



2022 Annual Report

of the Fenton Historical Society of Jamestown, New York

**67 Washington Street, Jamestown, NY
(716) 664-6256 www.FentonHistoryCenter.org**

**Operated by the Fenton Historical Society of Jamestown, NY
Chartered by the Board of Regents of the State of New York**

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ABOUT THE FENTON

Gov. Reuben E. Fenton Mansion

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Fenton Mansion, located at 67 Washington Street in Jamestown, New York, is a landmark, lending distinction and elegance to the passing scene. In its continuing mission as the center for education and preservation of a unique local heritage, it is a valuable cultural institution in the city of Jamestown, New York.

The Fenton History Center operates a museum within the family home of Reuben E. Fenton (1819-1885), U.S. Congressman (1853-1864), New York State Governor (1864-1869) and U.S. Senator (1869-1875), and research center, library, and archives in the adjacent Hall House property. The Hall House is accessible by a private redbrick walkway. A private parking lot is available at both locations.

Reuben Eaton Fenton commissioned local Architect Aaron Hall to design and build the Fenton Mansion in 1863. The Fenton family home has served as the local history center in Southern Chautauqua County since 1964 and was formally recognized by the National Register of Historic Places in 1974. The mansion is of the Italian villa style, reminiscent of the mid-19th century.

Present day, the museum embraces its original authenticity by featuring a number of period rooms, its mission to preserve of history at the local and national level and through its educational programming and its dedication to veterans.

Located at 67 Washington Street in Jamestown, New York, the Fenton Mansion houses the Fenton History Center's museum and gift shop.

William Hall House Research Center

In addition to housing an impressive museum within the family home of Reuben E. Fenton, the Fenton History Center owns and operates a full functioning research center, located 73 Forest Avenue in the historic Hall House. The Hall House is situated adjacently from the Fenton Mansion and is accessible by a private redbrick walkway. A private parking lot is available at both locations.

The Hall House was constructed for William Hall in 1846. Hall was a businessman and proprietor in the lumber industry before changing his course to focus on textiles.

At one point in his career, he partnered with William Broadhead and Joseph Turner to create Hall, Broadhead, & Turner Textile Mills. The company later changed ownership to Hall & Company, and later was known as, the Jamestown Worsted Mills.

In 2013, the stately, four-pillared, Greek revival home made its formal debut to the public as the Fenton History Center's Research Center. This location is the home of the Fenton Genealogy Support Group. The Hall House is handicap accessible and service dog-friendly.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Jane Babinsky, Executive Director

2022 was a year where the Fenton History Center was recovering from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Attendance to the museum is slowly growing with 2,195 visitors for 2022. 306 visitors were from out of state and out of the country. Our stateside visitors were from California, Texas, Washington, Iowa, Maine, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, Ohio, Florida, Michigan, Alabama, Tennessee, Oregon, Virginia, North Carolina, Illinois and Indiana. We had visitors this summer from Sweden, England, Australia, Germany, and South Africa. We were also pleased to present our popular Saints & Sinners tours in October, during which, over the course of two weekends, we brought 627 people through Lake View Cemetery in Jamestown.

The Fenton History Center offered 55 programs for 2022 with a total of 1,588 attendees. 317 of our visitors to the museum were children. Our Research Center had 489 visitors. Our 70 volunteers logged in more than 2,000 hours. Our newsletter, Walnut Grove Press, is sent out to 726 people. Our website, www.fentonhistorycenter.org has had 2,526 visitors from January 2022 through October 2022.



Over the course of 2022, beyond the assistance from the County and City, we have raised over \$30,000 through programming and admissions; over \$54,000 in donations and membership; and over \$77,000 in grants and ongoing endowment accounts. Despite the pandemic of the past two years, our finances finished in a positive place in 2022, and are projected to do so again in 2023. Nearly the entirety of our budget is being invested into our local community to support the preservation of local history and the employment of Chautauqua County residents in sustainable, supportive positions. We put a focus on keeping our staff stable for the past two years, and have been able to serve the community effectively by keeping 100% of our paid positions at full capacity for the entire duration of the pandemic years.

