FENTON’S NEW CURATOR
THERESE AVEDILLO WELCOMED

by Jane Babinsky
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Fenton History Center welcomes our new Curator/Education Coordinator, Therese Avedillo, to our staff. Her first day was January 9th and she was undaunted by the work we threw at her. Therese and her husband moved here from California, arriving only two days before her first day at the Fenton. Therese is pleasant and polite and has already completed a project that had been hanging over our heads for months. She is diving right in on getting things cataloged in PastPerfect, organizing our files and artifacts, and preparing for a new exhibit. Therese will be working Tuesday through Saturday, so when we reopen in February, stop in and meet her.

Learn more about Therese in her short biography she provided: Therese Avedillo has a background in broadcast journalism from Syracuse University and taught at the College of New Rochelle, Bronx campus. She took up Museum Studies at the University of Leicester, known for their finding of King Richard III’s skeletal remains. Her dissertation was on case studies comparing World War II exhibitions between a local historic house, the Newarke Houses, in Leicester, and the Imperial War Museum, a national museum in London. Arriving at the conclusion, that museums both at the local and regional levels are endeavoring to create a more inclusive and immersive experience for visitors. She grew up in a small town in South Africa where her love for museums developed. She has volunteered and worked in New York and California. She loves learning about people’s stories and histories. Therese is hoping to connect multiple communities in Jamestown through history and is very happy to be a part of the Fenton History Center.

NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR

by Jane Babinsky
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It is difficult to believe that another year has come and gone. It is true that the older you get the faster the years go by! The Fenton History Center will have a busy year celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the Fenton Historical Society of Jamestown. We will have a Gala fundraiser on Saturday, July 29, 2023 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. The Gala will be a “roaring 20s” theme, so get your flapper dresses and your fedora hats ready! The event will be held on the grounds of the Fenton History Center. Put the event on your calendar and be on the lookout for more details in the coming months.

On Saturday, January 7, volunteers Janet and Jim Wahlberg, ...CONTINUED ON PAGE 2
NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR

(continued from page 1)

Paul Bentley, Sharon Matson, Sherry Vesotski, Ang Cimo, and Marie Carrubba came in to help take the Christmas decorations down and made short order of it. They did it in 2 hours (took us 2 ½ weeks to put it up). It was important to get the decorations down and put away because on the 9th another group of volunteers were beginning the work on our first floor hallway. The hole in the ceiling has been repaired, the ceiling patched and painted, the walls patched and ready for painting. When the hallway is done, work will commence in the Orientation Room. Our “construction” volunteers are; John Gustafson, Tom Goodwill, Jim Wahlberg, Rick Lundquist, Ang Cimo, and Tom Greer who is leading the group. John Collins and Rick Roll will be painting some of the basement walls to keep them from further deterioration. Paul Bentley and Al Johnson have also come in to move things for us. I am grateful to have such dedicated volunteers.

The Fenton History Center now has an account at the Southside Redemption Center at 1752 Foote Avenue, ext. in Jamestown. You can take your recyclables to the center and tell them it is for the Fenton History Center. Southside will send the Fenton a check for whatever amount is in our account. Every $.05 adds up! The hours are: Mon. to Wed. 9-5 pm, Thurs. 9-2 pm, Fri. 9-5 pm, and Sat. 10-4 pm.

Don’t forget that every Wednesday in February will be our Trivia Contest at Shawbucks. The contest begins at 7:00 pm and will cost $10 per person. Teams can be 2-6 people. The winning team will take home $100, the prize on the last night will be $200. We will also have local trivia questions during the break and will give the winner a prize from the Fenton Gift Shop.

May all of you have a Happy, Healthy, Prosperous 2023!
Fenton History Center presents

**TRIVIA night**

**EVERY WEDNESDAY**

**IN FEBRUARY @ 7 PM**

**@ Shawbucks**

212 W. 2nd St., Jamestown, NY 14701

Cost: $10 per person (2-6 per team)

Thank-You to Our Sponsors!

