



FENTON HISTORY CENTER

museum and research center



2007 Annual Report

67 Washington St., Jamestown, NY
716-664-6256 www.fentonhistorycenter.org

From the President:

January 21, 2008

Dear Fellow Members and Supporters,

Once again, another year has flown by. In 2007, the Fenton History Center was humming with activity. We are now well into our capital campaign and remain steadfast in continuing efforts to secure the viability of the Fenton History Center. Although this is a long-term commitment, the Fenton Board of Trustees have maintained their enthusiasm and drive to achieve the ultimate goal.



President Julie Hull gives a tour of the Fenton on Family Day, 2007.

As this is my final year as President, I will be handing the reins to our new president, Mike Rohlin. Mike and his family have not only been Fenton members for a number of years, but have participated and volunteered in many of our activities at the mansion. I feel confident that he will prove to be an asset to the Board and the Fenton History Center.

Many thanks to past and present trustees, volunteers, and staff who have given their time, energy and resources for the mission of the Fenton History Center.

Best Wishes in 2008,

Julie Hull

Julie Hull
Board of Trustees



From the Director

Dear Friends,

2007 was an event filled year. I think these two images capture two of our goals. I love to see the piles of winter coats. It means a group of future historians is exploring their local history. Secondly, the Mansion hosted it's first wedding since 1870! The community loves the Fenton Mansion and they want to include it in their everyday life. This was shown over and over again at our events. Families, young couples, and grandparents – everyone was learning about their hometown stories.

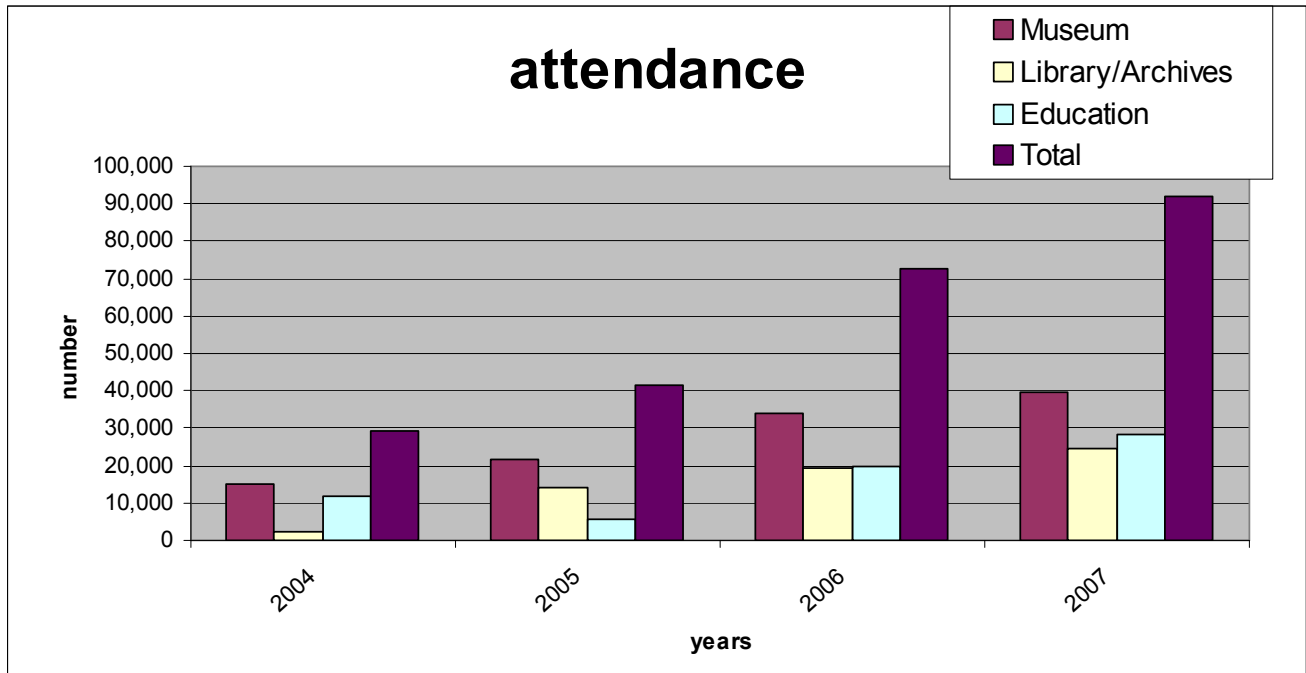
My report is on a separate insert because there was so much happening this past year. I encourage you to read it. My hope is you will find a project or interest that compels you to become a part of the important work (and play) that we do at the Fenton. I wish everyone a good and prosperous 2008.

