



***Sidney Historical Association - 44 Grand Street, Sidney, NY 13838***

***Winter 2025 Edition***

★ Curator: Mike Wood ★ Treasurer: Denise Singlar (2026) ★ VP: Bill Morton (2025) ★

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During the new year, we often reflect on our accomplishments from the previous year. It was an enjoyable year, and here are some of the activities.

- Created new Website; Created Facebook Page
- **Programs for 2024:** Well Attended; A huge success

**Railroads:** The evolution of Sidney railroads, including a time line on the progress, population growth & prosperity in the Village of Sidney by Steve Arrandale & Jim Gale on Saturday, March 9th @ 11AM

**Civil War:** Jonathan “Jed” LaBounty will present on Saturday, April 13th @ 11AM

**Patriot Burials Sign Dedication** – By Dale & Tina Utter; Program to include Sons of the American Revolution & the Sidney American Legion – Saturday, May 18th @ 10AM

**Local Native American Artifacts:** Presented by Bill Meyer, Jerry Meyer, Pat McElligot - June 8, 2024 – Did I mention everyone?

- Alumni Weekend Open House
- Purchase of Youngs Station School House: Plus the Phase/Stage I of renovation project
- RR Shanty & the start up renovation
- Donations Collected: Donation from Elwin “Van” Vanvalkenburg (100<sup>th</sup> Birthday); Mettrick Estate; United Way & O’Connor Matching Grants; Betty Gilbert; Annual Campaign; Others – We sincerely thank everyone who has generously supported our association.
- SHA T-Shirts - Revised By-Laws - Newsletters for 2024 well received: We featured Dave Plummer & others; Holly Jolly Parade – Thank you to all that participated

**Museum Collections: Keith Clark/ACCO Brands & More**

**2025 Programs & Projects**

**Youngs Station School House, Phase II**

**Other potential 2025 programs: Terry McMaster; Dave Richards**



**Sidney Historical Association**

***Presents***

***Scintilla – 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Program***

***By Dave Plummer***



Amphenol-Aerospace, formerly known as Scintilla, has been through many iterations, from Scintilla to Bendix to Allied to Amphenol.

**Dave will present this program in three basic parts or points:**

The Beginning from Switzerland

The War Years – effect on Sidney

The Connector Evolution including remarks about the Amphenol acquisition and Space Station Connectors.

**Saturday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> – 1PM to 3PM - Community Cultural Center**

**1 Bridge Street, Sidney, NY**

Sidney business growth came with the beginning of a Swiss company, Scintilla Magneto, who bought the Hatfield building to produce magnetos, used in aircraft engines. In 1925 the entire operation was moved to Sidney, New York. In 1929 the Bendix Aviation Corporation purchased Scintilla adding this Division to their group operations. By World War II, the company employed 8,600 people and had a world-class reputation for the manufacture of airplane parts. By 1960, the Town of Sidney's population had surged to 7,110. The company became Amphenol Aerospace Corporation by 2003 and is the largest employer in Delaware County.



**Upcoming:** Community Cultural Center & Sidney Historical Association present a Roundtable Discussion on the history of Sidney.

Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at 4PM – 1 Bridge Street

Join us as we delve into the rich tapestry of Sidney's history. We'll explore its founding, celebrate the contributions of Native Americans, examine the evolution of business and commerce, investigate transportation milestones, honor our veterans and military, and highlight the significance of schools and sports. Discover the many facets that make Sidney a unique and vibrant community!





Sidney Historical showcased our sleigh cutter for the first time during the Jolly Holly Day Parade in Sidney. A big thank you to all the volunteers who made this event a success, particularly Betsy and Bill Morton.

Riding in the sleigh, Betsy Morton and granddaughter Charlotte Coyle

Cutters are a type of sleigh. Generally, sleighs accommodated larger groups, while cutters were sufficient for two people.



### **\*\*\* Whitaker & Son, Inc. \*\*\***

***A rich history that highlights its growth and evolution over the years.***

Glen E. Whitaker is a Sidney Alumnus, Class of '68. Whit, as he is better known, attended Hoosac School, which was founded as an Episcopal church school in 1889. For over 135 years, Hoosac has maintained and upheld Dr.

Tibbits's core beliefs about a well-rounded boarding school experience: to educate the whole student academically, athletically, socially, and spiritually. There was a graduating class of just 23 students.



After high school, in 1970, Whit joined the U.S. Army National Guard and received an honorable discharge in June 1976. He completed boot camp at Fort Leonard Wood. Whit has said that his inspiration to serve came from a strong sense of duty to his country.



