NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR

by Jane Babinsky
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Working on our Saints and Sinners Cemetery Tours has made me think about how I would be portrayed in a cemetery tour, what my gravestone will look like, etc. (Ironic that the Chagrin Falls Historical Society in Chagrin Falls, Ohio is portraying my grandmother in their cemetery tour.) Joking with Barb Cessna, I said that I was going to put the saying “It Is What It Is” on my headstone as she pointed out that I have been quoting that a lot lately. Seriously, what I would like to bring up is what I will request when I do die (not for a long time I hope). I will ask friends and family to give a monetary donation to the Fenton History Center in my memory. Giving money in memory of a friend or loved one to the Fenton History Center is the perfect way to support the Fenton and memorialize someone. Please consider a donation to the Fenton History Center the next time you lose someone. Better yet, make a donation in honor of someone to let them know how much you appreciate them. We will print the names in the Walnut Grove Press for memorials and in honor of as well as send out letters of acknowledgement. I thank you in advance for considering this. Hope to see you at our Saints and Sinners Cemetery Tours next month!

Tickets Available! See Page 5 for Details.
Fenton History Center

SPOOKTACULAR HALLOWEEN
OPEN HOUSE AND TRICK-OR-TREAT

OCTOBER 29 2022
OPEN HOUSE 10:00-4:00
TRICK-OR-TREAT 4:00-6:00

JOIN US
STANDARD ADMISSION RATES APPLY

67 WASHINGTON STREET,
JAMESTOWN NY

ADULTS $10
CHILDREN 17 & UNDER
AND MEMBERS FREE

FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL 716-664-6256 OR
VISIT FENTONHISTORYCENTER.ORG

COSTUMES STRONGLY ENCOURAGED
This month I would like to highlight the Fenton’s collection of local cookbooks. Over the years many groups, including churches, fraternal organizations, schools, PTAs, and auxiliaries have produced cook books. We have a growing collection of these books here at the Fenton History Center in our Archives. Many of the books were generated by submissions from group members, who are often listed by name next to their recipes. This month I would like to feature one of the recipes from the “What’s Cooking with the Busti Baker’s” cookbook from the Busti Federated Church in 1986. This apple squares recipe, submitted by Gloria John, is just in time for the Busti Historical Society’s annual Busti Apple Festival, held the last Sunday in September. You might see me, Fenton Curator, at the apple festival at the Flax demonstration table. Stop by and say hi, and pick up some apples for your apple squares!

**Apple Squares**

**Batter:**
- 2 c. peeled, diced apples
- ¾ c. sugar
- 1 c. Flour
- 1 ½ tsp. cinnamon
- 1 tsp. soda
- 1 egg
- ¾ c. chopped nuts
- 1 tsp. Vanilla

**Topping:**
- 1 c. whipped topping
- ½ c. applesauce
- 1 tbsp. lemon juice

Combine apples and sugar. Set aside for 5 minutes. Sift together flour, cinnamon and soda; set aside. Add egg to apple mixture and stir in the sifted ingredients. Add nuts and vanilla. Pour into a well greased 8 inch square pan. Bake for 40 minutes in a 375° oven; cool.

Make topping by combining whipped topping, applesauce and lemon juice. Serve with topping and garnish with nuts.
I have mentioned a newspaper called the Jamestown Sun several times in the newsletter, most recently this past May after we found a page from the 19th century Sun with an article on the death of Governor Fenton. The 20th century Jamestown Sun was published from April, 1949 to June 30, 1962. Then after a 70 day lapse, a paper much like it named the Jamestown Star began a 14 month publishing run before it collapsed.

There is an excellent history of the two papers by Lorimer Moe in Ernest Leet’s 1978 History of Chautauqua County, New York 1938-1978 pp 19-25. The Sun was born in a conflict between the Post-Journal and local members of the International Typographical Union. Underlying that was the strife resulting from labor saving technological change augmented by the sense of loss of a morning paper in Jamestown following the merger of the morning Post with the evening Journal in 1941. Still another factor involved dissatisfaction on the part of some local residents and leaders with the Post-Journal’s Republican political sympathies.

