2009 Annual Report

67 Washington St., Jamestown, NY
716-664-6256    www.fentonhistorycenter.org
January 15, 2010

Dear Friends,

I watched this year as people came to events and passed through the Fenton Mansion and noticed something that maybe I had not seen before, people really like and enjoy what we are doing and trying to accomplish at the Fenton History Center. I have attended most of the events that we have sponsored this year and was at Doors Open Jamestown and even ran the mansion one Sunday during the Christmas season. In all of them someone commented to me about how much they enjoy and appreciate what we are doing, as well as how much they learned. To me that tells me that we are accomplishing what we are setting out to do and that is, in addition to preserving things and the history of the area, educating and explaining to the community how wonderfully rich the history of Jamestown and Chautauqua County truly is. It is for that reason that I have counted it a privilege to serve as the president of the board of trustees this year.

It has been a good year for the organization. We have moved forward on projects and ideas when it would seem like we should stop, given the state of the nation. In each case going forward was the right move. We began work and completed the permanent exhibit on the Underground Railroad operations in Chautauqua County. This exhibit features the incredible work that individuals in our area did to assist those black slave who were pursuing freedom in the years before the Civil War. The display shows how much of a difference individual people can make in changing the world of others and as you look at it one feels challenged to do the same for people today. History has a way of shaping our personal future, and that is one of the reason I enjoy it.

The events that we held this year were successful, although they may not have been as profitable as we would have hoped, all of them were well attended and none lost money. It is great to see so many different people attend our Fenton Institute classes, our Red, White, and Blue Event in June, the Old-Fashioned Day in August, the Civil War Encampment in September, the cemetery and mausoleum tours in October, the Christmas displays in December, and new this year a holiday Victorian tea for girls and their dolls. Different people attended each of these events and that tells me that we are reaching different people throughout our region. People are choosing the Fenton to be a part of their lives. There are new ideas for this year and there are joint advertising campaigns with other attractions in our county to reach more people and bring more people into the region to visit the Fenton History Center and attend our events. We are also continuing to work on expanding into the Hall House that we purchased last year and much work has been going into that house in order for it to meet our needs. This will allow us to do even more to advance our mission. Thank yous are in order for all who have helped to make all these things take place.

Many people work very hard to make things happen at the Fenton. We have a tremendous director and great staff members who make sure that the day-to-day operations are attended to and to make these events happen. The Education department is discussing history with thousands of students each year and many people utilize the vast resources of our research library. It is hard work finding the money and resources to keep such a great facility operating and to provide so many with information that is not duplicated anywhere. It is impressive to think that the Fenton History Center is a one-of-a-kind operation, but it really is. I want to personally thank all of the people who see it as that and work so hard to make it possible for the Center to fulfill its mission. Our staff, the board of trustees, our volunteers, our sponsors, and all of our members are what make it possible for all this to happen. This is what makes people who attend smile and say, "I think that you are doing a great job."

Thank you for your support in 2009 and thank you in advance for what you are going to do to make 2010 an even greater and more memorable year.

Respectfully,

Michael T. Rohlin, President, Fenton History Center Board of Trustees
From the Director

Dear Members and Friends,

2009 was a year where I saw a turn around in the way the local community viewed and used the Fenton History Center — yes, I said used. The Fenton is a community resource that is always ready to be tapped for information, events and educational programming as long as they are tied to our mission to collect, preserve and educate about our local history. The weekly Post-Journal Hometown History articles and This Week in Local History emails have really opened the artifact and archival "vaults" to the community to show them what it takes to maintain and advance the work of a historical society.

The Fenton History Center partnered with a number of community groups and individuals to bring history alive. A few of the collaborations were performance oriented; others were steeped in our local stories. From Paul Leone’s presentations of Whitman’s "Lilacs" and Poe readings to the strong collaborative presentation of the modified "Spoon River Anthology" that took place in Lake View Cemetery, the humanities were well represented in the Fenton events in 2009. Thank you to the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation as well as the individual sponsors that made the events possible. Another wonderful collaboration, which grew out of a 2008 relationship, was the expansion of the Civil War re-enactors participation in the Blue & Gray 2009 community day with special programming for Jamestown Public Schools 7th and 8th graders.

