

The Story of Mayfield

ERIC CLOSE, TOWN AND VILLAGE HISTORIAN

SEVENTH ISSUE - AESTIVAL RETROSPECTIVE - JULY THROUGH SEPTEMBER 2025



THE DOG DAYS OF SUMMER

circa 1900

It is difficult to say who this could be and where it was taken, as the back of the photo was not labeled. Based solely on the landscape, my best guess is that this was taken on the Edwards' Model Dairy Farm on Phelps Street (in the town of Johnstown, but Mayfield School District), once called the "Pleasant Square Dairy."

ONGOING PROJECTS

- Drafting designs for more historical markers
- Mapping out land patents and lots for deed traceability
- Researching Revolutionary War events around Mayfield
- Drafting a memorial plaque for America's 250th birthday
- Compiling records of the Sacandaga Valley
- Establishing signage for Mayfield's hamlets, rural & historical communities
- Compiling records of the Mayfield Volunteer Fire Department
- Transcribing the Town of Mayfield's meeting minutes (1794-1825)
- Compiling a complete history of Mayfield's School Districts
- Compiling a complete history of Mayfield's churches and cemeteries

IN THIS EDITION

- MESSAGES
- GHOST OF THE PAST – QUAKERS
- LIVING HISTORY – **48th ANNUAL BANNERTOWN FAIR**
- AMERICA 250 – ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY: JULY 20, 1775
- THE LOST SACANDAGA VALLEY –**VIEW FROM BUTTER STREET (LAKESIDE DR.)**



RICE HOMESTEAD, APRIL 1936

Come take a step back in time at The Rice Homestead! We look forward to seeing you!

Bob Suits
President,
Mayfield Historical Society
 Rice Homestead
 328 Riceville Road
 Gloversville, NY 12078

MAYFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNOUNCES 2025 EVENTS

MAYFIELD, NY - The Mayfield Historical Society, home of The Rice Homestead at 328 Riceville Road, in Mayfield, New York, has announced its 2025 events.

Starting Monday, April 21, at 6:30 p.m. with Fulton County Historian Samantha Hall-Saladino and Jessica Henry Clements will present "Fashion in the Age of the Suffragists" at the Mayfield Presbyterian Church, 22 N Main Street, Mayfield.

On Saturday, June 14, the 42nd Annual Strawberry Festival with music by Aaron Mittler will take place at The Rice Homestead from 12 to 4 p.m. A "Treasures in the Trunk" sale will also be part of this event, and the historic Rice Homestead is open for tours.

Thursday, July 17, the Annual Ice Cream Social with music by the Musicats Duo will be held at The Rice Homestead from 6 to 8 p.m.

Monday, Aug. 18, David Brooks, Education Director of Schoharie Crossing State Park will present "Strange History from Along the Erie Canal at Schoharie Crossing" at 6:30 p.m. at the Mayfield Presbyterian Church, 22 N Main Street, Mayfield.

The highly anticipated annual Fall Harvest Cruise-In with music by Dan Lynaugh will be Saturday, Oct. 4, from 12 to 4 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 20, Mayfield Town Historian, Eric Close, will present "Sir William Johnson and the Founders of Mayfield" at 6:30 p.m. at the Mayfield Presbyterian Church, 22 N Main Street, Mayfield.

A holiday favorite, the Annual Christmas Open House at The Rice Homestead will be Saturday, Dec. 6 from noon to 4 p.m. A vintage holiday experience with homemade pies, cookies and mulled cider to sample, crackling fires and holiday home tours.

The Rice Homestead's 2025 summer exhibit will be "Echoes of Yesterday - The Clothing Collection of the Mayfield Historical Society." The Rice Homestead is open for tours Wednesdays and Saturdays from noon to 4 p.m. beginning June 14 through Aug. 30. Tours can also be made by appointment.