There are still many people alive in the community who could add to the record with their reminiscences of the Sun from many perspectives. There are people who worked for the paper, invested in or financially backed the paper (it constantly lost money), read the paper, or – I find a number of these – delivered the paper as boys or young people.

The Sun was popular with rural people because most of them received their newspaper through the U. S. Post Office (then so termed), Rural Free Delivery, at the time. Consequently, if you subscribed to the morning Sun, you got your paper the same day it was published. But if you took the Post-Journal, your paper arrived on the following day. Later, the Post-Journal instituted its own (optional, at extra cost) driver delivery service with the now familiar red boxes, entirely separate from the Postal Service, and, of course, it ultimately shifted over to a morning schedule (June 28, 1999). I had never realized the Sun also had used delivery boxes, or “tubes” as they were called from their cylindrical shape. I do not know if these were used in the city or in the rural areas or both. I don’t know if they were served by delivery boys on foot or by drivers or both. This tube has spent many years discarded beneath a trailer in the woods. We are lucky it hasn’t rusted more or lost more paint.

No issues of the Jamestown Sun or Jamestown Star are available online. Neither has been extracted for genealogical information or indexed in any way. The Prendergast Library has the Sun on microfilm but November and December of 1950 and all of 1951 are missing. I know of no microfilms of the Star. We have bound original copies of the Star, August and November of 1963. We have about six original issues of the Sun, a delivery bag, and a stock certificate. If anyone has copies of the missing issues or has stories about either of these papers, please contact us at the Fenton History Center.
The Fenton History Center presents the 17th Annual Saints & Sinners Cemetery Tours and Mausoleum & More Tours at Lakeview Cemetery in Jamestown at the corner of Buffalo St and Lakeview Ave.
Hear Costumed Actors tell revealing stories about Jamestown's famous- and infamous- former residents.

Walking Tours
Saturday, October 1st
6pm-10pm
Last tour starts at 9.
and
Saturday, October 8th
3 pm-6 pm
Last tour starts at 5:15
Tours start every 45 minutes
$15 adults presale/$2 children
(Adults at the gate $17)
Fenton Members ONLY $10
Join Now!
Group sizes will be limited!

Carriage Tours
Saturday October 1st
3, 4, & 5 pm
Saturday October 8th
6, 7 & 8 pm
6pm-10pm
$25
Join Now!

Events sell out fast! Buy your tickets now.
Tickets available at Fenton History Center- 67 Washington Street
(Rte. 60 and Main St.)- Jamestown NY
For Information and Reservations call (716)664-6256
or visit www.fentonhistorycenter.org

Mausoleum and More Tours
Back by Popular Demand.
Sunday, October 9th, 2022
8 pm
Learn about the "residents" of Lakeview Cemetery's Mausoleums in this behind-the-scenes tour.

Thank-You to Our Sponsors!
2022 Featured Exhibit

Learn more about the community that built the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and their history here in Jamestown.

Exhibit opens June 22 and runs through October 31st.

Fenton History Center
67 Washington Street
Jamestown NY

Open Mon-Sat 10-4
$10 Adults
Children and Members Free
RECYCLING PROJECT LAUNCHED

by Barb Cessna
VETS FINDING VETS COORDINATOR

This summer the Fenton History Center became a Blue Star Museum, which means that active duty service members and/or their families have free admission to our Mansion/Museum.

We have decided to add a Blue Star Memorial Garden which will bring attention to our Blue Star Museum marker and will provide a serene spot to relax and reflect.

We have begun a huge recycling project with NexTrex and will be collecting 500 pounds of soft plastic and in return we will receive a heavy duty, weather resistant bench for seating in the Blue Star Garden.

If you would like to help, thank you so much! See the list of the allowed plastics above and bring your collection to this container.

You’ll be surprised how much one household produces!

Thank You for Sponsoring Our 2022 Walking Tours and Brown Bag Lectures!

---

Thank You for Sponsoring Our 2022 Walking Tours and Brown Bag Lectures!

---

Walking Tours
Saturday, June 25, July 16, 23, August 6, and 20, 2022
10 AM-noon
$10 per person
$5 Fenton History Center Members
Children 17 & under: Free
Tours leave from the Fenton History Center parking lot.

