

Walnut Grove Press

JUNE 2026

The Official Newsletter of the Fenton History Center VOLUME 7, ISSUE 6

“THE THIRD BUILDING” WE ARE MAKING MORE ROOM FOR JAMESTOWN’S HISTORY



Artist's rendering of the “Third Building.” This view is from the Hall House parking lot.

by Joni Blackman
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

VISION 2030 is our plan to sustain and grow the Fenton over the next 5 years. It has been moving along at a steady pace. You have been stepping up to become monthly donors.

We have hired a very capable education coordinator. And now we can reveal our vision for the third building which I am calling the Annex (if you have name in mind or would like to talk about a donation for naming rights, let me know). This project will position the Fenton History Center to serve the greater Jamestown

community for the next 25 years.

The Annex will expand the Fenton History Center’s programming and collecting options to bring more residents and visitors into the Center and in turn teach about Jamestown. On the main floor of the Annex we will have usable, changeable exhibit space and open visible storage for the large artifacts – more ways to teach Jamestown’s history. The lower floor of the Annex will be the new home of the restored #93 trolley. PLUS it will have a large meeting room (seat 70) with a small catering kitchen, a large, covered patio for summer

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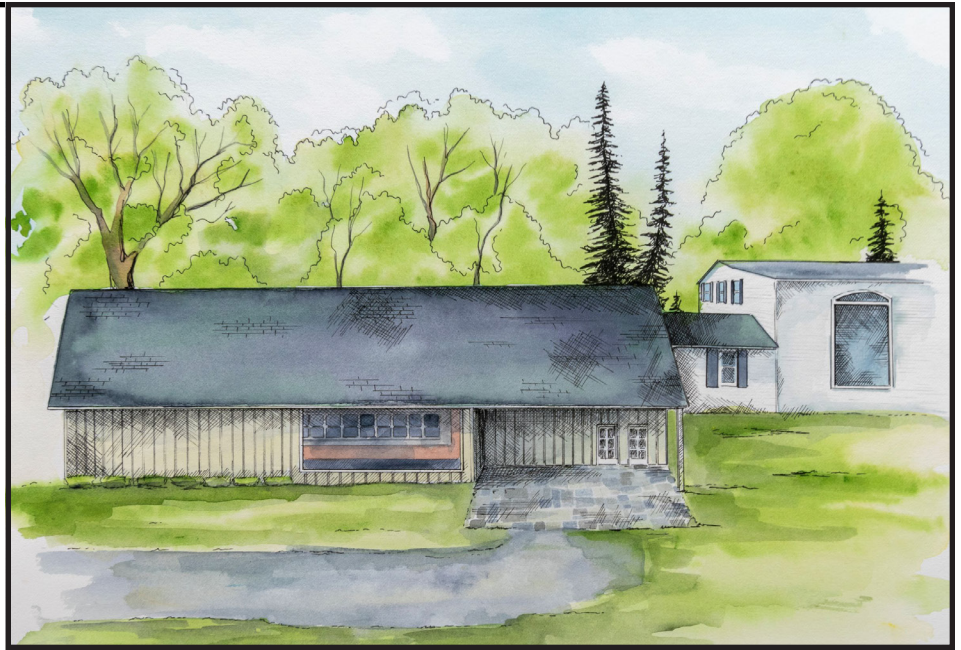
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events and all the IT upgrades needed for our presentations and speakers. Part of the lower level will be collections offices and high density mobile shelving.

The Annex will be situated behind the Hall House in the
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grassy area. The building will be 2 floors built into the slope of the yard, 100 ft long by 48-66 ft wide depending on where you are in the building. The Annex will connect to the Hall House through a roomy 3-story addition that will expand our storage areas and provide easier access to and from the second floor of the Hall House for our staff and volunteers. The connector will also house new restrooms and a future elevator space.



Artist's rendering of the "Third Building." This is the view from Washington Street.

I have been working with Fenton Trustee Paul Johnson to complete the building plans. Paul has graciously donated his time and expertise to provide the drawings and serve as the general manager/contractor for the project – at no cost to the Center.

What does all of this cost? The bottom line is \$750,000 including the landscaping and paving. In addition, we need to raise \$100,000 (over the next 3 years) for the endowment fund to sup-

port the building in the future. The Fenton History Center has 396 members as of this writing. If each of us give some we could reach the individual donor goal of \$100,000. The remainder of the building support will come from local foundations and NY State funds. I am working on the capital campaign booklet at this time, just waiting on a few key items and then I can show you our vision.

I am asking you, as a member, to

think about how you would like to help to support this needed expansion. Please call me (716-664-6256) or email (director@fentonhistorycenter.org) me if you would like a donor brochure or want to talk about this exciting project.

CORPORATE MEMBER ADVERTISER



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SCOOPS & LIBERTY

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America's 250th Birthday
and the 207th Birthday of Gov. Reuben E. Fenton



Ice Cream
Music
Speakers
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Friday, July 3, 2026

★ 6 PM - 8 PM ★

at the Gov. Reuben Fenton Mansion
67 Washington Street, Jamestown, NY 14701

716-664-6256

www.FentonHistoryCenter.org



SAVE THE DATE!

Thursday, June 11, 2026

Support three important fundraising efforts
at the Fenton History Center

Vision 2030

Help strengthen the Fenton History Center for the future through Vision 2030. Support collections care, preservation projects, education programs, exhibit growth, and long-term improvements that keep local history accessible for generations to come.

Vets Finding Vets

Honor and preserve the stories of local veterans. Your support helps fund veterans programs, research, outreach, story-sharing, and community connections that continue the Fenton's long tradition of serving veterans and their families.

Chadakoin Valley Project

Support the preservation and promotion of Jamestown's Black history. Donations help document oral histories, preserve archives, and expand educational resources and public programming.

Read All About It

200 Years of Newspapers in Jamestown

Jamestown Journal

VOL. I.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28, 1826.

NO. 2.

