One of the greatest joys of working in an environment that emphasizes education and the community good is having the opportunity to engage with and teach members of the rising generation. At the Fenton, we’ve had three outstanding opportunities lately to do just that.

First, we had the privilege of getting an excellent intern from Jamestown Community College. Karlie Blodien is studying education, but, unlike everyone else in her class, she has little interest in getting into a classroom. Karlie thought she might enjoy working in museum education, so came to work with us for a few months. After learning she had an interest in the Civil War, we gave her a diary from a Civil War soldier to transcribe, and our research staff and volunteers worked patiently with her to trace the background and fate of the soldier. Karlie also led a great tour through the Fenton Mansion, focusing on military history. When I asked her how she felt about the internship on one of her last days, she had a very enthusiastic response, including saying that we had helped reignite her passion for history – I can’t imagine a better result!

Next, we were very fortunate a few months ago to be selected to work with a graduate level class at the Center for Digital Experiences at the Pratt Institute in New York City. Three groups of four students each have spent an entire semester working with staff at the Fenton, and doing their own outside analysis, to craft digital strategy plans for three different portions of the Fenton’s digital outflow. I listened to those plans presented earlier this week, and was very gratified to see that every group had taken many hours to learn about the Fenton, and about Jamestown, and to think deeply about what would actually be helpful for us and for our community. Seeing a group of such talented individuals committing their exceptional talents to helping a community like ours gives me hope for the future.

Finally, I was excited to welcome the “Justice for All” class from Jamestown High School, with Betsy Rowe-Baehr teaching, to the Fenton. This course, dubbed “The Empathy Class,”...Continued on page 2
seeks to help students find their own agency, and motivate them to get involved with social advocacy and action within their own community. The students toured through our new LGBTQ+ exhibit, as well as the Underground Railroad exhibit, and learned about the rich history of social action within Chautauqua County, seeing how our local individuals have stood against injustice and prejudice in the past. Part of the purpose of teaching the past, in my opinion, is to provide an example and an inspiration for how we all can engage with the struggles of the present and the future – having this class come in gives me confidence that we are fulfilling that part of our mission.

May 12th marks the return of our annual Brown Bag Lecture Series which was on hold in 2020. This year’s lectures will be virtual, so you can watch them from home, or work, or wherever, and enjoy your lunch while you listen. This year we are focusing on underserved and under recognized groups in our area, starting with a talk by Michelle Henry, Chautauqua County Historian, on local poor relied. These free lectures will be streamed on Facebook, and on Zoom and run the second Wednesday of the month May through October.

Our new QR Code house tour is up and running. We have been working with the Marvin House to develop a new, safe way to tour the museum. If you haven’t been in to visit lately, bring your smart phone or tablet and experience the house in a new way. Every room has a QR code that will take you to a page on our website with more information about the Mansion and the artifacts on display. We worked with the Marvin House to coordinate this project, and now you can make a day of touring both houses, discounted passes to visit both sites are available at both locations upon request.

One of the ways you can support the Fenton History Center is through our Amazon Wishlist. Of course we accept gifts purchased in other places, or monetary donations too!

www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1PU3BVS0HQ5E0
VIRTUAL BROWN BAG LECTURES

Please join us for another exciting year of interesting local history topics!

This year's lectures focus on underserved and under recognized populations in and around Jamestown and Chautauqua County.

**May 12th**: Michelle Henry, Chautauqua County Historian, on local poor relief

**June 9th**: Greg Rabb, JCC Professor of Political Science, on the LGBTQ+ community

**July 14th**: Joni Blackman, Executive Director of the Chautauqua Blind Association, on the history of the Chautauqua Blind Association

**August 11th**: Noah Goodling, Executive Director of the Fenton History Center, on George Lawn and the Original Human Rights Commission

**September 8th**: Deb Long, President of the Jamestown/Warren Deaf Club, on the history of the local deaf community, and advocacy for it

**October 13th**: Tom Greer, Fenton Archaeology Director, on the 2021 archaeological dig results

**STARTING MAY 12, 2021 | THE SECOND WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH 12 NOON VIA ZOOM AND FACEBOOK LIVE**
Genealogy Support Group Presents:

New England Workshops
da 6 part series

Spring sessions: March 20, April 17, May 15 2021
Fall Sessions: September 11, September 25, November 20 2021
10:30 to 12:30.
$20 per session or $100 for all 6 sessions for non-members
$10 per session or $50 for all 6 sessions for Fenton History Center Members.
Please call the Fenton History Center to reserve your spot.
716-664-6256.
Workshops are being held both in person and on Zoom. In person participants are asked to wear a mask during the workshops. Space is limited.

