

A Message from the President

October 14, 2022

Welcome to Fall. As I sit down to write this message, I am mindful of two words - reflection and celebration. For me, this is the time of year that, once school starts and routines are established, I can take a quick peak back over my shoulder and think of some of the accomplishments and highlights. What really stands out for me this year, is all the momentum that has been built by the board, our employees, and especially our volunteers and members. This collaboration has contributed to our season of success.

If you haven't visited the lighthouse this season, I would strongly encourage you to come walk the grounds and notice the improvements to the exterior of the building. Over the past 6 weeks, we have been under renovation and enhancing the lighthouse. There is fresh paint around the peaks and tower. Extensive masonry repair has been completed all around the stone portion of the structure. A couple new windows have been installed on the front northwest side of the building. The building is looking great, and we still have our second phase to complete, which is renovating of the old tower windows. We hope that this will begin soon. Along with the new windows, there are plans to install historic wooden shutters around the building. I announced this plan with shutters to "frost the cake" at the annual meeting. I will highlight more of this in the next newsletter with more details about a generous matching challenge.

Other exciting news is that at our September meeting, the board of directors unanimously voted to dedicate and name the upstairs collection room overlooking Lake Ontario as the Marge McCleery Room. Several members approached the lighthouse board to recognize the pioneering work of Marge. Marge was a catalyst in the community effort to launch the museum. We owe a great debt of thanks to her and others who also championed the project. On a personal note, I was 13 or 14 when I met Marge, and I'm delighted that I've been able to be part of the decision to recognize her posthumously. Cheers to Marge!



Looking west toward Charles Point, Sodus Point, and piers from atop Lake Bluff – Lizzie Fox



Sodus Bay Historical Society & Lighthouse Museum

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Reflecting on my first full term as President, I have witnessed week after week, the generosity of our members. It seems that whatever time that I stop into the lighthouse, there are always members contributing time and energy to ensure that the grounds and gardens look like a photograph out of a magazine, daily maintenance is getting done, food line and concert preparations are taking place, the gift shop is being stocked and displays are taking shape and exhibits, and collections are being cataloged, curated and dreams of next season are taking shape.

As always, I am grateful and humbled by your support as I continue to steer the ship in my first full term as president. Together, with our collaboration, we have accomplished so much this year. It takes every single one of us to reach these goals. We are doing it and I love being part of this chapter.

Best,

Derek A. Poole

President



October on Crescent Beach - Lizzie Fox

Notice!

**The Lighthouse Museum
will be closed until Spring 2023 - except for
the Fall Shopping Fling November 11-13, 2022.**

Happy Holidays!! See you in 2023!!

Sodus Bay Lighthouse

National Register Historic Marker

by Rosa Fox & Sue Bassage



Photo by Rosa Fox

Entered to the National Register of Historic Places on October 8, 1976, the Sodus Point Lighthouse was the fifth historic site in Wayne County to be placed on this significant preservation roster. "The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of the Nation's historic places worthy of preservation. Authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America's historic and archeological resources."¹

Thanks to a 2021 grant from the William G. Pomeroy Foundation, the Sodus Bay Historical Society was able to obtain a historic marker, noting the lighthouse's National Registry designation. The marker was installed on Ontario Street in front of the lighthouse on July 29, 2022. Corky Schoeneman of On Point volunteered his time and tractor to dig the hole for the footing and set the pole in the cement. We thank Corky for working on this.

