening was used to loosen and tighten the nut mentioned above. I don't recall the use of the small slot. One could have a key for a nickel from StanLee, Alfred's second floor hardware store.

Eventually, skate boards made the scene on Alfred's sidewalks, and I don't remember when we stopped skating there. One wonderful thing happened, though. A company would come to Alfred-Almond Central School, once or twice a year, maybe more often. For fifty cents, one could rent a pair of comfortable (by comparison) leather shoe skates in the correct size, and on floor-safe plastic wheels, skate around and around the "old" gym, now the auditorium. *Sherry Volk*



Left: Found in an internet search, a much fancier roller skate than we kids used, but a good representation. I remember the cardboard boxes that contained them being mostly dark red.



Right: My old key.