

# Unlock History

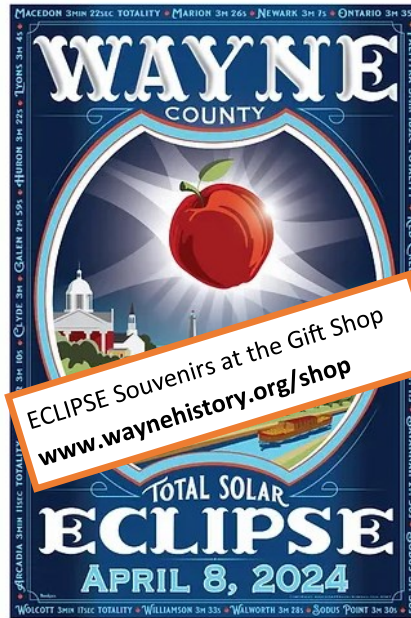
## Total Eclipse of the Heart of Wayne County

On **Monday, April 8 at 3:20 p.m.**, Wayne County residents will have the privilege of witnessing a magnificent and extremely rare event. Unless you have been living on the moon, which actually will facilitate this event, you must certainly have heard that there will be a total eclipse of the sun on that day. However, you may not yet realize just how rare it is to be in the path of totality of one of these truly historic and heavenly events.

The last time any part of Wayne County was in the narrow band of totality, where the view of the sun is totally obscured by the new moon, it was nearly a century ago on January 24, 1925. As shown here on the front page of the Newark Courier from January 15, 1925, it explained that...

**Not every generation is given the opportunity of viewing this wonderful sight. No total eclipse of the sun has been visible in this part of the United States since 1806, and we will have to live until 2024 if we are to see another.**

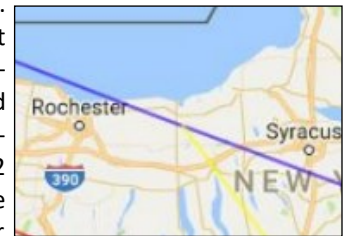
While solar eclipses actually occur somewhere over the Earth about every year and a half, the viewing area under the path of totality which experiences sudden darkness is rarely seen in populated areas because it most often occurs over water, which is 71% of the Earth's surface. The viewing path also ranges in width and



trajectory. These nuances add to the calculated phenomena of this special shadow **ONLY** passing over the same place no more than once a century.

This year, the moon's shadow, the umbra, will enter the U.S. at the southern border of Texas and traverse the continent toward the northeast in a path that is approximately 108 to 122 miles wide. The umbra will travel at a rate of approximately 1,500 m.p.h.

In 1925, half the county was not in the path of totality. This year all of Wayne County will be. The first contact starts around 2:00 p.m. Full eclipse occurs at approx. 3:20 p.m. with the last contact ending at around



4:30 p.m. In most parts of the County, darkness will last about 3 1/2 minutes. The Poster Art shown above indicates the length of totality for each town in the county. The next time Wayne County will experience a total solar eclipse like this won't be until the year 2144. You should plan now where you will watch it this time around. ###

1925 viewing area was south of line.

### Eclipse Exhibit Exclusive

This "black sun" spot as shown on this original photo (8x10 print) was taken on January 24, 1925 during the last total solar eclipse that crossed New York State.



Come to the Museum Eclipse Exhibit from March 12 to April 20 to learn where this photo was taken and other fun facts about the Eclipse.

*This photo is on loan to us from Jim Rienhardt, Solar System Ambassador & local Lyons astronomer. Photographer D. Franklin Yerex.*

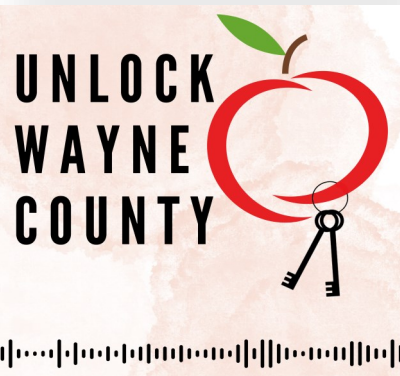
### Meet Delaney



Delaney Leeson is our new manager of Visitor Services and was hired on January 1st for this new position. She was born and raised in Macedon and graduated from Pal-Mac in 2019. She graduated from Rochester Institution of Technology in 2023 with a major in Museum Studies and a minor in Anthropology. She grew up going to museums with her grandmother and mother every weekend. The museum that made her fall in love with this career was the New York State Museum in Albany.

