



# The Yonkers Historian

VOLUME 29 + NUMBER 2

SUMMER 2022

## Uncovering the Past

By Jason Medina

Earlier this year, trustees of the Yonkers Historical Society (YHS) began going through our archives room at the Will Library. We knew we were faced with a daunting task when we looked upon cluttered shelves and dozens of boxes beneath them all spread across four narrow aisles. Some boxes had not been opened in over a decade. Many of these items had been hurriedly packed away when

the Historical Society had to relocate from City Hall to the library in the early 2000s. Unfortunately, the move disrupted and separated some of the collections. We are still trying to organize them months later. Carefully, items were patiently sorted, one shelf at a time, one box at a time, until some form of organization emerged.

During our hours toiling away, we discovered several hidden treasures that could have been displayed at a museum, rather than collecting dust in a locked basement

room. Fortunately, we have access to a museum, Sherwood House, at 340 Tuckahoe Road, one of the oldest houses in Westchester County. In fact, it is the second oldest house in Yonkers, built in approximately 1740. Yes, that very same little yellow farmhouse with the red barn and cottage, which everyone says, “I pass it almost every day, but I had no idea it was a museum.”

Sherwood House Museum already hosts a few antique and vintage artifacts throughout its

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All photos by Jason Medina



*Archive Room – work in progress!*

*Recently rediscovered items from the archives*



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Editor: Loren Chaidez

While every effort is made to ensure accuracy the Society cannot assume responsibility for statements made by contributors.

## VOLUNTEER WITH THE YONKERS HISTORICAL SOCIETY!

Have you a keen interest in local history? Have you thought about joining a team of like-minded people and becoming a museum docent? Or, do you have some time on your hands and would like to put it to good use? The Yonkers Historical Society seeks individuals to become guides at our historic Sherwood House Museum. The experience of teaching visitors about the history of Sherwood House and of how lives were lived in by-gone eras is a very rewarding one. Each season we look forward to having new people of all ages connect with our family of volunteers and experience the history in our own backyard.

For those who have a green thumb (or even if you don't!), we seek those interested in working alongside



our gardening crew. The gardens at Sherwood House have never looked better and can always use an extra helping hand!

Contact us at: [info@yonkershistorical-society.org](mailto:info@yonkershistorical-society.org) to offer your time and help in any way that's of interest to you and keep our history alive!

## LETTER from the PRESIDENT

The first half of 2022 has been a busy one for the Yonkers Historical Society (YHS)! In April, the society hosted a successful fund-raising dinner – the first that we've had in years. Our guest of honor was Mayor Mike Spano who was presented the Sherwood House Award recognizing the mayor's continued support of the society and of the Sherwood House Museum. Our hard-working archives committee began much needed organizing of the archives room located in the Grinton Will Library. Preparation and execution of our digitization of archived materials is under way with proposed procurement of collections management software to help with the process.

The society was pleased to present the Mangold Scholarship Award to an outstanding Yonkers school student. Two successful flea markets were well attended in the spring and the museum was visited by patrons

throughout the spring. Next time you stop by Sherwood House we hope you will enjoy the newly refurbished exhibit room in the cottage with all new displays.

The remainder of this year will be equally as active as the society will host their annual meeting on Sunday, October 16th at the Will Library. This meeting welcomes all YHS members to meet and greet trustees of the organization and enjoy a presentation by a guest speaker. Thank you for continued support that helps to propel the society's mission.



