

The **Annual Business Meeting** of the Fenton History Center will be held at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, February 4, 2015 at the Fenton Mansion. All current members of the Fenton Historical Society are invited to attend. The membership will be electing Officers to serve the 2015-2016 term.



## 2014 Annual Report

*From the President of the Board of Trustees*  
January 15, 2015

It's good to take some time to look back. We are usually very focused on today and the near future. This is normal, but we need to look back to see where we have been to help us see where we are going. We had many successes and accomplishments in 2014 that help us move into 2015 with a bright future and anticipation for what is ahead.

We celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year with a dinner and guest speaker. People attended in period costume and many artifacts were on display from the early 1960s. It was a time to remember those who were instrumental in founding the organization and how it has evolved over the years. As we enter our 51<sup>st</sup> year we cherish the work and vision these people had. We realize that we stand on the shoulders of those that have gone before, and the awesome responsibility we have to carry on and achieve more.

Among the new events last year was a Pizza Challenge where local pizzerias competed for a "Best Pizza in Jamestown" designation. We coupled this with genealogical research, asking those with Italian heritage to come and share their stories. This was a very successful event that will be repeated this year. We also held a "lock in" for genealogical research at the Hall House. Participants were able to do family research with help from staff and volunteers. It was very successful, and was repeated this past January 10<sup>th</sup>. We also partnered with Bob Evans restaurant during the two Saturdays of the "Saints and Sinners" tours in Lakeview Cemetery where people could dine at the restaurant anytime during the given Saturdays and have the Fenton receive a portion of the cost of the meal. We celebrated the newly renovated welcome center, gift shop, and entrance to the mansion. This was the result

of many hours of volunteer labor, help from local contractors and monetary contributions. If you haven't been to the mansion in a while, please stop by - see the changes!

We are continuing with the archeology project, headed by Board Vice President Dr. Tom Greer. Last summer's exhibit told the story of the dig and the progress so far. It is slowly but carefully moving forward. The discoveries are exciting. A big thanks to him and all of the volunteers that help with this. Work outside will resume in the spring, but the washing and cataloging of the artifacts continues in the off-season.

Our ongoing events such as the "Saints and Sinners" tours at Lakeview Cemetery the Brown Bag Lunch talks, Candlelight Tours, and the Walking Tours have continued to be popular. We continue to "tweak" these, being responsive to suggestions from people. Work continues on the responsive design web site, our Facebook page, and publicity through a variety of channels. There is also a regular column in Friday's Jamestown Post-Journal entitled "Hometown History". These are only some of the activities we have. I invite you all to check these sources on a regular basis to stay informed.

This past year has been a good one for the history center. We have done a lot with resources and I give a lot of credit to our executive director Joni Blackman for her hard work keeping our financial affairs in order. Also, to the staff who besides working their normal hours put in many volunteer hours as well. We have an incredibly talented and knowledgeable staff that willingly and cheerfully shares their knowledge and skills. On behalf of the board, thank you for all that you do in your jobs. A word or two also needs to be said

about the volunteers. There is a sign that says, "We don't pay our volunteers because they are worthless; it is because they are priceless!" That is so true in our case. We have absolutely wonderful volunteers that give generously of their time, skills and money out of their own pockets to help with our projects and at events. A very big thank you from the board.

I do love doing research, and a special interest of mine is the Hall House research center. I am so excited to see this come on line with the library and archives there now, and the genealogical databases and other information. My vision for this upcoming year is to expand on what is offered there and have more events centered there. We are adding more computers for research and expanding working areas in the house. A veteran's research area is coming on line this year, as well as more opportunities to research ancestors in many parts of the world. Please keep checking with us to see the new developments!

Sincerely,

*Richard Lundquist* President, Board of Trustees

#### From the Director

Dear Members and Friends,

2014 was a year of transition. The Fenton History Center moved into programming mode from capital improvement mode. By May the new entryway, gift shop, handicap accessible restroom and the "Welcome to Jamestown" exhibit were unveiled. It has been a great improvement for our visitors and really showcases the beauty of the Mansion.