Work continues on the Hall Home renovations — ultimately many of the work functions that are now crowded into the Fenton Mansion will be housed in the Hall Home. That will allow particular Fenton Mansion exhibits to be re-interpreted and restoration of a few significant rooms to further tell the Jamestown Victorian-era story. All of these upgrades are very, very expensive. Your support will be needed to make the museum better. The Fenton History Center is more than a small town local history museum/library — it is a regional attraction that brought more than 15,000 visitors through the doors in 2009. The number of interested visitors, scholars and students grows each year. For instance, Doors Open 2010, which is fresh in our memories had its best attendance ever, 582 visitors! Local history is important, interesting and worth the trip.

Thank you to all of our members, local businesses, donors and foundations that helped make this past year a success. Without your donations of materials, time and funds — the staff and volunteers could not handle the busy event schedule and day-to-day work of the historical society.

My hope is you will find a project or topic that compels you to become part of the important work (and play) here at the Fenton History Center.

Sincerely,

Joni Blackman
Joni Blackman
Director
The dramatic drop in attendance numbers from 2007 to 2008 is due to new website measurements that are more accurate for the visitors that spend more than 30 minutes on the website.

Public school classroom visits are recovering from the 50% decline of a few years ago. There is still strong competition for classroom time, transportation resources and funding.

All the exhibits in 2009 were at the Mansion unlike the pass few years where significant numbers of visitors were able to see Fenton artifacts-based exhibits at other venues.

There was an increase of almost 1,200 visitors to the Fenton Mansion in 2009. A number of advertising and marketing choices over the past few years have made the Fenton History Center more visible, both locally and regionally.

The downloadable photographs, list of manufacturers, the Lucille Ball exhibit pages and the Mr. Lincoln's War Civil War pages continue to be the most popular web pages.

The weekly email "This Week in Local History" has been very popular in 2009.

The re-designed website, paid for with a NYS Education grant, has made finding out about the events, placing an inquiry about the collections and/or archives, and other research needs easier and more efficient.
# Financial Report 2009

## General Operating Statement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>YTD Actual</th>
<th>Annual Budget</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td><strong>General Operating Income, unrestricted</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Municipal Assistance</td>
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<td>County Assistance</td>
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<td><strong>Subtotal</strong></td>
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<td>$123,150.00</td>
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| **General Operating Expenses, Unrestricted**|            |               |
| *Payroll Expenses, Administration         | $54,495.38 | $34,853.00    |
| Insurance                                 | $4,220.11  | $2,750.00     |
| Supplies                                  | $1,853.64  | $1,700.00     |
| Printing                                  | $944.50    | $750.00       |
| Telephone/Internet                         | $1,811.53  | $1,800.00     |
| Postage                                   | $1,505.29  | $1,500.00     |
| Gift Shop                                 | $3,532.95  | $3,000.00     |
| **Advertising & Fundraising**             | $16,665.41 | $8,000.00     |
| Maintenance & Repairs                     | $5,711.11  | $7,850.00     |
| Education Dept.                           | $20,598.10 | $24,075.00    |
| Collections Dept.                         | $16,521.29 | $17,922.00    |
| Exhibits Dept.                            | $2,063.49  | $2,250.00     |
| Research Ctr.                             | $14,350.43 | $10,900.00    |
The Fenton History Center was benefiting from a number of grants in 2009. The monies received for the grants were earmarked, restricted, for specific projects. The IMLS Archive grant is for to support the management of the 30-year backlog of archival donations. The grant has $50,000 match ($25,000 for the 2 years of the grant) that is needed by July 2010. The match had been secured through Senator Young’s office, but was rescinded when the State of New York went into crisis mode this past year. Other avenues are being pursued, but not with much success.

Member support would be greatly appreciated.

The State of New York is also reimbursing the exhibit line expense from the research, design and installation of the Underground Railroad exhibit opened in April 2009.

**Miscellaneous**

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<tr>
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<th>YTD Actual</th>
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<tr>
<td>General Operating Expense</td>
<td>$148,775.68</td>
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**Gain/(Loss)**

* $25,000 Member Item was not given by Sen. Young’s office due to NYS fiscal problems

** $6,500 paid to partners for Spoon River Anthology event

### RESTRICTED INCOME AND EXPENSES 2009

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Grant Income, Restricted</th>
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<td>IMLS Archive grant</td>
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**Subtotal**

$76,406.00 $111,874.00

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<th>Annual Budget</th>
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<tr>
<td>NYS Grant</td>
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<td>IMLS archive grant</td>
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<td></td>
<td>$11,847.15</td>
<td>$</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$12,994.52</td>
<td>$25,000.00</td>
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</table>
Research Ctr. $ $  
Collections $ 4,700.00 $ 3,800.00  
Subtotal $ 85,647.72 $ 111,874.00  
Gain/(Loss) $ (9,241.72)  

