Calling all gardeners! We have formed the Fenton Garden Club and will be working on the flower beds at Hall House and the mansion, but our biggest project is the Blue Star Memorial Garden. The Fenton History Center was awarded a Community Service Grant from the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation for our Blue Star Memorial Garden. The garden will have five areas representing each branch of service; Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines, and Navy. Each garden area will have its own color scheme and will incorporate native plants and will be edged in deer resistant bushes. The bench that we collected plastic for will also be part of this garden. We will need help, so, if you can lend some muscle to our garden project please call 716-664-6256 or email director@fentonhistorycenter.org.

The Fenton History Center was also awarded a grant from the Reg and Betty Lenna Fund at the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation for a new exterior door and cement ramp at the Hall House Research Center. We are excited to have a “real” door that can be locked and unlocked from the outside and a ramp that will give everyone access to the Research Center that is safe! Construction will begin June 9th and will continue through the month of June and possibly July. Until the cement ramp is completed, everyone will have to use the door facing the parking lot, which does have a step up. We are very appreciative of these two grant awards from CRCF.

We are in gear for our Roaring 20s themed Gala on July 29th. Invitations will be in the mail in the next couple of weeks, but you don't need an invitation to come! “Tickets” can be purchased online at www.fentonhistorycenter.org, by phone or sending a check with your RSVP. We guarantee that this will be the party of the year! Delicious food will be served (drinks included), dancing and entertainment, raffle baskets, silent auction, 50/50 raffle, Tea Leaf Readings, and Poker and Black Jack in our Speak Easy will make for a fun filled evening. We will have Reuben Bucks available for use at the Speak Easy and your winnings can be used to purchase...CONTINUED ON PAGE 2
CURATOR SNIPPETS: 1920s EXHIBIT

by Therese Avedillo
CURATOR

The Fenton History Center is installing a 1920s Exhibition, to be viewed in different parts of the museum.

The 1922 Case in the first floor of the mansion has been filled with artifacts from the 1920s. Amongst these items, is a maroon wool “fur-felt” cloche from that decade, made to fit smoothly over the head. It is trimmed on each side with silk grosgrain ribbon in three pleated fan shapes. According to Textile Curator, Phoebe Forbes, it was most likely hand decorated by the milliner. The hat belonged to the mother of Sarita Weeks of Jamestown, and donated by the St. Luke’s Episcopal Church.

Another highlight, in our second floor case, is a small bronze commemorative plaque. It recognizes twenty-five years of service in fire control (1904 to 1929) of Charles P. Dahlstrom, founder of the Dahlstrom Metallic Door Company, in Jamestown, New York. A bas-relief of Dahlstrom is on the center of the plaque in front, and on the back is one of a factory and a seal saying, “Dahlstrom patent door, artistic, everlasting, sanitary and fireproof.” This was donated by Sonya Dinero from North Carolina.

Other objects and documents include instruments and music sheets from the time period. Music played a major role during the “roaring twenties” and its importance is reflected in this exhibit, as well as the fashion styles of the day. We have the quintessential dresses on display along with hats and footwear.

In tandem with the 1920s theme, photographs of past Fenton Historical Society members are being showcased, to celebrate the society’s 60th anniversary.

Join us, as we remember an exciting era and pay homage to the Fenton Historical Society’s enduring legacy.
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

MAIL RSVP AND CHECK TO ABOVE ADDRESS
OR REGISTER AT FENTONHISTORYCENTER.ORG/GALA
I’m not going to talk about an artifact today, I’m going to talk about an event, a future event. The Fenton History Center staff and volunteers are going to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Fenton Historical Society in 1963. We are calling the event a Gala. The theme is The Roaring 20’s. We can say the theme commemorates the 1920’s because that is the period in which the mansion was reoccupied under city ownership by veterans’ and patriotic organizations.

The theme will reflect what people in the 21st century want to pretend the 1920’s were like. This will include a lot of stereotypes and generalizations, a lot of inaccuracies and anachronisms, many of them previously amplified in Hollywood. Activists pompously rail against stereotypes and have attempted to forbid them for numerous groups they favor. But they are universal. Without them there could be no law, no public activity of any kind, no comedy, indeed no thought, and very few parties. There are usually large measures of truth in stereotypes. If there weren’t, they would never arise in the first place and never be sustained. The not truthful parts of stereotypes consist of opinion and exaggeration and motivated fabrications inserted at some point either by people in favor or against whatever is being stereotyped.