JAMESTOWN, CHAUTAUQUE CO. N. Y.
Printed and published by
A. FLETCHER.

CONDITIONS.
The Journal will be published every Wednesday and forwarded to Subscribers according to direction.

Village Subscribers will be charged two dollars and fifty cents per annum.

When sent by mail, or delivered at the office, the price will be two dollars.

Companies of ten or more, who take their papers at the office and pay on delivery, will be charged one dollar and fifty cents per annum.

Post-Riders supplied on liberal terms.

Advertisements not exceeding a square, will be inserted three weeks for one dollar.

Twenty-five cents will be charged for every subsequent insertion. Larger advertisements at a price proportionable.

MISCELLANY.

VOLCANO OF KIRAUEA.

(Continued.)
On Wednesday the 29th, after an early breakfast our party, excepting Lieutenant Malden, who was ill, Mr. Dempier, who remained to take a sketch, and Mr. Ruggles who chose to satisfy his curiosity above, prepared for a descent into the crater. One of the few places where this is practicable, was within a few rods of our hut. For the first 400 feet, the path was steep, and from the looseness of the stones and rocks in and about it, required caution in every movement. A slight touch was sufficient to launch them and send them bounding downwards with great velocity to the imminent danger of all in their way. The remaining distance to the ledge of about the same number of feet, was gradual and safe, the path having turned into the bed of an old channel of lava which ran off in an inclined plane, till it met the offset, before described, more than a quarter of a mile from where we began this descent. By the time we reached this spot, the natives acting as guides, with the Messrs. Bloom and Mr. Powell, had preceded the rest of our number too far to be overtaken, and we became two parties for the rest of the morning; the last, into which I fell, consisted

of a rough piece of blotting paper brought by one of the party to wrap round the more delicate specimens we might collect. Lord Byron and his servant ascended the cone several feet, but found the heat too great to remain longer than to detach, with their sticks, a piece of porous recent lava, burning hot.

So highly was our admiration excited by the scene, that we forgot the danger to which we might be exposed should a change take place in the currents of destructive vapours which exist in a greater or less degree in every part of the crater, till Mr. Davis, after two of three ineffectual attempts of the propriety of an immediate departure, warned us in a decided tone not only as a private friend, but as a professional gentleman, of the peril of our situation—assuring us, that the inspirations of the air by which we might be surrounded, would prove fatal to every one of us. We felt the truth of the assertion, and notwithstanding the desire we had of visiting a similar cone, covered with a beautiful formation of sulphur, the distance of a few hundred yards only from where we then stood, we hastily took the speediest course from so dangerous a spot. The ascent of the ledge was, not less difficult than the descent had been, and for the last few yards was almost perpendicular, but we all succeeded in gaining its top in safety, not far from the path where we had in the morning descended the steeper cliff.

We reached the top about 2 o'clock, exhausted with fatigue and hunger, and had immediate reason to congratulate ourselves on so most narrow escape from suffering an extreme danger, if not from death. On turning round, we perceived the whole chasm to be filling with thick sulphureous smoke, and with a hiss and roar, it was so completely choked with it that not an object below us was visible. Even in the unconfined region above the air became so oppressive as to make us think seriously of a precipitate retreat. This continued to be the case for the greater part of the afternoon. A dead calm took place both with and without the crater; and from the diminution of noise and the various signs of action, the volcano itself seemed to be resting from its labors.

Towards evening the smoke again rolled off to the south before a fresh

of black smoke, was seen rising from the crater directly in front of us—the subterranean struggle at the same time ceased, and immediately after, flames burst from a large cone, near which we had been in the morning, and which then appeared to have been long inactive. Red-hot stones, cinders and ashes were also propelled with immense violence to a great height, and shortly after, the molten lava boiled over and flowed down the sides of the cone, and on the surrounding scoria, in two beautiful cursive streams, glittering with indescribable brilliance.

A whole lake of fire also opened in a more distant part. This could not have been less than two miles in circumference and its action was more horribly sublime than anything I ever imagined to exist, even in the iller visions of uncertainty things. Its surface had all the agitation of an ocean—billow after billow, tossed its monstrous bosom in the air, and occasionally, those from the opposite direction met, with such violence as to dash the fire/spray, in concussion, forty or fifty feet high. It was at once the most splendid, beautiful and dreadfully fearful spectacle, and irresistibly hurried the thoughts to that Lake of fire from whence the smoke of torment ascended for ever and ever! No work of Him who had the foundation of the earth ever brought to my mind the awful revelations of his word with such overwhelming impressions. "Thou art God in terrible majesty—let all the nations say unto God, *How terrible art thou in thy works.*"

Under the name of *Pele* (probably) this volcano, as you may have seen stated in the *Missionary Herald*, was one of the most distinguished Gods of Hawaii. Its terrific features are well suited to the character and abuse of an unprincipled demon, and few works in nature would be more likely to impose thoughts of terror on the ignorant and superstitious, or from their despective responses, sooner lead to sacrifices of propitiation and peace. It is now rapidly losing its power over the minds of the people. Not one of the large number, in our company seemed to be at all apprehensive of its supernatural being.

After an almost sleepless night we early turned our faces homeward, and without many a lingering look behind

report seldom speaks the whole truth in these matters, as it is rarely unamiable to inquire very particularly into a lady's fortune. She was indulged by her kind friends at home, and crossed by her kind friends abroad; sent to the most fashionable school; the mistress duly advised that she was a peculiarly delicate girl, with vast exquisite sensibilities, an aristocratic and rare genius; and was to be treated with all becoming tenderness and consideration. There she learned a few of the useful and a great many of the ornamental branches taught in such seminaries; and was finally despatched to a boarding school to finish her education—a polite, fashionable, elegant education; with which the adjective "superior" as usual, had very little, if any thing to do.

She was now an accomplished lady; she understood French and painting; was versed in Belle Lettres; knew something of philosophy, natural history; had gone the round of the sciences; wrote poetry; kept an Album; understood music; and was finally fitted out with a fine pair of riding pistols, a superb piano, and the latest fashion, the bow perfectly concealed.

