NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR

by Jane Babinsky
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The 2022 Saints & Sinners Cemetery Tours and the Mausoleum Tours and More are over for this year and were a great success because of our fantastic volunteers! Our President, Janet Wahlberg, labored on this event beginning in March. Without her fantastic leadership we could not have accomplished this yearly fundraiser. Janet and Jim walked the cemetery several times, logging in many miles. Hugh Golden and his Assistant, Laurie, gave us so much of their time to help with research, maps, and locating graves. And of course, it would not have been much of a fundraiser if people had not purchased tickets. Thank you to Joni Blackman, Dennis Wright, and Ed Trisket for providing our Carriage Tours.

Thank you to the following Actors: Deacon Daniel Tyler, Linda Kozel, Kristy Malloy, Reed Cook, Rick Lundquist, Patti Lundquist, Cindy Rodgers, Karlie Blodien, Al Johnson, Joe Moynihan, Brianna Matson, Glenn Wahl, Teresa Piccirillo, Jim Wahlberg, Robert Pawlek, and Kim Meckley.

Thank you to the following Tour Guides: Joni Blackman, Janet Wahlberg, Mike Rohlin, Jim Wahlberg, Tom Goodwill, Ashley Senske, Andrew Kolstee, and Rick Lundquist.

Thank you for setting up the luminaries: Dr. Thomas Greer and Sally Greer.

Thank you for the help at the tent: Jen Champ, Andrew Kolstee, Cindy Dustin, Nelson Griffen, Barb Cessna, Paul Bentley, Ashley Senske, Sharon Matson, Ang Cimo, Marie Carrubba, and Tom Goodwill.

Thank you for providing wonderful refreshments: Paul Bentley, Marie Carrubba, Patti Lundquist, Joe Moynahan, Sharon Matson, Ann Thorpe, Linda Kozel, Barb Cessna, Melissa Robertson, Jen Champ, and Janet Wahlberg.

Join us for our Halloween Open House and Trick or Treat on October 29th. I hope the rest of your October is Spooktacular!
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

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

ADULTS $10
CHILDREN 17 & UNDER
AND MEMBERS FREE
COSTUMES STRONGLY ENCOURAGED
The gift shop has an exciting new addition to our inventory. It is a custom Jig Saw puzzle that features a stunning photo of the Fenton Mansion. You might want to consider this as a wonderful Christmas gift for your family.

The month of October allows us to highlight Ghosts, Goblins, and Halloween. *Ghost Stories of Chautauqua County* by Paul Leone is a fascinating read. Then there is *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* for those who have not read it in the past. We actually have a headless horseman in our Halloween display.

If you prefer to sit back and enjoy a glass of cider and a bowl of popcorn, you might want to purchase a video of the 2020 Virtual Saints and Sinners Tour. In addition, there are some very unique gravestone rubbing plaques that would make a great addition to your Halloween Décor. Everything is 10% off including our customized Fenton Mugs decorated for this ghostly season.

**RECIPE OF THE MONTH**

*Transcribed by Cindy Dustin*

The Fenton History Center has an extensive collection of local cookbooks in its archives. This recipe comes from Falconer’s Bethlehem Lutheran Church Cook Book. It was printed in 1950.

**SWEDISH PANCAKES**

*by Mrs. Arthur Carlson*

- 1 cup flour
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 3 eggs
- 3 cup milk

Sift flour into a bowl, add the sugar and salt. Add eggs and milk gradually, stirring until well blended. Heat pancake griddle and grease well. Beat batter again and pour into pancake pan, brown on both sides. Place on a hot platter and serve with lingonberries.
The death of Queen Elizabeth II is bound to stimulate interest in genealogy starting with the English royal family which boasts some of the deepest roots in the world. Genealogy can be connected to any number of interests and disciplines. History is the most obvious and here the English royal family is the best example possible.