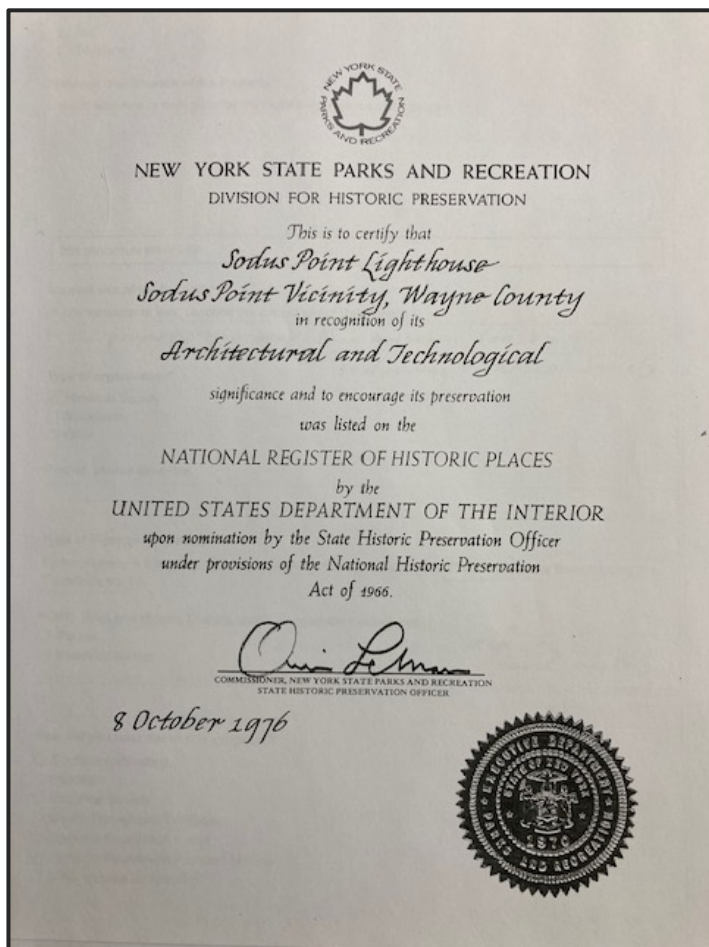
Congress authorized the first Sodus Bay light station in May 1824, a 40-foot conical stone tower and a detached keeper's house. Completed in 1825, by 1869, after only 44 years of service, this first lighthouse and keeper's dwelling had fallen into poor repair and needed replacement.

In July of 1870, construction began on a light tower with an attached two-story keeper's dwelling to replace the aging and deteriorating 1825 structures. Completed June 30, 1871, the new lighthouse with attached keeper's dwelling was built of limestone transported in ships across Lake Ontario from quarries in Kingston, Ontario. The 1825 light tower and keeper's house were torn down and used to construct a lake jetty in front of the lighthouse bluff to reduce erosion.

The historic 1871 lighthouse has a 10-foot-square light tower standing just over 50 feet tall. It was equipped with the same fourth order Fresnel (Fruh-nel) lens that was in the former 1825 lighthouse since 1858. The lightkeeper would climb the 52 steps of the spiral staircase in the tower daily to fuel the light with whale oil, lard, or kerosene.

"Between 1820 and 1876 a total of ten lighthouse were built to guide vessels navigating on Lake Ontario. Of these, seven survive in New York State: Galloo Island Light (1820 rebuilt 1866); Salmon River [Selkirk] Light at Port Ontario (1837 rebuilt 1855); Genesee Light at Charlotte (1822 rebuilt 1863); Stony Point Light (1838); Olcott Light (1873); Thirty Mile Point Light (1876); and Sodus Point Light (1825 rebuilt 1871)."² These seven lighthouses still exist. All but the Olcott light are listed on the National Register of Historic Places - a true testament to historic preservation in New York State and on Lake Ontario.

"As a central link in the chain of lighthouses which dotted the New York Shore of Lake Ontario, Sodus Point Lighthouse guided timber and grain vessels into Sodus Bay, thereby contributing to the economic growth of the lake region. Sodus Point Lighthouse continues to render valuable service until the turn of the century. On June 10, 1901, the beacon at Sodus inlet was increased from a sixth order to a more powerful fourth-order Fresnel lens, thereby rendering the lighthouse on the bluff obsolete. Sodus Point Lighthouse ceased its operation on the same date in 1901, though the keeper's house continued to be occupied by the tenders of the harbor beacon."³



1976 National Registry Certificate of Listing

SBHS Archives

By President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Reorganization Order # 11, which took effect on July 1, 1939, the United States Coast Guard merged with the Lighthouse Service and took over tending US lighthouses. The Sodus Lighthouse on the bluff was used to house Coast Guard members until 1980. The Coast Guard still owned the lighthouse at the time the lighthouse was placed on the National Registry. The pier light was automated in 1984, at which time the Coast Guard turned the lighthouse on the bluff over to the Town of Sodus.

2021 was the 150th – Sesquicentennial – observation of the Sodus Bay Lighthouse. The historic marker is a good way to preserve the historic significance of this iconic monument to Sodus Bay history!

(Continued on page 6)

1. National Park Service. <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/index.htm>
2. From National Register Nomination Form – cited Francis Ross Holland Jr. America's Lighthouses, Brattleboro 1972) 182. Sodus Bay Historical Society Archives.
3. From National Register Nomination Form (1976). Sodus Bay Historical Society Archives.