### **Rotary Radio Day @ WCDO**

In 1971, Whit joined Whitaker & Son, Inc., where he worked for thirty-seven years before retiring in 2008. Unfortunately, in 2007, a fire destroyed the business, and he had already faced the challenges of a flood in 2006. These events led Whit to decide to retire. During this difficult time, he focused on finding employment for the twenty-plus employees who had worked for the company.

Quoting Whit: "Our success was attributed to the loyalty of our quality employees, which resulted in our quality customer service."

Our Friendly Personnel Will be Happy to Help You Select the Best Car for You. Left to Right Are: Robert Kingsley, Mike Terebo, Chester Howell, Ray Beames, Harold Robinson, Jack Williams, Zella Darrin, Glen Whitaker, Sandra Shaw.



**SERVICE IS TOPS AT WHITAKERS**

These Capable Experts Will Give Your Car the Finest Guardian Maintenance. Left to Right Are: Wally Olson, Gerald Higgins, James Gloeckler, "Red" Sherman, David King, Paul Schobert, Al Stewart, Allen Murray, Roy Van Dyke, Clyde Rowe, Gene Nagy, Melvin Hurley, Kurt Kaiser, John Crandall, Cliff Macumber, Glen Whitaker, Fred Wilbur, Ruth Tomco, Clarence Hoy.

**WHITAKER & SON, INC.**

Buick, Chevrolet, Corvair

MAIN STREET, SIDNEY, N. Y.

**(L to R) Wally Olson; Gerald Higgins; James Gloeckler; "Red" Sherman; David King; Paul Schobert; Al Stewart; Allen Murray; Roy Van Dyke; Clyde Rowe; Gene Nagy; Melvin Hurley; Kurt Kaiser; John Crandall; Cliff Macumber; Glen Whitaker; Fred Wilbur; Ruth Tomco; Clarence Hoy**

Let's take a step back to the early 20th century. Grandma Rumpf Whitaker was born in the Brooklyn borough of New York City, while Grandpa Glen S. Whitaker was born in Unadilla. In the mid-1940s, Glen E. Whitaker Sr., known as Whit's dad, along with Aunt Virginia W. "Ginny" Tiffany, joined the Whitaker firm. Whitaker & Son was incredibly proud to have established strong relationships with many local businesses. Notably, their customer base extended as far as the metropolitan areas of New York and New Jersey, thanks

to Glen S., Whit's grandfather. During those early years, the company transitioned from using horse and buggy to automobiles.



Whit's great-grandfather started the family business in transportation sales in Unadilla in the early 1900s, where he owned a livery stable. When automobiles emerged, he turned the horses out to pasture and replaced them with the newest mode of transportation: the automobile. Some of the first cars he sold included the Stoddard, the Dayton, and later models from Ford, Lincoln, and Buick. When his son, Glen S. Whitaker, joined him, the business became known as Whitaker & Son. In 1922, the company relocated from Unadilla to Sidney and, six years later, began selling Chevrolet vehicles. During those early years, the business sold approximately 750 cars each year, which was quite an impressive achievement.



Whit's dad, Glen E. Whitaker, joined the family business in the 1940s after serving in the U.S. Navy Reserves during World War II. Remarkably, the business managed to survive the Great Depression.





**Whitaker & Son was named Business of the Year in 2000 by the Sidney Chamber of Commerce.**

*Whit says, "It's fun to look back at what we have done, but we have to look at the present and the future to be successful." Whit represents the fourth generation of a family business his great-grandfather started some 88 years ago, which continues to be a mainstay of Sidney's Main Street. Whit attributes the business's success to good service and good customer relations. "You can buy a car anyplace, but customers are looking for good service, and this is what we have always provided." The product is no better than the service you sell." "While we have continued to grow, we are always available to our customers one-on-one. We are large enough to offer variety but not so large we can't offer personal service."*