The genealogy of the royal family obviously can bear on English, American, and European history, but it also invites study of contemporary issues like government, international affairs, popular culture, fashion, “social justice,” privacy, psychology and sociology. The queen, by some measures, was the wealthiest person on earth so subjects like banking and international finance come into play. Charles, the new king, is a notorious supporter of “alternative medicine.” That will have widespread implications. And for some reason, the royal family particularly titillates the fantasies of one group of New Age conspiracists who believe the royal family consists of humans hybridized with extraterrestrial reptiles. No, I’m not making that up.

Back to genealogy. I suspect quite a few Chautauqua County residents connect at some point to the royal family through both legitimate and illegitimate lines, myself included. I’m somewhere around 12th cousin to the new king; me and several million others.

For me, the nice thing about a royal connection is that it is a way to get some view of the actual lives and even the appearance of ancestors at very remote periods. The present royal family is essentially employed by cousins is, at best, miniscule, and usually zero. Any sort of legal or bragging implication also, be it for land, wealth, title, honors (or punishment) is imaginary or less. Although in the increasingly grotesque near future shaping up, this may not always be so on the punishment side.

The most fascinating thing about seeing yourself as a part of a royal family is the opportunity to view possible ancestors and relatives of a given lineage in a wide spectrum of life situations and conditions. The present royal family is essentially employed by...
the British government to serve symbolic roles and preserve English heritage. They are paid very, very well and most return abysmal service to the British public. The queen was a notable exception.

I subscribe to the now unfashionable idea that history is often shaped by exceptional men and women, often in positions of leadership. Elizabeth performed exceedingly well working in an historical period that pitted great odds against her. Victoria (1819-1901), with almost as few actual powers as Elizabeth, to a large degree shaped the world for a century. Alfred (849-899), at the far end of genealogical reliability, against seemingly impossible odds, saved everything English, including even the language, from impending extinction. The effects of that on all our lives is beyond imagination. His ancestors, as far back as we can see, were mostly brawling barbarians.

But even those barbarian chieftains, the kings of Wessex (519-871, three and a half times the size of Chautauqua County, smaller than the Holland Purchase, one tenth the size of New York State), were heroes, at least to their immediate families and entourages in their own times. Unfortunately, they didn’t have genealogists. They had poets, bards, and scribes paid to legitimize their rule by finding or creating ancestors that showed they were on the throne by the will of God, or earlier by actual descent from gods. The earliest sources trace their ancestry to the pagan Teutonic god Woden and their Christian successors took them even farther back to Old Testament Noah, sometimes by way of ancient Greek gods and heroes.

My own tree, on line, through material affixed by others, reaches as far as the fourth century through European nobility and royalty. I take it with a large grain of salt. I have accessioned books with lineages back to Adam and Eve, via the English royal family and its Saxon predecessors, but none (yet) documenting descent from extraterrestrial reptiles.

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**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.
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
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
Special Thanks to Our Sponsors!

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CARRIAGE TOURS

Above, Rick Lundquist telling carriage riders about Hyson Belortega.

Cindy Rodgers portraying the neighbor of Louis Richetti

Rick Lundquist portraying Hyson Belortega

Patti Lundquist portraying the mother of Forrest Cheney

Linda Kozel portraying Mary Stone

Reed Cook portraying James R. Johnson

Deacon Daniel Tyler talking about the Old Catholic Cemetery
Above, Mike Rohlin giving a Walking Tour.

WALKING TOURS

Karlie Bladien portraying Margaret Gowan
Al Johnson portraying Harry Lind
Brianna Matson portraying Agnes Eckman
Glenn Wahl portraying John Eckman
Joe Moynihan portraying Julius Lincoln
Jim Wahlberg portraying Napoleon Nystrom

10 OCTOBER 2022
GRANDMA VIMMERSTEDT

by Barb Cessna
RESEARCH ASSISTANT

In last month’s issue, I reported on our Open House for beginning genealogy or for help with problems, and the fact that I had mentioned the Vimmerstedt Midwife Records 3 times that night. That evening I decided that Christina Vimmerstedt needed to have some light shown on her occupation and her love for babies and their Mamas.

