



FENTON HISTORY CENTER

museum and research center



2010 Annual Report

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

From the President of the Board of Trustees

January 14, 2011

Dear Friends and Members,

As a teacher of history I am often asked, "Why do we need to learn this? We will never need it in our lives." To that question I respond with you are right you will not need it to survive, but you will need to understand history to fully live in this world.

History creates who we are and tells us how to move toward the future. That history is not just the major world shaping events, but also the everyday things and events that shape and affect our individual worlds. The Fenton History Center has been given the daunting task of preserving and protecting history. Part of that job is related to the large national and international events, but most of it is about the everyday events and lives of the people of southern Chautauqua County. If the Fenton is not doing this job, there is really no one else who will protect the rich and varied history of this beautiful region and the people who have lived here. We need to remain strong supporters of this institution and the work that it is doing.

Over the last year the history center has worked hard to promote the history of southern Chautauqua County. It has been tough at times to figure out how to best do that with the limited funds that are at our disposal, but we continue to increase our community impact and seek out more ways to educate our region. We are working closely with other attractions in the region to try and bring tourists into this area and we are continuing to offer educational programs to the community through the Fenton Institute. This year has been busy with events that the community and our members have actively supported. Some of our events are things that people look forward to each year, i.e., Fighting for the Flag on Flag Day, Old-Fashioned Days in August, Lakeview Cemetery tours in October, and the Christmas exhibit at the end of the year. Through these the community learns about the greatness of our past and who the people were that shaped it. We want to be able to continue these and develop new ways to tell our story and to do that we need you.

None of this work is possible without the hard work and dedication of the Fenton staff. These people put in a lot of hours and keep our collections and archives protected as well as accessible. Many people take advantage of their expertise to find out about our area. We are also greatly dependent on a cadre of volunteers who create exhibits, teach classes, document accessions, and various other tasks. Truly the job of the Center cannot be done without their hard work.

As I complete my first term as president of the board of trustees I am grateful that there is such a place as the Fenton History Center. I have seen so much take place in the past three years and all of it has been positive. We have so much more that we, as a board, would like to take place. It is because our staff, volunteers, and supportive members that I can say we can do great things in the years to come.

As we look toward the future, we stand on the foundations of a great past. Do we need to understand the past to survive in this world? No, not to just survive, but isn't life more than just surviving? If we want our community to become better, we must understand and preserve our past and we must teach our community's story to the people that live in it. That is what I see the Fenton History Center doing and that is why I am so proud to serve as the president of the board of trustees.

Respectfully,

Michael T. Rohlin

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



From the Director

Dear Members and Friends,

Where does the preservation of our local history fall in the scope of the important work of our lives?

2010 was a year of making connections and continuing to move the Center's expansion plan forward. I noticed more members visiting the Fenton the past year, both during events and in general. I finally met members who have supported our work for years. It has inspired me to meet all of the Fenton's members this year. The wide varieties of reasons why you support the Center are touching. The Fenton Board and staff, with significant leadership by Board member Juanita Flint, held the first membership drive since 2004. The drive served two purposes; to bring in new members and to build awareness of Fenton's value.



Did you know?

**Jamestown has 50
miles of brick streets.**

Your History, Your Story
www.fentonhistorycenter.org



I noticed more volunteers coming forward to do meaningful work this past year than ever before. The staff has nurtured and partnered with many talented member volunteers to tackle the big jobs of managing the collections, researching requests and staffing the events. Without these volunteers' time and talents we would be hard pressed to provide many of the services our visitors take for granted: the holiday exhibit, genealogy requests, local history requests, collections accessioning, collections finding aids, tour guides for the cemetery tours and event staffing. Volunteers are one of the most important aspects of a non-profit's success.

"I haven't been here since I was a kid," was heard many times this past year. Many local residents decided to visit the museum. They were surprised and pleased by the exhibits that sparked memories and taught them new facts about Jamestown. Many community groups toured the museum as part of their meeting, a few even held their meetings in our rustic education room.