Delaney says, "Going to RIT was the best decision I have ever made. I built many exhibits and took just about every museum class they offered, from Fundraising to 3D Exhibit Design. I'm very happy to jump start my career in Wayne County where I've lived and learned most of my life." ###

# Unlock Wayne County History



## WHAT'S NEW?

WCHS has officially become part of the 21st century with a new program we are producing that hit the airwaves and internet this February. **Unlock Wayne County** is a podcast that will discuss local history and current events with the people involved. The intention is to unlock interest

and enthusiasm in the history and happenings around the county. The monthly podcast will help to promote local historical sites, societies, and their programs, along with Wayne County businesses and upcoming events in general. The show will post new episodes approximately once a month, or maybe more, depending on the line up. It will also be posted on our web page [www.WayneHistory.org/unlockhistory](http://www.WayneHistory.org/unlockhistory).

## LISTEN AND FOLLOW

The Unlock Wayne County podcast is now available on the following app platforms: Spotify, Amazon Music/Audible, Samsung Podcasts, Podcast Index, Listen Notes, RSS.com, iHeart Radio, Apple Podcast Connect, TuneIn/Alexa, or Pandora/Sirius FM. Just search for Unlock Wayne County and look for the show icon shown above.

## WHAT'S NEXT

Following the Eclipse we will focus in on the many **"Military Memories"** within Wayne County. This special exhibit will highlight the contributions of generations of Wayne County military men and women, and their families. From the French and Indian War to the Revolution, the War of 1812 and the Civil War, to the two World Wars, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm as well as recent military actions, we will display unique artifacts and tell the stories that feature the people of Wayne County.

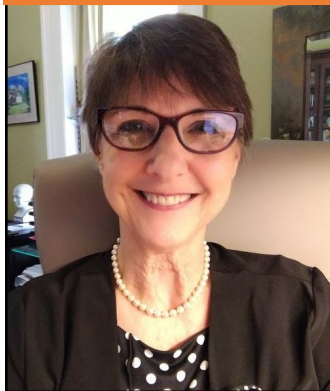
We are also currently planning a slight renovation and upgrade of the Military Room on the second floor. As a result, some of the many artifacts in that room will be moved downstairs to the main exhibit room, as well as some that are not currently on display. This will include select firearms, uniforms, badges, photos, war posters, diaries and



other memorabilia that we have. The exhibit is slated to be active from Memorial Day through Pearl Harbor Day.

One special feature of this exhibit will be an introduction to the in-depth research being conducted on the local Wayne County soldiers who made up nearly one-half of the 111th NY Volunteer Regiment of the Civil War. Their stories are just waiting to be told. ###

## History & Humans ~ Linda Stevenson



There have been lots of changes at the Museum of Wayne County History for 2024 and beyond, and one of them is my role here.

I was asked to change focus from Museum Manager and bookkeeper to **Research Specialist**. I am nearing full retirement and look forward to this new challenge.

This will allow me much more time to help people with the many research questions we receive every month. Those queries aren't limited to just members—they come from people who have read about us online, or in local newspaper articles. Many are curious about ancestors they know who came from Wayne County but haven't been able to trace farther than here.

Sometimes we can find connections using our extensive database of past donations that has been digitally catalogued by our Librarian, Loreen Jorgensen, and our Chief Archivist and current Board President Kathleen Marshall. Each item is catalogued and tagged with at least one surname, but often more, and the year or era, and the area of the county it came from. Items donated by members over the years include old newspapers, letters, and even diaries

dating back to at least the mid-1800's, with some even earlier.

While we are more than willing to help you with your research, another of my new objectives will be to help our members learn how it's done — both for their own queries, and to help those who call us with questions. This lends itself to another role I will play as **Volunteer Coordinator**, to build up our volunteer base here at the museum.