Many thanks to all the volunteers and public for supporting us. If you would like to get involved, please contact us on Facebook or email - Mayfieldhistoricalsoc@gmail.com

Bob Suits, President
 "Like" us at
www.facebook.com/ricehomestead/

EDITOR'S MESSAGE



IF YOU ARE NOT ON FACEBOOK, YOU CAN FIND SOME OF MY WORK

PUBLISHED ON THE MAYFIELD TOWN WEBSITE. I PUBLISH A WEEKLY
MEMORIAL ON THE FACEBOOK PAGE, IN HONOR OF A CITIZEN OF MAYFIELD
WHO HAS PASSED AWAY. YOU CAN FIND THESE ON THE HISTORY SECTION OF
THE TOWN WEBSITE, UNDER THE LINK OF "[Town Historian's Digital Archives](#)"
THE LINK TO THE WEEKLY MEMORIALS CAN BE FOUND AT THE TOP OF THE
PAGE.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A FAMILY MEMBER OR FRIEND HONORED IN
THIS MANNER, PLEASE CONTACT ME. – HISTORIAN@MAYFIELDNY.ORG

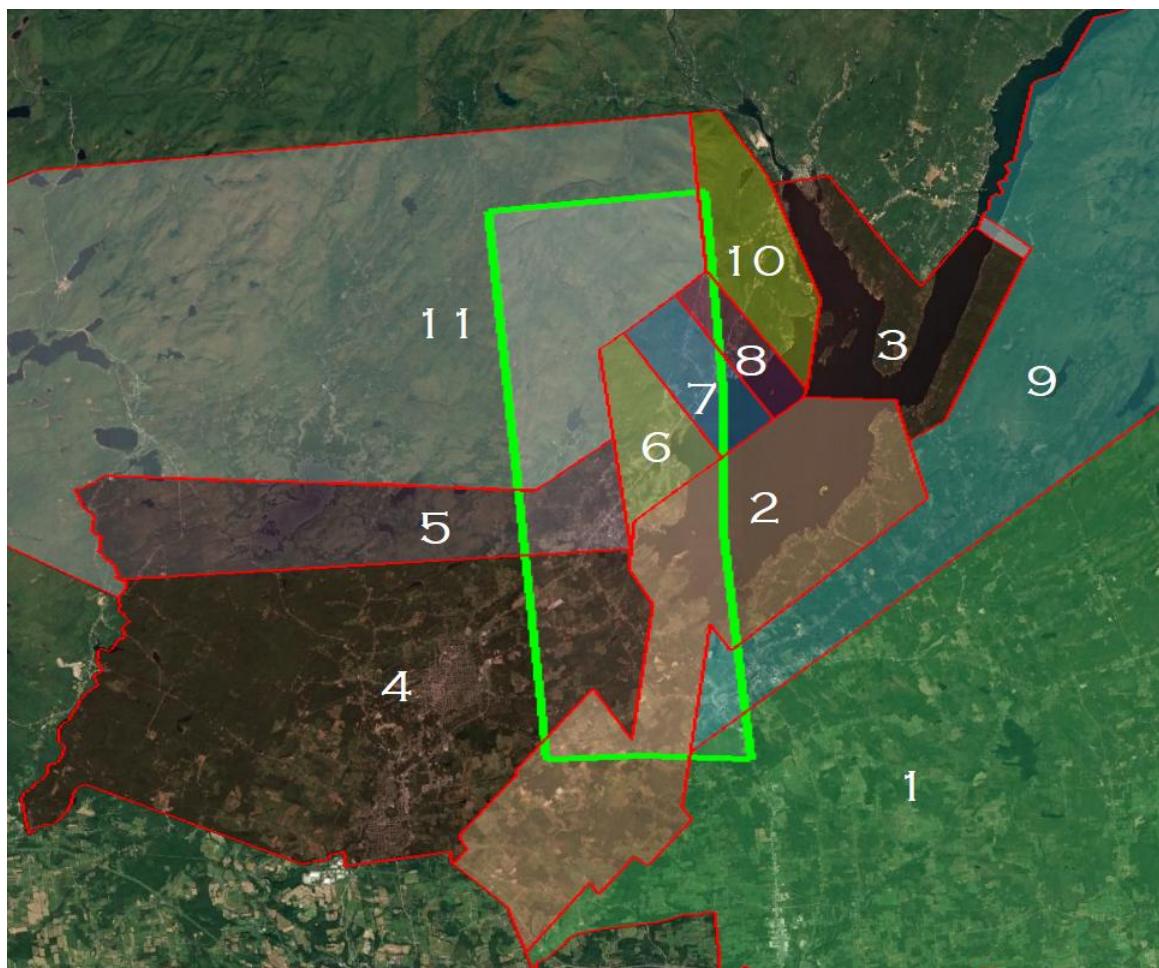
(518) 774 -0703

ERIC CLOSE
MAYFIELD TOWN HISTORIAN

MAP OF LAND PATENTS

This map shows land patents (numbered 1-9), relative to the Town of Mayfield (outlined in green).