Part 1: Formation and Settlement of New England

Part 2: Migration out of New England

Part 3: Local Resources for New England Research

Part 4: Online Resources for New England Research

Part 5: Using Town Records for New England Research

Part 6: Resources of the New England Historic Genealogical Society
The Fenton History Center’s Genealogy Support Group serves as a support to both experienced and amateur researchers by acting as an educational offering our members. Meetings feature invaluable lectures, discussions and are an excellent way to become familiar with the Fenton History Center’s impressive collection of resources. The Support Group typically meets on the last Wednesday of each month at the Fenton History Center in the historic Hall House building, located at 73 Forest Avenue in Jamestown, New York. Doors open at 6, and the meeting begins at 6:30 with a brief business meeting followed by a program. Program topics and speakers are subject to change. Meetings are also often held via Zoom.

*The upcoming New England Workshop is the third in a series of six on the topic.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Saturday, May 15, 2021 @ 10:30 AM**
New England Workshop III: Local Resources* - presented by Barb Cessna, Andrew Kolste, and Janet Wahlberg

**Wednesday, May 26, 2021 @ 6:30 PM**
Cluster/FAN Research - presented by Janet Wahlberg

**Wednesday, June 30, 2021 @ 6:30 PM**
Clymer Records and Dutch Research - presented by Rodney Beckerink

**Wednesday, July 28, 2021 @ 6:30 PM**
Chautauqua County Poor Farm - presented by Michelle Henry

P A T R E O N

www.patreon.com/FentonHistoryCenter
Join us via Zoom to paint the picture above

For $20 we provide everything you need to paint this, including the 8”x10” canvas. Call the Fenton or stop in to reserve your spot!

MAY 27TH 7PM

Call 716-664-6256 to register and stop by the Fenton Gift Shop to pick up your kit!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT US AT (716)664-6256
Next to the trees and the buildings themselves, the largest and most conspicuous item on the Fenton campus is the 300 horse power engine from the old City of Jamestown steamboat. I wrote about this and our hopes for providing it with some overdue attention and maintenance in 2014. Those plans stalled. This is an update now that we have renewed hopes of achieving what needs to be done.

The engine was built in 1891 by the Trout Company in Buffalo and ran in the City of Jamestown under that and two earlier names until the boat was docked for good and cut up for scrap, the last of the 15 large steamers that once adorned the lake. In 1975 the engine was donated and placed by James Webster, builder of the Chautauqua Belle. It is an officially accessioned and numbered item in our collection.

Ordinarily museums do not use, run, or demonstrate items in their primary collections. (Items used for such purposes may come from a separate collection designated for such purposes.) This is because, unlike collectors or dealers, our mission is to preserve items for the indefinite future, beyond the scope of anyone living or their immediate descendants. Therefore, we avoid as much as possible, wear and risk of damage. But mechanical items, especially engines, are best preserved by occasional running or at least movement. This combats rusting and “seizing” of moving parts and compensates for the gradual drying or draining off of protective oil or grease films on internal bare metal.

Some volunteers in the near future will be able to clean out then dry the bearings and infuse them with penetrating oil, then loosen the bearing caps or mountings to free them completely. The next step will be to fabricate a special lever that can be attached to the flywheel allowing us to try working it by hand to discover or create some free movement. Gentle persistence should then expand the zone of motion and eventually result in the ability to turn the engine over completely. Ideally we can remove the heads and examine the pistons and cylinder walls and infuse penetrating oil there on the walls also. A grand climax would be to bring in a large air compressor and connect it to the engine and actually run it for a few minutes. It would be all but impossible to find and connect a steam boiler of sufficient size and that would have other drawbacks as well, so compressed air will be our best and only realistic power source. We plan to follow this up with protective shields for areas vulnerable to moisture and rust, a good paint job, properly mounted outdoor labels, and ideally a roofed kiosk.

We are fortunate to have such an imposing and representative object from the grand resort era of Chautauqua Lake. It merits the respect, attention and support of the public.
DREAM FLIGHTS TO HONOR WORLD WAR II VETERANS

by Barb Cessna
VETS FINDING VETS COORDINATOR

The pickings have been very slim when it comes to fun adventures for Veterans in the last year. We recently have received this opportunity from the VFW as they have “joined forces” with Dream Flights to honor World War II Veterans.

If you know a WWII Veteran who may be interested, please read on. The Veteran will enjoy a 20 minute flight in a fully restored WWII era biplane in August or September of 2021.

You may send the application in to the address given, or give me a call and I’ll be happy to help with the application process.

Let the fun begin!