This is one of the best places I've ever had the pleasure of working (and volunteering) and the days here simply fly by! People from all over the world come through our doors every year, and all of them are amazed and delighted with the variety of artifacts and the volume of information they find.

As a Volunteer you can donate as much time & expertise as you want. It will all add to a wonderful experience for our members and visitors. Anyone who would like to donate a few hours of their time to help with research, docent duties, updating displays, or any of a myriad of things that need to be done, we would love your help! Contact me at 315-946-0069 (office) or [LStevenson@waynehistory.org](mailto:LStevenson@waynehistory.org).

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# WAYNE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM OF WAYNE COUNTY HISTORY

## 2024 MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

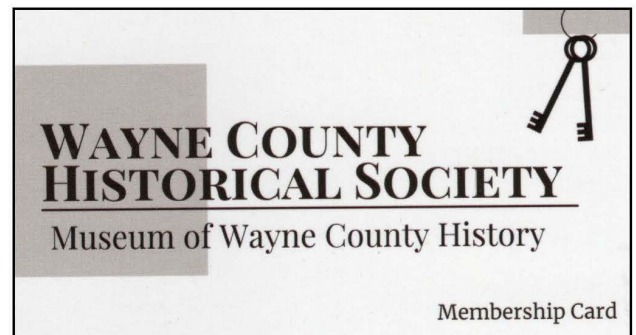


Thank you for your continued support. As you know, private memberships are a vital contribution to organizations like ours. By becoming a member, or renewing your membership annually, you invest in our mission: *to preserve and share local history*. In exchange for your membership, we offer you **Benefits and Discounts** that we hope you will find valuable. This year we are offering an exciting **NEW** membership option and more benefits. Don't forget that memberships also make a great gift!

### First, choose one of three levels of regular membership.

See membership benefits on the next page.

- **SINGLE:** 1 Person
- **DUAL:** 2 Persons in one household.
- **FAMILY / GRANDPARENT:** At least 1 Adult plus all members of household up to 5 persons. *Grandparent Option makes it easy to introduce local history to those inquisitive grandkids.*



### Second, consider adding the North American Reciprocal Museum (NARM) option. What is a +NARM Membership?

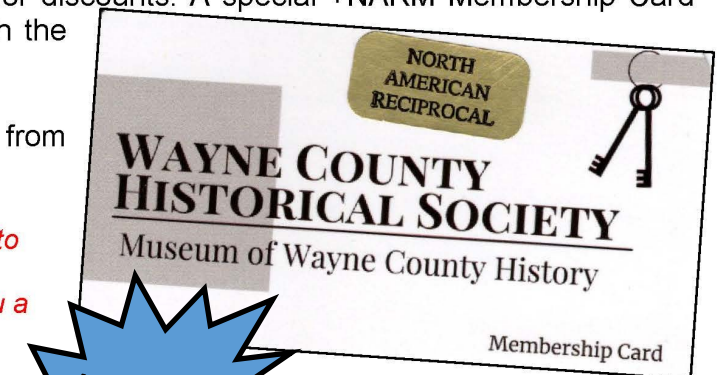
When you choose the +NARM membership with Wayne County Historical Society, you get all the WCHS benefits plus the same or similar membership benefits hundreds of other NARM member institutions. This includes discounts on admission and gift shop items.

The +NARM reciprocal membership option can be added to any of the above levels for \$100. You will gain access to hundreds of cultural institutions (including museums, gardens, art galleries and more) across the United States, Bermuda, Canada, El Salvador, and Mexico.

You can visit [www.NARMAssociation.org/members/](http://www.NARMAssociation.org/members/) for a comprehensive list of member institutions where you can use your +NARM membership for discounts. A special +NARM Membership Card will be mailed to you (or your gift recipient) with the NARM Membership gold sticker.

Always check the Reciprocal Benefits offered from the institution you wish to visit before you go!

