The Ides of March are upon us. What does that mean? The Ides of March refers to the full moon falling in the middle of the month, usually on the 15th. This year the full moon is March 7th. I can't believe it is already March! The staff and volunteers continue to be busy changing exhibits, making repairs, and sprucing up the place. We still have pictures to hang and display cases to be filled, which hopefully, all of our exhibits for the Roaring 20s will be done by May.

Our first lecture in our Lecture Series is Wednesday, April 12th at 1:00 pm. Norman Carlson will be talking about the Shearman-Davis murders in Busti. The Shearman-Davis murders occurred in December of 1894 and were unsolved. Come learn about this fascinating story! The Lecture will be held in the Dining Room at the Fenton History Center. The lecture is free, however, a donation is always welcome!

Don't forget to sign up for the Fenton Travelers Bus Tour to the Genesee Country Village and Jell-O Museum on Wednesday, August 16th. There are only 25 seats, so get your reservation in as soon as possible. Send a $25 deposit to the Fenton History Center, or you may pay $105 for the trip up front. The trip fee is non-refundable, but is transferable. (Meals are not included). We promise you will have a good time!

We would like to apologize to those who have tried to contact us via phone. We are down to one phone in the Mansion that can take outside calls. New phones are going to be installed soon, just not soon enough. Please bear with us until this frustrating situation is taken care of. Do you think Governor Fenton ever used Carrier Pigeons to send messages? At this point it would be better than our phone system... just sayin!

Please renew your membership if you haven’t done so already.

...CONTINUED ON PAGE 2
March is designated as Women’s History Month, so I am going to feature Helen Grace McMahon. Helen was a local historian, writer, and teacher. She was born November 8, 1901 in Olean, New York, to John and Katherine Carmady McMahon. Helen graduated from Wellesley College and received her Masters Degree from Cornell University. Her thesis for her Masters Degree was the Life of Reuben E. Fenton. Helen taught history and sociology at Jamestown High School for 39 years and was awarded the Valley Forge Classroom Teacher’s Medal in 1959. In 1958 Helen published Chautauqua County A History. Helen was also a leader in community service in areas of housing, senior citizens, social and mental health activities. Helen McMahon was one of the founders of the Fenton Historical Society in 1963. Helen died in June of 1965 at the young age of 64.

The Fenton Historical Society wishes to offer our gratitude to Helen McMahon as one of our founders. It is our hope that we will be able to use her thesis on Reuben E. Fenton as a basis for publishing a biography on Governor Fenton.
CURATOR SNIPPETS: JAMESTOWN FURNITURE

by Therese Avedillo
CURATOR

Lafayette Corners has collaborated with the Fenton History Center for their store exhibit. The furniture manufacturers that will be featured are Maddox, Crawford, Jamestown Lounge, Union National, Monitor, Jamestown Sterling and Jamestown Royal. A display board similar to our timeline in the Furniture Exhibition on the second floor, will be created.

We will be referring to The Jamestown Furniture Industry: History in Wood 1816-1920 by Clarence C. Carlson, Vernelle A. Hatch’s (ed) Illustrated History of Jamestown: Chautauqua County, N.Y. and the Jamestown New York Historical and Industrial Review. Plus newspaper clippings from the Post-Journal and other sources. Maddox was founded by William Maddox who invented the reclining rocking chair. The company was in business from 1886 to 1978. Our Furniture Exhibition includes a secretary desk by Maddox c. 1920s. They were located at 101-25 Harrison Street. Crawford (formerly Atlas Furniture), was one of the biggest furniture manufacturers in Jamestown, eventually purchasing Maddox and Jamestown Lounge. Crawford was open from 1887 to 2012. They were located at 301 Harrison Street. One of the buildings of Jamestown Lounge had a grocery store for their employees. Our Furniture Exhibition has several pieces by Jamestown Lounge such as a feudal oak chair, a British oak chair c. 1938-1949 and a mid-century chair c. 1960. Jamestown Lounge manufactured from 1888 to 1984. They were located at 38-58 Winsor Street. Union National (formerly Union Furniture), was known for making high-grade dining room and library furniture. They were open from 1901 to 1994. They were located at 226 Crescent Street. Monitor was in business from 1920 to 1981, and built solid cherry furniture and phonograph cabinets for the Edison Company. They were located at 92 Steele Street. Jamestown Sterling (in operation from 1926 to 1994) adapted the Roycroft Collection as functional period furniture became more fashionable. They were located at Allen Street Extension. Jamestown Royal, in business from 1929 to 2014, made furniture used by the Supreme Court Justices, including Robert H. Jackson of Jamestown. They also named their “Forever Darling” arm chair for Jamestown-born actress, Lucille Ball. Our Furniture Exhibition also shows a mid-century chair by Jamestown Royal. They were located at 300 Crescent Street.

