The past few weeks have almost felt familiar at the Fenton. Every year, around this time, there’s always the sudden realization that, gasp, Saints and Sinners is just around the corner. Cue the mad rush to organize volunteers, research and write scripts, and make sure everyone knows what a fun program we’ve put together this year. I’m amazed, year after year, that we keep finding incredible history in Lake View Cemetery that we haven’t used before – stories of incredible courage, stories of civic and national service, stories of shocking criminality and soap-opera level drama. If there was ever any doubt that Jamestown had a wonderful and unique history, reading through our 15 years of collected stories would dispel it immediately. Even with the stress and pressure of planning this event, parts of it have felt quite welcome this year, as it feels like what I would normally be doing in September.

That being said, it wouldn’t be 2020 without the dreaded “pivot,” and the need to make changes or adapt to new formats. Our walking tours are close to normal this year, though we’ll require participants to wear masks, and guides will have portable microphone/speaker set-ups to encourage social distancing without having to sacrifice hearing what they’re saying. In a sad decision, the carriage tours were cancelled this year, as there was no real way to run them safely. Fortunately, our Curator, Victoria Parker, has stepped up very capably to create brand-new virtual tours this year. These have all the entertainment and educational value of our regular tours, but without needing to leave the comfort of your home. Victoria was promoted into her position in March, shortly before the pan-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2
October is finally here! There are many exciting things happening at the Fenton over the next few weeks.

We are decorated for Halloween! Come visit us and tour our non-scary Halloween exhibits based on gothic literature for some safe, socially distanced holiday fun. Decorations are up now through October 31st!

Saints and Sinners Cemetery Tours are back this year, in virtual and in-person walking tour formats. Virtual tours are October 2 & 9 at 7pm and walking tours are October 3 & 10 from 1-8. Call the Fenton at 716-664-6256 today to sign up! Walking tours will be socially distanced, and masks are required. Come have some safe fall fun with us.

Our annual Monster Mash Halloween House Tours have gone virtual this year! Join us at 7PM on the evening of October 23rd for the Virtual Monster Mash: A Historic Haunted House for some Halloween fun from home. Viewers will see, and learn, about some of the many “monsters” from classic literature. The tour will be presented via Zoom and can be enjoyed from the comfort of your own home. This tour is spooky, but not scary, and promises to be good family friendly Halloween fun.

New this year we are holding a Halloween open house on Saturday October 31st 10-4, there will be fun photo opportunities and take-and-make activities for the kids. Standard admission rates apply. $10 adults, Children 17 & under free with paying adult.

We are looking forward to November, and our annual Holiday exhibit. This year’s theme is the Nutcracker. More details on that to come.

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demic went into full effect; it was a difficult position to be in, to learn a new job while navigating a new world. She has handled the transition very calmly and ably, and brought her talents to this project, along with a wonderful team of volunteers. I hope you reading this will consider giving our virtual tours a shot this year, and tune in to see more of Victoria’s work on our virtual Halloween event later in October.

Our Saints and Sinners tours this year kick off tomorrow night, Friday, October 2nd, with our first round of virtual tours. There will be another chance at them next Friday, the 9th, if you can’t make tomorrow. Walking tours are from 1-8 p.m. on Saturday the 3rd and the 10th – reserve your spot ahead of time to save money on the ticket price and guarantee the time you want, but feel free to come by if you find you have time on those days. We also will have our Mausoleum Tours on Sunday, October 11th – don’t miss this rare chance to see inside the beautiful, historic mausoleums of Lake View Cemetery. If you have any questions, or want to make reservations, please call us at the Fenton at 716-664-6256 – we’re there every day except Sunday. Thanks to everyone in our community for the ongoing support of the Fenton and our programming!
The Fenton History Center presents the 15th Annual Saints & Sinners Cemetery Tours and Mausoleum & More Tours at Lake View Cemetery in Jamestown at the corner of Buffalo St and Lakeview Ave. Hear Costumed Actors tell revealing stories about Jamestown’s famous- and infamous- former residents.

Walking Tours
Saturday October 3rd & 10th, 2020
1pm-4pm and 6pm-8pm
Tours starting every 20 minutes
Last tour starts at 8pm.

$10 adults presale/$2 children
(Adults at the gate $12)
Fenton Members ONLY $5
Join Now!
Group sizes will be limited!

All participants and tour guides are required to wear masks and practice social distancing. Tour sizes will be limited and we politely ask that if you do not attend if you are feeling ill.
Due to the current guidelines there will be no Carriage tours offered in 2020.

New Virtual Cemetery Tour will be hosted via Zoom on October 2nd and 9th, 2020 at 7pm. See some of Jamestown’s past inhabitants from the comfort and safety of your own home.
Zoom tour tickets are $10. Link will be emailed to you the day of the event. Paper tickets are also available Please provide your email address at registration.

Events sell out fast! Buy your tickets now.
Tickets available at Fenton History Center- 67 Washington Street (Rte. 60 and Main St.)- Jamestown NY
For Information and Reservations call (716)664-6256 or visit www.fentonhistorycenter.org
Join the Fenton History Center via Zoom on Friday October 23rd at 7PM for this one of a kind haunted house experience.
Meet some of our favorite monsters, who all got their start in Victorian Literature, or before!
This family-friendly Monster Mash promises to be a spooky experience for the whole family.

Tickets are just $10 and can be purchased by calling the Fenton History Center at (716)664-6256 or on our website
www.fentonhistorycenter.org/event/virtual-monster-mash

Login information for the Zoom event will be emailed the day of the event. Paper tickets are also available at the Fenton Gift shop.
A
Halloween Open House

Come take a self guided tour of the Fenton History Center’s 1864 Mansion decorated for Halloween. Enjoy fun photo opportunities, take-and-make activities for the kids, and our historic Halloween exhibit.