The Hall House Research Center has been operating for a year in the capable hands of a dedicated crew of volunteers, researcher Barb Cessna, and the collections staff, Norman Carlson and Karen Livsey.

Sara Reale, Education Coordinator, has been working hard to bring in classrooms of elementary students. The Fenton is chartered under the New York State Department of Education. Teaching our history is our mission, however the public schools are finding it difficult to free up the resources to bring their students to the Mansion. Sure we can teach in the classroom without bringing them to the Mansion and museum, but that does not allow the children to see the beauty of the Mansion. There is a significant "wow!" factor when a child sees the size of the doors, the ornate woodwork on the Eastlake mantles and the curving staircase. We will be taking some time to study and analyze our methods and programming in the first quarter of this year.

We celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> year in business last year. We had a fun party with a dynamic speaker. We are planning another party/dinner this June to celebrate the summer exhibit, "Fenton Elected!" about the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Gov. Reuben E. Fenton's election as Governor of New York State. We are going to party like its 1865 – more details to come.



Rick Lundquist and Joni Blackman

This wrap-up report of 2014 is full of statistics about our membership, our donors and our visitors. All of which are more than just a number, as they say. Each number represents a person or persons that made an effort to enrich their lives by taking part in a Fenton History Center program or event. Hopefully we slipped some local history knowledge into their day.

Thank you for all you have done to make the Fenton what it is today. Harriet Beecher Stowe wrote, "The past, the present and the future are really one: they are today." My hope is the Fenton's programs can make our local past relevant to our everyday lives.

#### *Thank you to...*

- the **staff** for their willingness to work for a fraction of their worth with endless energy, compassion and great ideas.
- the **dedicated volunteers** for their enthusiasm, expertise and willingness to help us out whenever we call upon them.
- the **Board of Trustees** for their commitment to the Fenton and our local history.
- our **members, sponsors, grant makers and visitors** that make the work worthwhile.

*I feel we truly are a team.*

Sincerely,

*Joni Blackman*, Director



### **Remembering the Taste of '62 Gala**

## WALNUT GROVE ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT 2014

We had another interesting excavation season on the Fenton property in 2014. Work continued on defining the extent and use of the building we discovered in 2013. This most likely represents a barn that possibly contained living quarters. The foundation is extensive and confusing, as a greenhouse was built in the same area after the barn was removed. Most interesting is a well/cistern or cellar, subsequently used as a garbage dump, which contains innumerable artifacts including many whole bottles. Overall we recovered fourteen large boxes of artifacts of

all kinds. All of these artifacts have been washed and we are now in the process of cataloguing them. We are looking forward to another productive excavation season in 2015. Many thanks to Shannon Bessette, Associate Professor of Anthropology at JCC, her students, and our loyal volunteers.



Thomas L. Greer, M.D.