This is a fundraiser and the proceeds benefit the Fenton History Center’s mission to share and preserve the history of our community.

(716) 664-6256   FentonHistoryCenter.org

President Janet Wahlberg called the meeting to order and welcomed members to the annual meeting.

The first order of business was the election of Trustees to fill vacancies on the Board. Elected as new Trustees were Kaycee Colburn, Hannah Jaroszynski, James Jaroszynski, and Richard Lundquist. Lundquist previously served on the Board from 2013 to 2022 and had served as President from 2014 to 2017 and 2019 to 2022.

The next order of business was the election of officers for the 2023-2024 term. Janet Wahlberg was elected to a second term as President. Tom Goodwill was elected to a first term as the new Vice President. Mike Johnson was elected to a first full term as Secretary. Paul Bentley will serve as Secretary pro tempore as necessary. Angelo Cimo was elected to a fifth term as Treasurer.

In addition to the new Trustees and Officers, Paul Bentley, Sharon Matson, and Dave Painter also serve as Trustees. Marie Carrubba is the City of Jamestown’s representative to the Fenton Historical Society, serving on the Board as a non-voting member.

Outgoing Board members include Guy Ditonto, who finished his third term, having served on the Board since 2014. Outgoing Vice President Ashley Senske, who served on the Board since 2019, also stepped down.

President Janet Wahlberg introduced Jane Babinsky, Executive Director, who gave remarks. Babinsky introduced Therese Avedillo, the new Curator, who started this week at the Fenton.

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reports. Dr. Tom Greer, Coordinator of the Walnut Grove Archaeology Project, issued a report on the project’s developments this year. Jack Ericson, Charter Member, gave a brief history of the Fenton and presented ideas for the future.

At the closing of the meeting, Certificates of Life Memberships were issued to Dr. Tom and Sally Greer and Jack Ericson for their many years of financial and volunteer support at the Fenton.
In the August issue of the Walnut Grove Press, I discussed Alfred Huntington and the gasoline engines he made in Ripley, Sinclairville, and Celoron. This month, I will discuss a photo of a strange vehicle constructed by his brothers. This photo has just turned up in an inventory but was acquired by C. Malcolm Nichols, one of the founders of the Fenton, in 1968 or before.

The driver in the photo is William Huntington who was still living in 1968 and furnished Nichols with information on the identity of the men in the picture and probably furnished the photo, itself. I’ll quote Nichols’s notes.

This spectacular gasoline vehicle was built largely by William and John Huntington and assembled mostly at their home at 94 Lister St., in Jamestown. Many of the parts were made at John Huntington’s small machine shop in Celoron. The wheels were of band iron with spokes made of 5/8” rod and were tuned up [tensioned] by the same principle as bicycle wheel spokes. It was powered by a 2 cylinder, 2 cycle opposed engine that William Huntington built. The gas tank and muffler were made by a local tinsmith. John Huntington was interested in showing early moving pictures and built the auto to take his equipment about for that purpose. Photo taken about 1910.

Eight of the ten men in the photo are identified. They are, left to right: Gust Peterson, unknown, William Huntington [driver], Norman Abramson, W. Ernest Strand, Henry Peterson (brother of Gust), Louis Rhodes (of Lister St.), C. Martin Strand, John Huntington (standing), and unknown.

So here we have Chautauqua County’s first self-propelled motion picture projection stand, and another discovery in the Huntington chapter of our early 20th century technological history. One wonders if the movie projector was used for outdoor showings, precursors to the later drive-in theaters. If so, the projector may be concealed inside the seat and the generator would be mounted beneath the rack where the gasoline engine is located. There doesn’t seem to be anything else mounted on the upper surface.