Just listing the features of the 1920’s that have been embraced as stereotypes would fill a page. All of them are historically relevant to understanding this decade of enormous change, both for good and for ill. Among the major factors shaping the decade was the loss of so many young men in one generation in World War I and the consequent devastating damage to the optimism and confidence of the previous age. The war was followed by the even more massively fatal influenza epidemic also targeting young people preferentially.

Enormous technological changes completely upset existing standards. The automobile became universally available. Radio was introduced. Motion pictures prospered and converted to “talkies.” Commercial aviation came on the scene. Electricity and telephone reached millions. The ghastly backfire of the utopians’ long cherished dream of alcohol prohibition, oddly enough, is perhaps the favorite stereotype of party goers. Woman suffrage, another long sought idealist victory, though not a failure like prohibition, still fell far short of the dream of an end to civic corruption and domestic violence. The discarding of Victorian/Edwardian inhibitions and formality was accompanied by the dominance of cigarettes and the popularity of women smoking. This we probably won’t celebrate at our party. French and German philosophers and psychoanalysts, largely forgotten today, were behind huge swaths of the change in not just public attitudes, manners and morals, but art and architecture as well.

Often neglected in discussions of the 20’s is the fact that a large minority of the American people still lived on farms and in rural small towns. Most farmers still used horses for field work. Roads were bad, electricity hadn’t reached most neighborhoods, and they had their own early depression alongside but contrasting with the general prosperity. Much of Chautauqua County was still rural and suffering from a long slide in income and population. Young people were flocking to Jamestown, Dunkirk and the outside world for jobs both blue collar and white.

Of special interest to me was the music of the 1920’s, as radically different from the past as any of the other cultural manifestations. It was transformed...CONTINUED ON PAGE 5
by the advent of two traditions, both from the south. At the turn of the 20th century, the most popular music had been brass band music and parlor songs sung from printed “sheet music.” Light or semi-classical music was also prominent. One of the new southern styles was Black jazz which led to Dixieland in the 20’s and Big Band swing later on. The other was white and led to country music. I suspect some Chautauqua County farm radios were tuned to the WLS National Barn Dance in Chicago after 1924, but I have no evidence for that and no indication any of the early country phonograph records were even available here until much later. But jazz and Dixieland were probably as popular in Jamestown as in most parts of the country. Country music and the whole rural experience, much to my regret, seems to have received short shrift both from history and popular culture.

2023 CALENDAR OF EVENTS
Genealogy Support Group and Workshops

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
June 28 August 30
Sept. 27 Nov. 29
Dec. 27

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

July 15, 2023
English Research (Janet Wahlberg)
August 19, 2023
Scottish Research (Janet Wahlberg)
September 16, 2023
Canadian - Maritime Provinces (Vince Courtney)
October 21, 2023
Norwegian/Danish Research (Andrew Kolstee)

All previous workshops are available to those who purchased them. Contact us for a link.
Juneteenth, also known as Freedom Day, is an American holiday celebrated on June 19th. On June 19, 1865, the Emancipation Proclamation was read to enslaved African Americans in Texas. This was the emancipation of the last remaining enslaved African Americans in the Confederacy.

The Emancipation Proclamation went into effect on January 1st of 1863 and declared “that all persons held as slaves, within the rebellious states, are, and hence forward shall be free.”

The Emancipation Proclamation did not end slavery in all states, however, it captured the hearts and imagination of many Americans and fundamentally transformed the character of the war. My great-great aunt Jane Church, an abolitionist in Ohio, wrote in her diary dated Tuesday, September 23, 1862: “The President yesterday issued a Proclamation of Freedom to all slaves in the rebellious states or of rebel masters if they do not lay down their arms by the first of January and the loyal slave holders to be compensated”. On Wednesday, December 3, 1862 Jane wrote: “Have been reading the President’s message. He recommends the abolition of slavery in all states on or before the year 1900. I laid down the paper saying in my heart, God bless you, Abraham Lincoln!”

After January 1, 1863, every advance of federal troops expanded the domain of freedom. The Proclamation led to the acceptance of black men into the Union Army and Navy, thus, the liberated became the liberators. By the end of the war between the states, close to 200,000 black soldiers and sailors fought for the Union and freedom.

Today we celebrate Juneteenth as a day of exploration and celebration of African American history and heritage.
Throughout the history of slavery, enslaved people organized resistance, escape, and rebellion. Sustaining them in this struggle was their music, some examples of which are sung to this day. While the existence of slave songs, especially spirituals, is well known, their character is often misunderstood. Slave songs were not only lamentations of suffering or distractions from a life of misery. Some songs openly called for liberty and revolution, celebrating such heroes as Gabriel Prosser and Nat Turner, and, especially, celebrating the Haitian Revolution.
While many of you are aware that the Fenton has an enormous collection of documents and photographs, you may not realize that preserving these items and making them accessible to researchers and others requires the ability to scan and digitize them. Over the years, with limited time and limited equipment, employees and volunteers have done a yeoman's job of trying to keep up with this project.