It was evening; and like the first difficulty which rose, was about the choice of the very next-tones, but a still less necessary evil—his shoes. The pretty girl, who has the most meagre form of elegance, is a perfectly unprincipled character. It was not then to be wondered that the Countess should be embarrassed in making a selection; for she was circumstanced in perfectly general people like herself—such an one, with a good substantial fortune too, was to be sought. Her stars favored her at last, however, and she was married—married to a young gentleman as accomplished as herself; one who had as many virtues as his father's ends as buttons on his coat—Mr. A. B. and a profession; who drove tandem with one hand; winged a peizon at every shot; and drank no thing but Madeira.

It was said the young gentleman and lady were each a little disappointed in the matter of the other's fortune; and that in the west there was a fitting jar on the subject of finances; but Coriel adhered to her piano, and Bob to his

Exhibit Opening Friday, July 3, 2026 at 5 p.m.

At the Fenton History Center, 67 Washington Street, Jamestown, NY 14701

Exhibit Open July 3, 2026 - October 31, 2026

NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR

by **Joni Blackman**
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Fenton Historic Walking Tours begin this month. They were started almost 20 years ago and have grown to include a variety of Jamestown neighborhoods, topics and unique places. This year's walks begin with the Lakeview Ave. stretch of period homes and stories. Led by long-time volunteer and actor extraordinaire Cindy Rodgers. The tour will begin at the Christ First United Methodist lower parking lot. It should be very interesting!

The Fenton is well represented this summer at the Jamestown Farmer's Market on the second Saturday of each month through September and Third (Thursdays) on Third put on by the Chautauqua Chamber of Commerce. Education coordinator Liz Gabalski is setting up her child friendly table of fun and facts at each event throughout the summer. Stop over and say "Hi!" to her.

Give Big 2026 is June 11th – the area's community wide online (and offline) giving day. We are asking our generous donors to support our ongoing Veterans' programming through the Vets Finding Vets activities managed by Barb Cessna, OR our bottom line needs – our general operating costs to keep the doors open and staff doing their work. You



will be receiving emails about the Big Give – stay tuned...

The NEXT lecture "Appreciating the Architecture of first Presbyterian Church at 100" by John Smagner, PhD, is on Tuesday, June 16 at 7 PM (and YouTube). Come learn about the century long history of Jamestown's First Presbyterian Church and its architecture.

Mark your calendar! Scoops & Liberty is coming your way on July 3.

Happy Birthday America and Gov. Reuben E. Fenton – a day early!

On Friday, July 3 we will host an old-fashioned ice cream social on the grounds of Walnut Grove. We encourage you to come learn about the American Revolution and our part of NY from our City historian, Mike Rohlin and learn about our home-town Governor

from local genealogist & historian Andrew Kolstee. All while enjoying your ice cream and listening to live period music. We encourage you to wear your period clothing (1700-1800s) or some touch of the time to show your support! The event is free, donations gladly accepted.

**Read All About It!
200 Years of
Newspapers in Jamestown**

The Fenton's newest exhibit opens Friday, July 3rd, at 5 PM in time for the "Scoops & Liberty" birthday event. It explores more than 30 newspapers published in Jamestown since 1826, including their editors and owners, major stories, political influence, and the role they played in shaping the community. Were you a paper carrier? Do you have a favorite newspaper? Send us your stories at stories@fentonhistory-center.org

Local Trivia

- Q1. What was the name of the liquor store in the Hotel Samuels in 1914?
Q2. On what streets was there a station for the Underground Railroad?
Q3. Who opened a blacksmith shop in 1812?
Q4. Where did William Broadhead live?
Q5. Who was the first football player from JHS to be named to the first team All-State Football Team?

See page 30 for answers.



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GENEALOGY SUPPORT GROUP

HELD AT THE HALL HOUSE RESEARCH CENTER
73 Forest Avenue, Jamestown, New York 14701 Phone: (716) 664-6256

2026 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sat., January 10, 2026	12 PM - 10 PM	Library Lock-In
Wed., January 28, 2026	4 PM - 8 PM	Research Night
Wed., February 25, 2026	4 PM - 8 PM	Research Night
Thurs., March 26, 2026	4 PM - 8 PM	Research Night
Wed., April 29, 2026	4 PM - 8 PM	Research Night
Wed., May 27, 2026	4 PM - 8 PM	Research Night
Wed., June 24, 2026	4 PM	Field Trip

*Tour of Records at the Court House in Mayville**

Contact us if you want to go!

Wed., July 29, 2026	4 PM - 8 PM	Research Night
Wed., August 26, 2026	4 PM - 8 PM	Research Night
Wed., September 30, 2026	4 PM - 8 PM	Research Night
Wed., October 28, 2026	4 PM - 8 PM	Research Night
Wed., November 18, 2026	4 PM - 8 PM	Brick Walls
Wed., December 30, 2026	4 PM - 8 PM	Christmas Party

About the Genealogy Support Group

The Fenton's Genealogy Support Group serves to support both experienced and amateur researchers. We offer lectures, workshops, discussions, and research nights. These events are an excellent way to become familiar with the Fenton History Center's impressive collection of resources. Our Research Night expands the hours of operation of our research center to one evening per month.

LEARN MORE:

www.FentonHistoryCenter.org

GENEALOGY SUPPORT GROUP

2026 WORKSHOPS

Beginning Genealogy Workshops

*For people very new at research.
We will start with the basics—one step at a time.*

**ALL WORKSHOPS
HELD 10 AM - 2 PM
At the Mansion
*includes lunch***

- Part I - Sat., May 16, 2026
- Part II - Sat., Jul. 18, 2026
- Part III - Sat., Nov. 7, 2026

\$5
for members
\$10
for non members



Call us or
come in to register.



