

Fourth Quarter
2006

"Real People
Making History"



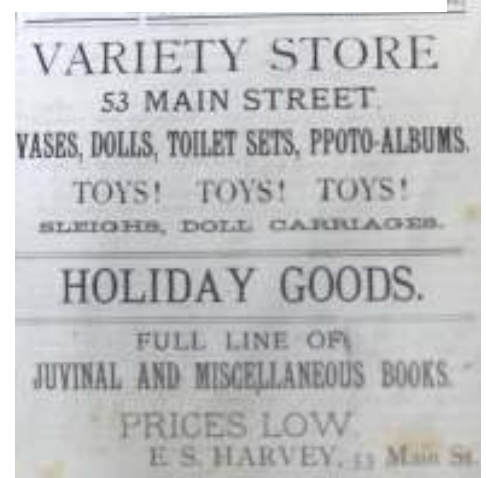
FENTON HISTORY CENTER- MUSEUM & LIBRARY
FENTON FOCUS

All I Want for Christmas Is...



*You are invited to
enter into the
American holiday
traditions of the
past and present
in the grand 1863
Fenton Mansion .*

Jamestown Std.
Dec. 23, 1881



Do you still have a favorite holiday gift from your childhood? Do you remember the joy the gift gave you? Do you remember the smile on the face of the special person who knew just what you wanted?

Come see the trends, styles and gifts of Jamestown's past as seen through the local newspapers. This year's holiday exhibit will feature gift giving from the 1860s through the 1960s.

Come see the Upside Down Tree, Lucy Tree, the grand Parlor Tree and the Aluminum Forest *Open through January 20 2007!*

Saints & Sinners Tours

Lakeview Cemetery came alive for a few evenings in October. The Fenton staff, Lake View Cemetery staff and over 25 volunteers came together to develop and deliver a series of engaging, fun tours of our local cemetery. We are lucky

to have terrific support from the local community to have volunteers jump in and help us turn our idea into a reality!

The Lakeview Cemetery tours were a big success! We had over 370 people during the two-night

tours in October who came and experienced a living history of the Lakeview Cemetery. While it was a little creepy to walk through a pitch dark cemetery and visit graves and mausoleums on a cold October night with only the light of a lantern and

Con't on pg. 6.

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NYS Armories and Jamestown

Early in October 2006 we received a gift copy of the book, "New York's Historic Armories," by Nancy L. Todd from the New York State office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. This book was published in 2006 by the State University of New York Press, beautifully illustrated with photographs of over 120 armories in New York State built from the late eighteenth century to the middle of the twentieth century. These imposing monuments were built to house the state's volunteer militia and their activities.

In 1992 we were contacted by Nancy Todd and asked for information and photos concerning our Jamestown, N.Y.S. Armory and the military units housed there.

At that time we sent her the history of our two armories built in 1892 and 1932 and copies of historical post cards from our collection.

During the ensuing years the author and her support group did an extensive study on the history of the New York State armories and the Armory National Guard in New York State.

The first militias in colonial times were a decentralized army of volunteer citizens. This changed during the Civil War when the New York State National Guard was formed, later evolving to become a part of the regular army. Now the National Guard serves as a State and Federal Reserve force to be called out by the Governor of New York State for New York State emergencies and the U.S. Army for active duty when needed.

Arsenals were built in N.Y.S. before the Civil War to store munitions, most were like warehouses and had no room for the volunteer militia gatherings and drill purposes. Realizing the need for more multi-purpose buildings one of the earliest armories in N.Y.S. was built in Manhattan, NY in 1879. A building of fortress proportions and medieval military architecture. Other armories of similar size and proportions began being built around New York State. These armories served as military facilities and for public use.

Our first Jamestown Armory was completed in 1892, located on South Main Street in Brooklyn Square. It was built to accommodate the Thirteenth Regiment mustered into the National Guard in 1875. The unit was called the Fenton Guard in honor of Reuben E.

Fenton, New York State Governor from 1865-1869 who served during the Civil War. The Fenton Guards were of Swedish descent and even wore blue and yellow uniforms as worn by the regal guards in Sweden.

In 1932 a new Jamestown Armory was built on Porter Avenue and the old armory was demolished. The Thirteenth Regiment, (at the end of World War I) became Company E, 174th Infantry and moved from the old armory to the new armory at Porter Avenue. The National Guard still occupies the Porter Avenue facility.