*Riverwalk tour meets in front of the National Comedy Center

The 2022 Walking Tours series is sponsored by:

July 16-
Fenton Buildings and Grounds

July 23-
Riverwalk Tour*

August 6-
Downtown Lucy

August 20-
Old Northside

For more information, and additional events, please see our Facebook page, visit fentonhistorycenter.org or call 716-664-6256
GIFT SHOP NEWS: STORE UPGRADES AND MAGAZINE SALE

by Andrew Kolstee
OFFICE MANAGER

The transformation of the Fenton Gift Shop continues this month as we work to upgrade. We are now using Shopify for our gift shop processing and inventory, which will soon prepare us to launch an online store.

For the month of September, we have a sale on back issues of Western New York Heritage magazine. Retail price is $8 or $10 depending on the issue, and we are offering a 20% discount on those back issues. These magazines are rich in details on Western New York history, and we have back issues going back to 2018. We also offer subscriptions to the magazine through our Supporting level membership ($120 per year) and higher, for those who opt-in and wish to receive the magazine four times per year.

We also have new books in the gift shop that have been added to the collection by Andrew Kolstee.

...CONTINUED ON PAGE 9
...CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

over the past couple of months. Two of them cover local aviation history - History of the Jamestown Airport and Dunkirk Airport From Past and Present - both titles by Mike Johnson. Another book, Coops, Spears and Fish Decoys; The History of Muskellunge Spearing on Chautauqua Lake by Fletcher Ward is also available.

We have also expanded our offering of the Images of America series with Around Sherman, Warren, Warren County, and Erie, Pennsylvania. We also added Buffalo from the Postcard History Series, Disaster on Lake Erie, and Remembering Panama.

RESEARCH CENTER HOLDS OPEN HOUSE

by Barb Cessna
RESEARCH ASSISTANT

We recently held an Open House at the Research Center, something we hadn’t done for a while. It was a chance to let people know the extent of our physical and online resources, and gave interested people a chance to ask questions regarding their genealogy struggles. We were very happy to help people find their starting place, or offer some possibilities in order to find their way out of the corner they had painted themselves into.

We were delighted to have 25 people milling around as we (five staff members and a volunteer) introduced them to our massive research materials and bound histories focusing on the New England states, including Pennsylvania, and extending over to Michigan.

Our very first lady in the door had us mesmerized as she expounded on her experiences providing security at the Hall House after the Senior residents had moved out but before WCA had Counseling services in the building. It didn’t take Norm Carlson long to get busy interviewing her and taking note of her many memories.

Several people had specific needs, and several others just wanted a tour around as we pointed out this or that resource and what could be found there. We expounded on some of our unique collections, and 3 different times, I found myself talking about one of our most amazing Swedish resources. Obviously, the subject came up because these researchers were looking for Grandparents and Great Grandparents who had emigrated from Sweden. I always enjoy introducing researchers to the amazing records kept by Christina Vimmerstedt, who was a Midwife in Jamestown between 1897 and 1924. I will focus on her for the October news because she deserves to be the star of the show.

Several people left with an assortment of inspiring finds like information filled obituaries or WWII Veteran records, and most had at least one or two finds and were leaving with a plan for their own path forward. Their excitement filled the air and reminded us of why we love our jobs.
The Fenton Christmas Market

A Christmas Craft Show throughout the Historic Victorian Mansion

Saturday, November 12th, 2022
10am-4pm
67 Washington St Jamestown NY

Admission $2

A selection of vintage Christmas items and handmade holiday and gift items will be available for sale throughout the festively decorated historic Fenton Mansion
67 Washington Street
Jamestown NY, 14701

This event is separate from our annual holiday display. Come back on or after Nov. 25th to see What’s For Dinner? Holiday Meals around the World.
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 6:00 p.m., 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, September 24, 2022 @ 10:30 AM
New York Workshop V: Post-Revolutionary New York and Western Settlement - presented by Andrew Kolstee

Wednesday, September 28, 2022 @ 6:30 PM
Resources at the Prendergast Library - presented by Kristie Bemus

