

2016 Annual Report

The **Annual Business Meeting** of the Fenton History Center will be held at **6:15 pm on Wednesday, February 8, 2017 at Shawbucks Pressroom Restaurant**. All current members of the Fenton Historical Society are invited to attend. The membership will be electing Officers to serve the 2017-2018 term. Stay for the Winter Trivia Tournament following the meeting. Play or watch!



FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

January 15, 2016

"If you don't know history, then you don't know anything. You are a leaf that doesn't know it is part of a tree."

This quote by famous author Michael Crichton relates to the fastest growing area in our organization, the Research Center and genealogy resources located in the Hall House.

Ever since we acquired the building a few years ago and moved in, we have been expanding the programs with continuing success. The efforts of our wonderful staff and volunteers have greatly contributed to the success. We are able to handle inquiries from all around the country. We provide information from a number of sources; from the archival collections, the powerful databases, and the library. Providing a service that is not available anywhere else in this area to this extent. We plan to utilize this building more and more, as funds are available, to expand our work and make what we have more easily accessible. We can thank also the hard-working leadership of our executive director and the wonderful board that provides support and great ideas for many projects. We hope, with your continued support, to be able to move forward to better serve everyone. We continue to solicit new ideas and your input is very welcome.

Things continue to move forward at the mansion as well, and we especially thank our donors and the City of Jamestown for their continued support. Be sure to watch our webpage and Facebook page and other media for announcements of exciting things to come. With your help and support, we will continue to grow and continue to be a wonderful asset to our community.

Richard Lundquist

President, Fenton Board of Trustees



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Members and Friends,

2016 was a great year! From growing the membership to a wide array of local history programming – there was a lot going on at the Fenton Mansion. 2016's success was the culmination of many plans started in previous years. The improved design of the first floor from the new entrance to the "Welcome to Jamestown" orientation exhibit room has made touring the Mansion more interesting and a better learning experience. With the immeasurable help given by volunteer Melissa Mee the Fenton social media pages blossomed this past year.

On average 720 individuals are seeing the Fenton History Center's information every week on the Facebook feed. That is 39,805 post views over the entire year. Those individuals engaged the Fenton staff and volunteers 9,261 times over the past year to give us a thumbs up, or new information they saw on Facebook. We have 79 followers on Instagram and 332 followers on Twitter.

We started a new fundraiser this year – the Winter Trivia Tournament @ Shawbucks Restaurant. It was every Wednesday evening in February. It was fun and a success. We plan to do it again this February. More information can be found at the Fenton website, www.fentonhistorycenter.org.

The adult education programming was also improved in 2016 with the addition of the Vets Finding Vets offerings; Mr. John Ludwiczak's WWII 3rd Cavalry story, Mr. Paul Arnone's WWII experiences during D-Day and other Veteran's

stories throughout the year. The Veteran's trip to the WWII museum in Eldred, Pennsylvania was a highlight of the year. This year proves to be very full too.

Another component of adult education is the various tours the Fenton is known for. They are the summer walking tours, Saints and Sinners Lake View Cemetery tours, and during the Lucy Festival, Lucy tours in the Lake View Cemetery and through downtown Jamestown. Many local residents and tourists took advantage of the tours to learn about our local history.

The Hall House Research Center's Genealogy Support Group meets every month to study a relevant genealogy topic, from databases to DNA. The group grows each month. The volunteers that manage the majority of the work done at the research center are a gift to the staff. The research center is the fastest growing segment of the Fenton History Center, both in new members and attendance. The Library Lock-In was well attended by researchers looking for uninterrupted research time with fellow genealogy detectives.

Education Coordinator Sara Reale "retired" this year. Sara has given many years to the Fenton over the course of twenty five years. Sara was the director behind the successful "Meet the Fentons" tour in December. We hope to do the tours again in the late fall. We wish her all the best as she starts a new chapter in her life.

We welcomed Jennifer Champ to the staff in late December. Jennifer has degrees in English and History. She has always loved local history and programming – a perfect match for the Fenton. The education department is poised to deliver many programs in 2017. Sara's hard work over the past few years will pay off as Jenn acquaints herself with the duties and then begins to implement her ideas. The Fenton teachers can be found sharing Jamestown's history with local nursing home and assisted living residents, with local elementary school classroom students and Scouts.

Collections are the basis of any museum. The Fenton's collections are in the best condition and storage situation since I have been here. Assistant Collections manager Victoria Parker has organized the collections, while Collections Manager Norman Carlson continues to accept and catalog the new donations as well as work on the ever present backlog when he has time. Victoria has also been working on a digitization project funded by the Hultquist Foundation. She is scanning and preserving the 10,000 photographs in the collection. The next project in the collections area will be improving the textile storage.