April 2021

Comrades, Auxiliary Members, and Friends,

Please find the attached flyer and application for Dream Flights, a non-profit organization dedicated to honoring the service, sacrifice and stories of America’s senior veterans. Dream Flights is teaming with the VFW and currently looking for WWII veterans to participate in a free 20-minute flight in a fully restored WWII-era Boeing Stearman biplane during its campaign titled “Operation September Freedom”. Dream Flights will send its six planes throughout the country to provide flights to more than 1,000 veterans. The non-profit Dream Flights has given free flights to more than 4,200 qualified WWII veterans since 2011.

The flights will take place between August 1, 2021 and September 30, 2021. All registrations must be submitted to the Department of New York, Attn: Sr. Vice Commander Michael Hoag at HOAG@VFWNY.COM, and the State Adjutant @ Adjutantny@vfwny.com

Please join our efforts to locate and honor WWII veterans with this special opportunity. Sincerely,

Your support is vital to us meeting the needs of Veterans everywhere; membership is what enables us to help other Veterans, just as we helped you.

Our motto is: “NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS”

Thomas Howard, Commander
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Department of New York

Adjudant
Harold M. Burke Jr, PSC, State Adjutant
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Department of New York
DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK VFW

together with Dream Flights

OPERATION SEPTEMBER 2021
Freedom

TO HONOR A WWII VETERAN!!

Application Deadline to Dept of NY
May 24th, 2021

Dream Flights is teaming with the VFW to give a WWII VETERAN a day to remember, by taking to the air.

Know a WWII VETERAN you would like to honor?

Contact your District CMDR

Send Applications to:
Hoag@vfwny.com
or
adjutantdny@vfwny.com

for more information on Dream Flights go to:
https://dreamflights.org/
Honor a World War II Veteran

First Name: 
Last Name: 
Age: 

Phone: 
Cell Phone: 

Email: 
Address: 
City: 
State: 
ZIP: 

Care Facility: (if applicable):

Branch of Service: 
Army □ 
Marines □ 
Navy □ 
Air Force □ 
Coast Guard □ 

Years of Service: 
Military Rank: 

Career Highlights:

Email Completed form to: HOAG@VFWNY.COM
Introducing the 2021 feature exhibit. Learn about the history of the LGBTQIA+ community in Chautauqua County and hear stories from community members about their experiences in Jamestown and Chautauqua County.

Exhibit opens March 31st 2021 and runs through October of 2021

Visit us Monday through Saturday 10-4
Admission $10 adults
Members and Children 17 & under free!
I was born in Jamestown and live in the home in which I grew up. My Swedish grandfather purchased the home (parts of which were built in 1860’s) in 1906. My mother was born here and here we still are. (There has been no Swedish death cleaning here-people just passed on and left all their stuff).

Anyway, I attended the one room school in Kiantone for my first five grades and then moved on to Jamestown. My mother refused to send us to Frewsburg as she had been very involved in the fight against the centralization of the one room schools. The Frewsburg centralization was especially contentious. I attended RR Rogers for 6th grade, Jefferson Jr High and graduated from JHS. I graduated from Houghton College with a degree in German and History. I have also taken graduate level classes from St. Bonaventure and SUNY Fredonia.

In 1973 I was hired as the Executive Director of the Fenton Historical Society and had the privilege of working with some of the founding personalities such as Malcolm Nichols, Dan Lincoln, Vic Norton, and Edna Ingham.

In 1975 I started the Education Outreach program at the Fenton and left in 1977 to take a position in the Chautauqua County Department of Social Services where I worked in Children’s Services for twenty-five years ending up as a supervisor in Adoption and Home Finding. After retiring in 2002, I worked for Chautauqua Striders in outreach and mentoring.

I started volunteering at the Fenton sometime after 2003 working with Norman Carlson in Collections. When the library moved to the Hall House, Gene and I became volunteers with the research library.

Edna Ingham started my interest in genealogy, and I have dabbed in it ever since. I am currently trying to research families buried in the St. Mary’s Catholic Cemetery (otherwise known as the Guernsey Hollow Cemetery) in Onoville, NY and continue to work on bits and pieces of my family.

In my spare time I am involved with the Thule Lodge # 127, VOA, church activities-teach Sunday school, have sung in the choir, been on the parish board, part of the Ladies Aide. I am currently president of the Chautauqua County Federation of Rural Cemeteries, secretary for the Kiantone Maple Grove Cemetery and belong to the Chautauqua County Genealogical group, Jamestown Chapter NSDAR and Norden Women. PS I also read a lot and knit afghans mainly for DAR who give them to the Veterans Hospital in Buffalo.

That’s all folks!