A two stroke (also called two cycle) engine was typical of early marine engines such as brother Alfred Huntington manufactured. One can see linkage indicating auto steering, i.e. each front wheel pivoted on a king bolt, as opposed to the entire front axle turning as with most horse drawn vehicles and early steam tractors. We can also see that both rear wheels were powered by a chain drive, common for trucks in that era. It must have been a very slow vehicle.
FENTON HOSTS MEDAL CEREMONY FOR WORLD WAR II VETERAN TOM TEDESCO

by Andrew Kolstee
OFFICE MANAGER

On December 8, 2022, the Fenton History Center hosted the medal ceremony for Private First Class Thomas Tedesco, a 98-year-old veteran of World War II who served in the U.S. Army Air Corps, including service on D-Day and at the Battle of the Bulge.

Senator George Borrello read about Private Tedesco’s military service at the ceremony and presented him with the Bronze Star, Good Conduct Medal, American Campaign Medal, the European African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal (with two Bronze service stars), the World War II Victory Medal, the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Honorable Service Lapel Button, and the New York State Conspicuous Service Cross and Medal for Merit.
YOU’RE INVITED

FENTON HISTORY CENTER
60TH ANNIVERSARY

Gala

SAT., JULY 29, 2023 6-9 PM
GOV. REUBEN FENTON MANSION
67 WASHINGTON ST., JAMESTOWN, NY 14701

$100 INDIVIDUAL / $175 COUPLE
TICKETS GO ON SALE JUNE 1, 2023
Since the Fenton History Center launched the annual fund in December, we have raised $14,125 towards our $31,725 goal.

This year the Fenton Historical Society of Jamestown, New York is celebrating its 60th Anniversary, and there are necessary repairs to be made on first floor of the Gov. Reuben Fenton Mansion.

Repairs need to be made in the first floor hallway as well as the Orientation Room. There is a lot of damage as a result of roof leaks. The old plaster will need to be replaced.

Our goal consists of $17,800 for the hallway (walls and ceiling repairs) and $13,925 to repair the damage to the Orientation Room.

Please help us meet our goal to preserve the historic Fenton Mansion for the years to come. Those who donate $1,000 or more to this project will have their name engraved on a plaque that will hang in the entrance to the hallway.
ELWOOD HANSON PT. II

by Barb Cessna
Vets Finding Vets Coordinator

Last month, I was recalling a great story from Dec. 24th, 2010, and an email we had received from the Netherlands in hopes of reuniting a soldier’s family and the woman who cared for his grave. Norm and I had quickly gathered information to send back before we left for our own Christmas Eve celebrations, and I had ended the email with the fact that after Christmas the search for living Hanson family members would begin.

Living descendants were found, and although they knew the story, they did not know that Catherina was still alive. Here, in a nutshell, is how it happened:

The first day back to work after Christmas, I found only one of Elwood’s siblings listed in the telephone book, but nobody answered repeated calls on different days at different times. My spirit was deflated.

My husband was telling about this amazing WWII story at break time at his workplace, Ahlstrom-Schaeffer Electric. He added that I was afraid Elwood’s youngest brother, Franklin, had gone into a nursing home and I was working on getting to the bottom of that. One of the office girls, Chris Lawson, said that she knew Franklin Hanson, that he went to Florida every winter, and that the Town Clerk would have his contact info. A Miracle!

I called the Town Clerk, who loved the story, and then I interrupted Franklin’s bocce ball game. He was so happy to be interrupted for anything having to do with his big brother and was stunned to know that Catherina was still alive and that her Grandson was hoping to reconnect the two families. Over-the-moon was he.

Through Franklin, I learned that Marsha Cheney, who lives in my town of Frewsburg, was his grandniece, and that I should contact her. He would call his kids and tell them the good news.

We all decided that this story was too good to keep to ourselves and with the help of Skype we made plans for the families to meet during the Fenton History Center’s upcoming Flag Day program, “Fighting for the Flag”. Peter’s beloved Grandma Catherina and Elwood’s youngest brother Franklin met “face to face”, along with the other members of both families. Elwood’s family had been very appreciative of Catherina’s long standing commitment in caring for Elwood’s grave, and they all knew the story. Skype gave them the opportunity to tell Catherina themselves how very much they appreciated her

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dedication to Elwood. In fact, that very day, Elwood’s family asked if they could visit Catherina and her family and the cemetery within the next year. Catherina leaned over to Pieter, who had been translating, and he burst out laughing as he related that Grandma had advised him that she would be needing a new dress. Many happy tears were shed that day (including people who weren’t even related...).