In 2022 we became a Blue Star Museum, received a \$2500 grant to build our technology and IT support, updated our website to include online ticket sales and online shopping, and finally had our plumbing repaired. We also “modernized” our admission and gift shop equipment, which gives us better tracking data. New merchandise will continue to be added to the gift shop and online. With the help of several volunteers we are slowly cataloging our collections in PastPerfect, our museum software program. We

have cataloged to date: 9,672 objects, 1,959 photos, 2,502 library books, 687 archives. We still need volunteer help cataloging our extensive collection.

2022 was not without challenges for the Fenton History Center. FHC had an Interim Director, a new Director, no Director (our President, Janet Wahlberg stepped in as Director), and then another new Director (myself) in May. Transitions like that can really take a toll on an organization, but President Janet Wahlberg did an amazing job keeping the doors open. There were also physical challenges; plumbing leaks; furnace stopped working twice; shed broken into; and the roof/ceiling leaks in the Orientation Room.

Looking ahead to 2023 we are excited to have a new Curator/Education Coordinator on our staff, Therese Avedillo. Therese comes to the Fenton with several credentials and has stated that this is her dream job. It has been a few years since we have had an Education Coordinator, so we are looking forward to implementing some new programs and setting up our school programs again. Therese will also be very busy working on our collections and refreshing the old exhibits and planning some new exhibits.

A change in 2023 will be our After Lunch Lecture Series (replacing the “Brown Bag” Lectures) and some evening lectures. Our big event will be our Roaring 20s Gala on July 29th to celebrate our 60th Anniversary. We will continue to have our Walking Tours, a historic candle light tour, our ever popular Saints & Sinners Cemetery Tours, Halloween Trick-or-Treat, Family Photos in the Drawing Room, Sensory Santa Visits and a Christmas Open House with an old fashioned family sing-a-long. The Hall House Research Center will have some exciting genealogy workshops with some extended research hours in 2023.

Our biggest challenge for 2023 will be funding for a new roof for the Fenton Mansion. The City of Jamestown as the owner of the Fenton Mansion understands that this will need to happen in 2023. I will be working with the City’s grant writer to secure funding after we receive bids and know what our needs will be. The cost will sky-rocket if asbestos shingles are found under the current rubber roof. The rubber roof was put on in 1994 at a cost of over \$140,000.

I would like to thank our Board of Trustees, staff and volunteers for all of their hard work and commitment to the Fenton History Center. I would also like to thank our grant partners for their support: HNY; MANY, CRCF; ARPA/CCLS; The Sheldon Foundation; Capacity Lab; and the Ralph C. Wilson Foundation. 2022 event sponsors were: Ahlstrom –Schaeffer; Bayview Financial Group; Lind Funeral Home; Rodgers Land Surveying; Shawbucks; Shults Auto Group; Summit Wealth Management; and UBS Financial Services, Inc. Thank you to everyone for supporting the Fenton History Center by your membership, volunteer hours, grants awarded, sponsoring our programs, attending our events, donations In-Kind, and visiting our Museum and Library. May you all be blessed in 2023 and continue to show your support of the Fenton History Center.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Janet Wahlberg, President, Board of Trustees

Members: Jane Babinsky, Executive Director; Ang Como, Treasurer, Board of Trustees;
Janet Wahlberg, President, Board of Trustees; Andrew Kolstee, Office Manager

With the arrival of our new Director, we began holding weekly meetings to review the Fenton History Center's financial status and the budget. This included the plan to put a new roof on the Hall House Research Library. Our goal was to craft a budget that was accurate and realistic. This process required close review of past income and expenses.

We carefully separated Mansion expenses and Hall House expenses as that will give us a clearer picture of what each building costs to maintain. In an effort to keep restricted funds separate from general funds, we opened a savings account where all restricted funds will be deposited. This will provide a clearer picture of what funds are available for specific projects and what are available for general operations.

As we worked on the budget, we made other adjustments in the interest of creating improved revenue flow. Technology upgrades have made it possible to accurately track membership and attendance. And the committee worked with Andrew Kolstee to restructure the Museum Shop placing it on a more profitable path. The shop is now on-line as well as in house and features our many books, branded mugs and t-shirts.