Many thanks to Rick Roll for digitizing the images, and to Barb Cessna for directing me to them. Also, to Norman Carlson for his extra input and Matthew Tsitso for the inventory of the Furniture Room.
We had another great trivia fundraising event at Shawbucks this year! We have been holding Trivia Nights every Wednesday night in February at Shawbucks since 2017 as a fundraiser for the Fenton, although this year we had to postpone the last night due to the weather.

First, we would like to thank our sponsors: Rodgers Land Surveying, Ahlstrom Schaeffer, and our host for the event, Shawbucks! We would also like to thank our MC Giulia Sowery of Star Sirch Productions for running the trivia games!

We had a total of 16 teams and 80 players over the course of the four weeks of trivia.

The theme of the trivia this year was 1960s and 2000s, covering a large variety of topics from music to celebrities to inventions to politics of those two decades. There were seven rounds, each with a specific category (except round one was general knowledge). Teams would also give their answers a score of 1 to 5 based on the confidence level of their answer, which would earn them points if they got the question correct. After that, there was one final round where teams could bet up to 20 of their points in one final question. The highest point total possible was 125, or 126 in the event of a tie.

Winners received a $100 prize for winning the night, and the team with the most points consecutively won $200 at the end of the four weeks. Fenton Board President Janet Wahlberg also asked local history questions from the Jamestown Centennial Trivia game for prizes. This trivia game is available in the Fenton Museum Store for $20.

In Week 1, Team Jean, consisting of Jamie Glatz, Jamie Sharpe, Eric Anderson, and Doug Nordwall, won the night with 117.5 points.

In Week 2, Out on A School Night, consisting of Cindy, Kevin, Collin, and Elizabeth Rodgers, won with 108 points.

In Week 3, things got interesting. Before the final round, Effin Judo Chop (consisting of Bill, Adam, Pat, and Lindsay Loftus and Sebastian and Leslie DiNapoli) tied at 109 points with the Walnut Grove Gang (consisting of Tom and Sally Greer, Mike Rohlin, and Steve Johnson). After a tiebreaker question, Effin Judo Chop won the night with an additional tiebreaker point to reach 110 points.

In Week 4, the final night which
was postponed to March 1 due to the weather, Team Buenos, consisting of Paul Schermerhorn, Danny Thomas, Norm Rodriguez, Nick Kahanic, and Joe Taylor won the night with 108.5 points.

In the end, adding up the scores for all four weeks, Team Jean came out on top with 399.5 points and the $300 grand prize.

Great Odin’s Raven (Art, Debbie, Andy, and Jon Osterdahl, Ken Liedy, and Kelly Hetrick) came in 2nd place overall, followed by Walnut Grove Gang (Tom and Sally Greer, Steve Johnson, Mike Rohlin, and Bob and Cindy Bryant) in 3rd place, and then Week 4’s winner, Buenos, in 4th place, and then Reuben’s Raiders (Andrew Kolstee, Jane Babinsky, Therese Avedillo, Jim and Janet Wahlberg, and Sandy Hatfield) in 5th place.

Mark your calendars and join us next year for the February 2024 Trivia Nights fundraiser!

<table>
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<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Team Name</th>
<th>Week 1</th>
<th>Week 2</th>
<th>Week 3</th>
<th>Week 4</th>
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<td>86.0</td>
<td>107.5</td>
<td>88.5</td>
<td>399.5</td>
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<td>81.0</td>
<td>99.0</td>
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<td>71.0</td>
<td>79.5</td>
<td>89.5</td>
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<td>300.5</td>
</tr>
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</table>
This month I am going to depart from concentrating on a particular item in our collection to call attention to my home town of Busti which is celebrating its bicentennial this year. The original grants to the Duke of York which created the colony of New York didn’t reach west of the Delaware River. The colony gradually forged a relationship with the Iroquois Confederacy which by the Revolutionary War allowed New York governors to wish and claim land as far west as Detroit and even the Mississippi River. Chautauqua County and lands farther west were not the ancient home of the Iroquois. They had gained control by conquest. New York, under the Articles of Confederation, relinquished all claims of land west of the current arbitrary boundary to the federal government.