Sincerely,

Joni Blackman

Joni Blackman

ATTENDANCE AND WEBSITE USAGE



- The number of visitors in 2007 to the Governor’s Mansion remained about the same as 2006. The off-site exhibits located in the front window of Downtown Jamestown Development Corporation and the new exhibit space at the Robert H. Jackson Center brought an additional 5,500 visitors in contact with the Fenton History Center. The website’s museum pages visits grew by 31%.
- The library/research center had a 22% decrease in researchers and genealogists, while the website’s library/research center pages visits increased by 41%. This trend is not surprising. Researchers are using the Internet as their main source of information. It is imperative that the Fenton’s holdings be listed on the website to draw researchers to our facility.



Photo by Karen E. Livsey

- The education department public school programming attendance figures remained static at the 2006 level because of the changes in the elementary level test schedules. However, “Mr. Lincoln’s War” website and the added information pages about Grace Galloway, Manufacturing in Jamestown, and Lucille Ball increased the website usage by 67%!
- The website is our largest classroom. The expansion of the “Mr. Lincoln’s War” pages and the upcoming addition of the “Intersections” Underground Railroad pages will bring many new visitors. A NYS Education Department Legislative Grant by New York State Senator Young funded the website redesign, upgrades and additional content management. You can now sign up for workshops, buy from the gift shop and renew your membership online.
- The website unique page visits, those visits that opened more then one page over the course of less then 30 minutes, increased by 43%!

• The most popular pages were: the list of manufacturers from 1800 to 1938, various Lucille Ball exhibit pages, the free images page, the Civil War timeline, and the genealogy request form.

FINANCIAL REPORT 2007

	2007 Year End	2007 Annual Budget
Income		
Municipal Assistance	\$16,000.00	\$16,000.00
County Assistance	\$7,584.00	\$7,584.00
Fundraising	\$18,975.53	\$34,695.00
Donations	\$9,547.00	\$3,700.00
CRCF Fund and interest	\$6,974.58	\$6,050.00
Memberships	\$15,355.80	\$28,500.00
Gift Shop Donation	\$8,416.64	\$5,000.00
Memorials	\$540.00	\$500.00
Subtotal	\$83,393.55	\$102,029.00
Program Grants	\$30,895.00	\$45,900.00
Earned Income	\$32,307.47	\$34,720.00
Total Income	\$146,596.02	\$182,649.00
Expense		
Administration	\$75,231.56	\$70,788.32
Programming		
Education	\$15,521.00	\$23,525.08
Collections	\$16,995.55	\$26,570.96
Exhibits	\$2,023.51	\$25,000.08
Library	\$13,155.66	\$16,424.08
Total Programming	\$47,695.72	\$91,520.20
Gift Shop Expense	\$5,702.56	
Advertising & Fundraising	\$5,802.32	\$9,235.85
Maintenance & Repairs	\$5,430.46	\$3,354.55
Miscellaneous	\$4,738.73	\$7,750.08
Subtotal	\$21,674.07	\$20,340.48
General Operating Expense	\$144,601.35	\$182,649.00
Restricted Expense	\$7,130.74	
Total Expense	\$151,732.09	\$182,649.00
Net Ordinary Income	(\$5,136.07) \$	-

Income was short by 3%. This was due to a lower than expected membership renewal income and fewer grants. The 2008 budget is \$152,000 which is in line with the 2007 income line.

Give the gift of membership - One size fits all.