*Exhibits to be reimbursed $18,700 from NYS Heritage Trail Program  

Fenton History Center Staff  
Joni Blackman, Director  
Paula Bechmann, Office Manager & Housekeeping  
Norman Carlson, Collections Manager  
Barbara Cessna, Researcher  
Frances Fair, Education Director  
Karen Livsey, Librarian/Archivist  
Thomas Lobb, Maintenance (retired 5/09)  
Jeanne Oag, Event Coordinator  
Volunteer Staff:  
Phoebe Forbes, Textile Curator  
Tony Merchant, Collections Care  
Sylvia Lobb, Registrar  
Julie Hull, Exhibits  

Did you Knowé  
- over 10,000 students visit the Fenton Mansion to learn their local history?  
- the Fenton employs 7 local history and museum professionals?  
- the Fenton History Center provides an unduplicated service to collect, preserve and teach our local history?  
- the museum staff and volunteers research, build, and install at least 3 exhibitions per year?
- the Fenton Mansion is owned by the City of Jamestown?
- the Fenton History Center has over 90 volunteers?
- The research center has over 8,000 books?
- the online subscription services the research center uses cost over $6,000 per year?
- you can do genealogy research at the Fenton History Center?
- the Fenton Mansion is 12,000 sq. ft and has over 25 rooms?
- the Fenton collections hold over 50,000 artifacts?
- the Fenton special collections (archives) hold over 800 collections?

Did you know you can help support any of the above services and needs with your membership?

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**THE FENTON HISTORY CENTER MISSION STATEMENT – WHAT WE DO**

The mission of the Fenton History Center Museum & Research Center 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 southern 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 & Research Center 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 The staff and Board of Trustees will offer responsible and enthusiastic leadership for the 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.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Governor’s Circle</td>
<td>$1,000+</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senator’s Circle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friends of Fenton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supporting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individual</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>$30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student</td>
<td>$15</td>
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Yes, I want to support the Fenton History Center.

I am a • new • renewing member.

Name ________________________________
Address ___________________________________________________________
Phone (____) ____ - ________________________________
Email ___________________________________________________________

- I am interested in talking to the Director about including the Fenton History Center in my estate planning.
- Please contact me about volunteer opportunities at the museum and/or research center.

Payment options:
- Check - payable to: The Fenton History Center
- Credit Card Type: • VISA • Mastercard

Card No. ___________________________Exp.____________
Signature ___________________________Date____________

Contributions are Tax Deductible to the extent allowable by law.

67 Washington St., Jamestown, N.Y. 14701
Questions? (716)664-6256 or visit www.fentonhistorycenter.org

Thank you!
PRESERVING THE COMMUNITY’S PAST

- Caring for a collection that is the community’s cultural heritage.
  - 211 separate donations were accessioned and processed in 2009. These collections included approximately 3,100 separate artifacts. 58 collections from previous years were also accessioned.
  - 7 loans in and 9 loans out of the collections department were processed.
  - On-going physical maintenance of the Fenton Mansion is a fundamental activity.
  - 12 requests for photograph reproductions from the FHC collection with 41 photographs processed.
  - 20 items were deaccessioned - mostly one collection that did not meet the collection policy.

Collections Manager
Norman P. Carlson

Housekeeping
Paula Bechmann

Maintenance
Tom Lobb

PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE THROUGH EDUCATION
Helping schools meet curriculum goals and providing resources for lifelong learning.

- 7,936 members and non-members took part in various educational programs for all ages; bus tours, Fenton Institute, History Detectives Club, student summer camps, and community events—a 25% increase from 2008.

- 123 programs were presented to area school students, community groups and special programming for all ages—a 12% increase from 2008.

- This year the summer camps included "Camp Brown" and "Intersections," based on the just opened Underground Railroad exhibit. The Jr. Historians (grades 1-3) and History Clubs (grades 4-6) met a few times over the school year and learned about local history and our place in the history of our nation.

- This past school year, the Fenton Education Department was involved in four of Chautauqua Opportunities' after-school programs teaching their local history.

- The Fenton Education department taught in 9 of the 16 public school districts in Chautauqua County and at JCC.


- The Fenton Institute was started in 2008 to meet the growing needs of our adult learners. The four sessions ranged from how to take care of your family scrapbooks to learning about the wood furniture industry in Jamestown. Approximately 100 members and non-members participated in the workshops and lecture.