At first as long as no white taxpayers and voters occupied New York’s western lands, their attribution to specific counties and towns was not carefully orchestrated. But after the Revolution, specifically March 7, 1788, the State passed a law systematically organizing the entire state in local units. The whole state west of Utica was defined as within Montgomery County, Town of Whitestown. As the frontier progressed westward, counties and towns were divided and redivided. On March 30, 1802, Genesee County was set up with the Town of Chautauqua (so spelled) taking in the entire present county except for what later became Carroll, Poland, Ellicott, Cherry Creek, Villenova, and Hanover. Then in 1808 Chautauqua County was set up with its present boundaries and divided into two towns, Chautauqua and Pomfret, from which all the other towns have subsequently been erected.

The 19th century history books give the dates for the erection of each town. Those dates are the dates the law was passed creating and naming the respective towns. But those laws specified a later take-effect date, usually the first Tuesday of the following year. It was on that date that the first town meeting was held, the first officers installed, and the first records created. Genealogists take note. Nevertheless, local anniversary commemorations, centennials, sesqui-centennials, and now bicentennials,
invariably adhere to the law passage date for their observance. It is no different with Busti. The law was passed, carving Busti out of parts of Ellicott and Harmony, April 16, 1823, but it took effect March 2, 1824.

Following are some additional dates and events I have collected that occurred in the month of March pertaining to Busti, including the Village of Lakewood:

March 1, 1909 The Chadakoin Boat Club moved its headquarters from Greenhurst to Lakewood

March 1, 1999 Lakewood Perkins became Denny’s.

March 3, 1832 Busti school district #16 formed. This ultimately became the Celoron district. Busti’s original boundaries encompassed what later became Celoron.

March 3, 1876 Outgoing Busti supervisor, Alonzo Pickard, and incoming supervisor, Jerome Babcock got in a pushing and shoving match leaving the town’s only piece of office furniture, a secretary, in splinters.

March 4, 1929 Dance sponsored by the Busti Dancing Club.

March 4, 2002 First train through Lakewood in 11 years.

March 6, 1945 The Busti Volunteer Fire Department took over management of the Busti Triangle from the Busti Village Improvement Society (a women’s organization).

March 11, 1920 The American flag was raised in the Busti triangle for the first time.

March 12, 1909 First meeting of the Busti South Side Sunshine Birthday Club at the home of Mrs. Frank Cleland.


March 14, 1909 Rev. Dewey Martin resigned as pastor of the Busti Baptist Church.

March 15, 1825 Busti school district #13 organized in what later became Boomertown.

March 16, 1909 Voters in Lakewood, Celoron, and Falconer rejected annexation to Jamestown.

March 16, 1926 Busti school district #8 Mothers’ Club formed.

March 18, 1964 First woman elected to the Lakewood village board, Caryl Vandermolen.

March 19, 1915 Lakewood Improvement Society organized.

March 25, 1945 Busti Bethany Lutheran Church disbanded and merged with Jamestown Bethel Lutheran.

March 27, 1905 The Busti Creamery, reconditioned and repainted, reopened.

March 27, 1956 Walter Sweeney’s barn, near the state line, burned.

March 28, 1905 Bell Telephone installed an exchange at the home of Jasper Ball, grandfather of Lucille. 100 customers.


March 29, 1901 Rearick Tent, Knights of the Maccabees, organized.

March 30, 1998 Lakewood post office moved from Summit Avenue to Fairmount.

And on April 1, 1797. Paul Busti arrived in the United States at Philadelphia. He never actually visited the town of Busti and he died less than six months after it organized.

Many other interesting area events have occurred in the Month of March. Bemus Point was settled in 1806. Jamestown was incorporated as a village in 1827. A bicycle was seen on Jamestown streets for the first time in 1869. The rider had to push it directly with his feet on the ground. Rev. George Bernard, the composer of “The Old Rugged Cross” spoke in Falconer in 1931. The first telegraph station in the county opened in Fredonia in 1848. George M. Cohan appeared at Shea’s Theater in 1935. On March 11, 1894 Chautauqua Lake set a record for the earliest ice breakup. In 1909 Jamestown held its first automobile show. The tragic Gokey fire took place in 1910. The last local coal delivery was made in 1991. Commercial air service started at Jamestown Airport in 1946. In 1865 Jamestown had possibly its worst flood ever, at least until hurricane Agnes in 1972. The long remembered St. Patrick’s Day snow occurred in 1936. In 1848 and again in 1903 Niagara Falls went dry. In 1919 the Fenton mansion was deeded from the Fenton family to the city. In 1963 the first meeting leading to the formation of the Fenton Historical Society took place. And In 1968 the first exhibit room at the Fenton Historical Society opened to the public.
The Fenton Historical Society of Jamestown is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year. The society has been housed at the Gov. Reuben Fenton mansion since 1963 and the history of the mansion itself has an interesting history.