The 1960 time capsule opening was a big event this year that grew out of a grassroots interest in Jamestown and those that remembered burying the Sesquicentennial time capsule. A great crowd was on hand for the unveiling. A 2010 time capsule has been buried in the same spot by the bridge on Jones & Gifford Ave. Thank you to all that were instrumental in making the event successful.



The Hall House is being prepared for its next "life." The building has two unique spaces for commercial rent that will support the new research center and work areas. Once those renters are in place the Center will expand into the Hall House and free up portions of the Fenton Mansion to better tell our local and national story. The Fenton Mansion is about ready to get a "face lift". The exterior of the building will be undergoing repointing and in some cases, rebuilding, over the next construction season. Funding for the project is from New York State, our members and the Lenna Foundation. More support is needed if you would like to help.

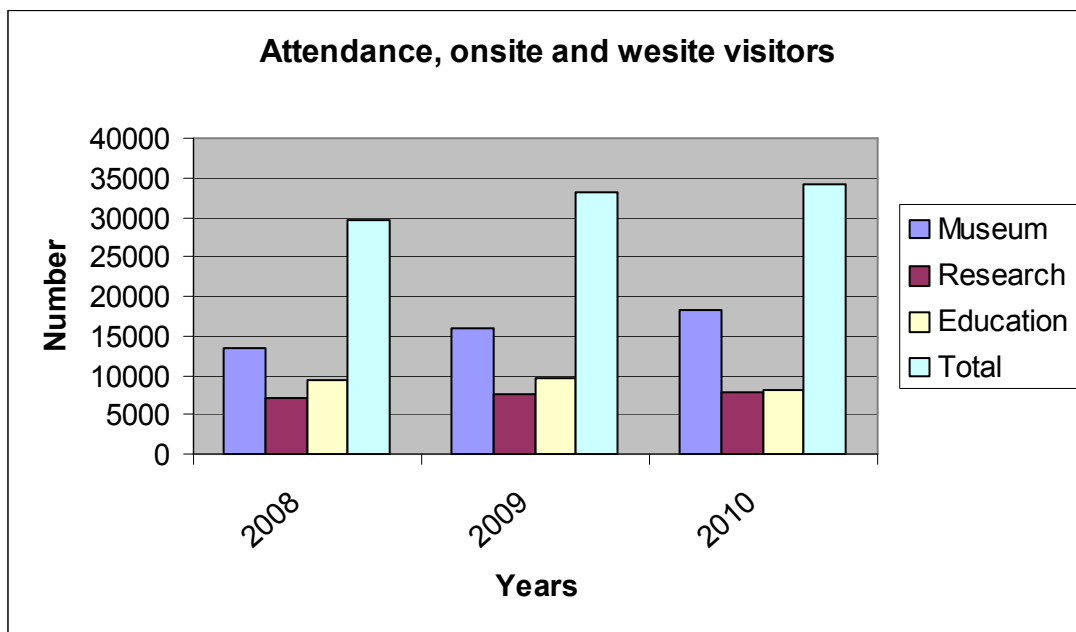
The Fenton is the community's resource and we are very happy to share it! The Fenton Trustees are continuing their plans to make the Fenton History Center a strong tourism destination and local history source; a place to experience living in a Victorian era home, a place to learn about everyday life 150 years ago, a place to use the latest technology to find a long ago family member, a place to see and learn about what makes Jamestown a great place to be.

Sincerely,

Joni Blackman

Joni Blackman

ATTENDANCE AND WEBSITE USAGE



- The museum and research center both showed consistent increases in website usage with a slight decrease in onsite visitation.
- Public school classroom visits dropped by 50% again this year. A number of factors have caused the decrease, some within our control, others not. Other groups took advantage of the Center's offerings and made up the difference.

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 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 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.

