As many of you already know, we are without a director currently. The Search Committee is interviewing and expect to have a candidate in the very near future. In the interim, I, Janet Wahlberg, President of the Board of Trustees have been filling in. The staff continues with their daily work as usual. Other Board members and I, meet with them each Wednesday morning to keep them informed and to listen to their concerns.

As of the writing of this article, we have the Brown Bag Lunches scheduled and are very excited to share the interesting speakers and topics with you. They will be as always, the 2nd Wednesday of the month with one exception. Sara Reale, a former Education Director at the Fenton will present a program on the Ringling Circus on April 20th.

We have three new volunteers with us who are providing much needed assistance to the regular staff. We always have room for more folks to join us.

Dr. Tom Greer continues to serve the Fenton in many ways. On May 4th at Noon, we will dedicate the outdoor signage for his Archeology Dig. We will have some of the artifacts that he and his team have unearthed on display. It will be combined with a Birthday Party for Mrs. Fenton’s 198th birthday. In case you are wondering, she will be in attendance! All are welcome to attend this event.

Dr. Greer will also be conducting a Behind the Scenes Tour of the Mansion for the Board of Directors. We are very excited to experience this unique tour.

The Board lost long time members Rick Lundquist, Mike Rohlin, Kurt Johnson, and Steve Johnson in February. All had served the maximum time allowed on the Board. They have been replaced with Sharon Matson, Paul Bentley, Mike Johnson and Tom Goodwill. Our new members have jumped right in to join committees and look for work that needs done. I look forward to working with the Board to not only keep things running smoothly but to find ways to grow the Fenton.

The Hall House Research Center is putting the finishing touches on the Genealogy Conference to be held on Saturday, April 30 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. It will be held at the Fluvanna Community Church and will be combined with a History Fair. The History Fair is free. To register for the conference, you can go to our website crgconference.com
The Summer Exhibit of 2022 features St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church to celebrate their 100th Anniversary! Much has changed since 1922, and we look forward to helping the members of this church to highlight the people and the events of their first 100 years.

Also, quite a few members have been found who proudly served our country during WWI, WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. We welcome photos and info that will help us document even more of the St. Nicholas Veterans, as we are sure there are more. During the Summer Exhibit we will continue to try to identify some of the Vets pictured who so far are unidentified.

We would love to include the quoted memories of the church members regarding the Church prior to the fire, the new church, youth groups, the Young Men’s Group, the Erene Society, the Tsintzina Club and Reunions, and of course, the Yassou Festival. If you have photos to share, we would love to feature those as well! Photos can easily be scanned and returned, just give us a call so that we can be sure someone is available when you plan to come. Give us a call at 716-664-6256 and ask for the Research Center or Victoria.
Spring has finally arrived. I find spring to be a good reminder of how far we have come, and of new things on the horizon. Our Researcher, Barb Cessna, recently found an article in a newspaper from 1977 about flower bulbs that were stored in the basement of the Fenton History Center. At that time the City was short on funds, and using the basement of the Fenton Mansion to winter over their spring flower bulbs. The volunteers at the museum felt that this practice was hindering the growth and development of new displays in the Fenton Mansion. I’ve included a photo from the newspaper article that shows the flower bulbs. In the article it states that the bulbs were hindering the installation of our basement exhibits. If you have been to the Fenton since then you can no doubt guess that something was done about these bulbs, as the basement is full of exhibits. This year promises to be another exciting one of new events, featured exhibits and displays. The first new display, of artifacts from the Archaeological dig will open May 4th, in the area that once housed these bulbs.

This month we are excited to bring back our annual Brown Bag Lecture series. We will be having these talks live and in-person again, as well as virtually over Zoom and on our Facebook page. Our first one is Wednesday April 20th, presented by Sara Reale, the former Fenton History Center Education Director. She will be presenting on the Ringling Legacy: The Circus and Beyond. The Brown Bag Lecture Series will continue from May through October on the 2nd Wednesday of each month with more exciting local history topics.