But before the Fenton Historical Society was formed as part of an effort to save the mansion and establish a museum, there was an earlier iteration of a historical society in Jamestown, and it was known as the Jamestown Historical Society. The first place to look for information about this earlier iteration is in newspaper articles of the Jamestown Evening Journal.

The Jamestown Historical Society was formed at a meeting held on the evening of Friday, March 23, 1934 at the Y.M.C.A. Jamestown City Historian Arthur Wellington Anderson presided over the start of the meeting. A constitution was adopted. The article mentioned the purpose of the organization was outlined by Anderson, and it was “to collect and preserve all information pertaining to the history of Jamestown and adjacent territory, to locate and list all objects of historical interest, and to provide the public with interesting, educational and cultural material with which the local history of Jamestown abounds.”

The following officers were elected for a term of three years: William A. Bradshaw, Jr. (President), Mrs. Frank Merz (Vice President), Helen O. Davis (Secretary), William E. Trantum (Treasurer), and Arthur Wellington Anderson (Executive Secretary). At the close of this organizational meeting, the society was reported to have about 40 members.

Anderson is mentioned in several articles in relation to his role as both City Historian and Executive Secretary of the Society in attending meetings on history and giving presentations.

In late March 1934, an editorial by President Bradshaw appeared in the paper, representing the views of what was referred to as the Cabinet of the Jamestown Historical Society. In it, they urged the Board of Education to preserve and maintain the 67-year-old clock used at the high school and place it on the new high school. The present Jamestown High School finished construction on November 15, 1935.

In May 1934, among the first activities of the society were to give tours of historic sites in downtown Jamestown. Teachers and students were encouraged to attend. The same month, they also announced their first public exhibit, which was located at the

by Andrew Kolstee
OFFICE MANAGER
Abrahamson-Bigelow store. See the article on the right for the full story.

In August 1934, the New York State Historical Association held a four-day convention at the Amphitheater at Chautauqua. Anderson was among those giving welcoming remarks, as a representative of the Society. Prior to the convention, members of the Chautauqua County Historical Society (in which Anderson was also involved) and Jamestown Historical Society made arrangements to entertain the delegates. The delegates arrived in Jamestown and toured the James Prendergast Library. Anderson spoke on the history of Jamestown. After additional events throughout the day, a historical tour of Chautauqua County was given the following morning.

On May 28, 1935, the Society hosted a “Judge Foote Day” to honor Judge Elial Todd Foote. A program was held at Love School. Alexander C. Flick, State Historian, was guest speaker. Mayor Leon Roberts gave an address and Anderson gave a presentation on the life of Judge Foote, prior to Mr. Flick’s speech.

Flick was noted as saying “Preservation of historical sources is important. It is also well to collect and save the history of our own day. The people of today will be the ancestors of generations years from now. By preserving our own history our descendants can get a clear and more intact picture of us than if they have to dig for the information themselves.”

In January 1936, it was reported that the Society published a booklet on the Prendergast family entitled The Story of A Pioneer Family and it was written by Anderson.

After this, there is no further mention of the Jamestown Historical Society. In 1944, a “10 Years Ago” article mentioned the election of the society’s officers ten years prior in 1934. Also, when Mayor Leon Roberts was seeking reelection in 1935, the Society was among his memberships. Once again, when he was running in 1937, the Society was among his memberships, although I have found no other mention of the historical society after September 1937. Mayor Roberts won both of those elections.

It would be for almost 25 years before the Fenton Historical Society had its beginnings when a group of citizens came together to preserve the historical Gov. Reuben Fenton Mansion.

Still, the mystery remains regarding what happened to the Jamestown Historical Society, and why it faded from history.
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
This month, the Fenton History Center’s Museum Store has expanded its product line. Most of the items are new selections.

While we had keppie hats in the past, we now have Civil War style officer hats as well. We also expanded our Civil War merchandise to include soldier figurines as well as toy soldiers.

We also added history themed playing cards, train whistles, along with more magnets and pins.