October 31st 10-4
Admission:
Adults $10
Children Free!

Masks are required, and costumes are highly encouraged!

Guests are encouraged to make reservations, as capacity in the house at one time is limited.

Call the Fenton History Center at 716-664-6256 for more details.

Fenton History Center
67 Washington Street
Jamestown, NY 14701
Genealogy Support Group Presents:

DNA Workshops

a 3 part series

Oct 24, Nov 7, and Nov 21,
10:30 to 12:30.

$20 per session or $50 for all 3 sessions
$25 for all 3 sessions for Fenton History Center Members.
Please call the Fenton History Center to reserve your spot.
716-664-6256.

Workshops are being held both in person and on Zoom. In person participants are asked to wear a mask during the workshops. Space is limited.

DNA Part 1: Introduction
This class is focused on introducing autosomal DNA, including testing companies such as AncestryDNA, FamilyTree DNA, 23andMe, and MyHeritage.

DNA Part 2: Using DNA Results in Genealogical Research
This class is focused on strategies to get started with analyzing your DNA results, and introducing you to the terminology and basics of DNA analysis. Learn how to use your DNA results, chromosome browsers, review your matches' number of centiMorgans and be introduced to websites that help with DNA analysis, such as GEDmatch.

DNA Part 3: Chromosome Mapping and DNA Charting
Mapping your DNA is a crucial part of DNA analysis. Learn how to take the data from various DNA websites and use it to map your chromosomes with DNA Painter and be introduced to a strategy for mapping Ancestry.com DNA matches without a company chromosome browser.
A donation that came in recently caught my eye as something fitting for the present moment – it included a two cent postcard, unmailed and unused that was preprinted thus:

Dear Parent:

The second dose of the polio vaccine will be Given at ______ at ___________ o’clock.

Very sincerely yours,

Public Health Nurse

Polio, short for poliomyelitis, also known as infantile paralysis, is a viral disease known only in humans. It is thought to have existed at least since the time of ancient Egypt, perhaps much longer. The majority of cases are asymptomatic and most of the symptomatic cases are mild and the effects temporary. In early times infants were nearly universally exposed and infected but the effects were least likely to result in permanent damage in that age group.

In a small percentage of cases polio can permanently paralyze the legs or even the diaphragm. In such cases, tank ventilators called “iron lungs” were the first means used to extend life. One of these is in our collection.

By around 1900 public sanitation in some parts of the world, including the U.S., had progressed to the point where exposure was less common for infants, but still left older children and adults susceptible. Epidemics became more and more common, particularly in summer. Public fear of the disease stimulated the first large scale disease-centered charitable appeals. The March of Dimes became almost as familiar and popular as Christmas. Rehabilitative medicine and the institutional and political push for disabled rights got their start with polio also.

Thanks to a robust scientific and social response, polio is no longer the terror of American parents. The development and distribution of a vaccine for this widespread disease impacted the entire planet, and has almost completely obliterated any trace of it.

The first shipment of the Salk polio vaccine arrived in Jamestown on April 15, 1955. It had been announced to the world only days before, on April 12. The Salk vaccine was administered as three shots, given a few weeks apart. It was later replaced by the live virus Sabine vaccine, given orally. This occurred around 1962, which was also about the time that the City Health Department moved into the Fenton Mansion.

The vaccine virus proliferates in the gut, and can spread spontaneously, but it is unable to infect or damage nerves. Vaccination efforts have wiped out the disease in most of the world except for a few pockets of poverty and remoteness or where opposed by cultural or religious beliefs.

COMMUNITY TREASURES
by Norman Carlson, Collections Manager

Norman Carlson with iron lung.
VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:
STEVE HATFIELD
by Janet Wahlberg, Trustee

Steve Hatfield has been our Tuesday Volunteer at the Hall House for several years. He works diligently on any project that Barb assigns to him. Together with Kathy Barber he has provided many answers to the community’s genealogical questions, including a eureka moment that he tells about in his story below. I will allow Steve to tell his story in his own words.

I was born and raised in Sherman, went to school there. I also have two AAS Degrees from JCC - Electrical Tech & Mechanical Tech.

I had many jobs in my youth including farm work, Quality Markets, Urick Foundry, GE in Erie (brake press operator), Quality Telecommunications (installing telephone equipment), Bush Industries for 26 years (where I made a career in the world of Quality) and currently 3 days a week at Mapleval where I fix coffee machines and such. I have probably forgotten a few jobs along the way.

In 2012 I broke my leg playing soccer - I have witnesses! I was working at Bush at the time but after I was off for 10 weeks, they set me free. Finding another opening proved to be difficult so I had time on my hands. I contacted RSVP and they gave me a long list of volunteer opportunities. I picked a couple and having a life-long interest in history, Fenton was one of them.

I consider myself a dabbler in genealogy, I like researching things. A couple of weeks ago a batch of old family photos came in and Kathy Barber and I were able to nail down one person. It was enough for Norman to reach out to someone working on her family tree via Ancestry. I like the “eureka” moment when you are able to “crack a nut” like that.

I have a pretty wide range of interests that I like to pursue in my spare time from gardening to carpentry to the ’77 El Camino to checking out pictures on my trail cam. But one thing I spend a lot of time on is coins. I research coins and write about them in the local coin club newsletter. One of my articles got a little extra research and I sent it to the Numismatist, the magazine of the ANA - the national coin club. It will be in their magazine in January (I am told) so I am about to go pro. I see coins as little pieces of history.

What else would I like to add? The fun never ends. Sooner or later I would like to make time to help Dr. Greer with the ongoing archaeology project. And I would like to break a couple of brick walls in my family tree.