If you are interested in reading this valuable historical reference about New York State's Armories and New York State's National Guard please come to the Fenton History Center and this book will be available for you to look through in our library.

-Sylvia Lobb, Registrar

The current NYS Armory on Porter Ave.



Old Armory located in the SW area of Brooklyn Square



Have you sent in your renewal ?

Thank you to our faithful members who have sent in their 2007 memberships! Your generosity keeps our doors open and the staff working.

If you have misplaced your renewal, please use the form below to show your support for collecting, preserving and teaching our local history.

I am a new renewing member.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

<input type="checkbox"/>	Governor's Circle	\$1,000+
<input type="checkbox"/>	Senator's Circle	\$500-999
<input type="checkbox"/>	Friend of Fenton	\$200-499
<input type="checkbox"/>	Supporting	\$100-199
<input type="checkbox"/>	Family	\$50-99
<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual	\$30
<input type="checkbox"/>	Senior	\$20
<input type="checkbox"/>	Student	\$15

To contribute by credit or debit card, complete the information below and send with your membership card.

\$ _____ membership amount VISA MasterCard

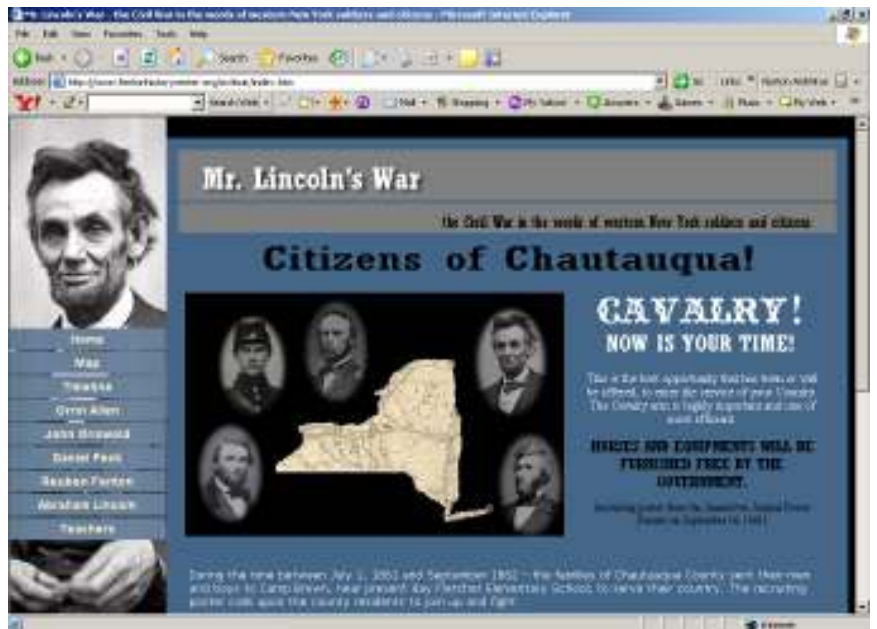
Credit Card # _____ Expiration Date _____

Cardholder's Name: _____

Cardholder's Signature: _____

Mr. Lincoln's War – the Local Connection

The Fenton History Center launched "Mr. Lincoln's War", our local Civil War history, in May 2006. The website tells the personal stories of three local soldiers. The soldier's letters home to their loved ones are the basis of the website that also teaches about Governor Fenton and President Abraham Lincoln's role and their connections to our Chautauqua County soldiers. It is a great tool for understanding the great job our ancestors carried out for our country. The pages are generating over 1,600 unique page visits per month – that's 20,000 visitors a year!



Exhibits...

The Fenton History Center was recently contracted by The Robert H. Jackson Center to inaugurate their new exhibit gallery space with an exhibit honoring Harold Jackson Adams. Mr. Adams, Justice Robert H. Jackson's nephew, had a close relationship with Justice Jackson which can be seen in the exhibit's photographs and artifacts. The photographs are from the Jackson Center collections, the Fenton History Center collections and Mr. Adam's private collection. The exhibit opened with a grand reception and dedication to Mr. Adams on November 17.



The exhibit can be seen by visiting the Jackson Center Monday through Saturday, 10 AM to 2 PM. The phone number is 483-6646.