**Education Director**  Frances Fair

**Museum Teachers**  Gesele Koehler  Dolores Parsons  Michael Rohlin  Julie Hull  Norman P. Carlson  Frances Wolinsky

**Librarian/Archivist**  Karen E. Livsey

**Researcher**  Barb Cessna

**Volunteer Researchers**  Clarence Carlson  Sharon Terwilliger  Kathy Barber  Del Mee

**SERVING THROUGH INFORMATION**

- **Your story is our community’s story:** a center for inquiry, investigation and scholarly research where you can explore your family history and discover how it is a part of this community’s history.

  - 761 people used the library and archives for genealogical and historical research
  - Researchers responded to 75 written/faxed, 74 e-mail, and 4,014 phone research requests from around the world
  - 3,488 unique visits to the library/archive website pages
  - 12 Archive requests
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.

The exhibits this year were well attended and brought in many donations of artifacts and archival materials to add to the collections as well as more stories for future reference.

“Intersections” was a much anticipated 4-year project. The accompanying website and traveling exhibit components are planned for 2010.

“In the Mood” came from the discovery of a series of 1938 posters of the swing bands that played in the area. They sparked the imagination and led to a fun exhibit.

“A Tradition of Trees”, our 30th year, was beautiful and different. Over 100 different holiday expressions of trees were on exhibit. It was our most popular exhibit in 2009.

4,844 on-site visitors  11,177 website visitors

Hoop Dreams: Women’s Fashion 1848 –1912
Presented by Diane Gallinger from Ontario, Canada
The four-week long exhibit featured an assortment of beautiful vintage dresses that showed how the evolution of women’s fashion paralleled society’s changes.
Sponsored by the Teach American History Grant, JPS
Thank You for Your Support

PLANNED GIVING
Winslow T. Shearman’s 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.

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

GRANTS
Operating and Programming Grants:
Chautauqua Region Community Foundation $6,525
Upstate History Alliance $1,100 NYSCA Regrant Program $2,400
Teach American History Grant, regrant $1,500
Capital Grants:
The Lenna Foundation $100,000 for Phase II of the Fenton Expansion Project
The Ralph C. Sheldon Foundation $150,000 for Phase II of the Fenton Expansion Project
NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation $81,060 for restoration of the Fenton Mansion exterior (requires a $81,060 match).

GOVERNOR’S CIRCLE $1000+
City of Jamestown Chautauqua County George C. Fowler Fund
Gebbie Foundation Director’s Fund Dr. & Mrs. William Rapaport Family of Robert Anderson
Chautauqua Region Community Foundation, Reg & Betty Lenna Fund

CONTRIBUTORS $100+
Lynda Albert Catherine Anastasi
Mr. & Mrs. John C.R. Anderson Douglas Beardsley
Clarence Carlson Constance Cryer Ecklund
Thomas & Sally Greer J. Mathew & Lane Hagberg
Mr. & Mrs. Rhoe B. Henderson Dr. & Mrs. Todd Jacobson
Dr. & Mrs. Ronald Kohl Doris Levin
Martin Lydell Robert & Anne Plyler
Dr. & Mrs. Theodore Steegmann Tyler Swanson
Barclay O. & Diane Wellman

American Scandinavian Heritage Foundation
Teresa J. Anderson
Richard Bentley
Annie C. Davidson-Funke
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Farrell, Jr.
Dr. & Mrs. Lyndon Gritters
Mr. & Mrs. David Hedberg
Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Hull
Mr. & Mrs. Rolland Kidder
Jacqueline G. Lanphere
Margaret K. Look
Dawn Myers
Cynthia Rodgers
Dr. Dixon Stevens
Janet Vanstrom
John & Lisa Yaggie

Mr. & Mrs. Eric Anable
Mr. & Mrs. James W. Anderson
Thomas Andolora
Marcia Bliss
Mr. & Mrs. R.E. Diethrick, Jr.
Phoebe Forbes
Carl Hagberg
Mr. & Mrs. John Hendrickson
Ingjald Lodge #65
Elizabeth Kiebala
Mr. & Mrs. David Larson
Mr. & Mrs. Stan Lundine
Mark & Megan Olson
Safehouse, Chautauqua Opportunities, Inc.
Dr. & Mrs. Randall Swanson
A.E.P. Wall

Special Gifts:
Deryn Verity
Barbara Vogelstein
Tony Merchant
Lake Shore Savings Bank