We are excited to be celebrating the 198th Birthday of Mrs. Elizabeth Scudder Fenton on May 4th 2022. We will be unveiling and dedi}

APRIL 2022  3

CURATOR'S CORNER

by Victoria Parker
CURATOR

Spring has finally arrived. I find spring to be a good reminder of how far we have come, and of new things on the horizon. Our Researcher, Barb Cessna, recently found an article in a newspaper from 1977 about flower bulbs that were stored in the basement of the Fenton History Center. At that time the City was short on funds, and using the basement of the Fenton Mansion to winter over their spring flower bulbs. The volunteers at the museum felt that this practice was hindering the growth and development of new displays in the Fenton Mansion. I’ve included a photo from the newspaper article that shows the flower bulbs. In the article it states that the bulbs were hindering the installation of our basement exhibits. If you have been to the Fenton since then you can no doubt guess that something was done about these bulbs, as the basement is full of exhibits. This year promises to be another exciting one of new events, featured exhibits and displays. The first new display, of artifacts from the Archaeological dig will open May 4th, in the area that once housed these bulbs.

This month we are excited to bring back our annual Brown Bag Lecture series. We will be having these talks live and in-person again, as well as virtually over Zoom and on our Facebook page. Our first one is Wednesday April 20th, presented by Sara Reale, the former Fenton History Center Education Director. She will be presenting on the Ringling Legacy: The Circus and Beyond. The Brown Bag Lecture Series will continue from May through October on the 2nd Wednesday of each month with more exciting local history topics.

We are excited to be celebrating the 198th Birthday of Mrs. Elizabeth Scudder Fenton on May 4th 2022. We will be unveiling and dedicating our new interpretive signs about the Walnut Grove Archaeology project, our ongoing archaeological dig on site. Dedication of the signs will take place at Noon. Light refreshments to follow. There will be displays in the museum featuring some never before displayed Fenton family artifacts and some interesting findings from the dig. There may even be a visit from Mrs. Fenton herself! This event is free and open to the public.
Come Celebrate with us
The 198th Birthday of Mrs. Elizabeth Scudder Fenton

and the unveiling and dedication of our new interpretive Archaeology Signs.

Wednesday
May 4th 2022,
Dedication Ceremony at 12 Noon.

67 Washington St.
Jamestown NY 14701
www.fentonhistorycenter.org
MUSEUM GIFT SHOP

by Janet Wahlberg
PRESIDENT

For those of you who have visited the Fenton History Center, you know that the entranceway takes you through to a small gift shop before you enter the museum itself. But did you know it is open to the public every day the museum is open and at no cost?! You do not even have to be a member!! (But that would be nice!).

You can stop in and shop for a card or gift even if you don’t have time to take in the museum!!!

We began as a bookstore but have added gift items over the years. The attached photos display the wide array of books available. In addition to the books, you will find suncatchers, glass animals, magnets, plaques, wooden ornaments and many more items. The famous Peppermint Pigs or Pickle ornaments make an appearance at Christmas as do other holiday themed items. Please check it out before making your way to one of the big box stores for a gift this year! Remember to “Shop Small”!
In the past two months, I've surveyed what little is known about the first several thousand years of Chautauqua County prehistory. It was a little less than 500 years ago that someone living in Chautauqua County, perhaps on a journey of diplomacy, perhaps around the neck of a captive, would first have seen some bead or some object made of strange material that came ultimately from a European ship exploring or fishing on the ocean far to the east. If only we could know what thoughts or rumors accompanied it.