Finally, on December 30th we celebrated the 200th Anniversary of Jamestown's post office. Mayor Sam Teresi, Assemblyman Goodell, Postmaster Oyer and representatives from Congressman Reed's office and Senator Young's office were all able to participate. Norman Carlson gave a history and Karen Livsey told some family stories about her Uncle Henry who was a rural carrier for decades. A hand stamp was created by Steve Johnson and signed envelopes were available for sale. Karen Livsey and Victoria Parker created an exhibit from the Fenton's collection too.

Thank you to...

the **staff** for their willingness to work for a fraction of their worth with endless energy and compassion.
 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.

We are a focused team.

Joni Blackman, Director

WALNUT GROVE ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT



During the 2016 season we continued excavation of the cellar area of the early barn. We also excavated and determined the footprint of the servant's house. Both areas yielded many artifacts. This year we will work to define the outlines of the carriage house and west side mansion addition. We hope to raise funds for interpretive signage for visitors at these locations. Many thanks to our loyal volunteers.

Thomas L. Greer, M.D., Project Director





VETS FINDING VETS PROGRAM

Two years ago we launched the *Vets Finding Vets* program to add to the family information available at the Research Center as well as to introduce veterans to their past family members that also served their country. 2016 was very busy. We had events planned and added new ones that just came up – they were wonderful. As we are still getting word out about



VFV, we speak whenever the opportunity arises. VFV Committee Members and I spoke four times to local Legions and Auxiliaries and once as the Brown Bag Lunchtime talk. Paul Arnone, a signalman on an LST during the Normandy invasion gave a very interesting talk which Rick Roll, volunteer extraordinaire, videotaped for us.

Our first bus trip was to the WWII Museum in Eldred, PA. Of the 27 Veterans who joined us, eight were WWII Vets. It went so well we are planning a trip to another destination for 2017.

Our surprises were very different and rewarding. Local artist Renee Pye received a grant to work with 7th graders to create thank you's for Veterans. She asked for help finding 60 Veteran addresses, we supplied 195. She graciously worked the additional Veterans into her program. A researcher for the Wall of Faces, the online tribute matching the names on the Vietnam Wall Memorial, asked us for help with three Chautauqua County soldiers for whom he had little info. We helped gain more info, but so far, only one photo. We keep trying.

In May, we were pleased to receive a grant from the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation, which are paying for my time on Wednesdays. This helped immensely in preparing for all of our planned and unplanned events.

In December, our latest surprise was a \$500.00 donation from Veteran's Outreach, an Ohio based organization with representatives in our area. 2017 is looking to be a very busy year!

Barb Cessna, *Vets Finding Vets* Coordinator

FENTON HISTORY CENTER STAFF

Joni Blackman, Director

Paula Bechmann, Office Manager & Housekeeping

Norman Carlson, Collections Manager

Barbara Cessna, Researcher and Vets Finding Vets Program Manager

Phoebe Forbes, Volunteer Textile Manager

Melissa Mee, Volunteer Social Media Manager

Karen Livsey, Librarian/Archivist

Victoria Parker, Collections Assistant/Museum teacher

Sara W. Reale, Education Coordinator

Museum Teachers: Julie Hull, Geselle Koehler

Martha Korcyl-Milliner

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.

FINANCIAL REPORT 2016

	2016 Actual	2016 Budget	%Year
General Operating Income, unrestricted			
Municipal Assistance	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 16,000.00	100.0
County Assistance	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00	100.0
Fundraising	\$ 80,311.80	\$ 83,725.00	95.9
Donations	\$ 47,809.17	\$ 10,500.00	455.3
CRCF Fund and interest	\$ 18,408.46	\$ 23,493.00	78.4
Memberships	\$ 18,943.19	\$ 17,000.00	111.4
Gift Shop sales	\$ 5,209.87	\$ 9,000.00	57.9
Memorials	\$ 45.00	\$ 200.00	12.5
Earned Income	\$ 18,733.36	\$ 18,996.00	98.6
Hall House operating support	\$ 5,850.00	\$ 6,000.00	97.8
Total	\$ 219,290.85	\$ 192,914.00	113.7
Expenses, Unrestricted			
Payroll Expenses, Administration* (incl. all taxes)	\$ 70,895.14	\$ 76,712.09	92.4
Insurance	\$ 14,800.00	\$ 14,800.00	101.3
Supplies	\$ 622.91	\$ 550.00	113.3
Printing	\$ 738.00	\$ 920.00	80.2
Telephone/Internet	\$ 2,055.11	\$ 1,950.00	105.4
Postage	\$ 1,239.43	\$ 1,200.00	103.3
Gift Shop	\$ 2,651.91	\$ 4,823.91	55.
Advertising & Fundraising	\$ 6,590.54	\$ 5,250.00	125.5
Maintenance & Repairs	\$ 3,390.84	\$ 9,500.00	35.7
Hall House utilities, maint.	\$ 8,772.16	\$ 6,325.00	138.7
Education Dept.	\$ 14,330.93	\$ 11,770.00	121.8
Collections Dept.	\$ 31,804.56	\$ 37,602.00	84.6
Exhibits Dept.	\$ 838.77	\$ 650.00	129.0
Research Ctr.	\$ 14,126.43	\$ 15,061.00	93.8
**Miscellaneous	\$ 21,454.57	\$ 5,800.00	369.9
General Operating Expense	\$ 194,507.31	\$ 192,914.00	100.8
Net Gain/(Loss)	\$ 24,783.54	\$ -	