Check out our gift shop for these and more merchandise. We will be expanding even more over the course of the year!
Here it is March, bringing to mind four leaf clovers, leprechauns and St. Patrick. Thousands of people around the world have Irish ancestry due to several waves of emigrants from Ireland who settled in the Four Corners of the World. I have spent many hours tracing my Irish Ancestors complete with all the reported challenges. Something to keep in mind as you research is the division of Ireland and Northern Ireland. These two records keeping systems parted in 1922 at the time of the Rebellion.

If you too have Irish ancestors and plan to research them, there are some basic rules to follow. The first is to track them back across the ocean to the old country. If you have not done that yet, you need to start in the US and work backward. Interview family members including aunts, uncles, cousins and elderly family friends; review any family documents, stories, old letters, etc. to gather as much information as possible. One of the most important piece of information to have is the County that they came from, then the Parish and finally the Townland. The Townland is truly the most important.

You may also want to look for church records here in the US especially those of you who are Roman Catholic or whose ancestors were Roman Catholic. Try and find out where they worshipped when they came to this country and then look there for records. The priest may have made a note regarding where they came from in Ireland in the parish records here.

Now that you have a name and/or names you need to look at alternatives to that name and head to the records in Ireland. We have all heard the stories about
Irish records and THEY ARE TRUE!! But do not despair there are some alternatives.

Some of the Websites that you will want to use are: Roots Ireland ($), Irish Ancestors with John Grenham ($), PRONI, www.irishgenealogy.ie, www.ancestry.com/cs/uk/ireland ($), www.familysearch.org (free) (Then click on WIKI), http://www.findmypast.com/ ($), and www.nli.ie. Of course there are many others.

As in most of the British Isles, you will need to primarily rely on Church records prior to 1845. Beginning in 1845 Civil Registration began. Civil registration of protestant marriages was required beginning in 1845 and civil registration of Roman Catholic marriages began in 1864 as did births and deaths regardless of whether they were Protestant or Catholic. As the Church of Ireland was the State church you may want to look in their records for marriages that occurred prior to Civil records regardless of your ancestors faith.

Other resources that you will find helpful and may wish to purchase are Tracing Your Irish Ancestors by John Grenham - we have it at the Hall House. Consider purchasing Discover Irish Land Records by Chris Patton (this will give you a great understanding of the land divisions in Ireland that are a very important aspect of Irish Research.

I have presented a very brief summary of doing Irish Research. If you are really interested in learning how to do Irish Research, you may wish to attend the Workshop being presented on Saturday March 25th from 10:30 to 11:30. The cost is $10 for members and $20 for non-members. We will be recording it and you will be able to access it with a password on the Fenton History Center Website.

The annual Fenton History Center Workshop Series begins this month. The 2023 series will focus on various ethnic groups. All workshops will be held on Saturdays from 10:30 to 12 noon at the Fenton History Research Library at 73 Forest Avenue. There will be six workshops, and the cost is $10/class or $50 total if you sign up for all six at once and are a member. If you are a non-member the cost is $20/class or $100 if you assign up for all six classes at once. You can sign up in advance at the Fenton or can pay at the door. We will not Zoom these programs but will tape them for later viewing on our website.

The first program features Research in Ireland, appropriate for March and St. Patrick’s Day and will be presented on March 25th. The remainder are: Dutch Research on April 29th, Research in Scotland on June 3rd, German Research on August 19th, Research in the Maritime Provinces of Canada on September 16th and Norwegian/Danish Research on October 21st.

We will be continuing the ethnic theme for our workshops in 2024 featuring England, Polish, Eastern European, Italian, French and a multi-part series on Sweden.

The Fenton History Center’s Mission is to provide education and cultural opportunities for the residents of Chautauqua County. Through these workshops and the many other events and activities at the Fenton we believe that we are fulfilling our purpose and mission. Visit our website at fentonhistorycenter.org to learn more about the Fenton or call us at (716) 664-6256.
Thomas James Clarke was born on May 7, 1875, at Hastings, Trent Hills, Northumberland County, Ontario, Canada, son of Thomas Borman Clarke, a carpenter, and Clarissa Sweet Clarke. In 1894 Clarke moved to Batavia, New York. There he worked for his uncle John M. Sweet. In 1895 he began to work as a salesman for E. N. Rowell Paper Box Company. In 1900, he founded Clarke-Dorman Drug Box Company. Although Clarke sold his share of ownership in 1902 to William Koehl, Clarke remained with the William Koehl Company until 1916.