Register online at
[fentonhistorycenter.org/
workshops](https://fentonhistorycenter.org/workshops)

Sponsored by
**Jean Vandewark Olson Stowell
Genealogy Research & Education Fund**

Gov. Reuben E. Fenton Mansion

67 Washington Street | Jamestown, NY 14701
716-664-6256 | www.FentonHistoryCenter.org



LIBRARY ADDITIONS

Recently Added to the Hall House Library

- 1** | **The Marvin House**
Robert and Elizabeth and their home

- 2** | **How to Find Your Family History in U.S. Church Records**
Genealogist's guide

- 3** | **Life and Trial of Capt. John Brown**
Full account of Harper's Ferry insurrection

- 4** | **The White and Peck Family**

- 5** | **Ship Passenger Lists**
Volume 1

- 6** | **Bradley Genealogy 1875-1976**

- 7** | **Western New York Heritage Magazine**
Volume 28 Number 4

- 8** | **The Gamble Family of Butler Township Knox County, Ohio**

- 9** | **Jonas and Christina Anderson**
19th Century Swedish immigrants

- 10** | **Capital Salute: D-Day Plus 70**



RODGER'S

LAND SURVEYING

WANTED: A Table from the Maddox Table Company



Any size and any version. We do not have one in our collection, and would like one for our Furniture Exhibit.

ED-VENTURES AT THE MUSEUM

by **Elizabeth Gabalski**
EDUCATION COORDINATOR

May brought flowers... AND a lot of firsts! From a first bus tour group, to a first group of school students and more, we've been quite busy this last month!

On May 5th, we were visited by the Rill's Bus Service Group. They ventured to us from Maryland, and like most bus groups, came for all things Lucy. While our Lucy room is small, it was a favorite for them. They enjoyed their full visit and even overstayed what the driver had anticipated. Many compliments to the home, service, and to our phenomenal group guides Jim and Janet Wahlberg were heard throughout their stay. This was their first time with us, and we're looking forward to being on their regular route in the future.

We had a HUGE day of events on May 16th, including a genealogy workshop, opening day for Blue Star Museums, a drilling presentation and full set up by the NY 72nd Volunteer Civil War Reenactors for Armed Forces Day, and a hosting of an open sketchbook day to celebrate International Drawing Day. While we didn't have much visitation by Blue Star families or any sketchbook artists, our genealogy workshop was well attended and we had curious passersby who enjoyed the drilling reenactors. The weather was phenomenal and the grounds were buzzing all day in the best way!

A fantastic group of fourth graders from Robert H. Jackson Elementary School visited us on May 19th, and what a way to break in both my role as Education Coordinator AND also the basement classroom! With a lot of help from the full team, especially Andrew's work clearing out old computers and more, we were able to flip the entire classroom from storage into an actual usable Education Center set up with Victorian era games and crafts. Students even decorated their own teacups to be used at a Victorian tea party in the dining room. Board members Janet Wahlberg and Sharon Matson made spritz cookies and finger sandwiches for every student while Janet and volunteer Karlie Blodien taught about the tea trade, social etiquette, the language of fans and more. As an added bonus, we had Civil War reenactor Josh Densmore who demonstrated what it's like to set up and prepare camp, various items of gear and clothing that would have been used at the time, and even had photographs and stories of local servicemen to connect the students even further with the past. Our greatest compliments all around came from students who had "more fun than [they] expected to" and teachers who were "happy to watch the kids having fun without any screens"! Having not seen Frewsburg students in several years, this was a great way to get them back through our doors and experiencing all we have to

offer here at the Fenton!

And of course, not every ed-venture was had on our grounds this past month. My first tabling experience occurred at the Chautauqua County Chamber of Commerce's Inaugural "3rd on Third" event. As it was their first time, it was a bit under attended by both vendors and businesses, and wandering visitors, but it was a great opportunity to discuss what we do with folks who hadn't ever been to the Museum, were new to the area, or haven't been to visit us in a very long time. We're greatly looking forward to continuing to help the Chamber grow this event and participating more throughout the summer!

June is PACKED with various events, and while I'm very much looking forward to it all, I am starting to feel the pressure of fitting a full-time schedule into part-time hours! That said, if any of our regular readers have any interest in being tour guides, assisting with school groups, party and event planning, or possibly even tabling at events like CHQ Chamber's 3rd on Third or the Farmers' Market, please don't hesitate to reach out to me directly at education@fentonhistorycenter.org. I would love to discuss some of our upcoming summer events and workshops and see where your interests best fit!



THE FENTON
PRESENTS:

AN EDUCATOR DEVELOPMENT DAY

UNBOXING THE PAST: Investigating Lives Through Genealogy and Primary Sources

A Professional Development Day intended to provide area teachers with access to materials on local historical figures & individuals, classroom applicable materials, worksheets & rubrics, a tour of the Fenton Mansion, and an exploration of our Hall House Research Library & Artifact Storage.



Dates: July 16th, July 30th, and August 13th from 9AM-4PM

Where: Fenton History Center

67 Washington Street, Jamestown, NY 14701

\$60 Cost Per Attendee:

Light refreshments available; Lunch not provided.

Registration required at least 60 days prior to chosen date of attendance.

Sign Up Today!

FENTON HISTORY CENTER | 67 WASHINGTON STREET, JAMESTOWN, NY 14701 ♦ (716) 664-6256

TALES FROM THE TEXTILE ROOM RESEARCHING A WORLD WAR I VETERAN

by Cindy Dustin
VOLUNTEER

We recently found a World War I uniform in The Fenton History Center's textile inventory. The only clue to the uniform's owner was the faint initials "WCP" written vertically on the inside lining of the coat.

With the help of Vets Finding Vets Coordinator Barb Cessna, we believe the uniform belonged to Willard C. Peterson. Sgt. Peterson served overseas from March 1918 until August 1919 and was with 3rd Division Medical Department Ambulance Co. 7. After the war Sgt. Peterson was very involved in and was a charter member of Ira Lou Spring Post #149, American Legion. He was active in the Post's Fife and Drum Corps, and he worked as a salesman in the Jamestown area. He and his family lived at 544 Front Street until his death in 1973.