Our infatuation with Christina began when a donation was made by a family member of the records of a local midwife. They were very excited for us to understand the extent of the records they were donating and how proud they were of her dedication. These records are from 1897 – 1922, and have the details of the date of birth, baby’s name if given at the time, father’s name, birthplace, age, mother’s maiden name, age, birthplace, and number of previous children.

There is a chapter in Saga From The Hills, by M. Lorimer Moe, which was written by Jennie Vimmerstedt about her Grandma Vimmerstedt. Read on and be amazed by this lovely woman:

Excerpt by Jennie Vimmerstedt from Saga From the Hills

She was Grandma Vimmerstedt to all who knew her, including the hundreds she had ushered into the world. By the time she came to Jamestown in 1887 she was 41, a veteran midwife who had already delivered countless babies in Sweden. In Jamestown she presided at more than a thousand births up to 1927 when she fell and fractured a hip to become bedridden for eleven years. The bone specialist who cared for her thought Grandma would develop pneumonia if he tried to set the bone. He later regretted he hadn’t done it.

She should have been a doctor. She could diagnose illness from talking over a person’s symptoms; while she couldn’t write prescriptions, she would tell people to go down to Winnberg, the well-known Swedish druggist, and ask for the medicine she thought was needed. Often these people stopped by to tell her they felt better.

Grandma ventured forth in all kinds of weather, many times to Busti farms and beyond. Her pay was anything that was offered; she went wherever she was needed and remained as long as necessary. Sometimes she got $5; sometimes a peck of potatoes or apples.

Anyway, when we were little, we thought Grandma carried babies in the bulging satchel she kept near her at all times. We were certain we saw something move in that satchel; this is how we knew Grandma was going to visit someone soon and present them with a baby.

Once she took us with her on the Erie train to Salamanca and stationed us in an upstairs sitting room with that satchel. We guarded it carefully. We couldn’t believe our ears when we heard a baby cry in the adjoining bedroom - our eyes had never left the satchel. How had Grandma done it? The mystery deepened when Grandma came out to tell us the baby was born tongue-tied and she was going to fix it, whereupon she took a pair of scissors and went back into the bedroom. We peeked into the bag but saw no baby. It was at about that stage in our development that we agreed with other kids in our neighborhood that babies came from cabbage patches.

by Barb Cessna
RESEARCH ASSISTANT

12 OCTOBER 2022
Recycle your household bags and wrap! The Fenton is collecting 500 pounds of plastic in order to get a heavy duty, weather-resistant bench for seating in our Blue Star Memorial Garden! We have a box inside the Fenton Mansion and at the Hall House Research Center!

FROM THE STORE
- Produce bags
- Store bags
- Ice bags

FROM YOUR PANTRY
- Ziploc® & other reclosable bags
- Cereal box liners
- Case overwrap
- Bread bags

FROM YOUR FRONT DOOR
- Newspaper sleeves
- Dry cleaning bags
- Bubble wrap
- Plastic e-commerce mailers
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, October 15, 2022 @ 10:30 AM**  
New York Workshop VI: War of 1812 and Impact on Settlement - *presented by Janet Wahlberg*

**Wednesday, October 26, 2022 @ 6:30 PM**  
Documentary Night - America: Promised Land

**Wednesday, November 30, 2022 @ 6:30 PM**  
Brick Walls - Open Forum

**Wednesday, December 28, 2022 @ 6:30 PM**  
Christmas Party

**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.
A Call for Board Members!

The Fenton History Center is governed by a Board of Trustees. We are a “working board,” meaning we discuss, plan, strategize, and work with staff to coordinate activities at the Fenton. We currently have open positions on the Board. We are always looking for new members, with diverse skills and backgrounds that can help aid in the Fenton’s mission.

If you are interested in joining the Board of Trustees, the only eligibility requirement is that you need to be a dues-paying member of the Fenton. Members of the Board of Trustees are elected at the annual meeting. If you are interested, fill out the application on our website at the link below. Prospective Board Members have also been typically invited to meetings of the Board of Trustees to get a better idea of how the Board operates.

fentonhistorycenter.org/joinboard
Good News!!