**FINANCIAL REPORT 2014**

			2014	
			Actual	Budget
<b>General Operating Income, unrestricted</b>				
	<b>Municipal Assistance</b>		\$ 16,000.00	\$ 16,000.00
	<b>County Assistance</b>		\$ 7,728.00	\$ 6,800.00
	<b>Fundraising</b>		\$ 41,598.94	\$ 50,170.00
	<b>Donations</b>		\$ 8,217.00	\$ 1,550.00
	<b>CRCF Fund and interest</b>		\$ 16,660.84	\$ 13,370.00
	<b>Memberships</b>		\$ 17,064.56	\$ 19,500.00
	<b>Gift Shop sales</b>		\$ 9,922.21	\$ 5,500.00
	<b>Memorials</b>		\$ 130.00	\$ 600.00
	<b>Earned Income</b>		\$ 18,976.25	\$ 22,007.00
	<b>Hall House operating support</b>		\$ 9,340.00	\$ 21,400.00
	<b>Total</b>		\$ 145,637.80	\$ 156,897.00
			\$ -	\$ -
<b>Expenses, Unrestricted</b>			\$ -	\$ -
	<b>Payroll Expenses, Administration (incl. all taxes)</b>		\$ 65,810.90	\$ 66,396.00
	<b>Insurance</b>		\$ 8,370.16	\$ 12,205.00
	<b>Supplies</b>		\$ 2,365.41	\$ 1,600.00
	<b>Printing</b>		\$ 1,345.00	\$ 700.00
	<b>Telephone/Internet</b>		\$ 1,824.88	\$ 1,908.00
	<b>Postage</b>		\$ 1,288.21	\$ 1,000.00
	<b>Gift Shop</b>		\$ 6,152.29	\$ 3,000.00
	<b>Advertising &amp; Fundraising</b>		\$ 5,899.12	\$ 6,833.00
	<b>Maintenance &amp; Repairs</b>		\$ 5,477.06	\$ 4,800.00
	<b>Hall House utilities, maintenance</b>		\$ 8,707.08	\$ 8,445.00
	<b>Education Dept.</b>		\$ 12,658.14	\$ 17,620.00
	<b>Collections Dept.</b>		\$ 20,294.98	\$ 22,467.00
	<b>Exhibits Dept.</b>		\$ 997.42	\$ 1,000.00
	<b>Research Ctr.</b>		\$ 3,023.01	\$ 5,893.00
	<b>**Miscellaneous</b>		\$ 3,520.32	\$ 3,030.00
<b>General Operating Expense</b>			\$ 147,733.98	\$ 156,897.00
<b>Net Gain/(Loss)</b>			\$ (2,096.18)	\$ -

The 2014 deficit is small considering how much we accomplished throughout the year. 2014 was the first full year of operating the Hall House Research Center. Thanks to a dedicated group of donors the "Keep the Lights On" fund closed the funding gap to keep the Hall House open all year! We had our highest membership income in the past four years. This is an area where we can grow.



For 2015 our fundraising focus will be on building our various endowment funds which will make Fenton viable into the future. We have funds at the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation that support the collections, special collections (archives) in the name of the C. Malcolm and Jeanette Nichols fund, the Hall House general operations fund in the name of Carl and Doris Hagberg and the general operations of the Fenton Historical Society of Jamestown, N.Y., Inc. which you know as the Fenton History Center. When you give to these funds you are supporting our work directly that year and into the future.

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

### **FENTON HISTORY CENTER STAFF**

Joni Blackman, Director  
 Paula Bechmann, Office Manager & Housekeeping  
 Norman Carlson, Collections Manager  
 Barbara Cessna, Researcher  
 Frances Fair, Special Projects Coordinator  
 Karen Livsey, Librarian/Archivist  
 Sara W. Reale, Education Coordinator  
 Museum Teachers: Julie Hull, Gesele Koehler, Martha Korcyl-Milliner



Member Jerry Nelson and director Blackman discuss his donation, a locally made 1860s gun. Jerry has also donated to the Hall House endowment fund because he sees the value of the research center's mission.

### **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.



### **SERVING THROUGH INFORMATION**



Researching during the library lock-in.

- 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 you are a part of this community's history.
- 1,186 people used the library & archives for genealogical and historical research – a 15% increase over last year. 11 requests from patrons and members were made from the special collections. Many more were made by the staff.
- Researchers responded to 76 written requests, and 2,153 phone research requests from around the world
- 9,678 unique visits to the library/archive website pages- a 32% increase.

#### **Librarian/Archivist**

Karen E. Livsey

#### **Researcher**

Barb Cessna

### **PRESERVING THE COMMUNITY'S PAST**

- Caring for a collection that is the community's cultural heritage.
- 193 separate artifact donations were received and processed. 31 library donations and 6 recorded for Fenton use making a total of 230, 27 more than 2013.
- Loans: 1 incoming loan; 2 outgoing loans.
- 9 requests for photograph reproductions from the FHC collection with 45 photographs processed.
- 5 items were deaccessioned.