*For those of you who did not renew in 2023, or want to take advantage of +NARM, please consider an early renewal and we will update our records and send you a new membership card.*



**WAYNE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**MUSEUM OF WAYNE COUNTY HISTORY**



## MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS & DISCOUNTS

- *FREE admission for members to the Museum of Wayne County History during regular business hours or by special appointment. See chart below for free additional guests. (Regular admission is \$5/adult age 18+ and \$3/student grades K-12.)*
- *+NARM option for Access to 100s of institutions around North America.*
- *FREE Annual Guided Tour (Value \$15). We love to host members and their guests!*
- *10% Discount at the Museum Gift Shop. (Discount code for online member purchases will be disclosed to each member when you join.)*
- *Special invite to Annual Member Meeting and a vote at that meeting.*
- ***NEW** One hour of FREE Research Assistance in our Library with a Research Specialist, by appointment. (Additional Research available for a suggested donation of \$20/hour.)*
- *Periodic Unlock History Newsletter mailed to your address, plus Email Updates.*
- *Early Invitations and Discounted Pricing (if applicable) for Special Events.*

Membership Level	Annual Cost	Annual +NARM	FREE Admission to Museum	Guided Tour	Additional Guests FREE per visit	10% Gift Store Discount	Research Assistance & Library Access
Single	\$25	\$125	1 person	Yes	0	Yes	1 hour
Dual	\$35	\$135	2 persons	Yes	0	Yes	1 hour
Family / Grandparent	\$50	\$150	5 persons	Yes	2	Yes	1 hour

**To join, renew or give as a gift, please send this form with check payable to WCHS, or join online at [www.WayneHistory.org/membership](http://www.WayneHistory.org/membership)**

Check here if this is a **GIFT MEMBERSHIP**. Enter info below for who you are giving it to.

Primary Adult Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Second Adult Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address(es): \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Choose a Member Level & Option (If applicable). Early Renewals encouraged.

Single \$25     Dual \$35     Family/Grandparent \$50     Option +NARM \$100

OPTIONAL: Additional Donation included for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**GIFT GIVEN** on behalf of (print name of giver)  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Tear out and return.

# Calendar of Events

## Tues. March 12 to Sat. April 20. Spring Eclipse Exhibit Opens "Total Eclipse of the HEART of Wayne County"

Our Spring 2024 exhibit will commemorate the first total solar eclipse in Wayne County since 1925. This exhibit will feature moon shadow displays and student artwork from NRW inspired by our County poster art, as shown on the front page, along with local anecdotes from the human perspective of seeing an eclipse. Open Tuesday - Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Thurs. March 21, 5:30 p.m. Happy History Hour at the Museum.** We invite local astronomer and eclipse expert Jim Reinhardt to share more in-depth and intriguing nuances from this once-in-a-lifetime experience of The Great American Eclipse.

**Mon. April 8, 1 p.m.—4:30 p.m. The Great American Eclipse.** Family friendly watch party with games and activities at the LCC, 9 Manhattan St, Lyons. Community Event. FREE.

**Mon. April 8, 2 p.m.—4:30 p.m. Watch Party: "Eclipse on the Erie"** Join us for an exclusive watch party on the north bank of the canal at 27 Water St, Lyons. The Lock 27 Complex owner Glenn Wasman has offered us this perfect spot for a quaint eclipse experience. \$5 suggested donation to the Museum at the door includes free eclipse glasses, indoor and outdoor seating, NASA live feed. Concessions and exclusive souvenirs for sale. Members FREE with current membership card.

**Thurs. April 18, 5:30 p.m. Happy History Hour at Rose Historical Society.** Welcome speaker and author Matt Osborne who helped research the story of two Rose high school graduates who flew important missions in WWII. He will tell their valiant stories, of which a mural has been painted in their honor by Mural Mania. It will be revealed and later installed in the Rose Cemetery.

## Building Updates

### Smile, you're on LIVE FEED RING camera!

Thanks to Board member Steve Sklenar and the Wayne County IT department, the museum has been equipped with security cameras inside and out. They are motion activated and will start to record video and audio upon motion detection. The exterior lights will also illuminate, if activated.