1931 CHEVROLET COUPE ..... Specially priced for this sale .....	<b>\$195</b>	1929 BUICK SPORT COUPE ..... Anyone desiring a good sized, com- fortable coupe can make no mistake on this car.	<b>\$175</b>
1932 CHEVROLET SPECIAL SEDAN ..... An exceptional good value and per- fect condition.	<b>\$350</b>	1928 BUICK BROUGHAM ..... We have two of these very popular 5 passenger broughams with good tires and good mechanical condition. Your choice.	<b>\$225</b>
1933 CHEVROLET SEDAN ..... This beautiful Chevrolet sedan has had less than ten thousand miles. Maroon Duo fenders to match body. The car looks and runs like new.	<b>\$485</b>	1930 BUICK 5 PASSENGER COUPE ..... A beautiful 5 passenger car of the class coupled type which will do for either a coupe or a sedan. Moderately priced.	<b>\$295</b>
1931 SPECIAL SEDAN CHEVROLET ..... Six wheels and in fine mechanical condition.	<b>\$270</b>	1931 BUICK 4 PASSENGER COUPE ..... A thoroughly modern car far below its actual value.	<b>\$450</b>
1933 CHEVROLET SPORT COUPE ..... We have two of these jobs. 1 green the other black, both with rumble seat and good tires. Take your choice.	<b>\$425</b>	1933 BUICK 5 PASSENGER SEDAN ..... Model 57. One of the smaller 1933 jobs. Looks and runs like new. Guaranteed.	<b>\$760</b>
<b>TRUCKS</b>		1928 BUICK COACH ..... .....	<b>\$150.00</b>
1931 CHEVROLET 1/2 TON PANEL ..... A very handy light commercial for only—	<b>\$150</b>	1925 BUICK SEDAN ..... .....	<b>25.00</b>
1929 CHEVROLET 1/2 TON COM- MERCIAL ..... .....	<b>\$50</b>	1931 BUICK SEDAN ..... This beautiful 1931 sedan has been driven very carefully and exceptionally few miles. Tires, paint and Mechanical condition equal to new. A real bargain.	<b>\$475</b>
1934 CHEVROLET 157" TRUCK ..... Stake body, dual tires, splendid condition.	<b>\$550</b>	<b>OTHER MAKES</b>	
1933 TON AND ONE-HALF CAB AND CHASSIS 197" wheel base, good tires, dual wheels .....	<b>\$395</b>	1930 PLYMOUTH COUPE ..... .....	<b>\$550.00</b>
GRAHAM PAIGE SEDAN, 1928 ..... .....		1930 MARQUETTE SEDAN ..... .....	<b>\$175.00</b>
1928 STUDEBAKER SEDAN ..... .....		1930 STUDEBAKER PRESIDENT 5 ..... .....	<b>\$395.00</b>
1929 FLYMOUTH SEDAN ..... .....		1930 STANDARD 5 BUICK ..... .....	<b>\$295.00</b>
1928 DODGE SEDAN ..... .....		1930 FORD COUPE ..... .....	<b>\$165.00</b>
1931 ESSEX COACH ..... .....		FORD MODEL T TRUCK ..... .....	<b>\$25.00</b>
If unable to call at our office either phone us or write us and we will send a salesman to your door at once. We wish to sell all of these used cars within the next 30 days. Our loss is your profit.			
<b>Whitaker &amp; Son</b>			
Sidney		New York	

Let's shift our focus to areas beyond the business realm. Whit joined the Rotary Club of Sidney in November 1972, and we celebrated his 50-year milestone in 2022. As of 2025, he will have dedicated 54 years of service to Rotary.

In addition to his work with the Rotary Club, he has been involved with several other organizations, including the Unadilla Evergreen Cemetery Board, Franklin Community Railroad Board, Columbus Community Church, Sidney Chamber of Commerce, Pathfinder Village Board, New York State Auto Dealers Board, Catskill Area Hospice Board, and the Chevrolet & Buick Dealer Council Boards, among others.

On a personal level, he has been married for over twenty years, having met his wonderful wife, Rosemary, through her daughter, Cindy. Cindy worked for Whit as a bookkeeper in the parts and service department for several years. When her mother Rosemary was looking for a car, she advised her to come and see Whit for her next vehicle. He sold her the car and the rest is history!

Whit says, “My family is educated, married, employed, and successful, and they have blessed me with fifteen grandchildren.” Whit’s three children—Tiffany, Heather, Glen III (Tripp). Tiffany grew up in Sidney and went on to become a Radio City Rockette in New York City for 11 years. Heather became a doctor of pharmacy. Tripp has been very successful in his work as Vice President of J & M management in Philadelphia for over 20 years. Whit is a very proud Dad of their accomplishments.

His hobbies and interests include golfing, lawn care, antique cars, spending time with family and friends, and helping others. I will always cherish the wonderful memories of Whitaker & Sons, Inc. Additionally, I am very proud to have started the “BEST” program with the help of Andy Matviak and Judy Atkins, and it continues to thrive!