1. Kayaderosseras Patent, (1708); 2. Sacondaga Patent, (1741); 3. Northampton Patent, (1741);
4. Kingsborough Patent, (1753, 1755); 5. Preston's [Mayfield] Patent, (1770); 6. Col. Daniel Claus' Patent, (1770); 7. Capt. Normand McLeod's Patent, (1770); 8. Lt. Benjamin Roberts' Patent, (1770); 9. Capt. John Glen, Jr & 44 others' Patent, (1770); 10. Cornelius Haring's Patent, (?);
11. Glen, Bleecker, & Lansing's Patent, (1793)



AMERICA 250

ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY

July 20, 1775

Two hundred and fifty years ago today, shots were fired in Johnstown marking the beginning of the Revolutionary War on this frontier.

At this point, three months removed from Lexington and Concord, two months since Patriots raised a liberty Pole at Caughnawaga, and one month since Loyalist Tryon County sheriff Alexander White imprisoned a local Patriot, John Fonda.

The pot of tensions, which had long since been simmering, was subjected to continuous heat. Thus, it was propelled into a rolling, roaring boil.

On Thursday July 20th, 1775 a furious band of Patriots numbering "a few scores" (perhaps upwards of 50), led by Sampson Sammons marched into the Loyalist haven of Johnstown. They entered the unguarded Tryon County Jail, and liberated their friend and counterpart John Fonda, who suffered incarceration for nearly a month.

At that moment, Sheriff White was at Tice's tavern. The band of Patriots ascertained his whereabouts, and marched to the tavern to make the arrest of the loyalist sheriff.

In testimony given by Jacob Sammons, and recorded in Jeptha Simms' *Frontiersman of New York, Vol. 1* (1882), it was said that this angry patriotic mob approached the tavern, the ruckus of which attracted the attention of the sheriff. From an upper window, Sheriff White recognized Sampson Sammons, drew his gun and fired upon him.

That was the shot heard 'round Tryon County. The bullet was said to have just missed Sammons, the discharge of which prompted a return of fire from the band of Patriots.

The report of this skirmish reached Johnson Hall, either by messenger or earshot, and the cannons there were discharged. Upon that signal, several hundred of Sir John Johnson's armed retainers were mobilized and sent to the scene of the hostilities.

In haste, the Patriots made a search for sheriff White, but he could not be found. In the chaos, White was reported to have concealed himself in a chimney and waited for the crowd to disperse as the retainers made their approach.

The Patriots slipped into the cover of nightfall and disappeared back down over the hill to Caughnawaga, avoiding capture or worse - a battle.

The Tryon County Committee of Safety regrouped and prioritized the imprisonment of Sheriff White, who subsequently came under the personal protection of Sir John Johnson at Johnson Hall. On the 22nd of July, the committee sent a letter to Albany asking for the necessary arsenal of cannons to take Johnson Hall by force, but no such petition was granted by the Albany Committee of Correspondence.

Late in August, Sheriff White was finally captured and imprisoned at Albany. He was released and recaptured a few more times before finally escaping to Canada by the end of the war.

It would only be a short matter of time from this point that the newly cleared fields in the Mohawk and Sacandaga Valleys would lay wasted by the torch and the pioneer's cabins plundered and destroyed.

To be continued...



Sampson Sammons

A GHOST OF THE PAST

MAYFIELD'S SOCIETY OF FRIENDS: QUAKERS

Religious societies played a significant role in the settling of the Town of Mayfield. Baptists, Methodists, and Reformed Dutch were among the earliest Christian denominations to establish congregations and construct log meeting houses. In the earliest years of this town, members of these societies sent out word through the circuits and mother churches of a new frontier and growing congregations, including the Society of Friends, commonly known as the Quakers.

Quakerism was born in England in the 1600s and was then brought forth to the New World in the 1650s. They believe that God, or an "inner light," exists in every person, and reject elaborate religious ceremonies. Quakers were known for pacifism, spiritual equality, and having a significant influence over the abolitionist and women's suffrage movements.