THE FENTON HISTORY CENTER MISSION STATEMENT – WHAT WE DO

The mission of the Fenton History Center – Museum & Library is to provide educational and cultural opportunities for the residents of Chautauqua County and its visitors through the collection, preservation and exhibition of artifacts and archival materials pertaining to Jamestown, New York and Chautauqua County.

THE FENTON HISTORY CENTER VISION STATEMENT – WHERE WE WANT TO BE

As a trusted steward of the community's heritage, the Fenton History Center – Museum & Library will champion the preservation and interpretation of regional history by maintaining the foremost historical center of its kind in southwestern New York. Research based exhibits and innovative programming will inspire people of all ages to enjoy, appreciate, and understand the rich history of Jamestown and the surrounding area, as reflected by the FHC's extensive collection and library holdings. The dedicated staff, membership and Board of Trustees will work together to build a strong, dynamic organization and expand the reach and scope of the FHC's activities.

The Fenton History Center will ensure the preservation of the Fenton Mansion, while providing adequate facilities to meet the growing needs of the organization and the people it serves. A superior regional history and genealogy research center will accommodate local and visiting researchers. The facilities will also afford space for state-of-the-art storage, educational programs, collections management, exhibit preparation, and visitor orientation.

The staff and Board of Trustees will offer responsible and enthusiastic leadership for the

FENTON HISTORY CENTER STAFF**STAFF OF THE FENTON HISTORY CENTER**

Joni Blackman, Director
 Paula Bechmann, Office Manager & Housekeeping
 Norman Carlson, Collections Manager
 Barbara Cessna, Researcher
 Frances Fair, Education Director
 Karen Livsey, Librarian/Archivist
 Sylvia Lobb, Registrar/Volunteer Coordinator
 Thomas Lobb, Maintenance

Volunteer Staff:

Phoebe Forbes, Textile Curator
 Sam Olson, Collections Frances TeCulver, Genealogist
 Kathy Barber, Researcher Doris Levin, Librarian

future. Professionally trained, the staff will provide direction in the implementation of current best practices. To strengthen the FHC's ability to accomplish its mission, an informed Board of Trustees will provide additional guidance and strive to secure the fiscal health of the organization for years to come.

The Fenton History Center will also reach beyond the walls of the Fenton Mansion to engage area residents, students, visitors, and institutions with an increasing variety of activities. Off-site, traveling, and web-based exhibits will compliment multi-media in-house exhibits. Web-based technology will enhance the services offered by the library and research center. Whenever possible, the FHC will collaborate with other historical agencies, non-profit organizations, schools, and businesses. The FHC will be recognized as an indispensable asset to the intellectual and cultural life of the surrounding community.



President Lincoln, portrayed by Thomas Leahy, speaks to a class in the Governor's Drawing Room.



A Museum Teacher leads a class through the *Deck the Halls* exhibit.

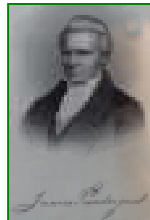
TELLING THE COMMUNITY’S STORY

- Exhibits serve as a bridge to awareness and knowledge of our unique local history by presenting a personal understanding of the collection



Noble Barns

Explore the beauty, nostalgia and stories of the barns of Chautauqua County.
June 16 to September 30



Chautauqua County’s Early Irish Settlers
With emphasis on the James Prendergast Family
March 17 to June 15



Exhibits prepared and shown off-site:

At DJDC : *Noble Barns*

At the Robert H. Jackson Center: *Robert H. Jackson: A Personal Glimpse, from the Harold Jackson Adams Collection*

At the *Icing on the Cake* Event in Mayville: *Birth of the Republican Party*

For all exhibits: 3,458 on-sight visitors 10,323 website visitors 5,500 off-sight visitors

Guest Curators Julie Hull, Paula Bechmann, Andrew DuFresne, Brenda Wehrenberg

Thank You for Your Support

PLANNED GIVING

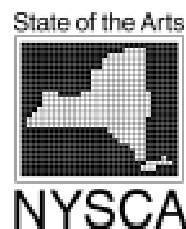
Winslow T. Shearman – purchase of a life insurance policy which will contribute the sum of at least \$50,000 in unrestricted funds.