The Fenton's dining room minus the collections department. Thanks to Art and Andy Osterdahl, Steve Johnson, Norman Carlson and Frank Walzer (absent) for making it happen.



➤ **Notes from the Collection's Manager's desk**

The Collections department office and all remaining items were moved from the Fenton Mansion where they had been for about 35 years (!) to the new storage rooms in the Hall House. The packing list extended to 35 pages for around 45 boxes, tubes and special packages of artifacts that were moved to their new secure homes. The empty workroom, which is really the Fenton formal dining room, is now ready for hosting parties, showers, weddings and gatherings of any kind. The department had some interesting field trips this year. When The Pub burned we were called in to investigate what was thought to be period wallpaper. It turned out to be from the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. We documented the former School House #5 at Charles St. and McKinley Ave. built in 1877. We also documented the specific sites associated with the 1850s Kiantone Harmonia movement and early settlement of Kiantone by the Cheney family. We cleared up the puzzling provenance of Edgar Putnam's Medal of Honor. We had one and so did the County Historical Society. We determined our medal was a third medal and had an entirely different chain of provenance. An arrangement was made with the Lawson Boat Center to transfer 2 steamboat rudders to them for an appropriate display.

## **PREPARING THE FUTURE THROUGH EDUCATION**

**Collections Manager** Norman P. Carlson

**Housekeeping** Paula Bechmann

**Textiles** Phoebe Forbes

➤ **Helping schools meet curriculum goals and providing resources for lifelong learning.**

- 97 programs were presented to area school students, community groups and special programming for all ages. 67% drop from last year because of the decline in Jamestown and other school district participation in the Fenton's offerings.
- This year the summer campers traveled through time learning about archaeology and the Civil War. The made good use of Fenton Park and the ongoing excavation while the Civil War campers learned about Jamestown's Camp Brown.
- The Fenton Education department taught in 5 of the 18 public school districts in Chautauqua County and Continuing Education at JCC. We also provided discussion and interaction at Fredonia Place and Hultquist Place.
- Over 4,000 members and friends participated in the Fenton events: *Doors Open Jamestown*, *Brown Bag lectures*, *"Archaeology in Walnut Grove" summer exhibit*, *grand opening of the new entryway, visitor center, gift shop and "Welcome to Jamestown" exhibit*, *the Walking Tours*, *the "Slice of History Pizza Challenge" event*, *the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala*, *Blue & Gray 2014*, *Saints and Sinners Lake View Cemetery Tours and Mausoleum & More Tours*, *Candlelight Tours* and *the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Exhibit: 'Tis the Season*.

➤ **Notes from the Education Coordinator's desk**

This year has been mixed with frustration and joy. Plans are being made to enlist a museum centered education consultant to guide us in determining how to be relevant in today's school classrooms. The education programs are good, but have to be re-worked to meet the changing requirements of the schools and their dwindling resources. Given that I hope to increase our classroom programming and in turn bring more students and teachers into the museum. We are also working on promoting our senior citizen programming to a wider range of nursing homes, assisted living facilities and community groups. Fran Fair gave this program a good start and now it needs to be aggressively marketed. Who knows what information and memories we will uncover for future researchers!

I am also in charge of designing and installing the annual holiday exhibit – it included many beautiful dresses and textiles this year. The Chautauqua Region Community Foundation awarded funds to purchase mannequins that bring the clothing to life. 2015 will bring another educational and interesting exhibit which will hopefully be visited by many classrooms of children and teachers.



The Candlelight Tour guide Gesele Koehler explains using an artifact in the lower level of the museum. Students enjoying Doors Open Jamestown and our Local Lore program at Fletcher School.