By 1800, several Quaker families had settled near Riceville and initially held their meetings in the homes of their members. In 1820, land was purchased from Daniel Anderson at Woodworth's Corners to build a meeting house for the Society of Friends. The church stood on the old "Drake Lot," now owned by the Ambrosino family on West Main Street Extension.

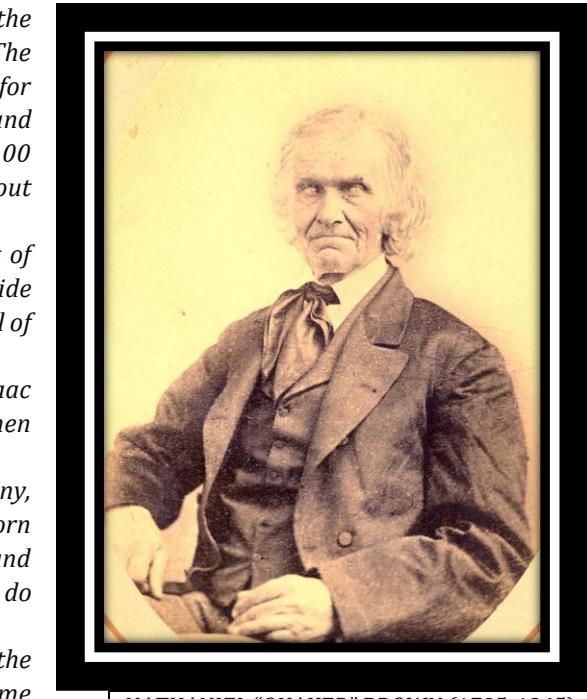
"Either the house now on the opposite side of the road [from the Drake house] or the barn which went with it was the church. The building was not painted but plastered inside. There was one door for the men and another for the women. Meetings were held on Sundays and Thursdays. At one time, the church was said to have had about 100 members. Those born Quakers were placed on the roll without probation.

One of the early weddings in the Quaker Church was that of Amos C. Brown and Mary Seymour. At a Quaker wedding then, the bride and groom stood up and recited the ceremonial words, and an official of the church gave a certificate which all present signed as witnesses.

One of the first funerals in the church was that of Isaac Seymour, killed by a falling building in a storm at Gloversville, then "Stump City."

Some families in the Quaker Church were: Brown, Anthony, Gray, Capron, Wood, Seymour, Burton, and Mead. "Quaker Brown," born 1785, was in Mayfield before 1805. He was a preacher and farmer and lived on Lansing Road [Proper Rd] ...quite likely had something to do with the church.

In time, the church was divided between the Orthodox and the Hicksite factions. The feeling between the two was bitter, and some moved away. Neither party gained the church, which disbanded, the records were carried away, and the building was sold [in 1840]."



NATHANIEL "QUAKER" BROWN (1785-1865)

-Rev. E.J. Ruliffson, Mayfield Town Historian, 1937.

Nothing remains on the old sites that would indicate the presence of the old Friends Meeting House, or its cemetery. Prior to 1852, Quaker cemeteries did not have any lettered gravestones, but this burying ground still exists, although unmarked, and its precise location is extremely difficult to determine. Rev. Ruliffson wrote:

"In corner of Walter Woodworth's farm; corner of West Main Ex & Beech Rd. Richard Woodworth said he remembers, as a boy, riding past that corner with his father. The latter called his attention to the fact that the spot was being plowed. The field stones, unlettered, were removed. Some 40-50 graves might be there, doubtful if so many.

The burying ground is said to have been about halfway between the church and 'the eleven o'clock pine.'

The story is that a certain Anderson was plowing up the burying ground, and someone told him he would fall into a grave. While plowing he was stricken with paralysis from which he never fully recovered. For years after that, no one ventured to cultivate that ground. The farm passed to other hands and a second attempt was made to plow the ground. Soon after the plowman was stricken with typhoid. The third attempt succeeded.

Authorities: Richard Woodworth & Lucius Rice"

-Rev. E.J. Ruliffson, Mayfield Town Historian, 1937

Former Fulton County Historian Lewis Decker obtained the surviving Quaker records of Mayfield from the Haviland Records Room. The following is an excerpt from 1828 detailing the member rolls as the society factioned between Orthodox and Hicksite.