The census shows T. James still living with his uncle John M. Sweet and his Aunt Julia in Batavia in 1900 but the 1909-1910 Jamestown City Directory shows the Sweets living at 918 Newland, and T. James rooming at 111 E.2nd – the Vandergrift Building. It also shows the Sweet-Clarke Co., with J.M. Sweet as President, William Koehl as VP, and T. James Clarke as Secretary/Treasurer. They were manufacturers of hardwood specialties located at 104 E. 2nd. This lasted until 1916 when Clarke started his own business, the T. James Clarke Box & Label Works, located at 38 Charles Street.

The 1911-1912 City Directory shows the Sweets living at 42 Charles Street. This was an important move in the life of T. James as his aunt and uncle now happened to live next door to the Olof Johnson family which included Olof, his wife Clara and their daughter Hazel Clarabel. On June 26, 1912 T. James married Hazel Clarabel. T. James moved in, and from then until the day he died he lived at 38 Charles Street.

Clarke had a civic side. He served as a Director of the National Chautauqua County Bank for well over a decade. He was awarded The Grand Lodge 50-Year Merit Award at the first fall meeting of the Batavia Lodge 475 F&AM, at the Masonic Temple in September 1951. And he was Life Member No. 37 of the American Numismatic Association, serving as 20th President of the ANA from August 1935 to August 1937.

Clarke was also an avid collector, collecting a wide variety of items including autographs, glassware, Indian relics, postage stamps, coins, paper money, watches and weapons. There is a picture of him in the January 24, 1952 edition of the Jamestown Sun showing off a watch he owned to members of the Chautauqua Coin, Stamp and Curio Club. The watch formerly belonged to “Diamond Jim” Brady.

Clarke had a massive coin collection which was sold in four separate auctions prior to his death and seven posthumously. Among his coins were a 1796 Liberty Cap Cent which is the finest one known today, a complete set of Massachusetts Colonial Silver, and a certain gold piece which got him a visit from United States Secret Service Agents in April 1944. Clarke had a 1933 Double Eagle. 1933 Double Eagles ($20 gold pieces) have an interesting story. 100,000 pieces were minted by March 24, 1933 but FDR issued an Executive Order on April 5th before any had officially been released and those still at the Mint ended up being melted. It had long been accepted for collectors to bring older coins of equal denomination to the Teller’s window at the mint in exchange for new ones and this apparently happened before the Executive Order. The few that survived traded in the coin market openly until a Stack Auction in 1944 when seizure of them began. They were seized because the Government...CONTINUED ON PAGE 15
took the stance that as they were never officially released then any outside of the Mint must have been stolen. Clark must have been surprised, having bought it from a coin dealer named Ira Reed in 1941. He even had a receipt, having paid an amazingly low price of $550 for it. He lost it anyhow...

The T. James Clarke Box & Label Works was his creation. It started out as a cottage industry, being located at the back of 38 Charles (his home) until 1926. At that time it expanded to cover 38-40 Charles Street. It was a supplier of drug packaging including small cardboard pill boxes, labels, prescription pads, ointment tubes, glass syrup bottles, glass jars etc. After WWII it developed a plastic container for packaging prescriptions and received a patent for its renowned “Green Neck” prescription pill vial. The T. James Clarke Box & Label Works was state of the art.

Mr. Clarke died on July 20, 1952. At the time of his death the Box & Label Works was still located on Charles Street, where it stayed until 1958. It then got a new address, 45 Norwood, where it grew so that the address became 45-53 Norwood. I say “got a new address” because the only thing that moved was the front door – Norwood being the street on the other side of the block. In 1988 it became the Clarke Container Co. Today, what was the T. James Clarke Box & Label Works is located in Erie Pennsylvania under the name The Clarke Container Company.
The Fenton’s Genealogy Support Group serves to support both experienced and amateur researchers. Meetings feature invaluable lectures, discussions, and/or research nights and are an excellent way to become familiar with the Fenton History Center’s impressive collection of resources. All events are held at the Hall House Research Center (73 Forest Avenue) at the times given except where noted. Program topics and speakers are subject to change. Meetings are recorded and available for members to review.