(left) This medal represents the American Legion 12th National Convention, held Sept. 29-Oct. 9, 1930, in Boston. President Herbert Hoover was the keynote speaker.



(right) This uniform ribbon has individual pins with the names of World War I battles: Aisne (1914), Champagne Marne (July 15-18, 1918), Aisne Marne (Spring 1918), St. Mihiel (Sept. 12-16, 1918, the first major American-led offensive of the war), and Meuse-Argonne (Sept. 26-Nov. 11, 1918, which ended with the Armistice on Nov. 11, 1918. Over 1 million American soldiers participated in this battle). Sgt. Peterson enlisted May 19, 1917. He was 21 years old.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We are always looking for volunteers for different tasks and projects.
Below are three major needs for volunteers.

Contact us at (716) 664-6256, info@fentonhistorycenter.org, or stop in
and fill out a volunteer form.

LIST OF VOLUNTEER NEEDS

GIFT SHOP RECEPTION

We need reception coverage on certain days.
This involves starting tours and selling
merchandise in the gift shop.



SCAN LAB

We are in need of volunteers to help with digitization
projects in the Scan Lab. No experience necessary.

MOWING

We are also in need of volunteers to help
mow the lawn at the Research Center.



GARDEN

We need volunteers to help maintain
the Blue Star Memorial Garden.

EDUCATION AND EVENT VOLUNTEERS

We need volunteers to help for museum teach-
ers, docents, tour guides, party/event
planning assistants, public event tabling staff,
and more.



ANNOUNCING SCAN LAB 2.0!

by **Richard Roll**
SCAN LAB COORDINATOR

In the foyer of the mansion is a framed mission statement of the Fenton History Society. It reads in part...

...to provide education, collection, preservation, and exhibition of artifacts...

Note the mention of..."preservation."

With that in mind the, Fenton has set aside a place on the second floor of the Hall House to do just that. We call it Scan Lab 1.0! It houses the majority of the equipment that enables us to digitize the collection; four computers, four scanners, three printers, plus many ancillary items.

It didn't take very long before we realized a need for more space to house new equipment! A second room was acquired for a new scanner and computer donated by a Fenton supporter! It also



has a large work table for sorting special projects. We call the new room Scan Lab 2.0!

We have made significant progress in cataloging *Post-Journal* obituaries due to the acquisition of the high quality digital files that Wayne Leamer left to us. He was tireless in his efforts in this regard which will aid greatly to genealogy research!

If you are interested in volunteering and being a part of this great effort please stop in at the Hall house to say hello and get a free tour of the Scan Labs.

No experience is necessary!

CORPORATE MEMBER ADVERTISERS

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FENTON HISTORY CENTER 2026 LECTURE SERIES

FREE and open to the public!

All Lectures Held at on the Third Tuesday at 7:00 PM

APR 21 George Washington's Connections to Chautauqua Co.
presented by *Norman Carlson*

MAY 19 50th Anniversary of The King of Sweden's Visit
presented by *Joni Blackman*

JUN 16 Appreciating the Architecture of First Presbyterian Church at 100
presented by *John Smagner*

JUL 21 Four Wars, Four Branches:
The Extraordinary Service of Lloyd Peters
presented by *Barb Cessna*

AUG 18 Corry-Jamestown Corp.
presented by *Karen Livsey and Sam Genco*

SEPT 15 Lucille M. Wright Museum
presented by *Dennis Webster*

OCT 20 A Real Witch Hunt and Other Ghostly Delights
presented by *Rick DeKay*

About the Lecture Series:

The 2026 Fenton History Center Lecture Series features evening lectures held between April and October. These events are free and open to the public. Lectures are held in the dining room at the Gov. Reuben Fenton mansion. They are also streamed via Facebook. Donations are appreciated to support the Fenton History Center's mission to preserve local history and provide educational opportunities.

Thanks to our sponsor: Rodgers Land Surveying

67 Washington St., Jamestown, NY
(716) 664-6256 www.FentonHistoryCenter.org

THE RAILROADS OF JAMESTOWN PT. I

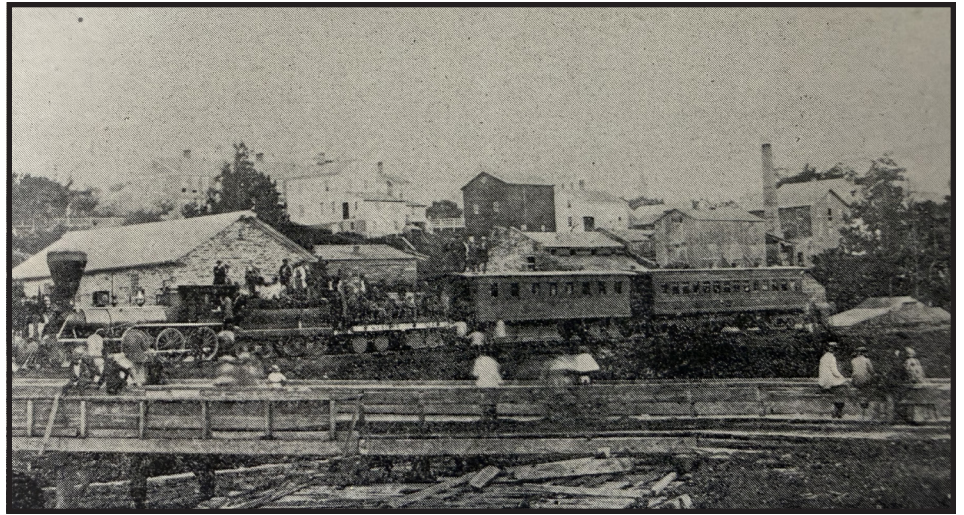
by Alvan Johnson
VOLUNTEER

In Jamestown's early days, transportation was either by foot, horse and wagon, flotation by boat or raft. A better, more efficient form of transport arrived here in 1860, as a rail line was being built through Chautauqua County.