As you look over your copy of the 2023 budget, if you have any questions, you may contact any of the Finance Committee members.



Thank You to Our Sponsors!



UBS



2022 FINANCES

Andrew Kolstee, Office Manager

STATEMENT OF FINANCIALS AS OF JANUARY 5, 2023

TOTAL LIQUID ASSETS	\$40,897.28
BUSINESS LOAN BALANCE	\$ 5,443.64
BALANCE	\$35,453.64

PROFIT AND LOSS JANUARY 1, 2022 - DECEMBER 31, 2022

REVENUE	
Events and Programs	\$ 20,918.35
Fundraising Campaigns	\$ 22,982.60
Donations (Unrestricted Charitable and Trust Funds)	\$ 38,056.45
Donations (Unrestricted Misc.)	\$ 4,063.25
Donations (Restricted Misc.)	\$ 3,483.48
Endowment Funds	\$ 25,202.75
Sales (Merchandise)	\$ 5,827.39
Service Charges	\$ 1,719.52
Membership	\$ 24,476.61
Grants (Foundations)	\$ 32,217.79
Grants (Government)	\$ 24,500.00
Hall House Income	\$ 3,900.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 306.81
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 215,939.00

Advertising and Marketing	\$ 2,807.69
Membership Expenses	\$ 882.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 202.02
Merchandise Purchases	\$ 2,952.34
Dues & Subscriptions	\$ 5,750.03
Maintenance	\$ 9,463.81
Event Expenses	\$ 4,421.88
Printing	\$ 2,417.76
Storage	\$ 4,086.00
Insurance	\$ 6,496.71
Interest / Loan Repayments	\$ 2,486.62
Hall House Utilities & Taxes	\$ 10,905.18
Professional Fees	\$ 7,563.55
Building Repairs (Hall House Roof)*	\$ 60,632.69
Telecommunications	\$ 3,195.69
Payroll	\$ 115,682.30
Program Expenses	\$ 1,097.06
Supplies	\$ 8,583.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 250,816.28

BALANCE	\$ -24,877.28
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*NOTE: The large deficit is due to the use of the elevator funds for the Hall House roof. Subtracting the expenses for the roof, the surplus equals \$25,755.41.

STAFF AND BOARD

Board of Trustees 2022

Janet Wahlberg, President
Ashley Senske, Vice President
Michael Johnson, Secretary
Angelo Cimo, Treasurer
Paul Bentley, Trustee
Guy Ditonto, Trustee
Thomas Goodwill, Trustee
Sharon Matson, Trustee
David Painter, Trustee
Marie Carrubba, City Representative
(non-voting)

Staff

Jane Babinsky,
Executive Director

Andrew Kolstee,
Office Manager

Norman Carlson,
Collections Manager

Barbara Cessna,
Research Assistant /
Vets Finding Vets Coordinator

2022 VOLUNTEERS

Paul Bentley
Peter Bentley
Kathleen Barber
Joni Blackman
Karlie Blondien
Norman Carlson
Marie Carrubba
Barb Cessna
Jenn Champ
Alex Chapman (Aspire)
Rachel Chovan
Ang Cimo
Reed Cook
John Collins
Vincent Courtney
Guy Ditonto
Cynthia Dustin
Jack Ericson
Amber Gleason (Intern)
Tom Goodwill
Tom Greer
Sally Greer
John Gustafson
Jessica Fardink (Aspire)

Laura Jane Hadley
Carol Hallberg
Jennifer Hansen (Aspire)
Chris Hatfield
Steve Hatfield
Al Johnson
Mike Johnson
Steve Johnson
Andrew Kolstee
Linda Kozel
Alex Latone
Allyson Lawson (Aspire)
Karen Livsey
Jeremy Long (Aspire)
Rick Lundquist
Patti Lundquist
Kristy Malloy
Brianna Matson
Sharon Matson
Melissa Mays (Aspire)
Beverly McGraw
Kim Meckley
Kristal Monroe (Aspire)
Joe Moynihan