MAYFIELD PREPARATIVE MEETING
FRIENDS (ORTHODOX)

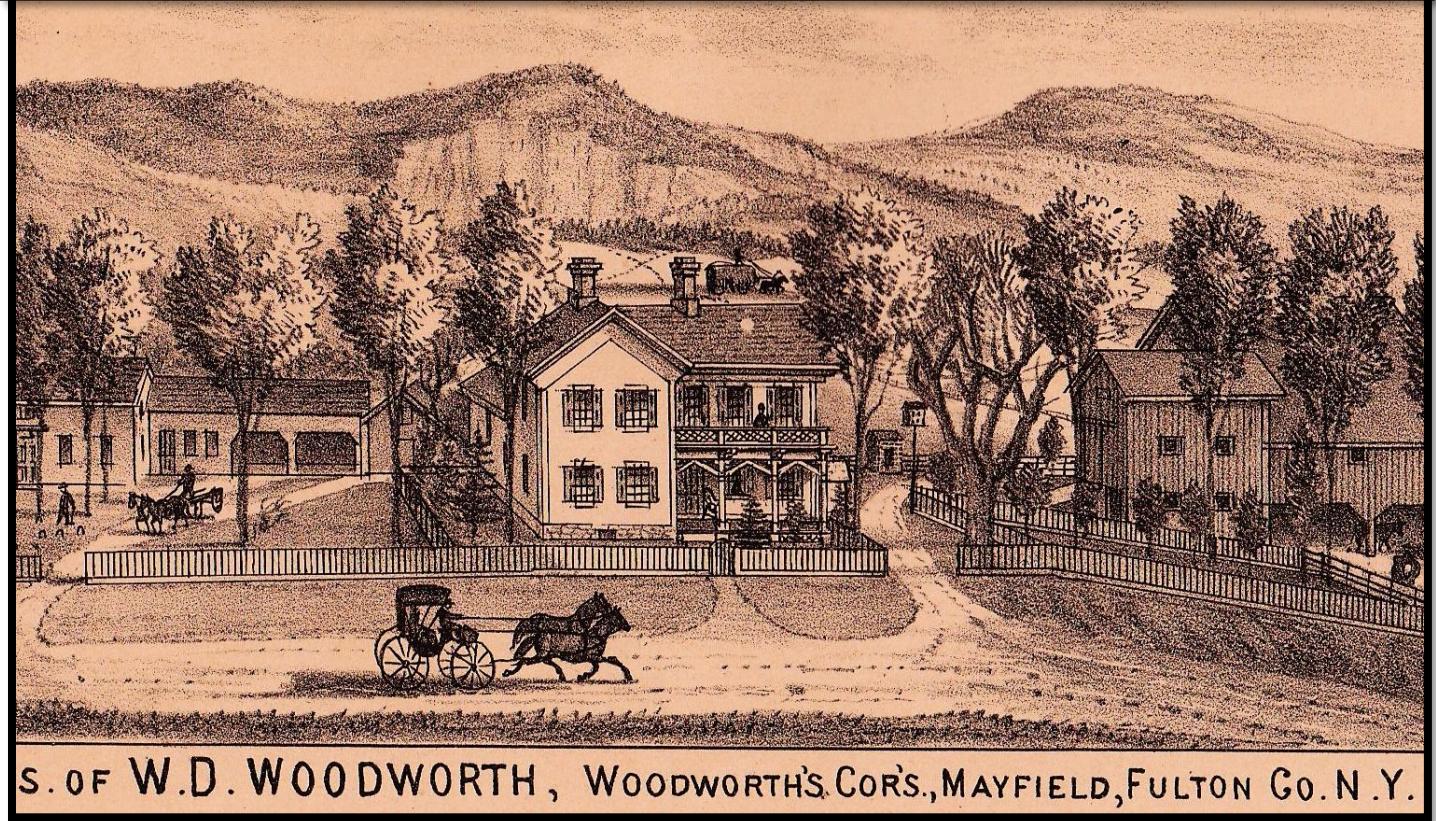
<u>Adults (4)</u>	<u>Minors (10)</u>	<u>Age</u>	
Huldah Seymour	Willard Bowen	15	Edwin Seymour 9
Martin Seymour	Silas Seymour	14	Samuel M. Seymour 7
Rhoda Seymour	William Seymour	13	Anna A. Seymour 8
Levi Seymour, Jr	Manning Seymour	11	Mary Seymour 1
			John W. Turner 17
			Benjamin Turner 15