FINANCIAL REPORT 2010**GENERAL OPERATING STATEMENT**

		2010	
		YTD Actual	YTD Budget
General Operating Income, unrestricted			
Municipal Assistance	\$	16,000.00	\$ 16,000.00
County Assistance	\$	8,521.50	\$ 7,500.00
Fundraising	\$	41,858.34	\$ 45,305.00
Donations	\$	16,006.00	\$ 10,500.00
CRCF Fund and interest	\$	5,534.85	\$ 7,250.00
Memberships	\$	16,049.06	\$ 20,900.00
Gift Shop sales	\$	8,620.80	\$ 3,000.00
Memorials	\$	1,025.00	\$ 700.00
Earned Income	\$	21,081.77	\$ 37,250.00
Subtotal	\$	134,697.32	\$ 148,405.00
General Operating Expenses, Unrestricted			
*Payroll Expenses, Administration	\$	63,876.82	\$ 58,500.00
Insurance	\$	4,039.80	\$ 4,450.00
Supplies	\$	1,723.92	\$ 1,600.00
Printing	\$	194.00	\$ 650.00
Telephone/Internet	\$	1,748.29	\$ 1,800.00
Postage	\$	2,068.58	\$ 1,500.00
Gift Shop	\$	6,274.00	\$ 2,000.00
**Advertising & Fundraising	\$	21,043.16	\$ 5,950.00
Maintenance & Repairs	\$	4,732.82	\$ 6,650.00
Education Dept.	\$	20,059.13	\$ 21,975.00
Collections Dept.	\$	16,234.19	\$ 16,300.00
Exhibits Dept.	\$	422.07	\$ 2,150.00
Research Ctr.	\$	13,837.88	\$ 16,630.00
Miscellaneous	\$	9,026.51	\$ 8,250.00
General Operating Expense	\$	165,280.27	\$ 148,405.00
Gain/(Loss)	\$	(30,582.95)	

* \$12,500 Member Item was not given by Sen. Youngs office due to NYS fiscal problems

** \$8,200 paid to partners for Spoon River Anthology event

The **loss** at the end of the year is due to:

- a 50% decrease in the local school programming, a loss of \$15,000.
- a shortfall in funding for the \$5,000 match needed for the IMLS Archive Management Grant.
- a shortfall in memberships (\$4,000) and decrease in endowment returns (\$1,300).

Donations by the general public and membership were the best they have been in years.

The **restricted funds** grew because of strong support for the brick restoration project and the archive management project.

RESTRICTED INCOME AND EXPENSES 2010

	YTD Actual	Annual Budget
Grant Income, Restricted		
Administration	\$ 23,858.00	\$ 625.00
Collections	\$ 650.00	\$ 0
Education	\$ 0	\$ 1,537.50
Exhibits	\$ 0	\$ 0
Research Ctr.	\$ 3,331.00	\$ 0
IMLS Archive grant	\$ 43,657.15	\$ 37,436.19
Subtotal	\$ 71,044.15	\$ 40,031.19
Grant Expenses, Restricted		
IMLS archive grant	\$ 33,056.74	\$ 37,436.19
Travel & Conference	\$ 286.00	\$ 625.00
Programs	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 700.00
Exhibits, Collections	\$ 3,892.00	\$ 0
Education	\$ 0	\$ 1,145.00
Subtotal	\$ 42,234.74	\$ 40,031.19
Gain/(Loss)	\$ 28,809.41	

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
 Jeanne Oag, Event Coordinator

Staff and volunteer picnic



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

PRESERVING THE COMMUNITY'S PAST



The Fenton Cup

- Caring for a collection that is the community's cultural heritage.
- 160 separate donations were accessioned and processed in 2010. These collections included approximately 1,400 separate artifacts. 29 collections from previous years were also accessioned.
- 3 loans in and 7 loans out of the collections department were processed.
- On-going physical maintenance of the Fenton Mansion is a fundamental activity.
- 4 requests for photograph reproductions from the FHC collection with 9 photographs processed.
- 3 items were deaccessioned.

Collections Manager

Norman P. Carlson

Housekeeping

Paula Bechmann

Textiles

Phoebe Forbes

Volunteers Brittany Beckstrom, Amanda Brainard, Don Lauger, Sylvia Lobb, Jennifer Mazzu, Tony Merchant, and Chelsea Yergens

PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE THROUGH EDUCATION



Museum Teacher Julie Hull

- Helping schools meet curriculum goals and providing resources for lifelong learning.
- 6,774 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.
- 122 programs were presented to area school students, community groups and special programming for all ages.
- This year the summer campers traveled through time. They learned about Jamestown from it's beginning to today. They ended the

week with a cruise on the Chautauqua Belle.