In the last two years, with grants and donations, we have been able to purchase a computer and three new scanners that are dedicated to preserving many of the documents and photographs that are in the collection. The Fenton has designated a room in the Hall House as the Scanning Lab. This room will not be used for any other activities allowing our staff and volunteers to set up projects in a space that will not be interrupted. There are four stations, and each will be dedicated to a specific project.

Our current group of volunteers work under the direction of Rick Roll and are Wayne Leamer, Cindy Dustin, Tom Goodwill and Brian Rapp and they are currently working on a number of projects. Our Director Jane Babinsky works with the group prioritizing the projects.

Our current top priority is a group of documents on loan from the Post Journal. They are “death files” that cover a time period from 1940 to 1999. Wayne Leamer has been the leader of this project. While it is nearly...
Local Trivia

Q1. Who organized the First Presbyterian Church?
Q2. What is the former name of Little Theater?
Q3. Who took office as mayor of Jamestown on April 19, 1886?
Q4. What famous parade did Jamestown High School march in 1986?
Q5. Who was the first area man to be killed in the Spanish-American War?

See page 19 for answers.
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.
Recently, Sarah Eddy Reynolds Clague and her daughter Jeannette Reynolds Clague stopped for a visit at their ancestral home. Sarah is the great granddaughter of Jeannette Fenton Hegeman Gilbert and Jeanette is the great-great granddaughter of her namesake, Jeanette.

The 2023 Fenton Lecture Series continued on the evening of May 10, 2023 with Bob Johnston of The Jamestown Trolley Restoration Project.

Held at the Gov. Reuben Fenton Mansion, this free lecture was open to the public and attendees enjoyed refreshments while learning about the rich history of Jamestown Trolleys.

Johnston presented this history through a slide show highlighting the fascinating and detailed history of the trolleys that is part of our community’s transportation history. Johnson furthermore talked about the timeline and effort to restore Trolley Car #93.
2023 WALKING TOURS

Sat. MAY 6
@ 10:00 AM
Riverwalk Tour
meet at the National Comedy Center

Sat. JUN 24
@ 10:00 AM
Southside Tour
meet at the Fenton Mansion parking lot

Sat. JUL 8
@ 10:00 AM
Lucille Ball Tour
meet at the Fenton Mansion parking lot

Sat. AUG 5
@ 10:00 AM
Churches Tour
meet at the Fenton Mansion parking lot

Cost: $5 for Members  $10 for Non-Members
Register online, by phone, or in-person in the Fenton Museum Store.

(716) 664-6256
www.FentonHistoryCenter.org

Fenton Historical Society
67 Washington St.,
Jamestown, NY 14701
LAFAYETTE CORNERS
FURNITURE EXHIBIT

by Norman Carlson
COLLECTIONS MANAGER

The largest exhibit in the Fenton History Center is our Furniture Room. Furniture also fills a large part of our storage areas. Of course the reason furniture takes up so much of our physical space is because furniture is such a big part of Jamestown history. We often talk about our wish that we had more room for both storage and display of Jamestown made furniture.

Fortunately, we have some help, at least for the present. Lafayette Corners, a retail furniture store at 215 West Fourth Street, owned by David and Pam Pelow, has created a special exhibit room for high quality Jamestown made furniture the owners have collected over the past several years. Several Fenton staff/board members (Director, Jane Babinsky; Collections Manager Norman Carlson; Curator, Therese Avedillo; Barbara Cessna, Hall House Manager/VFV Coordinator; and Janet Wahlberg, President) toured the exhibit at its dedication on the afternoon of May 5, 2023.

LAFAYETTE CORNERS
FURNITURE EXHIBIT

by Norman Carlson
COLLECTIONS MANAGER
On May 20, the Fenton History Center began its second summer as a Blue Star Museum. This means that serving service members and their families are not charged admission when they visit between May 20 – Armed Services Day and Sept. 4 – Labor Day. If the service member is deployed or serving elsewhere, his or her family is still welcome to visit us as our guests.

Excitement abounds as we have been working with several entities on our new project, the Blue Star Memorial Garden. Master Gardeners, our local chapter of the Blue Star Mothers, the City Parks Department, staff and volunteers are working together in preparation for digging in and creating our one-of-a-kind Blue Star Memorial Garden. Ours will be different because we are incorporating existing memorial plaques regarding three organizations who held their meetings here after the City of Jamestown purchased the Fenton Home and grounds in 1919, to be a Soldier and Sailor Memorial Park.