Loren Chaidez

With warm regards,

*Loren Chaidez*

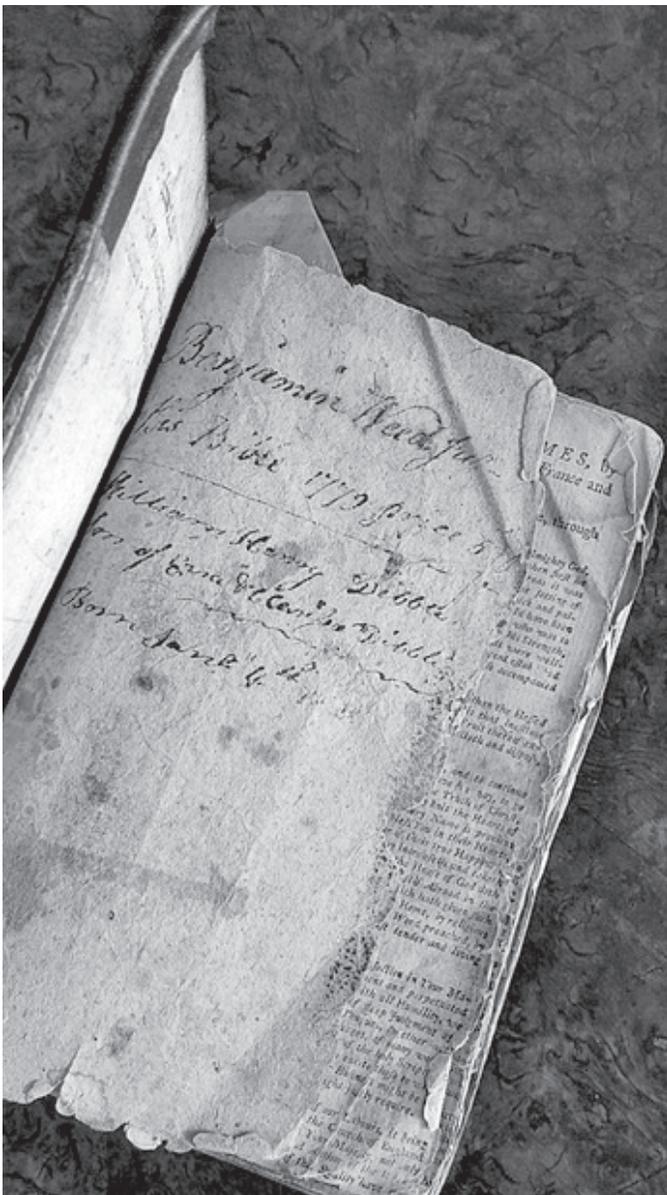
# Uncovering the Past

Continued from page 1

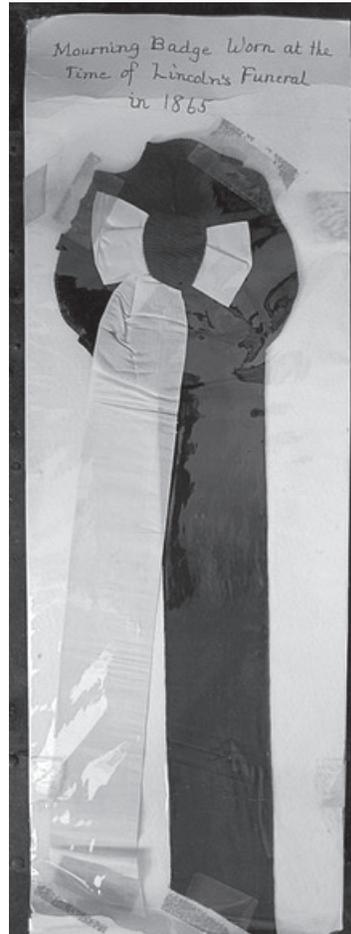
historically interpreted rooms. The most prominent is without a doubt a slipper that once belonged to Martha Washington. Apparently, it had been given to one of George Washington's lieutenants. There is a story there, but one for another time.

Over the decades, the YHS has collected a myriad of items through donations, a few of which date back centuries. In the archive room, we discovered an old black ribbon worn to honor the memory of President Abraham Lincoln, as his funeral train rode through Yonkers in 1865.

All photos by Jason Medina



Benjamin Weed family bible, circa 1779



President Lincoln mourning badge

We found a family bible from 1779 that belonged to Benjamin Weed. The Weed-Hicks family occupied Sherwood House from 1834-1923, longer than any other owners. We thank that family for the red barn and cottage, both built around 1850. These "new" items are now on display in our Exhibition Room at Sherwood House Museum. Also back on display are two portraits of George and Martha Washington, which once adorned the walls of the museum during its early years in the 1960s. For far too long they had been placed in storage, where no one could enjoy them. Both can now be seen in the parlor overlooking the antique piano.

More fascinating items in the archive room currently await their turn to be displayed at the museum in rotating exhibits. First, we hope to acquire a proper display case, so we can have a safe place to put these rare historic gems, once they are taken to Sherwood House. ■



George and Martha Washington portraits hang in Parlor Room

# Letter to the Editor

June 2022

Hello, my name is Don Fuller and I was born in Yonkers. My wife is the former Nancy Brogan, and she was also born in Yonkers. We both graduated from Gorton High School together and we now live in Colorado some 59 years later. One item to get out of the way: "Yes," Nancy is related to the well known Yonkers Democratic leader for some three decades, who headed the Chippewa Club, Thomas A. Brogan, (Boss Brogan). He was her Great Uncle.