MAYFIELD PREPARATIVE MEETING
FRIENDS (HICKSITES)
Adults (44)

Jedediah Allen	Hannah Dean	Salome Simmons
Rhoda Allen	Esther Labaw	Susanna Simmons
Benjamin Anthony	Daniel Mead	Peter Thompson
Anna Anthony	Esther Mead	Aaron Vaile
Nathaniel Brown	Ezek Mosher	William Vail, Jr.
Cynthia Brown	Elizabeth Mosher	David Wood
Amos Brown	John O'Brien	Daniel Wood
John Brown	Rhoda O'Brien	Rufus Wood
Welcome Capron	Asenith Sedgwick	Harriet Wood
Lois Capron	Hardy Seymour	Josiah Wood
Orrin Capron	Lydia Seymour	Mary Wood
Rasalinda Capron	Eleanor Seymour	Abigail Wood
Mary Ann Cloft	Mary Seymour	William Wood
Abraham Cole	John Seymour	
Hannah Cole	Hiram Simmons	
Sarah Dean		

<u>Hicksites, Minors (27)</u>	<u>Age</u>		
Jedediah Allen, Jr.	11	Emily Brown	8
Eliza Allen	6	Nathaniel Brown, Jr	5
Wm. Anthony	15	Jacob Capron	1
Cynthia Anthony	13	Asa Mosher	13
Phebe Anthony	12	William Mosher	11
Benjamin Anthony	6	Sarah Mosher	7
George Anthony	3	Ephriam E. Mosher	4
Isaac Brown	16	Emeline Mosher	2
Abigail Brown	14	Angelina Mosher	2
Julia Esther Brown	12	Sally O'Brien	1

History is not always revealing or eye-opening. More often than not, there is a severe lack of records, and history is forced to be reconstructed or speculated upon. In summation, in the early half of the 1800s, Quakers were prevalent and highly active in the town of Mayfield. Their meeting house is long gone, and their Cemetery has long since been plowed over and the location has been lost to time. Somewhere along the south side of West Main Street extension, between the Ambrosino house and Knott Road, is an old, unmarked graveyard containing the final resting place of as many as 50 of Mayfield's "Friends." If anyone has any knowledge of the location of such a cemetery, please contact me. It would be worthwhile to install a historical marker there.



The 48th Annual Bannertown Fair

AUGUST 14TH 15TH 16TH 2025



2025 Grand Marshals: Maria and Beaver Ross with their incognito chauffeur. Photo Courtesy of Julie Ernst

Sean Craig Memorial team started the Great Sacandaga Lake Safe Lake Initiative. They have placed ice rescue ladders around the lake, placed life jackets at area locations for lake goers to use, and have really made this area safer for people to enjoy our lake!

Frankly, there are countless accomplishments these wonderful people and their team have done for Mayfield; therefore we are proud to have Beaver and Maria as our Grand Marshals, and want to say Congratulations and thank you for all you have done!"

It is no surprise that the 48th Annual Bannertown Fair was a success. Significant effort is put forth by many people in this community, giving truth to the phrase "it takes a village." But, as usual, a tip of the hat and debt of gratitude is owed to Amanda Mormile and Jake Van Every for all they do in planning, organizing, and making "Bannertown" live up to its name. "Bannertown," the best town in Fulton County.

Unfortunately, the Miss Bannertown Fair Pageant had to be cancelled due to lack of participation. As a community, we urge interested participants to contact missbannertownfairpageant@gmail.com or contact the Facebook page. This is a wonderful opportunity for our area youth, and is directed passionately by the organizer, Chloe Bronk, and we all should wish her and this endeavor nothing but success! Here is a press release from August 5, 2025:

"Due to unfortunate circumstances this years Miss Bannertown Fair Pageant will be cancelled. Due to the lack of participation we are unable to put it on this year. We are hoping to bring it back next year but until then, our 2024 title holders will carry onto 2025. I will be reaching out tonight to refund the few people who did sign up.