Industry was being built up in Jamestown, much of it being furniture, lumber, and the tool industry. The entrepreneurial spirit was gaining ground in Jamestown, much of it around the Chadakoin River. The boat landing was growing too, as steamboats were the main source of transport from Jamestown to Mayville, stopping at the various villages growing along the Chautauqua Lake region.

During the early days of Jamestown, life was basically a working life. People worked in the various businesses, be it manufacturing (which was a major factor here), the store business, farming, and people sometimes did a ten-to-twelve-hour shift, after which they went home to get housework done.

Such was the culture here, and as business began to thrive, it was apparent that something was needed to transport various products from the factories to wherever the marketplace was. And now it was time to travel to



places that had never been seen.

Before railroads existed, people traveled by foot, horse, wagon, or boat, and most people never traveled 25 or 30 miles from home, not knowing what the rest of the world was like.

The railroad changed all that. Now, they could travel to where the tracks went.

Jamestown was no exception to that, and this the first train that pulled into town in 1860 proved that. The photo used here showed what has happened, and soon there were people packing a suitcase, and off they went to explore places they had never seen before. It was the dawn of a new age.

The retail trade and manufacturing businesses were also a benefactor of the new railroad age. Many retail stores featuring clothing and hardware were growing rapidly at this time. For

example, William Peterson operated a large lumber mill on East Second St., and could get all he needed from the freight yard located at what is now Winsor and Chandler St. There was a factory which made wooden buckets and other household items in the same area. There are some historical plaques placed in this area describing these operations. Not only could the businesses get the items needed for selling and manufacturing, they could ship the finished product out the same way.

Passenger service was also flourishing. Passenger trains stopped at the station located at the junction of West First and Cherry Streets, and had a spacious yard for wagons with horses. The railroad was owned and operated by the New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio Railroad, and shared the station with the New York, Lake Erie and Western Line.

Continued next month.



FENTON
HISTORY CENTER

2026 Schedule

FENTON HISTORY CENTER'S

Historic Tours

All tours are held on Saturdays at 10:00 AM.
All are walking tours, except Churches, which involves transportation between locations.

- JUN 6** Lakeview Ave. Tour *(start at Christ First UMC parking lot)*
- JUN 13** Allen Park *(start at Allen Park Bandshell)*
- JUN 20** Jamestown's Hidden Alleys *(start at Fenton Mansion)*
- JUN 27** Jamestown's Industrial Past *(start at Fenton Mansion)*
- JUL 11** Ladies of Lake View *(start at cemetery office)*
- JUL 18** Lakeview Ave. Tour *(start at Christ First UMC parking lot)*
- JUL 25** Allen Park *(start at Allen Park Bandshell)*
- AUG 8** Lucy Downtown *(start at Fenton Mansion)*
- AUG 8** Churches *(start at Jamestown Free Methodist Church, 515 E. 7th St.)*
- AUG 15** Jamestown's Industrial Past *(start at Fenton Mansion)*
- AUG 22** Jamestown's Hidden Alleys *(start at Fenton Mansion)*
- AUG 29** Military Tour at Lake View *(start at cemetery office)*

\$8 for Members \$12 for Non-Members

Full Circuit History Pass (access to all tours)

\$50 (members) \$80 (non-members)

Register online, by phone, or in-person in the Fenton Museum Store.

www.FentonHistoryCenter.org/historictours

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THE KING'S VISIT: EXHIBIT AND PRESENTATION ON 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF VISIT

by Andrew Kolstee
OFFICE MANAGER

On April 25, 1976, Jamestown welcomed a reigning monarch for the first and only time in its history. King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden, The King, then just 29 years old and newly on the throne, made a five-hour stop in Jamestown as part of a month-long tour of the United States during the nation's bicentennial celebration.

Why Jamestown? The answer was simple: roughly 45% of the city's population was of Swedish descent, and that pride in heritage had not gone unnoticed in



Stockholm. The visit was made possible through the efforts of Congressman Stanley Lundine, Consul of Sweden Daniel A. Isaacson, and a large committee of local organizers who spent over a

year in preparation.

The day did not go as planned. An icy downpour forced the King's plane to divert to Bradford Airport rather than landing at Chautauqua County Airport, throwing the carefully scheduled itinerary into immediate disarray. Yet despite the disruption, and the rain that persisted through much of the afternoon, thousands of Jamestown residents turned out. When the King finally emerged onto Tracy Plaza to address the crowd of some 8,000, the rain stopped. A 100-voice choir sang, Metropolitan Opera tenor and Jamestown native Douglas Ahlstedt performed, and the King knighted two local citizens, Bert Bloomquist and Reginald Lenna, with the Royal Order of the North Star. Roger Tory Peterson

...CONTINUED ON PAGE 21



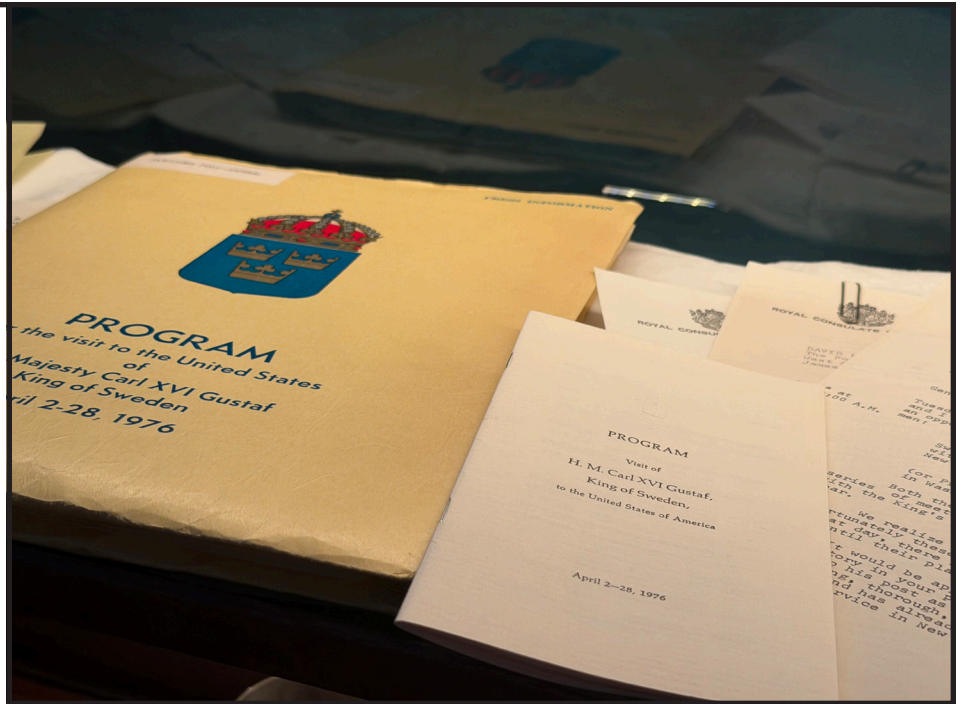
...CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