It is only in the years 1000 A.D. to 1625 A.D that archaeologists find evidence of the people and conditions that culminated in the societies literate Europeans first recorded in our region. Late 20th century archaeologists, newly equipped with radiocarbon dating, had put together a neat picture of Iroquois development in central New York and southern Ontario: the Iroquois, the Hurons, the Neutrals, and the Eries on the Niagara Frontier, perhaps extending into Chautauqua County. But the radiocarbon calibration curve has a couple of irregularities just where things were happening and it can give you two different answers, up to a hundred years apart. More careful study has put our understanding of the last few centuries before historic contact into turmoil. Central New York (Iroquois country) and Southern Ontario (Huron and Neutral country) are where most of the action was taking place and where most of the excavation and study have been concentrated. Corn and squash, it seems, came much earlier than previously thought but not together. Beans arrived much later. Gourds (for containers) and tobacco were probably the earliest crops cultivated. The consolidation into villages, then tribes, then confederacies or nations took place later than previously thought and not very long before European contact. The development of longhouses and the implication of matrilineal residence and hence the foundation of much of the distinctive Iroquois culture along with concepts of ethnicity was not part of a package either developed in place or imported as a unit. It accreted from parts. And that question - developed in place or brought on a wave of migration - has occurred again and again among scholars. In situ, development in place, was the answer from 1952 until it again became contentious in the 1990's.

The Iroquoians, meaning not only the Iroquois themselves, but also the Susquehannocks to the south, a group in Jefferson County, N.Y. and the villages Cartier encountered on the St. Lawrence to the northeast, the Hurons and Petuns north of Lake Ontario, the Neutrals and Wenroes to the west of the Senecas, and people to the southwest including the Eries, all spoke related languages. These people as a unit were surrounded by other people who spoke languages utterly unrelated to the Iroquoians but mostly related to each other. It was an Iroquoian language island in an Algonquian sea. There was another little island, the Tuscoraoras, in North Carolina, and more distantly related but related nonetheless, the Cherokees in Georgia and Tennessee. Did the parent language develop in central New York where the Iroquois were found in the 17th century, or in southern Ontario, or in the southern Appalachians, or somewhere else? Controversy reigns.

In Chautauqua County we can be sure that in all ages most Indian life and activity centered along the Lake Erie shore and over the portage then around Chautauqua Lake and down (or up) the Outlet. Our county is not as well studied as surrounding areas. The two most ambitious studies both focused on one site in Ripley. The first was published in 1907 and was state of the art for the time. The second started in the late 1980s and was intended as a major five year effort, also state of the art, well funded by archaeological standards but small compared to sports subsidies, social programs, or almost any other favored state benefi...
...CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

...CONTINUED ON PAGE 8
Although which native wild cat is intended is itself an item of controversy. Others claim Raccoon Nation is really intended. One scholar renders it “people of the place of the cherry.”

Local history was being written over much of the U.S. in the late 19th century. The 17th century French recorded that the Eries lived west and southwest of the Iroquois and that was about all anyone knew. So nearly every local historian from Buffalo to Toledo claimed them as predecessors on the land. There are lists of tribal names, vaguely located, in French sources and there are names on numerous maps, largely French and mostly drawn after 1656 when the Eries were dispersed. Recorded Seneca and Tuscarora legends from the 19th century give additional names. There is little agreement how these named groups related to one another. We don’t know if the Eriechronon name properly referred to a tribe, a village, a confederation, an alliance, or even just a geographical or language group. Eriechronon, Aritocronon, Akhruaeronon, Gentuetchoons, Kahkwas, Oniasontkeronons, Kentanitionga, Wenro, Andastes, all with multiple spellings and synonyms - take your choice. These and many more have been ascribed to early 17th century Chautauqua County or closely adjoining by one or another author. With these wispy speculations we pass from prehistory to ethnohistory.