Sue Ellen Nelson
Art Osterdahl
Kathy Overlurf
Jed Phillips
Teresa Piccirillo
Deacon Pierce
Brian Rapp
Mia Raj (Intern)
Melissa Robertson
Cindy Rodgers
Mike Rohlin
Rick Roll
Ashley Senske
Gene Smith
Loretta Smith
Shelley Stahlman
Ann Thorpe
Daniel Tyler
Sherry Vesotski
Gayle Vossler
Glenn Wahl
Janet Wahlberg
Jim Wahlberg
Robb Will

COLLECTIONS DEPARTMENT

Norman Carlson, Collections Manager

Ninety nine new donations were processed and assigned numbers in 2021. Four additional items found in the collection were recorded.

Four items were deaccessioned. Two were the Beaty Mansion living room furniture pieces sent to Warren County Historical Society and replaced on display by local pieces. The other two were quilts deaccessioned as part of a fund raising arrangement with the original donor.

Four hundred twenty-four items from the Form C books of 1976 to 1979 were transcribed into PastPerfect. Twelve backlog items from 2021 and earlier were also entered. Four temporary custody items were taken in, some awaiting decisions on adding them to the collection, some taken for scanning and return.

Three incoming loans were arranged. One, an oil painting, awaits pick up by the owner. Scrapbooks borrowed last year from the YWCA for scanning were returned for the combined reasons of lack of available scanning personnel time and unsuitability of the items for scan.

Outgoing loan forms were filled out for three items taken off site temporarily for our textile curator to process.

The extensive clipping file borrowed from the Post Journal in 2019 was completed except for the photographic negatives in 2021. Efforts to scan the negatives were started this year but no sustained effort was put in progress.

The one-afternoon-a-week oversized photo processing project with a volunteer was suspended so I could work with the same volunteer on a much needed inventory of archival material stored outside the two designated archive storage rooms. The locations affected are the Hall House front hallway and the archivist's office. Items were listed, typed into a Word file, printed out box by box, drawer by drawer, or pile by pile and filed both in the computer and with the materials. The project was finished right after the end of the year and some printing out remains to be done. This will be invaluable in responding to numerous research requests, often from academic researchers or authors writing books.

Two events have dramatically altered the normal work pattern in the department. One is the transition of the PastPerfect program from a version that was isolated on our own computers for security to a cloud or on-line version. The new version, PasrtPerfect 5, is very different in appearance and operation from the previous version. It has its advantages and disadvantages, but my overall impression is favorable. I adapted to it more quickly than I had expected and it has several added useful features.

HALL HOUSE RESEARCH CENTER

Janet Wahlberg, Chair, Research Center Committee

The Research Library has had a great year with many events and much traffic through our doors. Barb continues to head up the research projects and does an amazing job of that. Many of our activities are ones that we have done for several years but they continue to be relevant.

In January our Annual Lock-in drew about 20 people. Working together we were able to help one another solve some long-standing research challenges, We also enjoyed food and fellowship which is part of what we the event is all about.

Our workshop series this year was an ambitious series of lectures on doing research in New York State. We started with the Dutch settlers who arrived in the early 17th century and progressed through the Civil War era. Plans are already in place for 2023.

With the end of Covid restrictions, we were finally able to hold our Genealogy Conference at the Fluvanna Community Church for about 35 attendees. At the same time, we held a History Fair in the Entry room for 14 different organizations. The topics were varied and seemed to be well received.

After a couple of years of discussion, we have started the project to scan and digitize the Henderson-Lincoln Scrapbooks. For those of you not aware, these are books that contain the obituaries for the people buried out of Henderson-Lincoln Funeral Home between 1915 and 1967. It is one of our most used resources.

The Library has gained a couple of new volunteers this year. Laura Hadley has been working diligently on typing in the Archive records into our Past Perfect Program. Shelley Stahlman has been transcrib-





ing an extensive set of cards that cover Newspaper items in 1880 and from 1906 to 1910 and Sue Ellen Nelson has indexed the series. Vince Courtney continues to catalogue and shelf books in the library. There are many other volunteers that work behind the scenes to help us to scan, catalogue and store the many donations that we receive. I apologize for not naming each individually.