Lepidoptera (*Danaus plexippus*) Migration

by Rosa Fox

Photography by Lizzie Fox, September 12, 2022



'Tis the season of great migrations
Heading south to warmer destinations.
Distances, routes, altitudes, and speeds - countless species
Genetically bound to old flight paths above the earth.
Winged creatures of assorted sizes, shapes, and colors
Through air streams aloft, beyond borders,
Ravines, walls, and weathers.

These flying marvels reach challenging distances.

A skein or flock of ducks and geese,
And the night time migrating song birds unseen,
Swarms of bees, ladybugs, grasshoppers, and dragonflies
Each out numbering you and me.

Then too, Lepidoptera - *Danaus plexippus*,
Monarch of the wind,
Makes haste from Canada to Mexico -
Two months' time - three thousand miles to go.

Crossing from Canada, Lepidoptera gather
Along Lake Ontario's southern shore.
Curious sights - hang in mounds on bushes and trees,
Bright yellow golden rod accents their colors of black,
white, and orange.



From the end of August to mid-September,
Danaus plexippus is challenged by wind and rain.
Some endure to reach that warm far away destination.
Some here will remain - unable to complete the long migration.

Our sites will wait for Lepidoptera next year.
We are inspired by their curious pageantry of flight.
May their lives - though brief - be filled with joy.
These Monarchs of the wind are a pure delight!



*Note: Every fall, two North American populations (one in the East and one in the West) of Lepidoptera (*Danaus plexippus*), better known as monarch butterflies, begin their seasonal migrations south to winter in Mexico. In the spring the monarch departs from its wintering grounds returning northward. Stopping about half way back to their summer home, the monarch stops to lay eggs on milkweed plants. The offspring then continue the journey north on their own. In the fall, this new generation will once again begin the migration cycle south.*

So, what is a monarch butterfly's life span? That is a complex question. There are many factors, including the stage of development that must be considered to answer that question. In general, during the summer breeding season, monarchs live for only 2-6 weeks. But the monarchs that eventually migrate during the fall to Mexico are different. They are born in late summer, live through the winter, and migrate north the following spring - living as long as nine months.

SBHS Committee News

The SBHS Board of Directors has several committees working diligently to assure the “jobs” of the Lighthouse Museum are completed. Many capable hands provide care and maintenance for the grounds, building - inside and out, archives, collections, and museum gift shop. Sodus Bay Lighthouse Museum visitors experience a historic site of great significance to our region through the lens of beauty, care, education, and conservancy - thanks to the work of the volunteers on these committees.

Lighthouse Museum Gift Shop – Mary Quinn, Chair

Clear your calendar!

For the second year, the lighthouse museum shop is a participant in the Wayne County Winter Wonderland Shopping Fling taking place Friday, Saturday, and Sunday - November 11 -13 from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM each day.

Browse our variety of perfect holiday gifts for everyone on your list.... even the naughty ones! In addition to logoed apparel, we’re offering photographs and framed items. This year, we have an expanded children’s book section and a pet themed corner. New this season are wind-bells and more home decor with a nautical twist. Of course, unique ornaments of our historic building and other fun holiday decorations are available.

Stocking stuffers galore!

Gifts for coworkers, teachers, and hostesses!

Come join us for a fun shopping adventure and support your friends, local artists, and community.

We look forward to sharing this fun experience with you. More event info available at:

Waynecountyshoppingfling.com



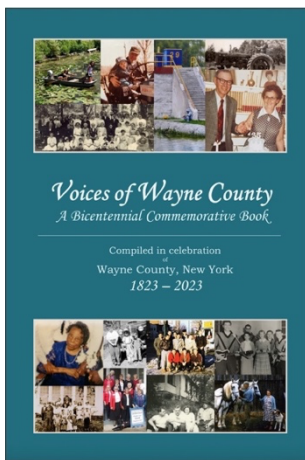
**Sodus Bay Lighthouse National Register
Historic Marker – continued from page 4**

The Sodus Bay Lighthouse National Register historic marker is made possible through a grant from the William G. Pomeroy Foundation®. The William G. Pomeroy Foundation® is committed to supporting the celebration and preservation of community history; and working to improve the probability of finding appropriate donor matches or other life-saving treatments for blood cancer patients. Established by Trustee Bill Pomeroy in 2005 to bring together his two greatest passions, the Pomeroy Foundation is a private, philanthropic organization located in Syracuse, N.Y. As the nation’s leading funder of historic roadside markers, the Pomeroy Foundation has awarded nearly 2,000 grants for markers and bronze plaques in 46 states and Washington, D.C. To learn more about the Pomeroy Foundation, visit wgpfoundation.org.