## Got Time, Talent, or Treasures?

Historical Society volunteers are always needed, and we know we are just one of many places that ask for your time. Our ask is a small one because we know that the cumulative effect of small efforts leads to great progress. Contributions of any length, kind, or amount are valuable.

Some of our upcoming projects include updating displays, rearranging artifacts, researching local history, putting on events, educating the public, and hosting visitors and tours of the Museum and Carriage House.

Our public open hours will be Tues through Sat 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. from March to May. We expect to be busy during the Eclipse season from March 12th to April 20th. Then from Memorial Day to Pearl Harbor Day, hours will be Wed through Sun 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This is when we will feature our 2024 main exhibit called "Military Memories".

*Choose from one of these categories or suggest another way you can help. Let us know!*

*info@waynehistory.org or call 315-946-4943.*

**DOCENTS, TOUR GUIDES,  
MUSEUM ATTENDANTS**

**EXHIBITS AND DISPLAYS  
TEAM**

**GIFT SHOP CREATORS**

**EVENT ASSISTANTS**

**ARCHIVAL ASSISTANTS**

**RESEARCHERS**

**LANDSCAPING TEAM**

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICES i.e. legal, financial, other**



Volunteer Kathy S. at the Fair!

## Accessions Corner



***This blue seltzer bottle, with John E. Forgham etched in the glass, was donated to the museum by Forgham descendant, Margaret Hill.***

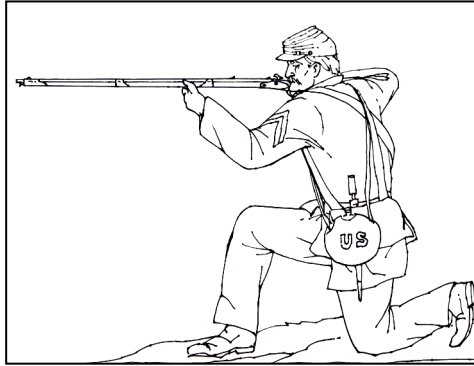
If you have ever heard Rt. 31 in Lyons also called Forgham St, from Geneva St. and ending at near Leach Rd, this bottle helps to explain. The Richard Forgham family residence and Forgham Bottling Works were located on the south side of the street, along with a number of rental houses also owned by the family in the 1880s. In 1965, the houses were torn down to make way for a gas station. Lyons natives still refer to the area as Forgham's Corners.

*Thank you to those who donate their artifacts to our collection. You help us tell the story of Wayne County.*

## Be part of Local History!

# Memorial Monuments

Thousands of local men and women have gone off to war to defend and serve our nation. Upon reflection of these sacrifices, local community's erect memorials and monuments to honor these people. In Lyons, the American Legion was often responsible for war monuments. One spot in Lyons has seen quite a few memorials, and in cooperation with the Town of Lyons, it will soon see another, honoring soldiers going back four or five generations.



first figure as shown here using a combination of foam and clay to mold the figure into a bronze cast. The pedestal upon which the monument will sit is being installed in Lyons, at this same location, this spring. The full bronze monument won't be ready for installation until late summer 2025. ###



The Civil War changed the landscape of our nation like no other war. Thousands of countrymen served and died in those years of fighting. Today, there are no living veterans of this war. (Albert Woolson was the last surviving Civil War veteran and the last from the Union. He died at age 106 in 1956. The last confirmed Confederate Civil War veteran, Pleasant Crump, died in 1951 at age 104.)