Karen Olson, a member of the Support Group, who established a Memorial Fund in her mother's (Jean Vandewark Olson Stowel) name met with us to review the use of the funds. The plan for 2023 is to use funds for the purchase of publications that focus on Chautauqua County information.

After a 2 -year hiatus, we were able to hold our annual Open House. Wow was it a success. We had 30 people come in with various goals. As there were several of us there to help out, we were able to send everyone home with at least some of their questions answered and we gained a new member.

In October again this year we presented a historical film at the Mansion and were able to serve popcorn with it using the Popcorn machine that the Greek Orthodox Church gave us.

Looking ahead to 2023 we are planning to make some scheduling and programing changes that will allow those who work during the day to come in to do research. Adjusted hours in the fall and winter months will meet the needs of those who do not like to travel after dark. We also anticipate adding a volunteer to our research volunteers on Wednesday.

VETS FINDING VETS

Barb Cessna, Vets Finding Vets Coordinator

The past year was truly filled with many hurdles, so much so that in looking back, it is hard to believe we packed so much into one year!

Fenton Canteen had been very fortunate to be able to continue to meet at Christ First Church which allowed us room for social distancing. While there we celebrated the 5th birthday of Canteen in April. With permission from Director Jane, the Vets returned to the Fenton Mansion in July. Also, due to a very generous donation by a family in memory of their deceased father, who thoroughly enjoyed Canteen, we now have Fenton Canteen mugs.

Spring and fall Honor Flights were enjoyed by 5 Chautauqua County Veterans, and we even had an Honor Flight Reunion for our Washington, DC travelers, the first since December 2019. They enjoy getting together with each other to talk about “the trip of a lifetime” and had been missing these gatherings very much.



Fenton Canteen, July 2022



Quilts of Valor, March 2022

Finally, after two years, our two trips that had been postponed for so long were back on the schedule. A bus trip to the WWII Museum in Eldred, PA, and a Chautauqua Belle Cruise were thoroughly enjoyed all, both were joint trips with the Dwyer Chautauqua Vets.

The Quilts of Valor ladies conducted 6 ceremonies for 10 Chautauqua County Veterans, a coalition that will continue as we have an abundance of deserving Veterans in our area.

2022 has gone down in history as the year the Fenton History Center launched The Soldier's Friend Scholarship, in honor of our favorite Governor and of the many Veterans groups who have held their meetings and events in the Fenton Mansion. Brianna Rosequist from Kiantone is the first recipient of this \$1000 award and the day after her debut on the Fenton float at the Fourth of July parade in Mayville, she left for basic training with the New York National Guard. When she isn't training, she is a student at the University of Buffalo.

Another exciting first this year was that the Fenton History Center became a Blue Star Museum, allowing serving military members and their families to tour the Museum at no charge. In the spring,

work will begin on establishing a Blue Star Memorial Garden and incorporating a large rock with a memorial plaque which has been on the Fenton grounds since 1931. It was gifted to the Civil War Veterans who had been meeting in the Fenton drawing room by The Daughters of Union Veterans. There is currently a huge plastic recycling project in progress wherein after 500 lbs of plastic has been collected, we will receive in return a heavy duty weather resistant bench for seating in the Blue Star Memorial Garden. If you would like to contribute plastic to this project, we have a large container in each building.

During COVID, while I was unable to schedule and hold events or programs, I spent time documenting the old enlistments at the Jamestown Armory. While there, SSgt Weaver helped locate an item which directly links the Fenton family and the Armory through Reuben Earle Fenton, the only son of Gov. and Mrs. Fenton. He was an officer in the 13th Separate Co. of Fenton Guards and on Dec 25, 1894, he gifted a pistol safe to his fellow officers. His gift was made



Bus Trip to the World War II Museum in Eldred, PA, July 15, 2022



John Tanner (Korea). Wesley Pearson (Vietnam), and Robert Canniff (Vietnam) at Aloft Hotel for Meet and Greet Dinner prior to the Honor Flight (taken April 29, 2022)



Brianna Rosequist is the first Soldier's Friend Scholarship Winner, presented at the July 4, 2022 Independence Day Parade in Mayville

at Fenton Metallic Company, his own business, just a few short months before he would suffer an untimely death from a fever while traveling abroad with his wife. Since everything in the Armory is owned by New York State, the SSgt and the Fenton had to gain permission to allow the pistol safe to be on exhibit at the Fenton for 2 years. We only have one year left but we are so grateful that it will still be in our possession when we celebrate our 60th Anniversary!