received the rare Linnaeus Gold Medal from the Swedish Academy of Sciences.

The King told the crowd, "I am happy to be in Jamestown. I do feel at home here. I almost feel like being back in Sweden." He closed with a promise "Jamestown is a place to come back to" that the crowd received with great enthusiasm.

On May 19, Executive Director Joni Blackman gave a presentation about this visit for the 2026 Lecture Series. Drawing on newspaper accounts, the book *Saga from the Hills* by M. Lorimer Moe, and personal recollections from those who were there, Joni shared photographs and stories from the planning, the weather, and the ceremony itself. The audience also heard firsthand from Kate Reed, who was among those present to witness the visit.

A companion exhibit opened the same evening and will remain on display through September 5.



Visitors can view artifacts from the occasion including the press program from the King's itinerary and materials gathered from area newspapers that covered the day.

The Fenton History Center invites anyone with memories, photographs, etc. of the King's visit are invited to share them for preservation. Stories may be submitted by email to stories@fentonhistorycenter.org.

The next event in the 2026

Fenton Lecture Series takes place on June 16, when architectural historian Dr. John Smagner presents "Appreciating the Architecture of First Presbyterian Church at 100."

As with all lectures in the series, the event is free, open to the public, and streamed via YouTube. Donations to support the Fenton History Center's mission are appreciated. Lectures are held in the dining room of the Gov. Reuben Fenton Mansion.



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The Visit of Carl XVI Gustaf, King of Sweden



Exhibit
Open
May 19
to
Sept. 5



Timeless Treasures

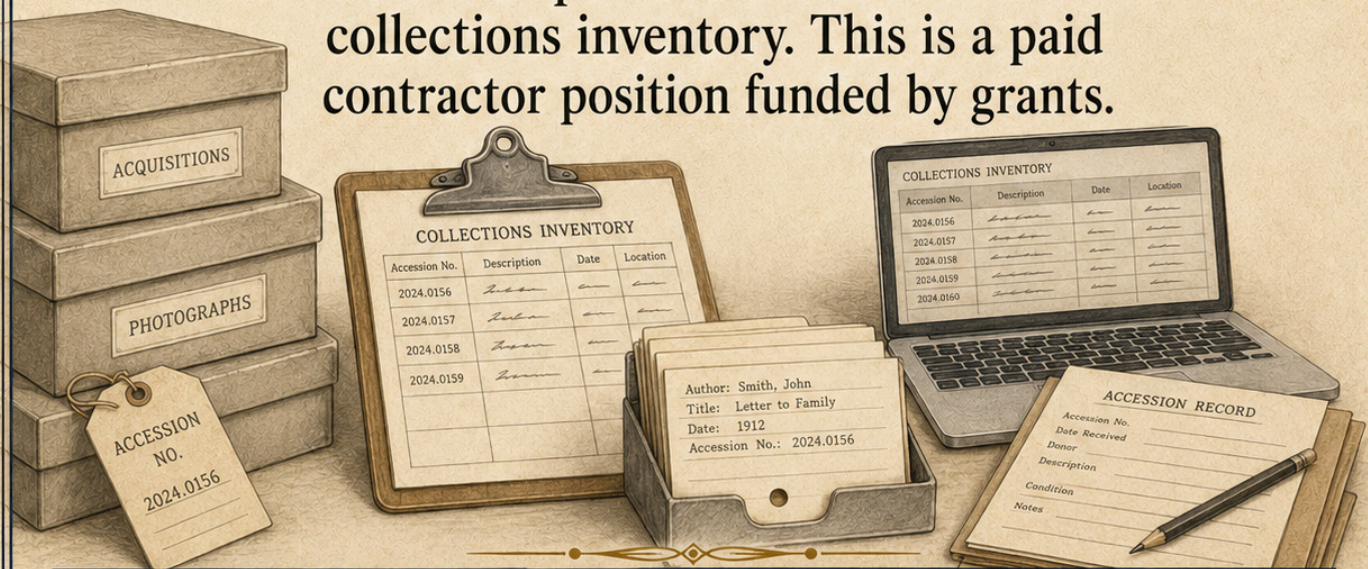
The exhibit shows examples of jewelry from the Fenton collection dating from the 1840s to the 1940s. Rings, bracelets, lockets, necklaces and watches from the early Victorian period (1837-1860) through World War II trench art, are all represented.

EXHIBIT OPEN THROUGH SEPTEMBER 5, 2026

Fenton History Center | 67 Washington Street | Jamestown, NY 14701

Fenton Seeking Collections Assistant

Individual available for up to 10 months, 35 hours per week to assist with collections inventory. This is a paid contractor position funded by grants.



Contact Joni Blackman at 716-664-6256



or director@fentonhistorycenter.org
for more information.