Recently published (2020) material largely based on the life work of Dr. Stanley Lantz, maps groups along the Lake Erie shore , in the French Creek Valley extending into Chautauqua County, and nearby in the Allegheny Valley from about 1000 A.D. to 1525. These are considered to be elements of the Erie or what ultimately became the Erie. Ethno genesis, the formation of specific peoples in thought and act, was no doubt highly dynamic and the names and groups we know probably did not extend far back in time. Up in the hills, some late 20th century work was done by Jack Schock in the 1970’s. These upland locations are the “earthworks” that Edson, A.C. Parker, and other early writers noted. Numerous ossuaries have also been found in the uplands. These were secondary burials, not remains from battlegrounds as some laymen have thought. Schock dated these small villages to 1450-1525 and named them Chautauqua Phase. Rebecca Emans early in this century contested this interpretation. She believes they represent two immigrations, the first by southwestern Pennsylvania “Monongahela” people and the second by Ontario Iroquoians. She dates the locations 1250-1400 and sees little evidence of any occupation of the uplands after that. This has not found universal agreement.

From here down through western Pennsylvania, much of Ohio, and farther west, it appears there was a considerable abandonment of territory in the 16th and early 17th centuries. The uplands of Chautauqua County must always have been unattractive because of rough terrain, clay soil, and short growing season. A few years of early frosts might have induced a general exodus.

Estimates of Erie population run from 8,000 to 14,500 people in the 1640s and early 1650s, not counting refugees from the Huron and Neutral nations. The south Buffalo area villages seem to have terminated by 1640 so only Silverheels (just across Cattaraugus Creek into Erie County), Ripley, and Erie 28th Street are known possible locations for that period, villages far too small and too few for the estimated Erie population.

Moving from prehistoric to the historic times here, I will note that within ten years of clearing away all neighbors and competitors to the north, west, and southwest, the Iroquois began establishing villages north and west of Lake Ontario. But they gave them up by 1700. From 1687 to 1696 the French, with varying success, sent punitive armies into the Iroquois homeland three times. Partly in response, the Iroquois, and particularly the Senecas, began to disperse to the Allegheny Valley. They were established in the Warren, Pa. area by the mid 1720s. It is conceivable they settled at Cattaraugus Creek around the same time but they may have been there longer. Baron LaHontan’s confusing ac-
count places some “Cayugas” on a creek that may be Cattaraugus in 1688. A village shows on a 1750 map, and we know there was a settlement there in the Revolutionary War. Meanwhile Munsees, Shawnees, Otawas, Mississaugas, and a few Fox formed villages in Western Pennsylvania and lived as near as Warren, Pa., and what later became the Allegheny Reservation.

There was additional movement of Iroquois into the upper Allegheny Valley in the late 18th century. In 1779 the Daniel Brodhead campaign expelled them. Some probably removed to Cattaraugus. Munsee Delawares living among Allegheny Iroquois throughout western Pennsylvania, apparently joined refugee Iroquois who had fled the Sullivan and Clinton armies at Fort Niagara. After the terribly harsh winter of 1779-1780, Western Seneca leader, Guyasuta arranged for the Munsees to move to Cattaraugus. Things did not work out well and most had left by 1810. Meanwhile, the western Seneca band, now led by Cornplanter, moved from Fort Niagara to Cattaraugus and several very small villages in Chautauqua County, northwestern Pennsylvania and one in Ohio in May, 1782. Cattaraugus was included in a reservation by the Big Tree treaty of 1797. The other small settlements, such as Bemus Point, Griffith’s point and Bear Lake, were vacated at that time with the possible exception of a few individuals at Kiantone who may (or may not) have remained up to 1808. The Indians retained and used hunting and fishing privileges until white settlers became numerous, about 1838.
The Second Annual Chautauqua Regional Genealogical Conference

Saturday April 30, 2022
Fluvanna Community Church
3363 Fluvanna Ext.
Jamestown, NY 14701
9am-4pm

This one-day conference is an exciting opportunity for anyone interested in Genealogy, from novice to expert. Visit our website crgconference.com for information on speakers and topics. Registration opens March 15, 2022. Visit crgconference.com or call 716-664-6256 to register.
Genealogy Support Group