## A little slice of Yonkers history!

When I was young in Yonkers, my father, Burnett O. Fuller Jr, (Bob), used to tell me stories about his father, (my grandfather), Burnett O. Fuller, whom I never met, making him go to the Hollywood Inn after school to box competitively. My grandfather was a former competitive boxer and a Director at the Hollywood Inn. My grandfather would always match my father with a boxer that was more highly skilled than my father. My father was often taken down a peg. This was my grandfather's way of keeping my father's feet on the ground.

In thinking back, I recently decided to do some research on the Hollywood Inn. It was on South Broadway at Hudson Street, in a five story and rather elaborate building. The Hollywood Inn club was first established in 1893 as a working man's club. It had a very low cost of membership, so it could be affordable to most. In fact it was rather unique in the U.S. It was for the working man.

In 1896, philanthropist William F. Cochran of Yonkers, put up money to build a new building, if the club could support its own ongoing expenses via dues. Ground was broken for construction, in 1896 and the new site opened in 1897. That was agreed to and the building included many rooms, ie, meeting halls, classrooms, reading and game rooms, lunch rooms and a gymnasium.

I saw a prospectus for the Hollywood Inn on line. It was 4" x 8" inches with 65 images included and listed a cost of 10 cents. In 1931 the Hollywood Inn was dissolved because of debt and the clubhouse at the corner of South Broadway and Hudson Street was torn down.

I purchased a book, "Yonkers in the Twentieth Century" written by Marilyn E. Weigold, and the Yonkers Historical Society, many months ago. In this book is a wonderful picture of the Hollywood Inn with a caption that says, "The Hollywood Inn was recognized as a model and inspiration for recreation centers all over the world." It is a wonderful book about Yonkers.

Today, I feel bad that the elaborate and beautiful Hollywood Inn building was torn down but maybe that just couldn't have been avoided.

Donald Burnett Fuller

**Please submit your letters to the editor with stories about your Yonkers families!**

**Send to: [Yonkershistorian@gmail.com](mailto:Yonkershistorian@gmail.com)**

# More About the Hollywood Inn

By Richard Mangini



Library Hollywood Inn Club, Yonkers, N. Y.



Corner of Social and Smoking Room.

**CAMP AND PLANT**

VOLUME II      SATURDAY, JULY 26, 1902      NUMBER 4

**THE HOLLYWOOD INN CLUB AT YONKERS, NEW YORK**  
A MOST SUCCESSFUL WORKINGMEN'S CLUB

**B**ELOW is reproduced what the prospectus of the Hollywood Inn Club of Yonkers, New York, has to say about the history and the work of a most remarkable and excellent Workingman's Club.

In later issues of *Camp and Plant* the clubs established by the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company at Redstone, Coalbasin, and other mountain villages and camps will be described, and the advantages which we believe are possessed by our clubs, pointed out.

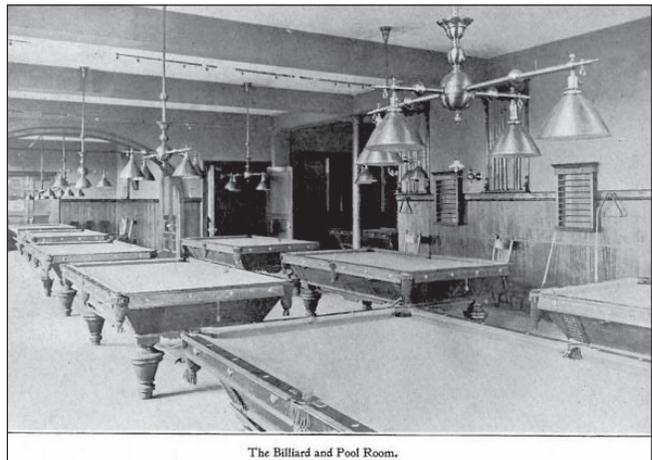


Univ Calif - Digitized by Microsoft  
Exterior of Hollywood Inn Club, Yonkers, N. Y.

Social reform was all the rage in the US during the late 19th century and Yonkers was no exception. One local manifestation was the 1893 Hollywood Inn, which wasn't really an inn and had nothing to do with Tinseltown. It was a workmen's social club providing "wholesome" activities like cigar smoking and billiards, intended as a constructive alternative to the saloon. A grand clubhouse was constructed in 1896 on South Broadway and Hudson Street through the generosity of William F. Cochran. A library, game rooms, gymnasium, baths, lunchroom and meeting rooms supplemented social and athletic activities. For a time, the Hollywood Inn Football Club was an amateur US soccer team which managed one season in the national league before oblivion by 1915. The Hollywood Inn disbanded in 1931 due to financial troubles and the clubhouse demolished in 1933.



The Bowling Alleys, Hollywood Inn Club.



The Billiard and Pool Room.