*Administration costs include marketing, adult programming, exhibit design and installation, & fundraising.

**Miscellaneous includes a credit card debt pay-off and a large professional fee paid to the University at Buffalo archaeology survey group

NEED UP TO DATE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR PROGRAMS AND EVENTS?

VISIT OUR WEBSITE WWW.FENTONHISTORYCENTER.ORG

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK FOR THE MOST UP TO DATE INFORMATION

SPONSORS: Ahlstrom-Schaeffer Electric Co., FSC Systems, The Legend Group, Hansen Capital Markets, Lind Funeral Home, Henry Mosher Post #638, Herman Kent Post #777, Bernard Anderson Fundraising, Lakewood Rod & Gun club, Veteran's Outreach.



Thank you to Jim Wahlberg for painting the Hall House porch.



Celebrating the 200th Anniversary of the Jamestown Post Office with a special handstamp. Thank you to Postmaster Oyer and Clerk Terry Gugino.



Above: County historian Michele Henry speaking at a Brown Bag talk.
Below: "Meet the Fenton's" cast: Gesele Koehler, Cindy Rodgers, Paul Leone, Julia Eppehimer and Victoria Parker.



Above: The winners of the Winter Trivia Tournament, Chris and Steve Hatfield and Patty and Steve Trask.
Right: Paving the parking lot – thank you to the Lenna Foundation for their support.
Re-enactors observe Camp Brown during the Blue and Gray event in September.

SERVING THROUGH VOLUNTEERISM

For every paid staff member 14 people volunteer their time and services.
The research center volunteers averaged 138 hrs. per month!

Board Officers 2016

Richard Lundquist, President
Thomas Greer, M.D.,
Vice President
Connee Brown, Secretary
Clarence Carlson, Treasurer
Danielle Dejoy
Cynthia Rodgers

David Painter
Kurt Johnson
Guy Ditonto
Steven Johnson
Andrew Kolstee
Angelo Cimo



Thank you to the
Pizza Challengers!



Norman
Carlson,
Steve
Johnson,
Tom and
Sally Greer
and Kurt
Johnson -
raking the
leaves

Volunteers 2016**Education**

Julie Hull
Sara Reale
Victoria Parker
Gesele Koehler
Steve Johnson
Todd Langworthy
Brian Teagarten
Mike Rohlin

Textiles

Phoebe Forbes

Library/Research

Tom Jones

Events

Gene and Loretta Smith
Rick & Patty Lundquist
Sara Reale
Clair Carlson and Gayle Sheets
Tim Warnick
Deacon Pierce
The Rohlin Family
Sam Genco
Art and Andy Osterdahl
Tom and Sally Greer
Bruce Johnson
Kris Stoeltzing
Jim and Janet Wahlberg
Julie Hull

Julia Eppenheimer
Norman Carlson
Gary Nelson
Traci Langworthy
Hugh Golden
Julie Hewitt
Faith Baker
Ann Thorpe
Matt Smith
Danielle DeJoy Moss
Andrew Kolstee
Connee & Dom Brown
Sue Ellen Nelson
LeeAnn Sunderlin
Ang Cimo



Thank you Art,
John, Tom and
Jim for all your
painting expertise.