The Fenton History Center’s Genealogy Support Group serves to support both experienced and amateur researchers. 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Saturday, April 30, 2022**
Chautauqua Regional Genealogical Conference

**Wednesday, May 25, 2022 @ 6:30 PM**
Introduction to the 1921 Census of England and Wales
*presented by Janet Wahlberg*

**Wednesday, June 29, 2022 @ 6:30 PM**
ORA: Online Repository Assistant
*presented by Vince Courtney*

**Wednesday, July 27, 2022 @ 6:30 PM**
Book Review of New York Family History Research Guide and Gazetteer
*presented by Janet Wahlberg*
OPEN POSITION

Since 1963, the Fenton History Center has been the place to go for local history education and preservation for the City of Jamestown and southern Chautauqua County. Utilizing two beautiful 19th century mansions in the heart of Jamestown, New York, the Fenton provides educational exhibits, research and genealogical support, diverse programs, and other forms of visitor engagement to get our community involved and interested in the history of our area. The work of the Fenton staff is supplemented by a dedicated and expansive network of volunteers, history practitioners, and partner organizations, who take our outreach and programming to the next level, and allow us to offer opportunities beyond the reach of many local museums.

As the Fenton nears its 60th anniversary, it is seeking a capable, experienced, and enthusiastic nonprofit leader to serve as its next Executive Director. Over the past few years, the Fenton staff and Board have worked on building financial stability for the organization, securing innovative community partnerships which created a strong reputation for the organization, and designing exhibits and programming that are equitable and engaging for the entirety of our community and its guests. These efforts have brought acclaim and funding from across New York State to the Fenton, and have set the stage for an exciting next phase of growth and opportunity for the organization. In conjunction with the Board of Directors, the Executive Director will be the core element of this new phase, providing forward-thinking, creative, and innovative leadership for the organization, in order to guide its mission and programming efforts.

fentonhistorycenter.org/executive-director-application
Follow us on social media for more great local history content!
Please join us for another exciting year of interesting local history topics!

May 11th: Randy Elf, Constitutional Lawyer, on Judge Robert H. Jackson’s case WVA vs Barnett

June 8th: Norman Carlson, Collections Manager of the Fenton History Center on the Prehistory of Chautauqua County

July 13th: Fletcher Ward, Local Author, and Historian on the Muskellunge of Chautauqua Lake

August 10th: Wendy Straight Mapping Assistant, Chautauqua County 19th Century Sites on Mapping Jamestown Sites of the 1880s

September 14th: Paul Johnson, Property Developer, on the History of the Packard Family in Chautauqua county

October 13th: Tom Greer, Fenton Archaeology Director, on the 2022 Archaeological Dig Results

STARTING MAY 11, 2022
THE SECOND
WEDNESDAY OF EACH
MONTH
12 NOON

FENTON HISTORY CENTER
67 WASHINGTON ST
JAMESTOWN NY 14701
AND
VIA ZOOM AND FACEBOOK LIVE
For those of you who have visited the Fenton History Center you have most likely met our Office Manager and Gift Shop Lady, Paula Bechmann. We consider her the Face of the Fenton. Paula opens the doors and turns the lights on in the morning. She then welcomes our guests as they arrive. After providing a quick overview she will direct you to the wonderful exhibits that reflect the heart and history of our area.

Those of us who know her well know that she has a second personality. She is the superwoman who manages memberships, bills, payroll, gift shop items, other jobs too numerous to mention. She can tell you “Where on earth did we put the supplies for the Cemetery Tours.” She knows who repairs the copier and takes care of fixing the furnace. Paula has all the addresses and phone numbers and the codes for the alarm system. She can answer the question “what in the world does this key go to.” You get the idea. She is indispensable, amazing and can never retire....of course we tell all our employees that!