Collections...

A donor recently brought in two commemorative plates she had found in her basement. One celebrates the 1960 sesqui-centennial of the settlement of Jamestown. The other is from "THE FAIR."

THE FAIR, according to an 1890 publication, *The Industrial Advantages of Jamestown, N.Y.*, was established April 15, 1884. "The firm carry a fine line of hosiery, stationery, blank books, umbrellas, toilet sets, crockery glass glassware, wooden and willow ware, house furnishing goods, etc. the specialty of the house being yarns, crockery, baby carriages, and tricycles.... The individual members of the house are Messrs. J. B. Collins and J. W. Fedder."

The City Directories first record THE FAIR in 1908. According to the 1922 Directory it sold crockery, glassware, toys, tin ware, and household furnishings.

The owner, Clarence A. Hultquist, is listed at the same 18 East Third Street address with an unnamed store as early as the 1903-1904 directory. Clarence Hultquist, a Swedish immigrant, was the father of Earle O. Hultquist. The younger Hultquist was a well known Jamestown industrialist and



philanthropist. Earle worked for Collins in the original FAIR and took the same name for his own store several years after it opened.

The plate, shown above is decorated with a 1912 calendar and "The Fair" is proclaimed in large letters on the center of the colorful, cherub bedecked surface.

Signature Quilts and Politics



Chautauqua County was the first county in New York State to organize a county Political Equality Club. In 1887 a club was organized in Jamestown and Mrs. D.H. Grandin was elected President. The following year, clubs were organized in Kennedy, Kiantone, Frewsburg, Lily Dale, Ellington, Sinclairville, and South Stockton. These were soon followed by nearly every town in the county founding their own clubs.

The state purpose of the Political Equality Clubs was “to elevate woman to equality with man in municipal, state and national rights and privileges, to seek information in political economy and to aid in the dissemination of like knowledge.”

This turkey-red and white cotton quilt was most likely made by the South Stockton Political Equality Club as a fund-raiser. It is dated 1893 and has the names of the incoming and outgoing Presidents, Grover Cleveland and Benjamin Harrison. The pattern is “Streak of

Lightning.” Subscriber’s names are embroidered in red on the white squares, with the President’s names in white on red squares.

During the last decade of the nineteenth century and the first decade of the twentieth century signature quilts were very popular. Many were made as remembrances for departing friends or family members, fund raisers, and to commemorate special occasions and people.

The South Stockton Political Equality Club would have charged a small fee to have one’s name embroidered on the quilt, then either raffled or auctioned the finished quilt to raise more money. The embroidery was generally delegated to a woman or two, who had skill in handwriting and embroidery. Some signature quilts have the names written with ink and often embellished. The red and white, or blue and white, were favorite color schemes for this type of quilt.

The quilt was given to the Fenton History Center by Mary

Benedict. There are two Mary Benedicts listed on the quilt. The donor is possibly one of them, but more likely a descendent of the family.

Quilts are still being made, raffled or auctioned to raise money, but few are signature quilts.

-Phoebe Forbes, Textile Curator

**Thank you for the following
In-kind Donations:**

Steve Columbare, True Value Hardware for materials for the new collection storage space

Key Bank employees for their work on Neighbors Make the Difference Day.

The Coffee Exchange
Steve Sandberg and staff from Harrington, Sandberg Architects for their building study.

Steve Senske from Farm Fresh Foods for donations used at the Fenton Old Fashioned Day event.

Saints & Sinners Tours Cont.

a few flashlights, we found children, teens, their parents, and grandparents engaging in education! Prominent Jamestown ancestors were portrayed by a variety of volunteers. The “actors” were in costume. They researched and wrote their history and shared their living history with their “guests”. Some of our players were young and some were older, but all of them became history teachers for the two evenings! Raising money for an organization like ours is always going to be a necessity, but the real