**GENEALOGY SUPPORT GROUP RESEARCH NIGHTS**

Wednesdays 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM
- March 29
- April 26
- May 31
- June 28
- August 30
- Sept. 27
- Nov. 29
- Dec. 27

**GENEALOGY SUPPORT GROUP PROGRAMS**

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM
- Wednesday, March 29, 2023
  Ancestry.com Family Tree
  (presented by Andrew Kolstee)

- Wednesday, May 31, 2023
  Intro to FamilySearch.org
  (presented by Janet Wahlberg)

**FIELD TRIP**

Wednesday, July 26, 2023
Visit to Warren County Public Library (details TBD)

**OPEN HOUSE**

Wednesday, August 30, 2023
Open House 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM

**DOCUMENTARY NIGHT**

Wednesday, October 25, 2023
Documentary TBD

**WORKSHOPS**

Saturdays 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM
- March 25, 2023
  Irish Research (Janet Wahlberg)

- April 29, 2023
  Dutch Research (Andrew Kolstee)

- June 3, 2023
  Scottish Research (Janet Wahlberg)

- August 19, 2023
  German Research (speaker TBD)

- September 16, 2023
  Canadian - Maritime Provinces
  (Vince Courtney)

- October 21, 2023
  Norwegian/Danish Research
  (Andrew Kolstee)
This month we are featuring Sherry Vesotski as our VIP. She is an AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP volunteer. Sherry volunteers in our Gift Shop and uses her many years of working with the public to make our guests feel welcome at the Fenton. She also willingly helps out with projects at the Mansion.

Sherry has lived in the Jamestown area for most of her life moving here with her family here from Pennsylvania when she was a small child. After graduating from Jamestown High School, she married and raised a family. She spent her working years at WCA Hospital where she was a secretary and Unit Clerk retiring in 2013.

Sherry was widowed in November of 2021 and lives in Greenhurst with her two cats. Her daughter and son-in-law live nearby. She has a son in Carrboro, NC and three stepchildren living in Allegheny and Olean.

Finding herself with a bit of time on her hands she sought out volunteer opportunities. In 2013 she began volunteering at the Chautauqua County Humane Society and a cat socializer. Then in 2022 Sherry wanted to learn more about the history of Jamestown and to meet interesting people. We at the Fenton were the lucky recipients of her time and interests.

When she has a few free moments, she enjoys walking through the Greenhurst and Lakeview Cemeteries. And on rainy days you can find Sherry reading novels and biographies, working crossword and jigsaw puzzles. What a busy and interesting person she is. Stop by the Gift Shop on any Monday or Friday afternoon and introduce yourself to her.

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**Local Trivia**

Q1. When were motorized buses first used in Jamestown?
Q2. Where was the first roller skating rink located?
Q3. Who was the founder of the Jamestown female seminary?
Q4. What color were the wooden body trolley cars?
Q5. Where was the old Witkop-Holmes store located?

See page 21 for answers.
As this is Women’s History Month, I thought it would be nice to highlight Soldiers’ Circle at Lake View Cemetery. Soldiers’ Circle was a necessary addition to Lake View as the second designated area for Veteran Burials because of WWI. The first designated area was Monument Hill where Veterans from the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Civil War, and the Spanish American War are buried. Victor Bratt, who perished from wounds received on the Hindenburg Line on Sept. 29, 1918, was the first burial in Soldiers’ Circle in 1921. Pvt. Bratt was also an employee of the Lake View Cemetery Association when he left Jamestown in service to our country.

Marie Curtis Van Every was the very first Woman Veteran to be buried in Soldiers’ Circle. Marie was born May 9th, 1894, to Frank and Ella Curtis of Jamestown. She was a Registered Nurse when she joined the Army Nurse Corps and arrived at Camp Mills, Long Island, during WWI. This was a large training and embarkation camp for soldiers of the American Expeditionary Forces, and when the war ended, it was used as a debarkation camp for returning troops. It is not known if Marie went on from there to serve in Field Hospitals or if she was part of a Nursing Unit to treat the troops at Camp Mills.

After returning to Jamestown Marie married Earl Van Every, joined the Ira Lou Spring American Legion, and unfortunately, passed away on Dec. 22, 1942 from lung cancer at age 48. She is buried in Plot 1, Row 1, Grave 1 of Soldiers’ Circle.

The last and 17th Woman Veteran buried in Soldiers’ Circle is Ethelyn C. Nelson who was born to John and Hilma Nelson in Jamestown on October 27, 1917. She was a Registered Nurse having received her training in Swedish Covenant Hospital in Chicago, IL. She joined the US Navy in 1943, training at Sampson Naval Training Center and it is not known what field or ship hospitals she may have done her best to help servicemen return to health. She left the Navy after WWII, but was recalled for Korea and was at Bethesda during Vietnam, altogether serving 23 years. She retired in 1973 with the rank of Lieutenant Commander.

by Barb Cessna
Vets Finding Vets Coordinator
PLASTIC COLLECTION
FOR OUTDOOR BENCH A SUCCESS!

by Barb Cessna
Vets Finding Vets Coordinator

Thank you so much to all of our soft plastic contributors who have diligently scoured every inch of the homes and garages to help us reach the 500 lbs. mark necessary for ordering a free bench from NexTrex. We actually turned in 501 lbs. just to say we did. We still had a lot of plastic left over and decided to give it to First Lutheran Church because they helped us out with plastic when we were panicking because we thought we wouldn’t have enough. They are collecting again for a second bench at their Church.