**Education Coordinator** Sara Reale

**Special Programming Coordinator** Fran Fair

**Museum Teachers** Gesele Koehler, Julie Hull, Martha Korcyl-Milliner



Fletcher Elementary Students hold their Wax Museum of Jamestown's founders and pioneers.



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

**TELLING THE COMMUNITY'S STORY** Exhibits serve as a bridge to awareness and knowledge of our unique local history by presenting a personal understanding the collection.



**The Hand Fan**  
From the collection of  
Jeannette Fenton Gilbert



**Visitors:** on-site 4,018 website 19,181

### **Thank You for Your Support**

#### **PLANNED GIVING AND BEQUESTS**

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, leaving a legacy in your will (a bequest) or the benefits of a gift of appreciated securities or other property please contact Joni Blackman, Director.

#### **GRANTS**

##### **Operating and Programming Grants:**

Chautauqua Region Community Foundation - six grants totaling \$12,858      Hultquist Foundation \$12,000

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

City of Jamestown  
Stanley Weeks Fund

Chautauqua County  
Mr. & Mrs. David Larson

George C. Fowler Fund  
Ms. Jacqueline Darroch

#### **CONTRIBUTORS \$100+**

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Clark Patterson Lee Design Group, Media One Group, The Post-Journal, The Chautauqua Daily Star, The Jamestown Gazette, The Coffee Exchange, Axiom Business Machines, Dan Gates at the Frame & Glass Shoppe, Jack Ericson, Tom Goodwill, Bill Lucas, Jim and Ann Buffone, Streetwise Creative Group, Doug Hoisington for Earth Spark, Tops Markets, Sandberg Kessler Architecture & Engineering, The City of Jamestown Parks Department, Lake View Cemetery Association, Jamestown Renaissance Corporation, Gary Lynn, BOCES, David Reale

### **THANK YOU— WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!**

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Mr. & Mrs. Michael Rohlin	Mr. Rick Roll	Rev. Dn & Mrs. Andrew Rubis	Mr. Walter Sadler
Mr. Scott Sadowski	Mr. & Mrs. John Samuelson	Mr. G. William Samuelson	Ms. Johann Samuelson
Sandberg Kessler Architecture	Mr. & Mrs. Robert Schultz	Ms. Candace Schupp	Ms. Leona Seastrum
Ms. Tina Scott	Ms. Barbara Shannon	Ms. Mary Shearman	Short & Smith Insurance
Dr. & Mrs. Robert Siegel	Mr. Leon Slojkowski	Slone-Melhuish & Co.	Mr. & Mrs. Gene Smith
Mrs. Patricia Smith	Mr. Leonard Snyder	Mrs. Tillie Solomonson	Mrs. Carol Sorg
South Hills Country Club	Mr. Lance Spicer	Mr. & Mrs. Richard Stahlman	Ms. Sally Stauffer
Dr. & Mrs. T. Steegmann	Mrs. Debra Steele	Ms. Josephine Stewart	Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Strickler
Mr. F. Ryan Sullivan	Mr. Adon Swanson	Ms. Jennifer Swanson	Mr. & Mrs. Jerome Swanson
Mrs. Linda Swanson	Ms. Lois L. Swanson	Mr. Richard Swanson	Mr. & Mrs. David Swenson
M/M Stephen Szwejbka	Ms. Billie J. Taylor	Mr. Devon Taylor	Ms. Gale R. Taylor
Mr. Vivian Taylor	Mrs. Sandra Tellinghuisen	Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Teresi	Mr. & Mrs. R. Terreberry
Mrs. Sharon Terwilliger	Mrs. B. Dolores Thompson	Ms. Ann Thorpe	Mr. Robert Tomb
Ms. Blanche Tracy	Ms. Shelly Traver	Mr. Don Traynor	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Tuttle
Mr. David C. Videll	Ms. Marlene Volpe	Mr. & Mrs. James Wahlberg	Mr. A.E.P. Wall
Ms. Cheyenne Walters	Mr. Lamont Wager	Mr. Frank Walzer	Mr. DeForest Warn
Ms. Catherine Way	Mrs. Helen E. Weaver	Mr. Thomas Weaver	Barclay O. & Diane Wellman
Ms. Carla Westerlund	Mr. & Mrs. Michael Whiting	Mr. Curt Westrom	Mr. Leo Wilcox
Mr. Dwight Willson	Mrs. Bonnie Wilson	Ms. Claudia Wittenbrook	Mrs. Bonita Woodring
Mrs. Connie Wright	Mr. Allen Yahn	Martha Zenns & Gilbert Lindahl	