# 2022 American History Recognition Awards

*On Sunday, June 5, 2022, The Yonkers Historical Society presented its American History Recognition Awards to students completing their junior year, who have demonstrated excellence in the study of American History. Two students from each Yonkers Public High School were chosen by their teachers.*

## Congratulations to the Honorees:

### GORTON HIGH SCHOOL:

*Genesis Valero & Asmaa Rahal*

### LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL:

*Racheal Peter & Efstathios Plakas*

### PALISADE PREPARATORY SCHOOL:

*Emmanuella MaameYaabaEssein Addai & Jason Konadu*

### RIVERSIDE HIGH SCHOOL:

*Jose Diaz & Astrid Castro Arias*

### ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL –

### EARLY COLLEGE STUDIES:

*Zaynab Kinzah Ghaffar & Jada Marie Inglese*

### SAUNDERS TRADES AND TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL:

*Joseph Macdonald & Melina Alvarado*

### YONKERS MIDDLE HIGH SCHOOL:

*Cielo Gazard & Nirel Ayertey*

### YONKERS MONTESSORI ACADEMY:

*Briana Goro & Mackenzie Moccia*

Kathleen Ennis, Education Committee Chair, spoke about the history of Sherwood House, where the event was held, and introduced the students. In addition to our award, certificates of achievement were provided by Mayor Mike Spano, the Yonkers City Council, State Senators Andrea Stewart Cousins and Shelley Mayer, and Assemblyman Nader Sayegh.

YHS Trustee volunteers were on hand to welcome the students and their families, serve refreshments and provide tours of Sherwood House. We were fortunate to have Trustee, Jason Medina there to photograph the event. More pictures can be found on our website ([www.yonkershistoricalsociety.org](http://www.yonkershistoricalsociety.org)) or on Facebook under Sherwood House Museum. ■

All photos by Jason Medina



*Education Committee Chair, Kathy Ennis and American History Awards recipients*



*Awards ceremony at Sherwood House*



*Honorees and families at ceremony*



*Students tour historic Sherwood House*

# 2022 Patricia Mangold *Scholarship Award*

The scholarship, named in honor of Patricia Mangold, who was President of the Yonkers Historical Society when she passed away in 1999, is awarded to high school seniors who are Yonkers residents, and pursuing further education. The first and only prize this year was awarded to **Avril Checo Marte** of Riverside High School.

Avril, who will attend Baruch College, submitted an essay describing Yonkers history and growth since the 1600's as a small farm town, with grist mills and general stores, through the industrial age to now. She refers to the natural, commercial, cultural and entertainment attractions of our City. Avril focuses on the Yonkers

desegregation case, and its part in shaping the City we know today. She cites "Show Me a Hero", the book by Lisa Belkin and HBO series, and newspaper reports on the subject.

Kathleen Ennis, Education Committee Chair, and YHS Trustee, Christine Kenney O'Rourke met Avril and her father, Junior, at their home. Christine photographed Avril receiving the \$1,000 award and certificate from the Yonkers Historical Society. We also delivered certificates of achievement from the Offices of Mayor Mike Spano, the Yonkers City Council, State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart Cousins, Senator Shelley Mayer, and Assemblyman Nader Sayegh. ■

Photos by Christine Kenney O'Rourke

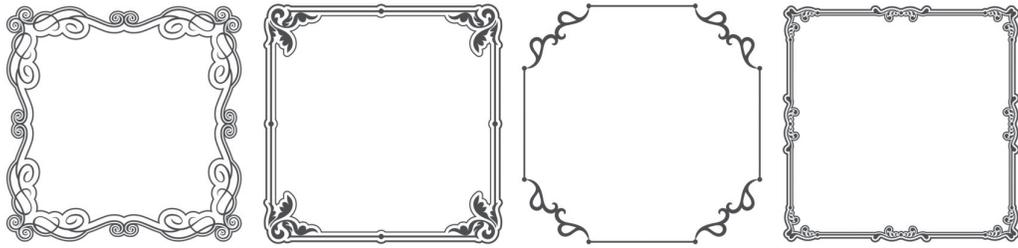


*Avril Marte receiving certificate from Kathy Ennis*



*Avril and her father*

# Wonderful Donations to the Society...



The Yonkers Historical Society welcomes relevant and eye-catching items that tell a story and relate to the history of the grand City of Yonkers. Although we assess artifacts for relevance and authenticity, once in a while an item is offered to us that is an important part of the City's history and is of visual interest.