Saturday, October 15, 2022 @ 10:30 AM
New York Workshop VI: War of 1812 and Impact on Settlement - speaker TBD

Wednesday, October 26, 2022 @ 6:30 PM
Documentary Night - Documentary TBD

Genealogy Support Group Presents:
New York State Research Workshops
a 6 part series

May 21, June 11
July 23, Aug. 20,
Sept. 24, and Oct. 15
Saturdays
10:30 AM to 12:30 PM

$20 per session or $100 for all 6 sessions (non-members)
$10 per session or $50 for all 6 sessions (members)

Please call the Fenton History Center to reserve your spot at (716) 664-6256. Workshops are held in person and on Zoom. If you pay for all sessions and miss previous sessions, you will be given a link to our video archive.

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 6:00 p.m., 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.
BROWN BAG LECTURES

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 12th - Tom Greer, Fenton Archaeology Director, on the 2022 archaeological dig results.

SECOND WEDNESDAYS OF THE MONTH AT NOON HELD VIA ZOOM AND FACEBOOK LIVE

NEED FOR A DEHUMIDIFIER

Caring for our exhibits and artifacts requires constant temperatures and levels of humidity. Our basement area can get quite damp in the summer and requires that we run a dehumidifier continuously. We would welcome a new one if you are able to help us out.
As you must know by now, I’m an advocate for Veterans in general and particularly local Veterans. Just today, Sept 1st, I was fortunate enough to witness another local WWII Veteran receive his Quilt of Valor.

Almost four years ago, I was at Lutheran Social Services visiting a friend, when I happened to meet Alden Smith on my way out. The conversation turned into an Honor Flight recruiting effort on my part when he mentioned his WWII service. There were a lot of hoops to jump through, since he was a resident at LSS, but I knew it could work out for him. He was very excited about it and began to worry that he would never make it until the next flight. I told him that my money was on him, and then came Covid-19 and the shutdown of seemingly everything on earth, including the Honor Flight.

He called often to ask if I had any news about the Honor Flight, and of course, the only news was that there was no news. But finally, in April 2020, Buffalo Niagara Honor Flight announced they were up and flying again. Alden and his daughter, Darana, were on that flight, along with 3 other local Vets. It was wonderful and has left them both with beautiful memories.

I’m sure that Alden had probably never heard of the national organization of Quilts of Valor. But, he was very pleased and humbled to accept his quilt award for his dedicated service from Ruth Shatzel, one of the Western New York QOV representatives. https://www.qovf.org

Alden was in the Army Air Corps as a mechanic from 1943 to 1960, and was stationed at 26 different bases. He worked on B-24s, B-29s, and C-47s. You can view an interview he did with Greg Peterson for the Defenders of Freedom series that he continues to work on:

accesschautauquacountytv.org/episode/T2uf1--rqig
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.
Follow us on social media for more great local history content!
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

Fenton History Center’s Amazon Wishlist

Free admission to all active military and their family through September 5, 2022!

50% OFF Museum Admission for Seniors (65+)
FIRST TUESDAY EACH MONTH

We are a BLUESTAR MUSEUM

presented by NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS and BLUE STAR FAMILIES

Free admission to all active military and their family through September 5, 2022!

Fenton History Center Museum
67 Washington Street
Jamestown, New York 14701
Hours: Mon. - Sat. 10 AM - 4 PM

Hall House Research Center
73 Forest Avenue
Jamestown, NY 14701
Hours: Mon. - Fri. 10 AM - 4 PM

(716) 664-6256
www.fentonhistorycenter.com

Jane Babinsky Executive Director
Andrew Kolstee Office Manager
Norman Carlson Collections Manager
Victoria Parker Curator
Barbara Cessna Research Assistant, Vets Finding Vets Coordinator
Janet Wahlberg President
Ashley Senske Vice President
Mike Johnson Secretary
Ang Cimo Treasurer
Paul Bentley Trustee
Guy Ditonto Trustee
Tom Goodwill Trustee
Sharon Matson Trustee
Dave Painter Trustee

Patreon
www.patreon.com/FentonHistoryCenter

History Appreciators $1 PER MONTH
History Lovers $3 PER MONTH
History Buffs $10 PER MONTH