**SERVING THROUGH VOLUNTEERISM**

- For every paid staff member 14 people volunteer their time and services.

**Board Officers 2014**

Richard Lundquist, President	Michael Rohlin
Thomas Greer, M.D., Vice President	Arthur Osterdahl
Connee Brown, Secretary	Guy Ditonto
Clarence Carlson, Treasurer	Steven Johnson



The Mausoleum & More Tours guides and actors.

**Volunteers 2014****Education**

Julie Hull  
Sara Reale  
Fran Fair  
Gesele Koehler  
Martha Korcyl-Milliner  
Greg Johnson  
Steve Johnson  
Todd Langworthy  
Victoria Parker  
Rob Black  
Steve Sandberg  
Mike Rohlin  
Joe Bolivar

**Textiles**

Phoebe Forbes

**Library/Research**

Kathy Barber  
Sharon Terwilliger  
Delbert Mee  
Gene Smith  
Sue Ellen Nelson  
Frank Walzer  
Steve Hatfield  
Janet Wahlberg  
Karen Livsey  
Helen Ebersole  
Christine Ahlstrom  
Jan and Jean Ringle  
Peter Bentley  
Barb Cessna

**Events**

Gene and Loretta Smith  
Sally Martinez  
Sara Reale  
Clair Carlson and Gayle Sheets  
Tim Warnick  
Mark Olson  
The Rohlin Family  
Sam Genco  
Art and Andy Osterdahl  
Tom and Sally Greer  
Don and Gail Lauger  
Bruce Johnson  
Jim and Janet Wahlberg  
Julie Hull  
BOCES, Workplace Experience Program:  
Dennis Wright  
Rick Lundquist  
David Anderson  
Doug Hoisington  
Don Traynor

Kate Armbruster  
Rick & Patty Lundquist  
Deacon Pierce  
Norman Carlson  
Barb Krudys  
Traci Langworthy  
Hugh Golden  
Julie Hewitt  
Patty Z. Franco  
Ann Thorpe  
Connee Brown  
Bill and Pat Locke  
Paul Leone  
Matt Smith  
Carol Svensen  
Tiffany Holland  
Danielle DeJoy  
Andrew Kolstee  
Sue Ellen Nelson



Pres. Rick Lundquist plays a Civil War soldier during the Mausoleum and More Tours.

**Collections Management**

Loretta Smith  
Victoria Parker  
John Collins  
Sue Ellen Nelson  
Steve Johnson  
Steve Hatfield  
Frank Walzer

**Left:** The first Pizza Challenge and the winners; Buzzetto's Pizza and Vinney's Pizza. Many volunteers were instrumental in making the Pizza Challenge a success..

**Below:** Matt Smith, Katie Armbruster, Tiffany Holland, Samantha Kosinski, Patty Lundquist, Carol Svensen and Julie Hewitt become a part of the Lake View Cemetery Saints and Sinners tours and Mausoleum and More Tours.



## Slice of History Pizza Challenge

March 28 1-3 PM @ The Lillian R. Ney Renaissance Center

\$10 adult **presale**                      \$12 Adult at event

\$5 per child (up to age 12)

**2014  
Winner**

Help pick Jamestown's  
favorite pizza!

*Learn more about our*

*Community's Italian*

*Heritage, music, food, games...*

**Buzzetto's Pizza**