***Whit embodies a joyful spirit and has an impressive knowledge of so many who have lived in or around Sidney. His unwavering commitment to volunteerism makes him a vital and inspiring presence in the Sidney community and beyond.***

***If you know this man, you are truly fortunate to have a loyal friend in your life.***

***If you’ve had the pleasure of knowing Whit, you’re likely familiar with his heartwarming farewell: “Happy Motoring.” This phrase captures his positive outlook and genuine care for others. Often, he could recall the exact make and model of the automobile you purchased.***



**Whitaker & Son, Inc., was started in 1912 by George Whitaker and his son Glen S. Whitaker. George operated a livery stable in Unadilla, so the transition from horse & buggy to automobile was natural. Glen's son, Glen E Whitaker joined the team in 1946, and the 4th generation of Whitakers was completed with the addition of 'Whit' in 1984. It was unique for a**

family automobile agency to have remained in business for so many years. Whitaker's showroom was located at 20 Main St..... Whitakers purchased the former silk mill by the Susquehanna River in 1946 to house their service & parts departments. A massive fire destroyed this building in 2007. The fire, combined with the flood of 2006 & Whit's being close to retirement, contributed to the final decision to close the business in 2007. They were open for (97) Years.



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### **Curators Corner – By Mike Wood**

*As I sit at my kitchen table, looking out the window at the mergansers and wood ducks swimming on the Susquehanna, my thoughts wander.*

*It is important to mention the SHA is celebrating it's 80<sup>th</sup> year of existence due to the diligent past membership volunteering their time and talents. The mission statement remains the same, collect, preserve and promote all things, Sidney. I can proudly and humbly report our museum and current membership is fulfilling this task.*

*The SHA pays tribute to the recent and past members that are no longer with us. We thank the families for donating to our collections providing views of their stories here in Sidney. I am honored to have known and learned from many of those people.*

*A female Northern Harrier Landing in a treetop overlooking the river has totally distracted me. It is mid-February, below freezing and this hawk is hungry. Good, it's gone.*

*I can report that progress has been on the district II schoolhouse at Young's and the O&W replica telegraph shanty. We will continue restorations pending warmer weather. We are also working with the Prospect Hill Cemetery Association on a restoration project to the Chapel building. Anyone interested in volunteering for any of these projects, please contact me.*

*It's now 5PM and the sun is still shining. The deer wintering on the island should be coming out to feed.*

*See you at the Museum,*

*Mike*

**Al Stark, a valuable member of SHS passed in 2024. Al will be missed; We also honored long time member Raymond "Ray" Ballard with a Certificate/Plaque that was presented to his wife, Marie Ballard**



Raymond Curtis Ballard, Sr., a cherished member of our community, passed away in December 2024 at the age of 77. His unwavering commitment to the Sidney Historical Association exemplified his passion for our town's rich heritage. Among his brothers, Graydon and Gordy, there was always a spirited,

friendly competition over who possessed the most knowledge of Sidney's history. They shared a profound love for our town's past, engaging in captivating, fun discussions that brought its stories to life.

We are profoundly grateful for Ray's years of devoted service and the legacy he leaves behind. His bravery and dedication extended beyond his community involvement; Ray proudly served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War, enlisting in 1966 and receiving an honorable discharge in 1970. His contributions both in service and in our community will not be forgotten.

Ray's daughter, Lisa Ballard Pritchard, describes her father as an extremely kind man with a strong work ethic who dedicated himself to raising his seven children. While raising a large family presented its challenges, Ray always managed to handle them with grace.

In his free time, Ray spent over fifty years researching and documenting his ancestry. He enjoyed visiting both large and lesser-known cemeteries on nearly every road trip he took. It was well-known that he likely had as many pictures of headstones as he had of his children.

Ray will be deeply missed, and the Sidney Historical Association sincerely appreciates his long-standing dedication to local history.



Elmond Raymond "Al" Stark, passed away September 2024. He grew up in Gilbertsville, NY. Elmond proudly served in the United States Army and was honorably discharged in 1971. He worked for many years at Unalam until his retirement.

Elmond had many interests over the years. He volunteered with the Boy Scouts, was a member of the Sidney Fire Department McDonald Hose Co. and was an active member with the Sidney Historical Society and many other organizations. He was a skilled woodworker, and his greatest passion was the

genealogy of his family. He spent countless hours always enjoying the sharing of the information.

We are grateful for Al's dedication to the Sidney Historical Association. He took on the important and meticulous task of cataloging the obituaries of Sidney residents, creating a valuable resource for the SHA.

Thank you, Al, for your commitment to preserving our local history.