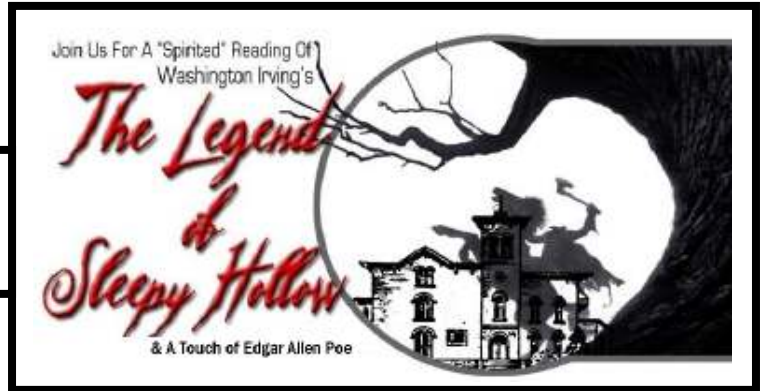


payoff in the tours was seeing regular people becoming engaged in history whether as a player or a tourist-----that is our mission! Plans are underway for expanded tours in 2007 with both afternoon and evening tours.



Thank you to JamestownFINDit.com and Chase Information Systems for their sponsorship of the event.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL BY CHARLES DICKENS



The Fenton Players were active again this past season presenting “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow” and “A Christmas Carol” in the style of an old-fashioned radio show with sound effects and a number of dedicated volunteer actors. WRFA recorded the last reading of Sleepy Hollow and played it for Halloween.

Thank you to John Blackman who directed both shows, Kevin Kuhlman, Aaron Willings, Kaie Elfman, Denise Guinnane, Trish and Galen Rhodes, J.P. Westerlund, Alex Mullen and Christine Blackman who each put sound and voice to the work..



Jr. Historians and History Club

GREAT PUMPKIN DAY – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14TH

While the Great Pumpkin didn't appear, 26 Jr. Historians and History Club members never missed it. They were busy learning about harvest time, children's chores, and superstitions in Jamestown's early days. The boys and girls also had an opportunity to try out several wooden replica toys and games new to our Education Department, and to paint pumpkins and bob for apples.



Thank you to the Holmberg Foundation

for their support in updating our long-time program "Local Lore Comes Alive". The student handbooks will be re-written, spiced-up, and re-housed in new notebooks. The slide show presentation will be converted to a DVD, or PowerPoint format for easier use in the classrooms. New hands-on artifacts and old-time toys will also be purchased to enhance the program.

HOLIDAY "GARLAND of TIME"

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2ND

Jr. Historians and History Club members met together on Saturday morning to discover Christmas gifts and customs through the years. We toured the Fenton Mansion to learn about Christmas in Jamestown from Gov. Fenton's day to the 1960s. The upside-down Victorian Christmas tree and the more "modern" aluminum trees were two of the tour highlights. The boys and girls had an opportunity to create Victorian "scrap" ornaments using replica Victorian materials. They also helped with refreshments – decorating their own gingerbread boys and girls.

SILVER CREEK ELEMENTARY AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM

The Fenton History Center's Education Department recently presented classes for the 3rd-4th grade and the 5th-8th grade groups in Silver Creek Elementary after-school program. Activities for the 3rd-4th graders featured a mini-Local Lore providing students with the area's Homespun Period history (1790-1830). These classes were taught by museum teacher, Gesele Koehler, with a little help from our education department intern from SUNY Fredonia, Eric Bens, and education director, Fran Fair. Activities for the 5th-8th graders centered around the Civil War era and were presented by museum teacher, Julie Hull. Classes were held during the weeks of December 4th and 11th.

Thank you to all who helped make the Fenton Christmas Parade Float a reality!

- ✓ Thank you to Lake County Dodge, and Southern Tier Trailer Sales for their donations of the truck and trailer.
- ✓ Thank you to Board of Trustees members Julie Hull, Kris Hirsch and Martin Lydell for their assistance in planning and building the float.
- ✓ A big thank you to Jeanne and Alistar Oag for driving and helping organize the students.

Thank you to our Jr. Historians who braved the 20 degree weather to show their support for the Fenton History Center: Catherine Oag & her friend Harley, Rachael Kosinski, Mallory Clark, Zackery Butts and Uriah Duba.



Fenton History Center- Museum & Library
67 Washington St.
Jamestown, New York 14701

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
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Jamestown, New York

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preserve and collect the Jamestown area's
history.**

Please add them to your list of preferred businesses!

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Jamestown Board of Public Utilities

Harrington, Sandberg Architecture and Engineering

Hartley GM Honda

Short & Smith Insurance

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Frank A. Zimba, M.D.

Allied Alarm Services, Inc.

Streetwise Creative