I’m sure you will all remember the huge recycling project when we diligently collected plastic for a heavy duty weather resistant bench. We are looking forward to adding that bench to the...CONTINUED ON PAGE 15
...CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

garden as a place to relax and reflect. Also being added as seating areas for young whippersnappers are the stone steps that were at one time used for entrance to the building.

Stay tuned and next month we will show you how it all came together! In the meantime, please help us get the word out to the Blue Star families that you know, whether they live here or far away. This is how we show our appreciation to the many service families who are traveling during the summer.
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<th>Date</th>
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<td><strong>Wednesday</strong></td>
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<td>Shearman-Davis Murders in Busti&lt;br&gt;presented by Norman Carlson</td>
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<td><strong>May 10</strong></td>
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<td>Jamestown Trolleys&lt;br&gt;presented by Bob Johnston</td>
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<td><strong>June 14</strong></td>
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<td>Underground Chautauqua: Three Freedom Trails&lt;br&gt;Documentary and Q&amp;A&lt;br&gt;presented by Wendy Straight</td>
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<td><strong>Friday</strong></td>
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<td>Songs of Slavery and Emancipation&lt;br&gt;Documentary and Music&lt;br&gt;presented by Mat Callahan</td>
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<td><strong>Wednesday</strong></td>
<td><strong>July 12</strong></td>
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<td>Prohibition in Jamestown&lt;br&gt;presented by Karen Livsey and Sam Genco</td>
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<td><strong>Wednesday</strong></td>
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<td>Korematsu v. United States&lt;br&gt;presented by Randy Elf</td>
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<td><strong>Wednesday</strong></td>
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<td>A Timeline of Chautauqua&lt;br&gt;Steamboats and Hotels&lt;br&gt;presented by Paul Johnson</td>
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67 Washington St., Jamestown, NY  
(716) 664-6256  
www.FentonHistoryCenter.org
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
Jack Ericson has been a member of the Fenton History Center since the beginning. He has served in many capacities and currently is a member of the committee that manages the Hall House Research Library. His vast experience in Library Science and Archival preservation has enhanced our ability to grow the educational and research programs at the Hall House.

In addition, he is constantly bringing new ideas to the group for discussion. Most recently, he suggested that we digitize one of our most valuable resources, The Henderson-Lincoln Scrapbooks. This resource is used almost daily by our patrons and volunteers. As a result of his suggestion, this project has begun and will benefit greatly from the creation of a Scanning Lab at Hall House. Now let’s hear about Jack in his own words.

Born in Dewittville, in 1938 to Lois Mc Gill and Russell Palmer Ericson, Jack graduated from Jamestown High School in 1957 and went on to Allegheny College, in the summer of 1961 and 1962 he worked at the offices of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission in Harrisburg.

He continued his education at the University of Connecticut and later at the University of Wisconsin. While at the University of Wisconsin he completed archival training as a staff member of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

After Wisconsin Jack worked at the George Arents Research Library at Syracuse University. He entered the Cooperstown Graduate program at the New York State Historical Association.

Moving on again in his studies and career he was the curator of decorative arts at the Newark, New Jersey Museum. He also worked for the Microfilming Corporation of America a New York Times Company, where he originated and started the Genealogy and local History microfiche program (now Heritage Quest).

The year 1985 brought Jack back to Westfield to serve as Head of Special Collections at Reed Library, SUNY Fredonia where he worked for 20 years. It was also at this time he served as the family historian for the Cornplanter Descendants Association.

Jack has always loved history beginning as a child and continues to appreciate history in general and the history of Chautauqua County in particular. He served as a Trustee of the Chautauqua County Historical Society. He has been involved in the Fenton History Center since its beginning. Jack has been a speaker for the Hall House Genealogy Support Group, speaking on Native American Research and Quaker Research.

He has been researching his own family for many years, primarily his Scots Irish and Swedish ancestors. His research into his Swedish roots has allowed him to develop an expertise in the use of ArchivDigital, a Swedish website that contains an enormous collection of church (birth, marriage, death, and estate inventories), military, tax, and other records. He is willing to help anyone wanting to learn how to use this record set.
Thank You to Our Supporters!

Thank You to Our Supporters!

Ralph C. Sheldon Foundation, Inc.

Follow us on social media

Trivia Answers from Page 9.  
(A1) Ruth E. Grillet  (A2) Shea’s (A3) Oscar Price  
(A4) Rose Bowl Parade  (A5) Samuel Porter
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