Happy New Year, Everyone!

Barb Cessna

IT REPORT

Andrew Kolstee, Office Manager

In 2022, the Fenton History Center's IT upgrades continued. In January, the format of the email version of the newsletter was changed so that each article was posted as a blog post on the website, and linked from the email, allowing for easier readability and to be able to share with others on social media.

In June, I upgraded the Fenton emails to using Google Workspace through their Non-Profits program in which we have a free account. Previously, our emails were hosted with Netfirms, where our domain is registered, and all emails had 500 MB of storage while the Director email had 2 GB of storage. With Google for Non-Profits, all emails have 30 GB of storage. This resolves an ongoing problem that involved running out of storage and requiring those with Fenton emails to constantly worry about filling it up. Additionally, the Fenton has a number of Gmail accounts for use with Google products. These Gmail accounts will be gradually retired as they are integrated with Fenton's branded emails and Google Workspace account.

In the summer, the Fenton Museum Store upgraded to a Shopify point of sale system. This dramatically changed the way the museum store was run. The tracking of products was introduced along with utilization of the inventory feature of Shopify in order to keep track of the inventory and determine the assessed value of the inventory for financial reports. Additionally, one of the original ideas behind an upgrade to Shopify was to utilize the online store feature. When I built the new website in early 2021, the old website had a few products, but used WooCommerce on Wordpress, which was not an ideal platform for an online store. With Shopify, we now have a much more streamlined online store, which was launched in November, and I will continue to add more products. Finally, Shopify's sync feature with QuickBooks has added an element of automation to financial management, freeing up time for other projects.

For the first time ever, tickets to the annual Saints and Sinners Cemetery Tours were sold through our website.

In November 2022, we began implementation of the use of a customer relationship management (CRM) with Humanitru, which will streamline all of our online event registrations, membership management, and overall data management. This is an upgrade from physical lists, membership cards, and a large number of spreadsheets.

In late 2022, we received a grant to purchase a NAS server to begin streamlining our digital files--both administrative as well as research and collections. With the implementation of this, I am in the process of reviewing all of our IT hardware--from hard drives to media storage--and ensure all data is extracted, organized, and backed up for preservation. This is especially important as the digital world we live in moves forward, allowing us to better preserve and share our history. There are new projects in the works that will be greatly supported by a robust and streamlined IT infrastructure.