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SOLDIER'S FRIEND SCHOLARSHIP 2026 RECIPIENT: ALEX HUDSON

by Barbara Cessna
VETS FINDING VETS COORDINATOR

Vets Finding Vets is proud to announce that Alex Hudson has received the 2026 Soldiers' Friend Scholarship! Alex was the choice of the judges because of his two years with ROTC while attending Niagara University, and for his future plan for becoming a Chaplain and an Officer in the US Army.

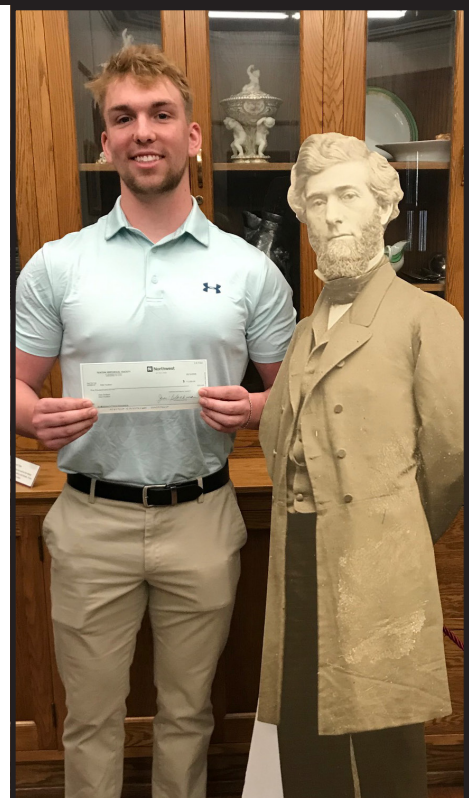
Alex visited the Fenton History Center and received the Military Tour through the Fenton Mansion/Museum and also the check for \$1,000 for his further education toward his goal.

Gov. Fenton was referred to as the Soldier's Friend from bills that he was successful in passing while still a representative in Congress, having to do with the livelihood of the aged Veterans of the Revolution and the War of 1812. The list is long regarding the many Civil War related Soldier and Veteran issues that he attended to prior to becoming Governor and after. The Soldiers' Friend Scholarship also gives us an opportunity to highlight the Veteran and Patriotic groups



who met in the Fenton Home after it was purchased by the city in 1919 to become a Soldier and Sailor Memorial.

Congratulations to Alex, we can see he has a bright future ahead. It's also easy to see that he will enjoy the challenges of his journey.





FENTON
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arts.gov/bluestarmuseums

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SAT., MAY 16, 2026 (ARMED FORCES DAY)

TO

MON., SEPT. 7, 2026 (LABOR DAY)

FENTON HISTORY CENTER | 67 WASHINGTON ST. | JAMESTOWN, NY 14701

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SECOND SATURDAY
OF EACH MONTH
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AT 67 WASHINGTON STREET
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SECOND SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH

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★ FEB 14	★ AUG 8
★ MAR 14	★ SEP 12
★ APR 11	★ OCT 10
★ MAY 9	★ NOV 14
★ JUN 13	★ DEC 12



★ For more information ★



CALL US AT
716-664-6256



EMAIL BARB CESSNA AT
veterans@fentonhistorycenter.org



ATTENTION VETERANS!

Vets Finding Vets is a free program for Chautauqua County veterans at the Fenton History Center.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ **Research Services.** We provide family genealogy and local history research services, helping veterans discover their roots and also connect with those in which they have served.
- ★ **Fenton Canteen.** A monthly gathering for veterans to enjoy coffee, cookies, and camaraderie. Held the second Saturday each month from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the dining room at the Fenton.
- ★ **Buffalo Niagara Honor Flight.** We help facilitate the application process for veterans wishing to participate in the Honor Flight to see the war monuments in Washington, D.C.
- ★ **Quilts of Valor.** Family members can nominate veterans to receive a handmade quilt through this program.
- ★ **News and Events:** We share information about veteran-related events and happenings in the community.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Barb Cessna, Vets Finding Vets Project Coordinator
(716) 664-6256 | veterans@fentonhistorycenter.org
Fenton History Center | 67 Washington Street | Jamestown, NY 14701

FENTON HISTORY CENTER MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Your membership is vital for keeping the museum and research center running!
- Memberships run January - December. Memberships purchased between September 1 and December 31 are good through December 31 of the following year.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- Unlimited complimentary admission to the Governor Reuben Fenton Mansion.
- Unlimited access to the Hall House Research Center.
- Reduced fee for Fenton events and programs unless specified.
- A 10% discount to the museum gift shop.
- Members only e-mail updates.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

- Student \$15
- Senior (age 62+) \$30
- Veteran \$30
- Individual (under age 62) \$40
- Family \$75. Includes 2 adults. All children in the household under 18 are included.

SUPPORTING MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

- Supporting \$120. Includes 4 complimentary admission passes for guests.
- Friend of Fenton \$250. Includes 6 complimentary admission passes for guests.
- Representative's Circle \$360. Includes 8 complimentary admission passes for guests.
- Senator's Circle \$500. Includes 16 complimentary admissions for guests, lunch with Executive Director, and a behind the scenes tour of the Gov. Reuben Fenton Mansion for up to four people, a free book from our gift shop, and a Fenton branded t-shirt.
- Governor's Circle \$1,000. Includes unlimited complimentary admissions for guests, lunch with Executive Director, a behind the scenes tour of Gov. Reuben Fenton Mansion for up to four people, a behind the scenes tour of Hall House Research Center for four people, a free book from our gift shop, and a Fenton branded t-shirt.

You can also process your membership payment online and have the option to set your membership to automatically renew each year. Thank you for your support!

FENTONHISTORYCENTER.ORG/MEMBERSHIP

Trivia answers from page 7.

(A1) Hurlberg Importation Co. (A2) 7th Street and 4th Street (A3) Eleazer Daniels
(A4) Warren Street (A5) Dan Drake Jr.

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1752 Foote Avenue
Jamestown, NY 14701

Mon-Wed 9 AM to 5 PM
Thursday 9 AM to 2 PM
Friday 9 AM to 5 PM
Saturday 10 AM to 4 PM



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