The History Community in Chautauqua County is alive and growing. On Saturday, April 30, the Fenton History Center hosted a Genealogy Conference and History Fair at the Fluvanna Community Church. It was a great opportunity for the participants to attend classes, visit the vendors, and network with one another. We were delighted to welcome 16 Historical Societies, Museums, a Genealogy Research Specialist and a Photo Restoration Specialist.

The program opened with Pam Brown, Panama and Town of Harmony Historian, speaking on the importance of local History Societies and how we can support them. The conference participants were then treated to classes in Research for Beginners, Research Using Newspaper Websites, School and Adoption Records, Local Records in New York State, Using Archives to do Research, Caring for Photos and Documents, Proper Citation of Your Resources, Cemetery Records and Resources, DNA101 and DNA 201, Organization of Your Research, Using Family Search, and Finding Your Female Ancestors, Ancestry for Beginners and Ancestry for In-
The changing of the seasons always sparks a new season of sports events to look forward to.

Baseball is beginning its second month and will be going strong into October. How wonderful for players and spectators who can freely enjoy the sport without masking up, unless they prefer to.

Jamestown Baseball was very active, as it was everywhere. The three main parks - Allen Park, Celoron Park, and Cresent Park had full schedules from April through October. There were semi-pro leagues, inter-state leagues, most industries, and many businesses and organizations had their own busy baseball schedules. Even Daylight Savings Time was a “player” and was fully supported by the Jamestown Baseball Association, as you see in the clipping of May 2, 1930.

The Jamestown Orioles were the City Champs in 1930, (in the late 1920’s they were the Ariels) and they played on the Oriole field located on Buffalo Street Ext. We would love to know if any of our members have memories or photos of the Orioles team or their field.

If so, let us know!
May is an exciting time at the Fenton. On May 4, we hosted an event to celebrate the 198th birthday of Mrs. Elizabeth Scudder Fenton, and to dedicate our new outdoor interpretive signs. Now that festivities are over there are still new things to see at the Fenton.

Visitors will notice a change to our Victorian Drawing room. We recently received a donation of some furniture that originally belonged to one of Governor Fenton’s daughters. This furniture now has a place of honor in the Drawing room. The pink couches that were on exhibit for many years originally belonged to a family in Warren and have now been moved to the Warren County Historical Society.

Visitors to Fenton park can now view 3 interpretive signs about the Walnut Grove Archaeology Project, our ongoing archaeological dig. Inside there is a new display of artifacts from the first 10 years of archaeological excavation in the basement gallery area. Artifacts from all of the dig sites are on display, including coins, children’s toys, dish fragments, a license plate and many more items.

We are looking forward to the opening of our summer exhibit in June about the history of the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church who are celebrating their centennial this year. More details to come.
Like most places its size, Jamestown has had its share of unsuccessful and minimally successful newspapers. Our current older generation remembers the Jamestown Sun that published from 1949 into 1962 as a morning paper when the Post Journal was an evening paper. The previous generation remembered the Jamestown Morning Post that began publishing in 1902 and merged with the Journal in September, 1941. In the 19th century, there were just under 15 different papers, weeklies or more frequent, known to have been started in Jamestown. Very few issues of most of them survived to the age of microfilm. It is our policy to reject newspapers offered for donation because 1.) they are assumed to be available on microfilm and usually also on the internet, and 2.) it is effectively impossible to preserve papers from the self-destruction that is natural to newsprint, itself. I make exceptions for issues, be they the Journal (some issues failed to get microfilmed) or obscure competitors, that are unavailable elsewhere in any form.

A recent inventory in our archives turned up the front page of the August 30, 1885 Jamestown Sun (no connection to the 20th century Jamestown Sun) which was Volume 2, number 10. A 1982 county wide survey found only one other issue of this paper and it isn’t listed at all in the State Newspaper Project. We found one page, in four pieces...
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...CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

and almost too brittle to handle. However, Rick Roll, our audio/visual/scanning volunteer was able to reconstruct and scan it. He produced the image that is shown at reduced scale with this article.