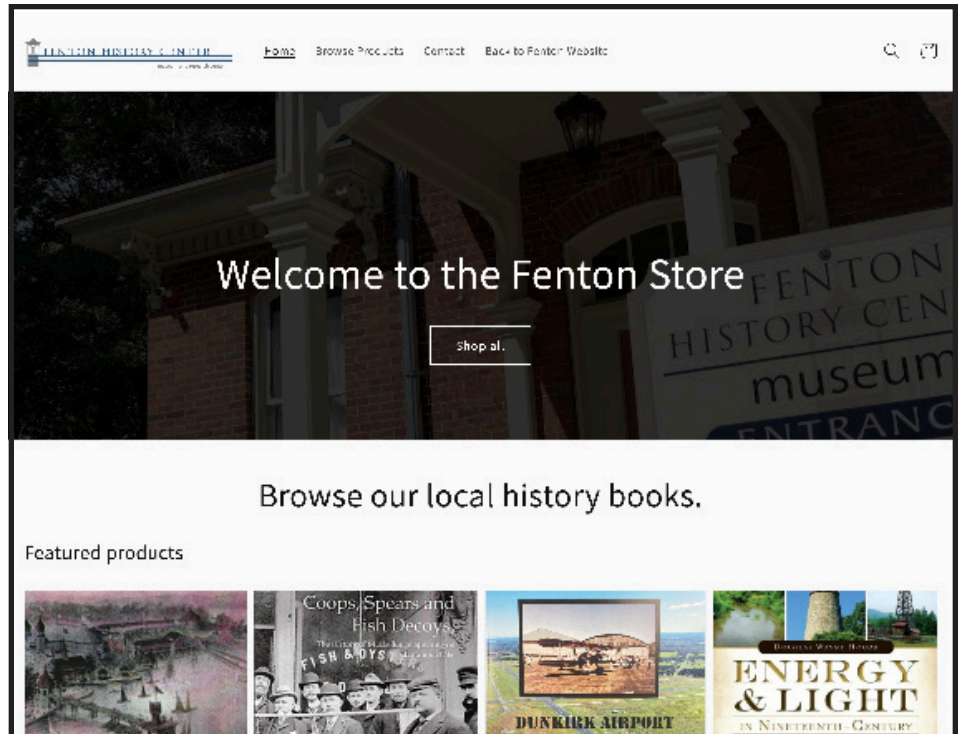
MUSEUM STORE REPORT

Andrew Kolstee, Office Manager

The Fenton History Center's Museum Store has undergone a lot of changes. In the summer of 2022, we began to introduce monthly sales. Also in the summer, as mentioned in more detail in the IT report, we upgraded our point of sale system to Shopify, which allowed us to launch a much more robust online store in November 2022 that connects with our inventory.

We have also added several new books from local authors as well as branded merchandise--Fenton t-shirts, mugs, and a puzzle of the mansion are all on sale in the gift shop--adding to our branded pencils and magnets.

The expansion of the store will continue into 2023, including the introduction of new merchandise as well as adding new and existing merchandise to the online store.



GENEALOGICAL CONFERENCE

In April 2022, the 2nd Chautauqua Regional Genealogical Conference and History Fair was held for the first time since 2019, after repeated delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The conference was held at the Fluvanna Community Church. Pam Brown was keynote speaker, and then conference participants attended a variety of classes on genealogy. There were several vendors for the history fair, which was free to the public.



ARCHAEOLOGY SIGNS UNVEILED

On May 4, 2022, display signs for the Walnut Grove Archaeology Project were unveiled by Dr. Tom Greer, Archaeology Project Coordinator and Cindy Rodgers, portraying Elizabeth Scudder Fenton, who was born 198 years earlier, on May 4, 1824.



SAINTS & SINNERS CEMETERY TOURS

In October 2022, the Fenton's 17th Annual Saints & Sinners Cemetery Tours at Lake View Cemetery was the most successful fundraisers of all its predecessors, raising over \$13,000 and over 600 tickets sold for our Carriage, Walking, and Mausoleum Tours.



Above, Mike Rohlin giving a Walking Tour.



Above, Rick Lundquist telling carriage riders about Hyson Belortega.



Above, Mausoleum Tour group at the Reuben and Elizabeth Fenton Mausoleum

MORE NEWS AND EVENTS

Two years after the removal of the “Cathedral Oak” trees on Third Street, the Fenton History Center received a beautifully hand-crafted bench for their entry way. Steve Tedquist and Ray Hofgren worked with Parks manager Dan Stone, to acquire one of the trees.

Steve and Ray then cured the wood for two years. They then began the process of designing and creating the bench. Upon its completion they presented it to Fenton History Center. Both gentlemen are incredibly talented carpenters as well as generous and devoted citizens of our area.