Paula has been with us many years and has helped to keep us running smoothly over those years. Her love of the Mansion is quickly apparent when you talk with her. Her love is also reflected in the care she renders by among other things taking the time to dust and tidy up every day We asked her to write up a bit about the Gift Shop that she so ably manages, and that article is located elsewhere in this issue. Paula, one of the many jewels who keep the Fenton History Center running.
MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- Unlimited complimentary admission to the Governor Reuben Fenton Mansion.
- Unlimited access to the Hall House Research Library.
- Reduced fee for Fenton events and programs unless specified.
- A discount to the museum gift shop.
- Members only e-mail updates.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

- Student $15
- Senior (age 62+) $30
- Educator $30
- Individual (under age 62) $40
- Family $75. Includes 2 adults and up to 3 children.

SUPPORTING MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

- Supporting $120, can be paid monthly ($10). Includes 4 complimentary admission passes for guests.
- Friend of Fenton $250, can be paid monthly ($20.83). Includes 6 complimentary admission passes for guests.
- Representative’s Circle $360, can be paid monthly ($30). Includes 8 complimentary admission passes for guests.
- Senator’s Circle $500, can be paid monthly ($41.67). Includes 16 complimentary admissions for guests, lunch with Executive Director, and a behind the scenes tour of the Gov. Reuben Fenton Mansion for up to four people.
- Governor’s Circle $1,000, can be paid monthly ($83.33). Includes unlimited complimentary admissions for guests, lunch with Executive Director, a behind the scenes tour of Gov. Reuben Fenton Mansion for up to four people, and a behind the scenes tour of Hall House Research Center for four people.
We have a need for volunteers of all skills and talents. There is a need for people to photograph textiles, those who can type, those who are willing to file articles and clippings and those who can scan.

We also need volunteers to man the Gift Shop and generally assist at the mansion. Those willing to help put up displays are most welcome.

Tour guides and actors can be used year-round but are especially needed at the time of the Cemetery tours.

If you are not sure of your skill level, training is offered for each position. If you would like to be a part of the volunteer brigade, call the Fenton at 716-664-6256.
Although this was supposed to be the end of Documentation at the Armory, I just can’t do it! I plan to finish next month, just know that I’m only scratching the surface.

Two early members of Co E who caught my eye were George Schwob and John O. Bowman.

I often run across the funeral info for Veterans I’m searching for, and I always check to see if George Schwob bugled TAPS at the service. He did so for literally hundreds of Veterans as they were laid to rest. Prior to enlisting in the National Guard, George (born in 1881) enlisted in the US Army on September 25, 1899 and was discharged May 30, 1901. He was a member of Co E from Oct 1918 until his discharge as Sgt. in June 1924. After a salute-worthy life of service to our country, our state, and then to his fellow Veterans, Mr. Schwob’s death occurred on July 10, 1969. His was the very last burial to be included in Lake View Cemetery’s first Veteran burial location at Monument Hill!

John O. Bowman enlisted in Co E in March of 1916, just prior to being mustered into Federal Service during the 1916-1917 Mexican Border War. I remember reporting to Norm Carlson that I had discovered a large scrapbook made by John O. Bowman completely about the Border War, it was amazing to us both. (It has been scanned.) We know John O. Bowman as a photographer whose county wide scenic photos were often reprinted in the newspaper, highlighting farm animals serenely grazing or a babbling brook complete with swimming waterfowl. He was known for taking these photos with his Brownie Box camera, but as I did a little online search for this article I discovered more info. He was nationally known, had paid 75 cents plus 6 coffee coupons for his Brownie, and he had exhibited 128 photos during the New York World’s Fair in 1940. Through the clippings included in the scrapbook, we learned that he was Historian for the Mexican Border Veterans Inc., which explains the scrapbook. In 1952, he became the National Commander for the United Mexican Border Veterans Assoc. Most of the photos in the scrapbook picturing life at Camp Pharr while they served at the border were taken by Bowman, who was 21 years old in 1916. Vets Finding Vets is partially funded by the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation.
Company E at Camp Pharr, Texas (1916)

20th Reunion of Company E (1936)
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