Best,

Chloe Bronk, Miss Bannertown Fair Pageant Director"

The Bannertown Parade had a "Hoedown" theme this year, which brought out the best in Mayfield's showing of cowboy boots, straw hats, overalls, and hay bales. Team "Henross" was won best float, and for the second consecutive year, was awarded the Bannertown Cup. Other highlights in the parade included Bart Landers dressed as Santa Claus, The MCS Marching Band, "Angus Farms Brush Hogging" with a fine lineup of John Deere tractors, Town Councilman Jack Putman hauling the Mayfield Republican Committee with his 886 International, Fulton County Sheriff Richard Giardino, Assemblyman Robert Smullen, the 2024 Miss Bannertown Fair Court, The Fulton County Democratic Committee, Bill Trojan escorting "Miss American Nation" and "Miss Culture Galaxy," the Southern Adirondack Snowmobile Association, and the Mayfield Highway Department, Village Works, and School District. Accompanying the MVFD was the Broadalbin-Kennyetto Fire Co, Perth Fire, and the Pleasant Square Fire Co. Northern Automotive, Smith & Sons, Fulton Co Highway Dept, SLA Transportation, "\$ The Junk Couple \$," and the Northampton Ambulance Service were also represented.

[Facebook.com - Mayfield Bannertown Fair](https://www.facebook.com/MayfieldBannertownFair)

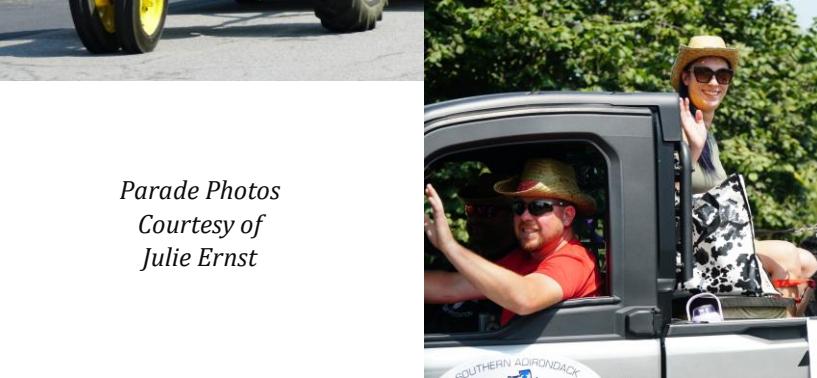
July 23, 2025 ·

"Hard to believe we are only 3 weeks away from the 48th Annual Bannertown Fair! Time to start our social media hype posts! This one is all about our amazing Grand Marshals for our Bannertown Hoedown parade!"

This year the committee chose Beaver and Maria Ross! After the tragic loss of their son, and our friend Henry Ross III, they decided to make the lake safer for everyone. They took a tragedy in their lives and turned it into action by starting the Henry Ross III Memorial Fund. Beaver and Maria with the help of "Team Henross" have started an app to report hazards, donated countless items to local organizations to aid in emergency rescue, and with help from the

Bannertown Parade





48th Annual
Bannertown
Fair

Mayfield NY
Thursday August 14th - Saturday August 16th

Live Entertainment • Food • Vendors • Rides
Midway by Green Mountain Amusements

Wristbands Available Daily

Thursday * Rev-D 6-10pm

Friday * Country Justice 7-11pm

Saturday * All Fired Up 1-5pm

* Danny Lynaugh 5-7pm

* Tommy V Live 7-11pm

Fireworks Saturday Night!



Parade Photos
 Courtesy of
 Julie Ernst

The Lost Sacandaga Valley



A passenger train steams past William Becker's farm on Butter Street in Mayfield, c. 1900. It appears to have been a dreary afternoon in early spring--with the edges of the fields still covered by snow.

The northbound train may have been laden with passengers from Mayfield, Gloversville, Johnstown, and beyond. Some with business to undertake at Cranberry Creek or Northville, and some passengers possibly seeking to find leisure at Sacandaga Park.

The above image was captured near what is now the private road at the North end of Lakeside Drive in Mayfield. It looks out across what was the southern end of The Great Vlaie, toward what was then called Munsonville, and what is today Vandenburgh Point.

Right: This picture was taken in front of Becker's farm on October 13, 1926, after a train crash. Becker's is on the hillside to the right, looking south on the tracks of the F.J.&G.

Photo courtesy of Paul Larner, author and historian of the FJ&G RR