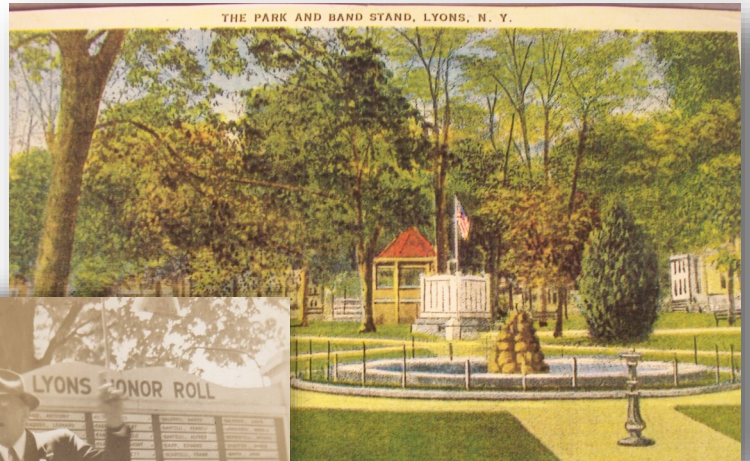
In August 1862, there were over 1900 local men and often teen boys from Wayne and Cayuga Counties who volunteered for a 3-year enlistment as part of the NY 111th Volunteer Infantry Regiment. One Williamson soldier, Issac Mullie, has a living descendant who is now researching the entire regiment. He has asked WCHS and the Town of Lyons to accept a life-size monument in remembrance of these Civil War soldiers.

The new memorial will depict a scene involving men in this regiment on July 2, 1863 at Gettysburg. This monument will be placed in a sacred spot at Lyons central park as a lasting memorial to all the soldiers of the 111th and their role in saving the union.

The location in the park where this will be placed has been home to many memorial monuments through the years. These photos show the occupants of that honored, hallowed place, at the east end of the park between the fountain and the gazebo.

First, a cannon was place on a pedestal, to honor the heroes of WWI. Next, the Honor Roll of World War II. After the Honor Roll, a modern Matador missile was erected there. Later, the recent, now former, Veterans' obelisk was there but has since been moved to its new home at Taylor Park on the southeast corner of Montezuma and Geneva Streets in Lyons.

The new monument will contain soldiers defending the Union and the flag. The sculptor, Gary Castell, is currently creating the



**Cannon—Hard to see here but on the pedestal.**



**Veterans Memorial Obelisk 2/15/2024**

# Annual Sponsorship Opportunities

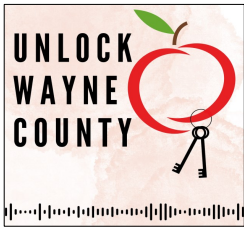
Business and organization sponsors are another valuable and critical component in the survival of historical societies. As a non-profit, 501(c)3 charitable organization, we survive on the generosity of our members, our donors, and our local sponsors. This collaborative effort is what supports our mission which is **to share history with the people of today and to preserve history for the generations of tomorrow.** Organizations and businesses that commit to any of the following annual sponsorship packages will be recognized in the community and officially noted for their charitable donation.

## CHECK OUT THESE CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES & ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION FROM YOUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS.

**BASIC SPONSOR: \$100**—Logo & Links on Website & Social Media; 10 Admission Tickets for staff or clientele; Recognition in Newsletter

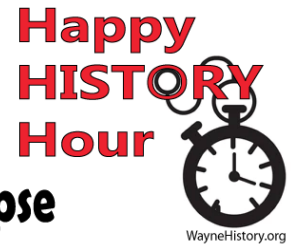
**PROGRAM PROMOTER: \$250**—Basic Sponsor package plus name recognition during each Happy History Hour (our free monthly public education program held at the museum or other partner location).

**EXHIBIT ENTHUSIASTS: \$500**—Basic Sponsor package plus name & logo signage and recognition at both annual changing exhibits in our main exhibit room. *Spring 2024: Total Eclipse of the Heart of Wayne County. Main Exhibit 2024: Military Memories.*



**PODCAST PARTNER: \$1000**—Basic Sponsor package plus name recognition and links in podcast show notes; a 45-second custom advertisement during 6 episodes of Unlock Wayne County; and opportunity for feature episode discussing your business or organization .

**UNLOCK HISTORY HERO: \$2000+**—Enjoy recognition at all levels or customize your contribution.



## Civil War Research

The 111<sup>th</sup> NY Volunteer Regiment research team is hard at work pulling together a vast history of the men from Wayne and Cayuga Counties who served from 1862 to 1865 in the War of the Rebellion, aka the Civil War. Principal team members include Jim Paprocki, Marjory Perez, George McGraw, Steve Sklenar, Harold Cheetam, Rosa Fox and Linda Stevenson.