Recently donated to the society are several paintings of prominent citizens that were integral to the cultural development of Yonkers. Contributions made by Nina Woodrow and Richard Woodrow of portraits of family members Dr. Morris Woodrow, a well-known local doctor during the mid-century, and Samuel Woodrow, the familiar proprietor of a jewelry store in Getty Square, are such offerings.

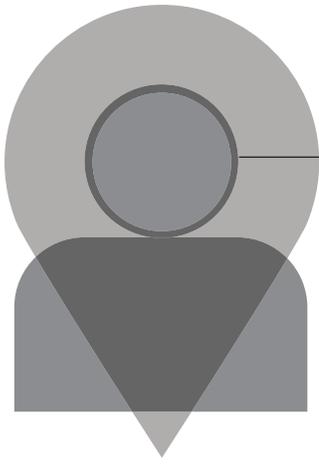
This fall, these items will be on display in the exhibition room of the Sherwood House Museum. ■



*Nina Woodrow presents three portraits of Dr. Morris Woodrow and his wife Beatrice to the Yonkers Historical Society*

*Richard Woodrow (r) with a portrait of his father Samuel Woodrow Jr. and photograph of grandmother, Paulina, that he has gifted to the society*





## PROFILES

# MEET OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS



**Jason Medina** is a retired New York City police officer. After serving 23 years with the NYPD, he turned his attention to writing books and currently has over 10 of them published, including “Ghosts and Legends of Yonkers.” When he retired in 2014, he began volunteering with the Yonkers Historical Society. His dedicated hard work at the Sherwood House Museum earned him an award for volunteer of the year. He has served as the main photographer for the society since that time, as well as being a co-chairperson of the Sherwood House Committee. Recently, he has turned his attention to the long neglected archives by organizing the hundreds of donations, while also taking time to begin digitizing the photo collections of the historical society. Conveniently, his skills also include digital photo restoration. The Yonkers Historical Society is pleased to welcome Jason as one of our new trustees in 2022.

**Yvonne Velez** is the society’s most recently appointed trustee. She has over 35 years of combined administrative and accounting experience. She worked in corporate America for 10 years, and has spent the last 26 years running her own tax preparation firm. A resident of Yonkers since 2004, she brings a passion for the preservation of Yonkers history along with vast project management skills to our organization. The Yonkers Historical Society is appreciative of her time and expertise and grateful to have Yvonne on board as our newest trustee in 2022.



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**WE RELY ON YOUR GENEROUS  
SUPPORT!  
PLEASE RENEW YOUR 2022  
MEMBERSHIP NOW!**

**THE YHS  
OPENING HOURS**

The Yonkers Historical Society office at the Grinton Will Library (1500 Central Park Avenue) is open Thursday afternoons from 1pm to 5pm and by appointment.

This fall, Historic Sherwood House Museum (340 Tuckahoe Road) will be open Sunday afternoons from 1pm to 4pm, September 11th through December 4th.

Call the office at (914) 961-8940 or email: [info@yonkershistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@yonkershistoricalsociety.org) for further information or to schedule an appointment or group tour of the house.

**SAVE THE DATES**  
FLEA MARKET | ANNUAL MEETING  
CANDLELIGHT TOUR

Please mark your calendar for three events to look forward to.

**Saturday October 1st: FLEA MARKET** (Rain date Sunday, October 2nd) Our next outdoor flea market, is on the grounds of Sherwood House at 340 Tuckahoe Road. Several vendors will join the volunteers of the Yonkers Historical Society (YHS) and have rows of tables of items for sale. Parking is available on site.

**Sunday October 16th: YHS's ANNUAL MEETING** We announce the YHS's annual meeting will be held in the auditorium of the Grinton Will Library at 1:00pm. Members of the YHS will meet and greet the current trustees of the organization and be informed of recent achievements.

**Saturday, December 3rd & Sunday, December 4th: CANDLELIGHT TOUR** at Sherwood House This year's tour will be on two consecutive days—December 3rd and December 4th. A Holiday Boutique will be open both days. Parking is available on site.



# YHS MEMBERSHIP

PO BOX 190

YONKERS, NEW YORK 10710

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WWW.YONKERSHISTORICALSOCIETY.ORG



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## BECOME A YHS VOLUNTEER!

I am interested in the following Volunteer opportunities:

- Sherwood House Gardening (seasonal)
- Sherwood House Docent and/or Visitor Assistant
- Sherwood House Chaperone for school & group visits
- YHS Archives Project (at Will Library)
- Tuesdays: Morning \_\_\_\_\_ Afternoon \_\_\_\_\_
- Sundays: 1pm-4pm (April-June AND September-Early December)
- Weekdays: TBD (April-June AND September-Early December)
- Thursdays: 1-5pm or other times TBD

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