I’m sure she had at least one new dress when seventeen members of Elwood’s extended local family traveled to the Netherlands to meet Catherina and her family the next spring.

Catherina was over 80 years old at that time and had been unable to negotiate the terrain of the cemetery, however, her son Ter and grandson Pieter are continuing her mission. In Pieter’s words, “I speak for the whole family when I say that honoring Elwood J. Hanson is the least we can do out of gratitude for our freedom”.

This story was even the inspiration for Carroll Historical Society to launch a new project, the Old Soldier Adoption Program. Many of our War of 1812 and Civil War Veterans have grave-stones which are compromised in one way or another. This adoption program enables people who normally see these graves as they are located near their own family plots, to feel empowered to alert the cemetery or the Historical Society if trouble looms. Adopters receive information about the Veteran and some have even taken on the “above and beyond” attitude and also plant flowers on their graves and make sure they weren’t missed when flags were distributed.

Unfortunately, Catherina succumbed to pneumonia about a year after the big reunion, but Pieter’s idea for a Christmas present she would love more than any other was brilliant! Several years ago, Pieter and his brother travelled to the US to visit the Hanson family and I was invited to meet him. You’ll never guess what we all talked about!
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
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. Program topics and speakers are subject to change. Most meetings are also often held via Zoom in addition to in-person.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, February 23, 2023
Research Night 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Saturday, March 25, 2023
Workshop 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM
Top: Ireland Research - presented by Janet Wahlberg

Wednesday, March 29, 2023
Research Night 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Program - TBD @ 6:00 PM

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.
Recipe of the Month
Transcribed by Cindy Dustin, Volunteer

Chicken Wing Pasta Salad
by Gretchen Beckstrom
High School Nurse

1 lb. box spiral pasta, cooked al dente and cooled
3/4 cup celery, diced
1/2 cup onion, diced
2 full chicken breasts, baked, cooled and cut into chunks
1 1/2 cup mayonnaise (low fat works well)
1/4 - 1/2 cup Frank’s original hot sauce (or to taste)

Combine pasta, celery, onion and chicken. Combine separately, mayonnaise and hot sauce. Mix all together. Allow to refrigerate overnight. Add additional mayonnaise and hot sauce if needed. Serve with crumbled blue cheese and extra hot sauce.

From the Fenton History Center extensive collection of local cook books. This recipe comes from Trojan Treats Cookbook, a collection of SWCS (Southwestern Central School) Favorites. The cookbook was published in 2011. The cookbook committee was Diane LaGrega, Middle School Student Council Advisor and Caitlin Salter, Middle School Co-Advisor. The cookbook was dedicated to the 2011-2012 Southwestern Middle School Student Council.
**FENTON HISTORY CENTER**
**MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

**GENERAL INFORMATION**
- Your membership is vital for keeping the museum and research center running!
- As of the summer of 2022, memberships now run January - December. Memberships purchased between September 1 and December 31 are good through December 31 of the following year.

**MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS**
- Unlimited complimentary admission to the Governor Reuben Fenton Mansion.
- Unlimited access to the Hall House Research Center.
- Reduced fee for Fenton events and programs unless specified.
- A 10% discount to the museum gift shop.
- Members only e-mail updates.

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP LEVELS**
- Student $15
- Senior (age 62+) $30
- Individual (under age 62) $40
- Family $75. Includes 2 adults. All children in the household under 18 are included.

**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, a free book from our gift shop, and a Fenton branded t-shirt.
- 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, a behind the scenes tour of Hall House Research Center for four people, a free book from our gift shop, and a Fenton branded t-shirt.

You can also process your membership payment online and have the option to set your membership to automatically renew each year. Thank you for your support!

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