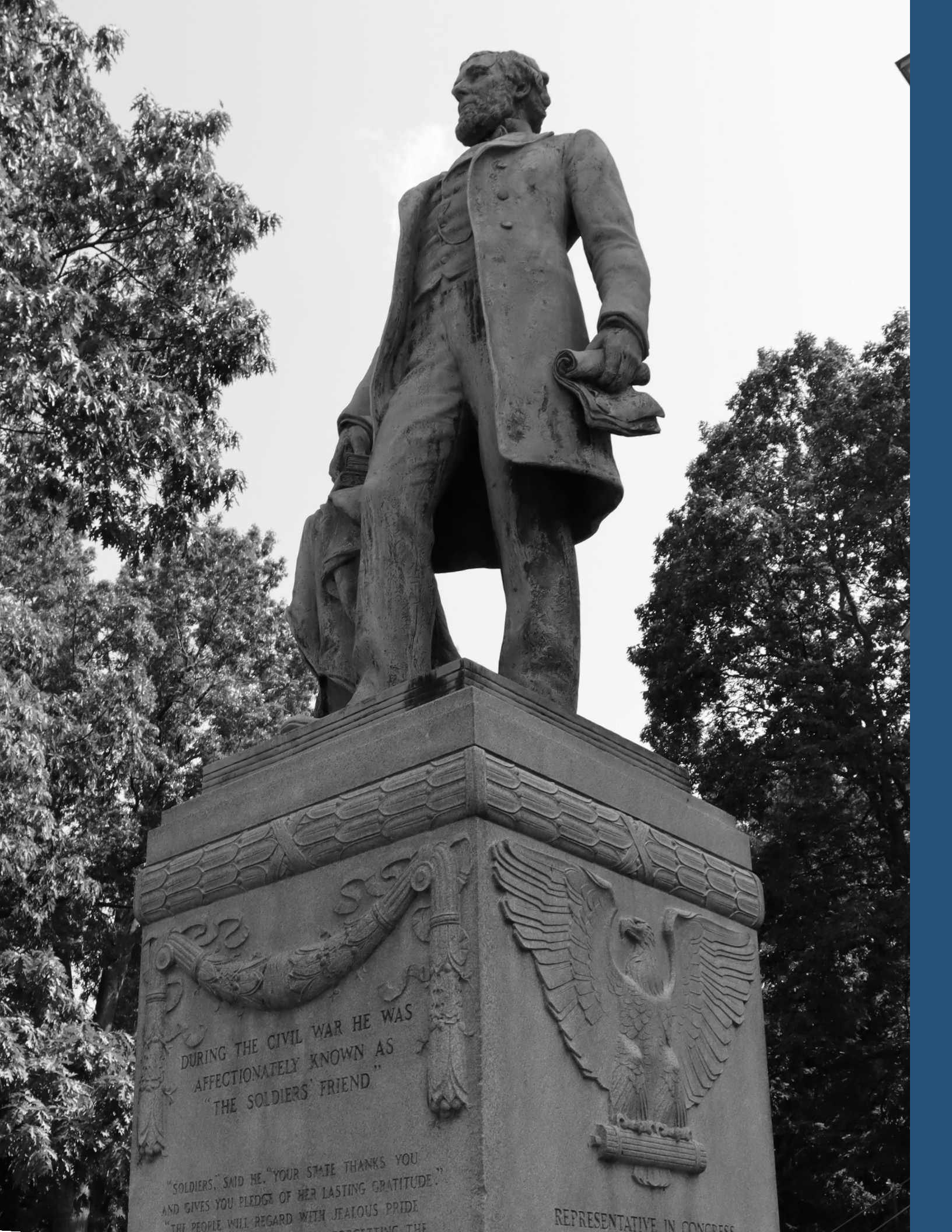


Left to Right: Ray Hofgren, Dan Stone, and Steve Tedquist



In December 2022, the Fenton hosted a Sensory Sensitive Santa event for children and families who might be uncomfortable, nervous, or anxious in the traditional Santa Claus encounter environments, which often feature bright lights, loud music, and large crowds. The Santa at our event had experience working with people with disabilities, and the room around him was set up to be calming and straightforward, while maintaining festive elements where appropriate. A special thanks to Jed Phillips who played Santa and Robb Will who played Santa’s Elf for this event.

Learn more about the Fenton’s past events and reports by visiting the blog on the website as well as the archive of past issues of the Walnut Grove Press, the official newsletter of the Fenton History Center. Visit www.FentonHistoryCenter.org



DURING THE CIVIL WAR HE WAS
AFFECTIONATELY KNOWN AS
"THE SOLDIERS' FRIEND"

"SOLDIERS," SAID HE, "YOUR STATE THANKS YOU
AND GIVES YOU PLEDGE OF HER LASTING GRATITUDE."
"THE PEOPLE WILL REGARD WITH JEALOUS PRIDE
FORGETTING THE

REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS