

“Real People
Making History”



FENTON HISTORY CENTER- MUSEUM & LIBRARY
FENTON FOCUS

Local Lore In Your Community.

The Fenton History Center & Frewsburg Central School District

The Fenton History Center's new Local Lore in Your Community Program plans to pique interest in history by teaching students history from their own town first, then expanding to include Jamestown and other parts of Chautauqua County. Education Director, Fran Fair, works with local historians, historical societies and their area school districts to bring their local history alive.

The first district to take advantage of this program is Frewsburg Central. Normally, as part of the local history curriculum requirement, the Fenton History Center’s Local Lore program is presented to area elementary students in their classrooms and at the Fenton Museum in Jamestown. The students visit the Fenton Mansion and learn about Jamestown’s settlement times and Victorian era through tours of the former NYS Governor’s Mansion. While this is the ideal scenario, the Frewsburg School District was unable to participate due to budgetary bussing issues.

A modification of the current program will make it possible for Robert H. Jackson Elementary School fourth graders to be involved in this great program. Through the cooperation of the Fenton History Center, the Frewsburg School District, and Carroll Historical Society the Fenton Museum teachers will travel to the school to present Frewsburg’s local stories. In place of the usual homespun and Victorian tours at the Fenton Museum, the classes will meet for a tour of the Carroll Historical Society's exhibits, and a presentation focusing on the logging industry in Carroll. While there, they will learn the true story of Eliza Ann Myers, who, along with two other teenage girls, rode her father's lumber raft all the way to Cincinnati, Ohio in 1857!

The descendants of Eliza Ann are very excited that her memoirs will be used to teach history to Frewsburg students. Since logging and the lumber industry were such an important part of Chautauqua County's history, the subject matter will flow as easily to other parts of the county as lumber flowed down the river in the mid 1800's.

**Jamestown’s Civil War Boot Camp
Camp Brown**



Camp Brown, our area’s civil war boot camp, will be “re-commissioned” as a summer camp experience for middle school age historians. The camp will be a great time to learn what it was like to be a soldier in 1862. The Civil War time and the local stories, people and places will be brought to life.

Camp Brown will run July 16-20 from 1-4 pm. The cost is only \$50 per child. Space is limited to 16 children in grades 4-6. Call 664-6256 or visit www.fentonhistorycenter.org to register today.

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Summer Camps...

A Day in the Life – Now is your chance to live in the past! Discover Victorian times through the eyes of children just like you! You will get to experience a day in the life of a city **girl**, country **boy**, a tourist visiting Chautauqua Lake, Celoron Park and lots of other great places that used to bring so many visitors to our area.

Boys and girls, grades 1-3 and 4-6, will touch the past through games, artifacts, photographs, food and much more!

Join the Jr. Historians and History Club for summer fun in July and August!

Doors Open

Doors Open, a free day at our local museums and attractions, took place Saturday, January 20. This was the second **Doors Open** event. “Teaching our children about their hometown and building a sense of pride in about Jamestown will make them think about moving back home after college or later in their career”, says Ann Mason, Board President of the Jamestown Area Chamber of Commerce. The Jamestown Area Chamber of Commerce hosted the event along with the Fenton History Center, Jamestown Audubon Society and Nature Center, Jamestown Savings Bank Ice Arena, the Lucille Ball-Desi Arnaz Center, the Robert H. Jackson Center and the Roger Tory Peterson Institute.

Each of the museums and attractions held drawings and contributed to a grand prize basket, which was won by Barry Eckwahl. **Doors Open** is an international event that focuses on encouraging local residents to take advantage of their area attractions. Whether your interest lies in nature, art, history or our famous hometown personalities, **Doors Open** offers something of significance for everyone to enjoy.

Memorials

In memory of:

- Warren Blanchard
- Mr. A. Byron Crocker
- Ms. Judy Smith
- Mr. Glenn Janowsky
- Ms. Jeanne Henderson
- Je’Anne Bargar
- Mr. Glenn Snow
- Mr. Anthony Trippy
- Mr. Harold Adams

Donor:

- Ms. Elsie Reynolds
- Ms. Elsie Reynolds
- Ms. Elsie Reynolds
- Ms. Elsie Reynolds
- Ms. Candace Larson
- Ms. Elsie Reynolds
- Ms. Elsie Reynolds
- Mr. & Mrs. Dominic Gullotti
- Carroll Historical Society

Donation in honor of:
Ms. Shirlev Lynn by Helen B. Carlson

A Day in the Life for Grades 1-3

Session I

July 30-August 3
9 am to 12 noon

Session II

August 6-10
9 am to 12 noon



A Day in the Life for Grades 4-6

Session III

August 13-17
9 am to 12 noon

The cost is only \$50 per week (scholarships available)
Call 664-6256 or visit www.fentonhistorycenter.org for more information or to register.



Have you sent in your renewal?

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: _____

Collections...

Dr. Grummon's Water Filter, Nappanee, Indiana

We recently received a donation to the collection of a two or three gallon crockery container called **Dr. Grummon's Water Filter**. Do you know anything about this item?

Today urban and rural people generally enjoy pure tap water, but still a lot of money is spent on water filters and bottled water. But 75 years ago in rural areas people sometimes had water supplies that were really dangerous. Many still had dug wells and the one-room schools mostly still had no on site water source at all. The then modern scientific answer was a crockery device that kept water relatively cool and away from contamination.

Our example seems too small for a school. It is a double walled device with an inner chamber that has a bottom that seems to be porous ceramic.



A conventional old-fashioned spigot at the bottom replaced the communal cup in the old open bucket. Patents from the 30's and 20's of crockery filter units usually show an awkward upper vessel, but this has a crockery lid. The inner chamber has a white-caked fine, cornstarch-like residue. We hope someone will remember such a device and tell us if we are on the right track.

-Norman Carlson, Collections Manager

Honoring 152 years of the Republican Party in Chautauqua County

In February the Fenton History Center, along with County Historian Michelle Henry, participated in the 152nd Birthday Party of the Republican Party in Chautauqua County. The event, "Icing on the Cake" took place in the newly renovated Mayville School auditorium. Along with a wide variety of dessert tasting, raffles and fun, the local elected officials and party members enjoyed a day of good food and entertainment. The Fenton presented an exhibit about the 1855 Convention that took place in Mayville on February 2, 1855.



The February 2, 1855 meeting adopted the following resolution:

Resolved, That all the energies of the freemen of this Republic, and particularly the north, are at this time required to arrest the further extension of the slave-power. And to reinstate our National Government on the principles of justice, equality and freedom.

This resolution, among others, was taken to the first National Republican Convention in Philadelphia in 1856 where they were adopted as the first platform of the Republican Party. The exhibit taught about the people from our area involved in the Republican Party formation as well as the history of political parties.



Luck of the Irish in Chautauqua County

"The Luck of the Irish in Chautauqua County" exhibit opened on St. Patrick's Day. The exhibit highlighted the Irish in Chautauqua County with special emphasis on the Prendergast family. The Prendergasts came to Chautauqua County in 1805. Other well known and significant Irish names in our county are James McMahan of Westfield, Alexander Hugh and Robert Cochran of Ripley, Alexander Findley of what is now Findley Lake, and Hugh Frew of Frewsburg. The Irish immigrants provided labor for the textile industries and railroad related construction.

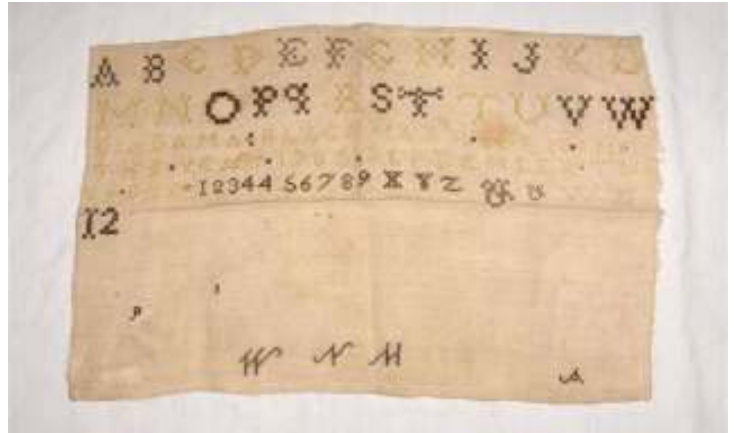


The exhibit features James Prendergast's baby cap from 1764, Mary Norton Prendergast's bonnet from 1847 and a sampler stitched by Nancy Thompson Prendergast, our founding fathers wife, in the early 1800s.

Stitches through Time: Needlework Samplers in Western New York



1799 Sampler



Early Sampler

Last September the Fenton History Center loaned two of the samplers in its collection to the Ontario County Historical Museum in Canandaigua, New York. They became part of the Historical Museum's exhibit, "Stitches Through Time: Needlework Samplers in Western New York". The exhibit opened on October 21, 2006, and will close in September 2007.

Diadema Blackmar (1787 – 1840) and Levisa Barnes (1788 – 1867) were both born in Woodstock, Windham County, Connecticut. Eventually both girls married and emigrated to Villenova, Chautauqua County. The Fenton History Center received the samplers from Evelene Quaintance from Frewsburg who was a descendent. Levisa made the 1799 sampler and Diadema made the earlier sampler between 1790 and 1800.

The exhibit at the Ontario County Historical Museum is very well done. There is an emphasis on the genealogy of the makers of the numerous samplers, from all parts of Western New York. A group of the samplers were loaned by Sonnenburg Gardens. Mary Lee Clark Thompson, the original owner of the house collected samplers. Some of the samplers have been reproduced, and the reproductions are included in the exhibit. Charts for them are available in the gift shop, and online at www.ochs.org. Eventually a catalog will be available.

When you are in the Finger Lakes area, the Ontario County Historical Museum is worth a visit. Or – as I found - it makes a great day trip. There are a number of nice restaurants and a park along the lakefront as well, and Sonnenburg Gardens is a great attraction in Canandaigua. The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 am through 4:30 pm, except Wednesday when it's open until 9:00 pm.

-Phoebe Forbes, Textile Curator



THE FENTON HISTORY CENTER COLLABORATES WITH THE WARREN PUBLIC LIBRARY



An exhibit of 19th century portraits created by local artist William A. Greaves, was presented in the Wetmore Gallery of the Warren Public Library. It was entitled, "The Good Company" and was on display last summer. The Fenton History Center had the privilege of collaborating with them for this exhibit. We loaned the library the two portraits painted by Mr. Greaves

The first portrait is of James Prendergast, the grandson of Jamestown's founder and namesake. It now hangs in the foyer of the Fenton mansion. James Prendergast became a prominent lawyer and businessman in Jamestown. He also conceived the idea of establishing the Jamestown Free Public Library. William Greaves painted this portrait posthumously, Prendergast having died at the early age of 31 from post-surgical complications in Buffalo.

The second portrait was of William C. J. Hall, a leading Jamestown citizen. It hangs in the Fenton mansion at the top of the front stairs on the second floor. Mr. Hall was instrumental in founding the Jamestown Y.M.C.A. and became a superintendent of the first worsted mill in Jamestown. He later became principal of the Ellington Academy. William Hall was a lifelong member of the First Congregational Church, Jamestown's first church.

Others loaning their William Greaves' portraits for the exhibit were the Warren Historical Society, First Methodist Church of Warren, Masonic Lodge #241 and private collectors.

William Abraham Greaves was born in 1847 in Watertown, New York. He became interested in painting and photography as a teenager. After graduating from high school, Greaves continued his education at the Cooper Institute in New York City. After his marriage to Sara Gertrude Dale of Tionesta, Pennsylvania in 1871, the newlyweds moved to Warren where he set up a studio at 420 Water Street. He resided in Warren until his death in 1900. Mr. Greaves was renowned for his portraits of political figures, especially Governors and Congressmen from Pennsylvania and New York. Among the most notable of his works are the portraits of the Honorable Samuel J. Randall, the Honorable Galusha A. Grow, Pennsylvania Governor James A. Beaver, and our own, Governor Reuben E. Fenton. This portrait of Fenton is now hanging at the New York State Armory in Jamestown.

The exhibit also featured leading citizens of the Warren – Jamestown area including Thomas Struthers and the Honorable Glenni Scofield. Some of his many local portraits not included in the exhibit were of Frank E. Gifford, William H. Proudfit, Mrs. Ralph C. Sheldon, Samuel G. Love and Elial Todd Foote.

One of Jamestown's prominent citizens, George W. Tew, wrote an entry in his diary on October 9, 1878 that he had commissioned William Greaves to paint a portrait of his five-year old daughter, Dolly. Mr. Greaves took up residence in one of the rooms at the Tew mansion, turning it into his art studio. The painting was begun from a photograph and completed with Dolly's sittings. The family was delighted with the finished portrait. From our research here at the museum the portrait was never exhibited outside of the family home. Sadly, its whereabouts today is unknown. It could be waiting to be discovered in someone's attic! Here at the Fenton museum we always enjoy the opportunity to collaborate with other public institutions in sharing our collection of artifacts and genealogical materials.

-Sylvia Lobb, Registrar

Giving From the Heart ...and the Internet



How many times have you contributed to the Museum and Library this past year? Between your membership, the annual fund, as well as visiting our events and telling your friends about us, you have proven to be a vital link to the success of the Fenton History Center. Now, we've made supporting the Fenton even easier. You can *do* more without *spending* more. How? Many of the places that you like to shop at are willing to give a donation to the Fenton History Center **every time** you shop at their store...and you don't even have to leave your house!

Shopformuseums.com has collaborated with hundreds of stores for the support of museums and educational centers around the country. Here's how it works:

1. Log onto www.shopformuseums.com
2. a. Register your name and address. This information will be saved so you can keep track of how much money has been donated from your purchases. This way the Fenton can acknowledge your support.
b. Or shop as a guest and stay anonymous.
3. Choose the museum you want to support (Psssst. Fenton History Center!)
4. Choose the department that you will be shopping in (Clothing, tools, home remodeling, loans, wedding registry...)
5. Choose your favorite store. (You will be automatically directed to their website.)
6. Shop!

After you have chosen your store, just shop as you would normally on the Internet. After each purchase a predetermined percentage of the money **you** spent will be given, by the store, to the Fenton History Center as a donation in **your** name at no extra cost to you. All you have to do is remember to log onto www.shopformuseums.com each time before you start your shopping online. Now that's simple!

If you have any questions call Paula at the Fenton at (716) 664-6256 or log onto www.shopformuseums.com.

SHOPPING HINT

There are coupons and sales on the website! Some of the stores that participate include: Kmart, eBay, Barnes & Nobles, Amazon.com, Office Max, Ace Hardware, Target, Bath and Body.com, JoAnn.com, MyFamily.com, Shop PBS.org...

Volunteer at the Fenton

The Fenton History Center is currently looking for volunteers. There are many opportunities here to suit your time and talents! You may choose to volunteer once a year, once a month or once a week. Assisting at special events and fund raisers, greeting visitors and working in the gift shop or helping staff members are just a few of the possibilities.

If you are interested in making a difference by helping here at the museum, call us at 664-6256. Thank you very much and we look forward to hearing from you!

Summer 2007 Events

Noble Barns: Explore the beauty, nostalgia and stories of the barns of Chautauqua County. Photographs, art and more. Opens June 22.

Mr. Lincoln's War - A Father's Day event June 16 10 AM to Noon. All children and their fathers, grandfathers, uncles welcome to learn about the Civil War in Chautauqua County.

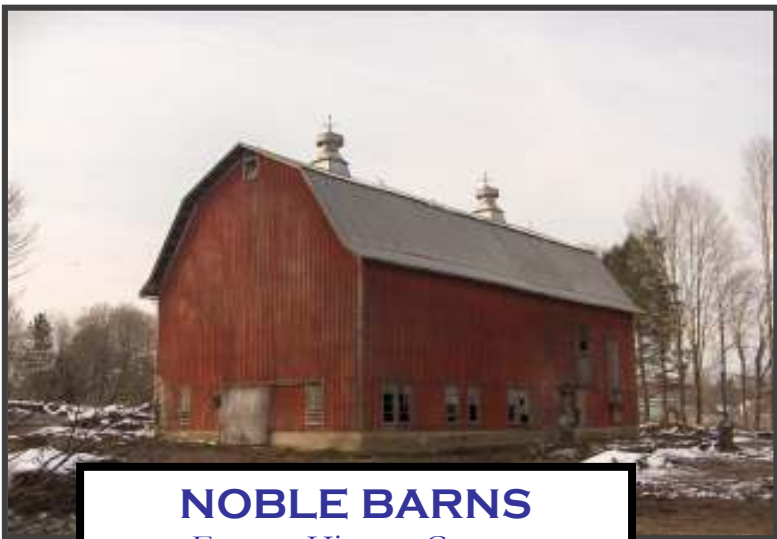
Red, White and Blue; A Patriotic Tribute to our Hometown Heroes. Celebrate through music, dancing, re-enactors and heartfelt stories of the Civil War, WWI, and WWII from our hometown soldiers, and sailors. See inserted poster.

Camp Brown Boot Camp for students entering 4-6th grades. Learn about the 1862 Civil War Boot Camp in Chautauqua County. \$50/week July 16-20

A Day in the Life: live in the Victorian times through the eyes of a variety of children from the city, country and everywhere in between. For students entering 1st through 3rd grade. \$50/week July 30-August 3 or August 6-10 9 AM to Noon;

Fenton Old Fashioned Day - a Day of Living History in Beautiful Walnut Grove at the Fenton Mansion. Have you ever seen a real civil war rifle or bayonet? Are you curious about how to make your own thread? Can you play "hoops" or "graces"? See and try them all. The event, now in its 3rd year, will have food, kids games and crafts, old time motors, spinning and weaving. New this year will be other old-time crafts such as blacksmithing, basket making, broom making and chair seat weaving. The Fenton Museum (free admission) and Museum Gift Shop are open all day. August 11: 9 AM to 5 PM:

A Day in the Life: live in the Victorian times through the eyes of a variety of children from the city, country and everywhere in between. For students entering 4th through 6th grade. \$50/week August 13-17; 9 AM to Noon or 1-4 PM.



NOBLE BARNs

Fenton History Center
Summer Exhibit
June 22nd – September 29th

The following businesses have chosen to help preserve and collect the Jamestown area's history: Habiterra Architecture and Landscape Architecture, Jamestown Board of Public Utilities, Harrington Sandberg Architecture and Engineering, Hartley GM Honda, Short & Smith Insurance, The Legend Group, The Lind Funeral Home, Frank A. Zimba, M.D., Allied Alarm Services, Inc., and Streetwise Creative

Please add them to your list of preferred businesses!