



A Variety of Books at the Fenton Research Center

By Karen E. Livsey, Archivist

Part of the collection at Fenton History Center's Research Center is a library with books. The books include many printed family genealogies and family histories. Most of the printed family histories have some connection to people who have at one time lived in Chautauqua County. In addition there are books of local history for Chautauqua County.

But the collection goes beyond the borders of the city of Jamestown and the county of Chautauqua. Mainly the reason for this is that people came to Chautauqua County from elsewhere and many of them then went somewhere else. The collection supports research in these other areas. We do not have the tiny details of places beyond our borders in many cases but we have some of the basic history of the areas.

Because many of our settlers in the early 1800s came from east of us, mainly New England, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and even the rest of New York, we have a good collection on those areas. People from European countries have been arriving in Chautauqua County for well over a century. We are expanding our collection, especially with computer access, to facilitate research in some of these countries. Thanks to the work of the genealogical community in Sweden we have been able to acquire CDs of information extracted from Swedish church records and even passenger lists. Through the Family Search website, we are able to access some records from Italy, especially Sicily, and more records are being added. Records from other countries are also available at that site.

We are also adding to our collection of books for the library and of original records for Special Collections. We depend on donations for many of our books and like many libraries we do have a backlog of books that are waiting to be cataloged and put on the shelf. Cataloging allows us to be able to find the book once we add it to the shelf. The following books are on the "New Acquisitions" shelf at this point. They go there first so that the

rest of the staff, volunteers and researchers can see quickly what has been added to the collection. Not all of the new acquisitions are new books. They can be old books, such as a family genealogy that someone has donated because they no longer need the book at home to find their own ancestors. Just to give our readers an idea of some of the books we have recently added to the collection, here are some of the titles on that “New Acquisitions” shelf.

History of Paris, Maine. A reprint of the 1884 history by Ben B. Conant.

Jamestown, New York: A Guide to the City and its Urban Landscape. New book by Peter A. Lombardi

General Alphabetical Index to the Townlands and Towns, Parishes and Baronies of Ireland. Originally published in 1861.

Tracing Your Irish Ancestors. 4th edition.

The 72nd New York Infantry in the Civil War: A History and Roster. This included many men from Chautauqua County and was an early entry in the Civil War.

The Longest Raid of the Civil War: Little-Known & Untold Stories of Morgan's Raid into Kentucky, Indiana & Ohio.

Alvord Genealogy: 1645-1908.

As these few titles indicate we have a variety of books covering many subjects for the historian or the family historian.

The Fenton History Center is a member based non-profit historical society for Jamestown, N.Y. Memberships range from \$15 to \$500. The greatest number of members are seniors (over 62 years of age) at \$30 per year and individuals at \$40 per year. Non-members can use the library and research center for \$8 per day. Volunteers are on hand Monday through Saturday to assist researchers with their questions and concerns. For more information call 716-664-6256.

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