This isn’t just any issue, this is the issue that reports former Governor Reuben Fenton’s death and funeral a few days previous. The coverage is wonderfully detailed and information rich.

Newspapers at the time were not able to reproduce photographs, but a line sketch portrait we had not previously seen accompanies the article.

Reuben Fenton was the most well known and popular man in 19th century Jamestown. Surprisingly, only one short, unpublished biography of him has been written and few of his personal and official papers have survived. But many reports and short necrologies followed his death, undoubtedly including one in almost every newspaper in the state. Now we need a volunteer to carefully go over the text, extract facts, and compare with coverage in other sources such as local, Buffalo, Albany, and New York City papers plus the memorial booklet and the biographical chapters in published county histories.

We are creating a new exhibit based on this find and the copies were featured at our May 4 celebration of Mrs. Fenton’s birthday.

VIP: HELEN EBERSOLE
HONORING HELEN ON HER 99TH BIRTHDAY

by Janet Wahlberg
PRESIDENT

Helen had been an incredible asset to our area for many years and we would like to honor her with a card shower. Please send cards to Helen Ebersol 18 Walnut St. Lakewood, NY 14750.

For those of you who may not know Helen, let me share a few of her many accomplishments. Helen is an author with many newspaper and magazine articles to her credit. She has written at least 4 books about Jamestown and the Chautauqua area. Book titles include: Trolleys of Jamestown and Chautauqua Lake, Electricity and Politics in Jamestown 1891-1931, Chautauqua Lake Hotels and the very recently published An Impressive Record: Jamestown Journal-1826 to 1941. All are well researched and written and available at the Fenton Gift Shop.

Helen was born in and raised in Ohio. She attended College at Juniata College, Huntingdon, PA, where she earned her teaching certificate and a degree in English. She eventually settled in Lakewood with her husband and four children in 1963 where she quickly became involved in the community. One of her major accomplishments was directing the Capital Campaign that raised $800,000 for the renovation of the Lakewood Memorial Library. She served as the Lakewood Historian beginning in 1993.

Fenton History Center was the beneficiary of her time and energies for many years and in many capacities. She somehow found time to serve with many other community organizations including in Southwestern Central School Board, Jamestown Community Concert Board, Chautauqua County Arts Council, Creche, Chautauqua County Planning Board, the United Way of Southern Chautauqua, and Lakewood Memorial Library Board of Trustees. Helen has truly lived a remarkable life of service.
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It was a great opportunity for those interested in History and Genealogy to spend time learning new skills and resources and was made possible in part by our sponsors, Kolstee Media, Crown Street Roasters, Rodgers Land Surveying, Memorial Photo, and Chautauqua Regional Community Foundation. With the arrival of Spring, the Museums and Historical Societies will be opening their doors to welcome you. Plan to take a peek at what Chautauqua County has to offer.
Genealogy Support Group Presents:

New York State Research Workshops

a 6 part series

May 21, June 11, July 23, August 20, September 24 and October 15, 10:30 to 12:30.

$20 per session or $100 for all 6 sessions if you sign up all at once
$10 each or $50 if paid all at once 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. Space is limited.

Please see the Fenton History Center Facebook page at www.facebook.com/FentonHistoryCenter or the website www.fentonhistorycenter.org
This month we want to feature a book written by Col. (Ret.) Ken Cordier a retired Fighter Pilot. Col. Cordier came to Chautauqua County in October 2019 to speak at a Vets Finding Vets program on his experiences as a pilot in the Vietnam War and his 6 years as a POW of that war.

We have both the books and the videos of his experience and proceeds go to the Air Power Foundation, the Gary Sinise Foundation, the Salvation Army and the USO.

With the baseball season starting up, you might enjoy Our Game from Unknowns to the Tarp Skunks, 150 years and Counting of Baseball in Chautauqua County. Don’t forget to go to the games.

Then there is the Swedish Flag painted on a roof slate and a huge selection of decorative items for your home or the just right gift.