A nice group of Veterans, their guests, and one service dog have finally enjoyed the Veteran Cruise aboard the Chautauqua Belle, as we stepped back in time! After 2 years of cancellations and several days of rain just prior to getting underway, we were almost afraid to believe it would finally happen. Our Vets were a mix of Vets Finding Vets and Dwyer Chautauqua Vets (whose Project Coordinator is Cindy Reidy.) We often enjoy joint adventures and we all thank her abundantly!

Capt. Paul Stage and his crew members thanked the Vets for their service and saw to it that everyone aboard was well taken care of. Of special interest were the sighting of geese, ducks, and herons as we listened to the fascinating history of the Chadakoin River. Several “Cruisers” remarked that they would be making plans for future gatherings of family and friends aboard the Belle.

Enjoy these photos of our very Happy Day! PS – some Vets escaped the camera by being on the upper or lower deck.
John and Clara Lockwood
Bob and Nene Koski
Judy and Steve Johnson
John Tanner
John and Elaine Crossley
and Mardy Backman
Nancy and Carl Steenburn
Scott and Kelly Schultz
Ray Bennett
Cruise participants Not Pictured:
Calvin and Kelly Fain
Dick and Carol Franzen
Nancy Remington
Jim and Anne Buffone
Ron and Barb Simpson
Bob and Sally Canniff
Dan Zepka
Joyce and Ralph Derby

NEXT FENTON CANTEEN
AT HALL HOUSE RESEARCH CENTER
SAT., NOVEMBER 12, 2022
Mike Rohlin is a former Board Member for several years. I first worked with him on the Saints and Sinners Tours. I asked if I could shadow him to see how it was done. Amazing, it was like following an encyclopedia of Lake View cemetery. Mike has since stepped back from his role as a board member. However, we can still count on him to help out with the Saints and Sinners Tours. He recently met with my husband and I to share his expertise on conducting tours and he himself will be conducting tours. If you are lucky enough to be on his tour, you are indeed lucky. And now Mike’s story in his own words.

I was raised in Russell, PA and attended Eisenhower High School. I then went to Penn State University and received a degree in history. Several years later I earned my teaching credentials at Slippery Rock University. I started teaching in Chautauqua County in 1998 and at my current position at Chautauqua Lake Central School in 2001. I moved to Jamestown in 2000 and since I had been involved in the historical society in Warren County PA, I decided to join the Fenton History Center. I became a member of the board of trustees in 2004, I think. I have served as a trustee for 16 years. I was president of the board for 6 years. During this time, we purchased the Hall house and began the moving of the library and remodeling the entrance and gift shop at the Fenton Mansion. We also opened the Underground Railroad exhibit. I have also served as vice president for 3 years and as the secretary. I have volunteered at almost all the fundraising events that have been conducted over these years. I have done work on remodeling both houses and carried a lot of stuff in the move. My primary role on the board has been in giving tours. I have given Saints and Sinners tours in every year, except the first year. I think that is 15 years of tours. I also did Lucy Fest tours of the cemetery, as well as tours when we were involved in the Spoon River Anthology production. I have conducted walking tours of the downtown area, southside, and alleys, and many tours of the mansion. My older daughters grew up working with Fenton events. What I like to do is work, workout at the gym and read. I love teaching history, especially American history. I find many things in the nation’s story that have direct ties to our area, and I bring this into my teaching so often. We have a very rich history with many ties to national and world events. People need to know that.

During my time on the Fenton board, I have also served on the education committee at the Jackson Center. I am the varsity boys’ track and field coach at my school and serve on several committees at school. I have three daughters Lilyan 23, Meridith 18, and Ella 9. They keep me busy as well.
FENTON HISTORY CENTER
MEMBERSHIPS

GENERAL INFORMATION
• Your membership is vital for keeping the museum and research center running!
• Memberships run January - December. Memberships purchased after Sept. 1 are good through Dec. of the following year.

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.

FENTONHISTORYCENTER.ORG/MEMBERSHIP
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

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(716) 664-6256
www.fentonhistorycenter.com

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

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