2023 Bicentennial Calendar of Events

April 11 - Official Anniversary Celebration on the Courthouse Steps in Lyons
 Followed by a Luncheon Reception at the Lyons Community Center
May 13 - Bicentennial Gala at Carey Lake
August 14-18 - Torch Relay through Wayne County
 200 Miles - 200 Plus Runners – 5 days
August 19 – Bicentennial Family Fun Day at the Wayne County Fair.

🍏 *Voices of Wayne County: A Bicentennial Commemorative Book* will



be available October 25! For 200 years, the people of Wayne County, NY have made memories within their communities. While many memories have been lost to the ages, the memories within this book will stay with us for years to come. Comprised of 140 written pieces and 120 images, this book reveals how each town in our

county is unique with its own story to tell – straight from the voices of the people. Copies may be obtained from Wayne County Museum of History.

🍏 The Wayne County Bicentennial Mural is now underway at the Thatcher Company on Route 104 in Williamson. Thatcher has donated their south wall for a seven-panel mural, depicting a chronological history of Wayne County from pre-settlement to the present and into the future. Mural Mania artists and the Bicentennial Committee are thrilled this project is underway! Check it out!

🍏 Copies of the *Bicentennial Commemorative Calendar* (2022-2023) are available for purchase online through the Wayne County Museum of History. <https://www.waynehistory.org/shop>

**WAYNE COUNTY IS
HISTORIC TO THE CORE**



🍏 The Wayne County Bicentennial Minutes, created by former Sodus Point Historian, Bruce Farrington have been posted to various media outlets since April. The 52 segments cover local history topics of every town in the county. To view past “Minutes” please visit: <https://web.co.wayne.ny.us/547/Bicentennial-Minutes>

🍏 A Wayne County Bicentennial Photo Quilt is nearly finished! With photos from around the county – including the Sodus Bay Lighthouse – the quilt will be photographed, and posters created to sell as a fund raiser. The quilt itself will be on display November 5, 2022. Check the Bicentennial Facebook page for details.

🍏 The Wayne Historians Historic Sites Database is a terrific resource to discover and learn about over 1200 historic sites in Wayne County. Whether your interest is architecture, museums, abolition, historic markers, murals, agriculture . . . you will find an abundance of local Wayne County history on this website. Check it out! <http://www.waynehistorians.org/>

🍏 *Bicentennial Activity Books* (for kids of all ages) are available at historical society museums and public libraries throughout the county. FREE! The book is an overview of the history of each Wayne County town, with puzzles, coloring pages, and more.

🍏 Bicentennial Information 🍏

Wayne County Bicentennial Email Contact:

Bicentennial@waynehistorians.org

Website: <http://www.waynecounty200.com/>

Facebook: [Wayne County NY Bicentennial 2023](https://www.facebook.com/WayneCountyNYBicentennial2023)

Instagram: [@waynecounty200](https://www.instagram.com/waynecounty200)

THANK YOU!

TO THESE

SODUS BAY LIGHTHOUSE SPONSORS

In addition to our loyal members, the Sodus Bay Historical Society relies on the generous contributions from area businesses and foundations for support. Given the economic toll the COVID-19 virus continues to take on our local businesses this past two years, it is important to show your appreciation by supporting these businesses. Their continued support will help the Sodus Bay Historical Society and Lighthouse Museum move forward and continue to make possible future events and activities.

THANK YOU!

PLATINUM

*Robert G. Boehmler
Community Foundation
Finger Lakes Community Arts Group
Krenzer Marine
Town of Sodus
Village of Sodus Point*

DIAMOND

C.H. Stuart Foundation

GOLD

*Northwind Harbor
Wegmans
The Wright Family Foundation*

SILVER

*Computer Support by Cathy Contant
The Heights Restaurant
Marshall Farms Group*

BRONZE

*The Bay Street Hotel
Captain Jack's
El Rincon Mexicano
Fowler Brothers Farm
P.A.T.I. Fire & Safety
Patricia Paprocki
Youngman Orchards Farm Market
Ward Steel*

ADDITIONAL GENEROUS SUPPORT

*Claude G. and Geraldine A. Wright
Family Fund
Mark Ketcham and Werner Lutz -
Do It Now Fund at Our Fund
Neighborhood Association of Sodus Point
New York State Council on the Arts
On Point
Peter C. and Mable Browne
Family Charitable Fund
Sodus Bay Canvas
Sodus Bay Historical Society Members
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