The team is busy scouring the internet on Ancestry.com, FaceBook and other research sites to create a database containing in-depth information about these 1,928 men who served in the 111th. Eventually the database will be an online tool for people to learn more about each of the soldier's service record, post war life and death. There will be links to FindaGrave.com, Facebook posts, newspaper articles and photos. In a future WCHS newsletter, we will announce access to the soldiers and articles database online.

Currently the team is on the hunt for the Medal of Honor awarded to Corporal Franklin W. Lutes of Wolcott for singlehandedly capturing the 41<sup>st</sup> Alabama Regimental Flag and two Confederate color-bearers on March 31, 1865. The trail has lead from Wolcott to Missoula, Montana where it was last seen in 1994. The team has also been using this information to write a series of 24 articles that have appeared on



Medal of Honor for capture of Confederate Flag.



the History page of the Times of Wayne County newspaper over the last six months. If you have a relative that served in the 111<sup>th</sup> or any NY regiment during the Civil War please contact

us at [info@waynehistory.org](mailto:info@waynehistory.org) or (315) 946-4943 to be added to the growing number of Civil War descendants. ###

A MEDAL OF HONOR and a Civil War discharge are two of the most cherished possessions of a Williamson resident, A. M. Lutes. The Medal of Honor was granted his father, Cpl. Franklin Lutes, for gallantry in action during the Civil War.

Corporal Lutes captured the enemy's colors, the color bearer and half the color guard while fighting with the 111th New York Volunteers. For this he was granted a furlough from the field to go to Washington, D. C., and present the captured colors to President Lincoln, after which he was allowed to return to his home. However, word arrived almost immediately that Lincoln had been shot and he returned to the battlefield before his furlough was over.

When the war was ended not enough of his company were left alive to be mustered out as a unit, so that Corporal Lutes was mustered out with the 91st Albany Infantry, his son relates.

This Medal of Honor, only a comparative few of which were granted during the Civil War, and the Corporal's discharge are today treasured by the hero's son, who resides at 54 W. Main St. in Williamson.

## Unlock an Adventure NEW Membership Option for 2024-2025

Your annual membership is very important to the health of this organization. We want your membership to unlock amazing historic adventures for you and your family and friends. That adventure is contained within the Museum of Wayne County History membership and the North American Reciprocal Museum Association® (+NARM) option.

[NARMassociation.org/members](http://NARMassociation.org/members)

### What is +NARM and how do you benefit?

NARM is a network of hundreds of cultural institutions all over the country, numbering nearly 1,350 locations and still growing. This includes art galleries and museums, historic sites and societies like ours, city botanical gardens, children's museums, and so much more. Our collaboration unlocks the chance for all our members to have greater access to these amazing cultural institutions and their member only admission levels and discounts.

By adding just \$100 to any annual membership level with us, you become a +NARM member and receive **reciprocal membership benefits** at any NARM institution across the United States, Bermuda, Canada, the Cayman Islands, Puerto Rico, and Mexico! The NARM website shown above lists all NARM institutions (including WCHS) in 24 different categories such as Arts, Cultural, Historic Site, Military, Nature Center, Natural History, Planetarium, Zoo and more.



There are numerous local venues as well, and with this membership you will receive the same rates and discounts as if you were a member of each one of these reciprocal institutions. We think this will truly enhance your membership with us, and it would be a **great gift for members of your family**. We hope you agree!

Here are just a few of over 1000 Reciprocal Institutions.



#### George Eastman Museum\*\*

900 East Avenue, Rochester, NY  
14607, United States  
1.5 mile away



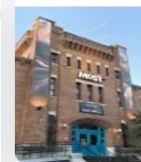
#### DC History Center

801 K Street, NW, Washington, DC  
20001, United States  
[View Institution Page](#)



#### D&H Canal Historical Society

1315 NY-213, High Falls, NY 12440,  
United States  
[View Institution Page](#)



#### Museum of Science & Technology\*

500 South Franklin Street,  
Syracuse, NY 13202, United  
States  
0.4 miles away  
[View Institution Page](#)

North  
American  
Reciprocal