David Marsh
Norma Marvell
Kathy Barber
Sharon Terwilliger
Candy Larson
Gene Smith
Sue Ellen Nelson
Steve Hatfield
Janet Wahlberg
Frank Walzer
Karen Livsey
Patricia Lundquist
Christine Ahlstrom
Barb Cessna
Peter Bentley
Cindy Rodgers

BOCES, Workplace Experience Program:
Dennis Wright, Patrick Wright
Bonnie DeJoy
Doug Hoisington
Mat Hagberg

Collections Management

Loretta Smith
Victoria Parker
John Collins
Sue Ellen Nelson
Steve Johnson
Steve Hatfield
Scott Lawson
R. Wayne Leamer
Ashley Senski
Jerry Nelson
Henry Blose

Cindy Ferraro
Carol Svensen
Melissa Mee
Jennifer Champ
Rick Roll
B. Dolores Thompson
Shannon Bessette
Amanda Brainard
Dan Zabala
John Gustafson
Dave Painter



SERVING THROUGH INFORMATION

Notes from the Archivist's desk

Archival materials were used in the exhibit for the Post Office bicentennial in December and in most of the other exhibits during the year. Some items have been changed in the timeline exhibit drawers and more can be done in 2017.



Providing reference support, cataloging a large collection of found in collection books, and writing the weekly Hometown History articles takes up much of the hours in the week. Thank you to Norman Carlson, Steve Johnson, Janet Wahlberg, Victoria Parker and Phoebe Forbes for writing articles too. A book sale of surplus books will start in 2017. Hopefully that will free up some space and give us a bit of money with which to purchase boxes and other supplies for the collections.

There is a good crew of volunteers to assist visitors and researchers in the research center. The Library Lock-In was a success with 18 people attending either as paying participants or helpers.

It has been a busy year. Without the volunteers manning the phone, door and assisting researchers and members it would be hard to work on the list above. They are "priceless" to the operation of the research center.

Librarian/Archivist Karen E. Livsey

Researcher

Barb Cessna

PRESERVING THE COMMUNITY'S PAST

Caring for a collection that is the community's cultural heritage.

- Twelve incoming loans were received, all but two have been returned or accessioned, and 13 items were taken on temporary custody. Many were converted to donations.
- 6 requests for photograph reproductions from the FHC collection with 39 photographs processed.
- 1 item were deaccessioned due to deterioration.



Notes from the Collection Manager's desk

Collections assistant Victoria Parker has completed most of the re-photographing, repacking, and rehousing of the collection. She has digitally scanned and re-sorted a substantial portion of the collection of photographic prints. And she has entered most of the backlog and paper record entries that were added to the catalog in 2016 plus she has entered some of the items received in 2016.

John Collins, a dedicated volunteer, has improved the storage conditions of paintings and other large flat and framed items stored with the paintings.

The change in off-site storage location (2015) has proven beneficial over all. The new site has less extreme temperature and humidity variation and much greater security. It is also much better protected from rodent, insect, and other pest damage. The risk of unanticipated damage from failure or breach of part of the building is eliminated.

Thank you to former Mayor Stan Lundine for donating the beautiful windows from the old City Hall building. We are collecting funds to restore and exhibit them in the Welcome to Jamestown exhibit.

Gov. Fenton is featured on the 14th National Encampment ribbon from 1904.



Collections Norman P. Carlson Victoria Parker **Housekeeping** Paula Bechmann **Textiles** Phoebe Forbes

PREPARING THE FUTURE THROUGH EDUCATION

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

- 59 programs were presented to area school students, community groups and special programming for all ages. 24% 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 the 19th and 20th centuries. Camp Brown campers learned about the life of a recruit from re-enactor Brian Teagarten. Elementary age and middle school age campers "traveled" to the past with their own archaeological dig, a trip to the Reg Lenna Civic Center, the Lucille Wright Air Museum, the DAR House (the former Partridge-Sheldon home), and Busti Park with a visit to Peterson's Candies.
- The Fenton Education department taught in 5 of the 18 public school districts in Chautauqua County.
- We also provided discussion and interaction at Tanglewood, Lutheran, Heritage Green and Brookdale.

Notes from the Education Coordinator's desk

The present program used most in the classrooms is "Local Lore". It is over 25 years old. After receiving results from a wide spread teacher survey, I worked on building a new classroom program that teaches local history on the following topics: immigration, geography, and inquiry based learning activities linking well known people to Chautauqua County. The holiday program, "Meet the Fentons" was well received when the weather cooperated. Thank you to the actors that made it a hit.



Education Coordinator Sara Reale

Museum Teachers Victoria Parker, Gesele Koehler, Julie Hull, Martha Korcyl-Milliner

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.



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.

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:

Lenna Foundation	\$51,200	Hultquist Foundation – digitization grant	\$23,000	Sheldon Foundation	\$12,000
CRCF – Community Service grants	\$12,600	CRCF Field of Interest grants	\$3,000		

GOODS & PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

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, Bill Lucas, 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, BOCES-Adult Education, Ahlstrom-Schaeffer Electric, Jamestown Roofing, MCA Graphics, Inc., Memorial Photography by Rick Roll.

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

**The full list of members and supporters can be found on the Fenton website,
www.fentonhistorycenter.org.**