- This past school year, the Fenton Education Department was involved in three of Chautauqua Opportunities after-school programs teaching their local history.
- The Fenton Education department taught in 8 of the 16 public school districts in Chautauqua County and at JCC.
- Over 2,000 members and friends participated in the Fenton events: *Doors Open 2010*, *Fighting for the Flag*, *Spoon River Project Old-Fashion Day*, *Saints and Sinners Lake View Cemetery Tours* and *Midnight Mausoleum Tours*, *The Victorian Holiday Tea*, *Blue & Gray 2010*.
- Approximately 80 members and non-members participated in the *Fenton Institute* workshops and lecture supported by the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation. The four sessions ranged from how to take care of your family textile treasures to learning about the local suffrage movement.



Campers on the Chautauqua Belle

Education Director Frances Fair

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

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.
- 645 people used the library and archives for genealogical and historical research
- Researchers responded to 17 written/faxed, 53 e-mail, and 1,982 phone research requests from around the world
- 5,223 unique visits to the library/archive website pages
- 14 Archive requests

Librarian/Archivist

Karen E. Livsey

Researcher

Barb Cessna

Volunteer Researchers

Sharon Terwilliger

Kathy Barber

Del Mee

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.

"Quilt Stories" was a Mansion-wide exhibit of the many quilts in the collection, concentrating on Crazy Quilts and Signature Quilts.

"We Made Do: Jamestown and the Great Depression" is a snapshot of a number of interesting facts and stories about what happened in Jamestown during the worst years of the Depression, 1930-1935. Looking to the 1930s can help us understand how we have arrived where we are today.

"Twas the Night Before Christmas" brought the beauty of the season and the wonder of reading together. Over twenty children and youth's holiday books were featured.

3569 on-sight visitors 14,694 website visitors



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.

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 \$4,581 Sam's Club \$500
 Upstate History Alliance \$256 NYSCA Regrant Program \$2,400
 Johnson Foundation \$7,500 Lenna Foundation \$20,000



State of the Arts

**GOVERNOR'S CIRCLE \$1000+**

City of Jamestown	Chautauqua County	George C. Fowler Fund
Gebbie Foundation Director's Fund	Carl Hagberg	
Chautauqua Region Community Foundation, Reg & Betty Lenna Fund		

CONTRIBUTORS \$100+

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Special Gifts:

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Margaret Fuchs	Lorena Garmezzy	Dr. & Mrs. Robert Gibbon
Lake Shore Savings Bank	Peter F. Risafi	

GOODS & PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Media One Group, WDOE/WKIX, The Post-Journal, The Dunkirk Observer, The Warren Times, Westfield Republican, The Chautauqua Star, The Word, Time Warner Cable 8 News, The Coffee Exchange, Axiom Business Machines, Dan Gates at the Frame & Glass Shoppe, Julie Hull, Jack Ericson, Sonny Anderson, Bill Lucas, Jim and Ann Buffone, Streetwise Creative Group, Doug Hoisington for Earth Spark, Tops Markets, Harrington Sandberg Architecture & Engineering, Adrienne Ploss, Ludwig Auctions, Frito-Lay, Inc., The City of Jamestown Parks Department, Steve & Chuck at Farm Fresh Foods, Ecklof's Bakery, Lake View Cemetery Association, Downtown Jamestown Development Corporation, Gary Lynn, Stephen J. Wright of Wright, Wright, & Hampton, Community Helping Hands, BOCES, Jamestown Public Schools, John Hitchcock, Jones 212 Bakery, Cooper's Café and Deli, Walgreen's, Wegmans.