If you would like information regarding opportunities for Planned Giving or the benefits of a gift of appreciated securities or other property please contact Joni Blackman, Director at 716-664-6256

MEMORIALS are a meaningful way to show the family you care and to support the work of the Fenton History Center.

GRANTS

- Ralph C. Sheldon Foundation, Inc. \$150,000 Challenge Grant
- NYS Legislative Grant (Sen. C. Young’s Office) \$20,000
- Chautauqua Region Community Foundation \$3,725
- Jessie Smith Darrah Foundation \$3,670
- Rotary Club of Jamestown \$1,500
- New York State Council on the Arts Decentralization Grant \$1,000
- Upstate History Alliance \$1,000



Past Recipient



GOVERNOR’S CIRCLE \$1000+

City of Jamestown
Anonymous Donor

Chautauqua County
The Lenna Foundation

Gregory & Julie Hull

CONTRIBUTORS \$100+

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Harrington, Sandberg Architecture & Engineering

Business Partner Level \$125

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Jamestown Area Medical Associates
South Hills Country Club
Jamestown Board of Public Utilities
The Legend Group
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Short & Smith Insurance
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Frank A. Zimba, MD

Business Sponsor Level \$250

Streetwise Creative Group
Stormer Mechanical Services

Business Member Level \$75

Bureau Veritas Certification
Moran’s Floor Store

*Thank you to the area businesses that have
chosen to help preserve and collect
Jamestown’s history.
Please add them to your list of preferred
businesses!*

GOODS & PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Media One Group, The Post-Journal, The Dunkirk Observer, The Warren Times, Westfield Republican, Time Warner Cable 8 News, The Coffee Exchange, Axiom Business Machines, Merrill Lynch, Dan Gates at the Frame & Glass Shoppe, The VanNauker Family, Julie Hull, Jack Ericson, Streetwise Creative Group, Doug Hoisington for Earth Spark, Linda Cowan for Fine Print Design Studio, Quality Markets, Harrington Sandberg Architecture & Engineering, Adrienne Ploss, RJR Engineering, P.C., Ludwig Auctions, J & J Roofing, Frito-Lay, Inc., Pepsi Bottling Group, The City of Jamestown Parks Department, Adrienne Ploss.

THANK YOU— WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!**ACTIVE MEMBERS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2007**

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Dwight Willson
Frances Wolinsky
Stephen Wright
Mr. & Mrs. John Yaggie
Allen J. Yahn

Thank you to all of our members!! Your support is our future.

SERVING THROUGH VOLUNTEERISM

➤ For every paid staff member 16 people volunteer their time and services.

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Sam Genco, Co-Secretary
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Matthew Kraft
Liz Wendt



“Frank Stone” (Mat Hagberg) speaking about his life in Jamestown at the Saints & Sinners Cemetery Tours

Community Helping Hands:

Pastor Tim Heyer, Dale Peterson
Gary Lynn
Emily Carpenter
Mike Fair
Michelle Buhite
The Hull Family
Sara Reale
Lisa Schermerhorn
Mary Rapaport

*A Victorian Christmas Carol Cast
Lake View Cemetery Tour Actors*

Josh Briggs
Christine Blackman
Aubry Richer
Denise Guinnane:
Marlene Mudge
Bob Terreberry
Trish and Galen Rhodes
Mat Hagberg
Tom Franco
Gail Grundstrom

Annual Business Meeting

The Annual Business Meeting of the Fenton History Center will be held at 7 pm on Thursday, February 7, 2008 at the Fenton Mansion, 67 Washington St. Jamestown.

All current members of the Fenton Historical Society are invited to attend.

The membership will be electing Trustees to serve the 2007-2008 term.

If you plan to attend, please R.S.V.P., 664-6256



The Museum Shop

Valentine's Day Cards Valentine's Day gifts

Local Books - Wooden Toys - Children's Books

"SEE YOURSELF IN THE MOVIES"

1941 VIDEO

JAMESTOWN COVERLET MAKES A GREAT WEDDING GIFT!

Members receive a 10% discount!

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