Doris Corbin John E. Anderson
Margaret Fuchs
Martin Juul
Roger Gilbert

Charles Lindquist
Peter F. Risafi
Helen Ebersole
Slone-Melhuish Insurance
Norden Women’s Club
Sponsors:
- Stormer Mechanical Services
- Jamestown Business College
- Lind Funeral Home, Inc.
- Jamestown Radiologists, PC
- Marcia Bliss, CPA
- Jamestown Savings Bank
- Greater Jamestown Area Chamber of Commerce

GOODS & PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

THANK YOU– WE COULDN’T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

ACTIVE MEMBERS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2009

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Stephen Abdella</td>
<td>Ms. Ellen Adams</td>
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<td>Ms. Lynda Albert</td>
<td>Mr. James Alexander</td>
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<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Robert Allison</td>
<td>American Scandinavian Heritage</td>
<td>Mr. Eric Anable</td>
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<td>Mrs. Audrey E. Anderson</td>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Brad Anderson</td>
<td>Mrs. Geraldine Anderson</td>
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<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. James W. Anderson</td>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. John C.R. Anderson</td>
<td>Ms. Judith Anderson</td>
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<td>Dr. Lee Anderson</td>
<td>Ms. Lois L. Anderson</td>
<td>Ms. Mildred V. Anderson</td>
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<td>Ms. Nancy O. Anderson</td>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Neil Anderson</td>
<td>R. Quintus Anderson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Teresa Anderson</td>
<td>Dr. &amp; Mrs. Todd Anderson</td>
<td>Mr. Thomas Andolora</td>
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<td>Mr. James Auria</td>
<td>Mr. Sydney Baker</td>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Merl W. Baldwin</td>
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<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Robert Barber</td>
<td>Ms. Nancy Bargar</td>
<td>Mr. Robert Bargar</td>
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<td>Mr. Larry Barnsore</td>
<td>Ms. Ethel Bastian</td>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. George Bataitis</td>
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<td>Mr. Bruce Battler</td>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Clifford Bauer</td>
<td>Mr. Douglas Beardsley</td>
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<td>Mr. Harold Bennett</td>
<td>Ms. Shirley Benson</td>
<td>Ms. Sue Benson</td>
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<td>Mr. Peter Bentley</td>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Richard Bentley</td>
<td>Mrs. Kathy Benware</td>
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<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Robert Blackman</td>
<td>Ms. Marcia Bliss</td>
<td>Ms. Carolyn Bloomquist</td>
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<td>Mrs. Renate Bob</td>
<td>Mr. Brian Boehm</td>
<td>Mrs. Sally Bootey</td>
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<td>Mrs. Patricia Brininger</td>
<td>Mr. Albert Brown</td>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Harold Brunacini</td>
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<td>Ms. Ingrid Bulger</td>
<td>Ms. Sharron Burak</td>
<td>Mrs. June T. Burgett</td>
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<td>Mr. R. Craig Butler</td>
<td>Ms. Helen N. Campbell</td>
<td>Ms. Ann Carlson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Clarence Carlson</td>
<td>Ms. Lillian Carlson</td>
<td>Mr. Norman Carlson</td>
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<td>Mr. Robert Carlson</td>
<td>Ms. Sheila Carlson</td>
<td>Ms. Florence Cass</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Barbara Cessna</td>
<td>Mr. Henry Cheney</td>
<td>Mrs. Ruth Chipman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Hans P.B. Christensen</td>
<td>Ms. Elizabeth Chubb</td>
<td>Ms. Sarah R. Clague</td>
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Thank you to all of our members!!  Your support is our future.

Saints & Sinners Cemetery Tours: Soldier's Circle, Ann Thorpe, Deacon Pierce, Jim and Ruth Walton.
For every paid staff member 12 people volunteer their time and services.

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- Sally Martinez, Vice President
- Sam Genco, Secretary
- Martin Lydell, Treasurer

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- Cathy Basile
- Margie & John Fuchs

**Musicians**
- Jenna Moynihan, Carol Svenson, and Adam McKillip

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*Give the gift of membership, One size fits all.*
Annual Business Meeting

The Annual Business Meeting of the Fenton History Center will be held at 7 pm on Wednesday, February 3, 2010 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 Officers to serve the 2010-2011 term.

The Museum Shop

- Valentine’s Day Cards
- Valentine’s Day gifts
- Local History Books - Wooden Toys
- Children’s Books - “Celoron Park” by T. Goodwill
- “SEE YOURSELF IN THE MOVIES” 1941 VIDEO
- THE JAMESTOWN COVERLET MAKES A GREAT WEDDING GIFT!

*Members receive a 10% discount!*