THANK YOU— WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!**ACTIVE MEMBERS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2009**

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 Mr. Thomas H. Sampson
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 Ms. Audrey Shelgren
 Ms. Lucille Short
 Ms. Judy Lewis- Simpson
 Mr. Peter Smith
 Mrs. Carol Sorg
 Ms. Marilyn E. stearns
 Ms. Joan Stein
 Mr. & Mrs. F. Ryan Sullivan
 Mr. Jerome Swanson
 Mr. Robert Swanson
 Mr. & Mrs. Steven Szwejbka
 Mr. Robert Taylor
 Mr. Gary Templin
 Mrs. Sharon Terwilliger
 Mr. & Mrs. Jack Thompson
 Mr. Darrell Vail
 Ms. Donna Vanstrom
 Mr. David C. Videll
 Mr. Lamont Wager
 Ms. Anna Waite
 Mrs. Beverly Walrod
 Mr. & Mrs. Terry Warner
 Ms. Susan Weaver
 Mr. Curt Westrom
 Mr. Thomas J. Whitney
 Revs. Eric & Susan Williams
 Ms. Claudia Wittenbrook
 Mr. Stephen Wright

Mr. Allen Yahn



2010 Time Capsule



Old Fashion
Day 2010



SERVING THROUGH VOLUNTEERISM

- For every paid staff member 20 people volunteer their time and services.

Board Officers 2010

Michael Rohlin, President
Sally Martinez, Vice President
Sam Genco, Secretary
Martin Lydell, Treasurer



Trustees 2010

Lynda Albert
Clarence Carlson
Thomas Geer
Julie Hull
Traci Langworthy
Arthur Osterdahl
Robert Plyler
Juanita Rublee



Volunteers 2010

Education

Julie Hull
Dolores Parsons
Frances Wolinsky
Gesele Koehler

Textiles

Phoebe Forbes
Julie Hull, Lillian Carlson

Library/Research

Kathy Barber
Sharon Terwilliger
Delbert Mee, Joan Shevory
Pam Brown
Gene Smith
Christopher Brown
Jason Rodriguez
Martin Hagstrom

Collections Management

Loretta Smith
Chelsea Yergens
Tony Merchant
Sylva Lobb
Amanda Brainard
Vic Norton
Randy Paisley
Don Lauger
Jennifer Mazzu
Annette Waite
Brittany Beckstrom
Bill Canby
Bill & Pat Locke

Events

Bill & Pat Locke
Doug Hoisington
Josef Genco
Linda & Todd Anderson
David Anderson
Donna Bloomquist
Lynda Albert
Sara Reale
Herbert Lydell
Mat and Lane Hagberg
Gene and Loretta Smith
Gary Dickenson
Clarence Carlson
The 9th Cavalry, Tim Warnick
Brian Boehm
Norman P. Carlson
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Herbert Lydell
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Barbara Cessna
Fran & Mike Fair
The Board of Trustees
Karen Livsey
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BOCES, Workplace Experience Program
Dennis Wright, Instructor
Ron Rieff
Jeanne & Al Oag, Catherine Oag
Grant & Lucas Olson

Sylvia & Tom Lobb
Bill Reynolds
The Mike Rohlin Family

Saints and Sinners Lake View Cemetery Tour Actors

Spoon River Anthology Actors/Staff

Bob Terreberry
Emily Blackwood
Lance Clark
Skip Anderson, Ralph Walton
Mary Hoover, Ann Thorpe
Karen Waterman, Sam Genco
Adam Hughes, Deacon Pearce
Mike Nichols, Merle Szydlo
Kristy Woodfield, Kate Armbruster
Cathy Basile
Margie & John Fuchs
Rev. & Mrs. D. Trospen
Mr. & Mrs. J. Livingston
Mr. & Mrs. T. Flowers
Mr. & Mrs. Merle Elkin
Mr. & Mrs. Walter Carlson
Jane Lindboom
Sue Schifano
Anne Eklund
Musicians:
Eric Grundstrom, Carol Svenson, and
Adam McKillip

Give the gift of membership, One size fits all.

Fenton History Center
67 Washington St.
Jamestown, NY 14701

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Return Service Requested

Annual Business Meeting

The Annual Business Meeting of the Fenton History Center will be held at 7 pm on Wednesday, February 2, 2011 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 2011-2012 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

"Along Chautauqua Lake" by Karen Livsey and Dorothy Levin

"Historic Chautauqua County, a Bicentennial History" by Doug Houck

"The Lost Neighborhood" by June Cusimano Lindquist

THE JAMESTOWN COVERLET MAKES A GREAT WEDDING GIFT!

Members receive a 10% discount!