Then, we knew that people wanted to continue collecting the plastic for good causes, so we added a blurb on Facebook that we would give our containers and help to another Chaut. Co. nonprofit who was interested in this project.

Fluvanna Cemetery was the first to respond, and we are happy to help. We have left one container at the Fenton Research Center at the Hall House for the convenience of our local contributors and have already passed on a carload of plastic that came in during the last week. The Fluvanna Cemetery will also have a drop off place and their contacts are:

Sherry Shay, 716-664-7211, or email wanttobe@hotmail.com
Mary Turney, 716-386-4923 or email turneym46@gmail.com

NEXT FENTON CANTEENS
AT THE GOV. REUBEN FENTON MANSION
SAT., MARCH 11, 2023
SAT., APRIL 12, 2023
10 AM - 12 PM

MARCH 2023  19
FENTON TRAVELERS BUS TRIP
GENESEE COUNTRY VILLAGE,
JELL-O MUSEUM,
AND HISTORICAL LeROY HOUSE

Wednesday, August 16, 2023
$105 per person

$25 nonrefundable deposit to reserve your seat
(deposits are transferrable, if you need to sell your seat)
Balance due July 10, 2023

ONLY 25 SEATS AVAILABLE!

This historical trip takes us to the Genesee Country Village, the Jell-O Museum and Historical LeRoy House, followed by a dinner stop at Spragues Restaurant in Portville. The trip will include the coach bus, a guided tour/trolley ride at GCV, as well as time to explore on your own. Meals are NOT included in the cost. You may bring your own picnic lunch or dine at one of the facilities at the Country Village. A full menu option, at your expense, is available at Spragues.

The Genesee Country Village & Museum is the largest living history museum in New York State, encompassing the Historic Village, Nature Center, and John L. Wehle Gallery. In the Historic Village, 68 buildings from the 19th century range from a pioneer farm to a Victorian mansion, each bringing history to life. Costumed interpreters share knowledge and stories of daily life, trades, and culture, including the blacksmith, potter, tinsmith, and farmers. The John L. Wehle Gallery featured extraordinary collections of 19th-century clothing, wildlife, and sporting art. New for 2022 is “Duck, Duck, Shoot! The Story of American Waterbirds,” a sprawling exhibition exploring waterfowling in the 19th century and its ties to conservation movements in the 20th century. The Nature Center offers five miles of marked trails and programs throughout the year. The Museum grounds also offers restaurants, a pub, shopping experiences, classes and programs for all ages, and more.

Sign up at the Fenton History Center. Make checks payable to the Fenton History Center (67 Washington St., Jamestown, NY 14701) Call (716) 664-6256 to register over the phone.
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.

Trivia Answers from Page 17.  
(A1) 1922 (A2) 2nd and Winsor (A3) Clarissa D. Wheeler  
(A4) Green (A5) Market Street
The Fenton History Center has an extensive collection of local cookbooks in its archives. This recipe comes from the Ellery Baptist Church’s Ellery’s Edibles, published in 2010. The cookbook was dedicated to Mary M. Miller, the eldest and longest-attending member of the Ellery Baptist Church.

ORANGE BREAD

In memory of my mother, Margaret Keister

2 large orange peels, washed and finely chopped
2 cup water
2 cup white sugar
1 cup milk
1 egg, slightly beaten
2 tablespoons melted shortening
4 cup flour
1/2 teaspoon salt
4 teaspoons baking powder

Cook orange peel in water for 20 minutes on medium heat. Add sugar and cook 30 minutes longer on low heat. Stir, so it doesn’t stick to the pan. Cool. Add milk, egg and shortening, then add sifted dry ingredients. Mix well. Pour into two greased loaf pans. Let sit 25 minutes, then bake for 1 hour at 350 degrees or until done.
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. Includes 4 complimentary admission passes for guests.
• Friend of Fenton $250. Includes 6 complimentary admission passes for guests.
• Representative’s Circle $360. Includes 8 complimentary admission passes for guests.
• Senator’s Circle $500. 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. 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
Fenton History Center’s

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

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