Come on in and see what we have to offer at the Fenton History Center Gift Shop open Monday through Friday 10 to 4 and soon on Saturdays.
The Fenton History Center’s Genealogy Support Group serves to support to 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, May 21, 2022 @ 10:30 AM
New York Workshop I: New Netherland
presented by Andrew Kolstee

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

Saturday, June 11, 2022 @ 10:30 AM
New York Workshop II: Early Land Records
speaker to be determined

Wednesday, June 29, 2022 @ 6:30 PM
ORA: Online Repository Assistant
presented by Vince Courtney
On Wednesday, May 4, the Fenton History Center unveiled three signs marking the outbuildings of the original complex at Walnut Grove. Dr. Tom Greer, the resident archeologist has pursued this project since the summer of 2012, bringing to life dozens of artifacts and a much clearer picture of the property during the years that the Fenton family lived there. Several of the archaeology assistants, including one who assisted with the original dig joined us.

We were joined by Mrs. Fenton, portrayed by Cindy Rodgers, who was celebrating her 198th birthday. In addition, Bill Reynolds, the great-great-great grandson of the Fentons, PJ Wendel, the County Executive, and Lisa Vastrom representing Senator George Borello were in attendance. It was a bit of a reunion with previous directors Joni Blackman and Noah Goodling who were joined by many previous employees and volunteers of the Fenton.

Following the unveiling of the interpretive signs, everyone came into the Mansion to have a bite of Birthday Cake and to view the new exhibits. Dr. Greer and Victoria, our Curator, filled two cases in the basement with items recovered in the dig. The drawing room showcased a lovely light green loveseat, chair and footstool that is believed to have belonged to the Fenton’s daughter. And just next to the loveseat, one...continued on page 13
of Mrs. Fenton’s formal gowns was displayed. In the dining room, a recently discovered news article from the *Jamestown Sun* was displayed. It was the front page of the paper the day after Reuben Fenton passed away and contains much interesting information. It was restored by volunteer Rick Roll and will eventually be displayed in the Mourning Room on the second floor.

The dig will continue this summer and if you are interested in this project or any other project at the Fenton, please call 716-664-6256.
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 Mapping Jamestown Sites of the 1880s

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

October 12th:
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

Wednesday
April 20:
Sara Reale, Former Education Director at the Fenton History Center on The Ringling Legacy: The Circus and Beyond
Follow us on social media for more great local history content!
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.
This is the final installment of the Jamestown Armory, although my joy at being allowed to document the enlistments, scan photos (with Victoria’s help), and borrow the scrapbooks for scanning and return is boundless.

I was so surprised to find that many of the prominent names that I know from Jamestown history were connected to the Fenton Guards as supporters. Some other names I recognized as having been killed in WWI and WWII but didn’t realize they were actually were Co. E members who had been federalized and were serving overseas.

Also, I was stunned to discover that 34 Co. E Members who participated in the Mexican Border War, WWI, in between, and WWII were born and/or lived in Frewsburg! I live in Frewsburg! As Carroll Historian and a Carroll Historical Society member, I constantly look for Veteran pics and bios and although some of these 34 Co. E members were known already as having served, their Co E info was missing!

Also, I learned much more about the Frewsburg Rifle Range and its location on land behind Moll Hyde Company as you enter Frewsburg on Rte 62, and found some photos taken there in the early 1950s.

This was a project that will stand out forever as a brilliant silver lining in that dark Covid cloud! I am forever grateful to SSG Weaver and the other Armory staff members for their sharing attitude, their trust, and their help.
IN MEMORIAM

NANCY BENTLEY HANKS

(1930-2021)

by Janet Wahlberg

PRESIDENT

Many of you will know Nancy as a dedicated volunteer in many parts of her community. She passed away on January 23, 2021, after many years of service to her community.

She was active at the Westfield First Methodist Church as a Sunday School teacher and in many other positions at the church. She served on the Board of Directors at the Westfield Memorial Hospital.

The local history community will remember her most as a member of the DAR and Mayflower Society. She was active at the Patterson Library Society and for many years served in the Chautauqua County Historical Society.

Those who wish to honor her may do so by donating to the Chautauqua County Historical Society.
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