

FALL 2021

ECHOS OF ELMA

Volume XXIII Issue 2 quarterly newsletter of the Elma Historical Society, Inc.

A 501(c)3 corporation under the auspices of the New York State Board of Regents

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SOCIETY EVENTS

2021 Schedule of Events

September 13th - 6:00 p.m. at Museum

"Come and see the Hurd House and Barn".

Member meeting to see new items that have been added to the house and barn. There will be mini sandwiches and a beverage. Please **RSVP** to Kathy at 716-652-1911 **by Wednesday, September 8th** if attending so we have a count for ordering the sandwiches.

October 2nd - Apple Pressing 1-4 pm

Native American group of Indians showing some traditional dance and crafts and we will also have a viewing of the Mill. Our own Sonny Schultz will be making sauerkraut.

October 25th - Dinner and theme basket raffle. More details in this newsletter.

KATHY MARKOWSKI, PROGRAM CHAIR

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

As we try to recover from 18 months of COVID, let's begin to plan.

I'm sure it's been a long time since some of you have seen the museum, and I urge you to attend our September 13th membership meeting. This is an excellent way to say "Hello" and speak to others that we haven't seen for a while. Please see Kathy's Event Schedule.

When you enter the Hurd House, you will step back in time with many new mannequins wearing vintage dresses. See Lucy Hurd's wedding dress from 1895 and the quilt that Dulcina Hurd made ca 1890. If you haven't seen the library for a while, you will be amazed at how many families, town, fire company, school, and church records we have.

Our volunteers have completely rearranged the barn displays with lighted cabinets, enhanced dairy, and post office displays.

The outhouse has been repaired and perhaps you will be able to get a peek at the mill restoration.

All is programmed so you can see the many changes we have made and still get home before dark.

Plans for our Apple Pressing Event, on October 2nd from 1 – 4, are well underway. So be sure to come by and have a free donut and some apple cider and learn how to make sauerkraut. We will have the Art Guild from the Salamanca Buffalo Creek Native American group offering bead work and artwork for sale.

Kathy, Eileen, and Patty are busy with plans for our theme basket sale on October 25. This will be the only fund raiser we will have for 2021 and we are anticipating a good turnout.

Marlene Baumgartner, President

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Richard Britton of Dallas, TX visited our library looking for genealogy information on the Crane and Van Campen families.

On August 11th Jim Hurd from Syracuse and David Jackson of Montana brought their families to visit our museum. They were very pleased with all that our volunteers have done. They toured the house and barn and peeked in the sawmill. Jim brought a drawing of the original dam and mill race ca 1840s and David brought the beautiful silk and velvet crazy quilt made by Dulcina Hurd ca 1890. It is in wonderful condition.



Jim Hurd and David Jackson holding Dulcina's quilt.

EC200

We urge you to take part in the Erie County Bicentennial and visit some of the 30 museums in Erie County. If you haven't secured your passport, we have a few at the museum and they are also at your library. There is no cost for the passport. By visiting the museums, you will get your passport stamped and could get a special ECC commemorative remembrance at the end of the celebration.

Our museum has received many guests from many surrounding towns, and they all brought their passports. I am pleased to report that we have had very favorable comments on how "wonderful" our displays look in all of our buildings. Many thanks to our volunteers for setting up displays.

APPLE PRESSING EVENT OCTOBER 2, 2021 1PM TO 3PM

In conjunction with the Pumpkin Festival we will again have our Annual Apple Pressing Event. Be sure to stop by and enjoy a donut and some apple cider while watching the 1840 era machinery show us how the cider was made before our time.

Sonny will again show us how to make sauerkraut. And don't forget to see the new displays in the barn and the children will enjoy the Native Americans who will be offering for sale their bead and art work.

ERIE COUNTY FAIR 2021

Our display this year highlighted Historical Society and DAR member Sue Blazak. Sue was a true patriot who not only got great enjoyment in teaching elementary school children about the history and meaning of our U.S. flag through her portrayal of Betsy Ross, but who also launched a successful, single handed campaign, which received over 112,000 signatures, to keep our motto, "In God We Trust", on our currency. This year we received two ribbons: Participation and Honorable Mention.

Mike thanks Paul, Dixie, and the Thursday Ladies for their wonderful job and extraordinary help in putting this display together.

Mike Ternullo, Fair Coordinator



The full display.

SAWMILL UPDATE

It's been a long and difficult project upgrading the Saw Mill Museum to be able to accept public access for demonstrations again. It was necessary to place extra foundations and beams under the floor of the building to increase the loading capacity to 100 pounds per sq. ft. This increase allows us to be open to public viewing and access. Over the past 8 months there has been between 4 to 5 Volunteer members working 3 days per week, 4 hours per day on the upgrade. I can't say enough for all the help, expertise and general support that these volunteers generously provided. A big thank you to Ed Eschner, Paul Boland, Ed Hartman Jr., Ed Hartman Sr. Help, material, and supplies were also donated by these local businesses.

Thank you to Alp Steel, Creative Concrete, and General Welding. And a thank you to Elma Hardware for being there. Thankfully we see the completion of the current project and are looking forward to opening soon.

Fred Streif, Mill Operations



Sawmill Construction Project Volunteers are from left-to-right: Paul Boland; Ed Hartman, Sr.; Ed Eschner; and Ed Hartman, Jr. Missing is Mill Operations Trustee Fred Streif (behind the lens). We cannot thank them enough for their hard work in less-than-ideal conditions under the Sawmill, and for working to a tight deadline.

WEBSITE REPORT

Website revised to use drop-down main menu (like Town's site). Added photos on new webpages for Barn Museum and Springbrook Mill Shelter. Misc. news & photos added. Photos in Elma Review of scholarship winner, EC Fair Display, M42 Tank. Thank you for all the photos!

First **Tales of Old Elma** in *Elma Review & EA Advertiser* on 7/22. 2nd Tale about Sue Blazak on 8/18. 3rd Tale to be on Thomas Harvey.

Google Maps updated to remove "Closed" from Elma Town Museum pin; new photos added.

Issues of 1880's **Milling World** (pub'd in Buffalo) posted online for free download at Archive.org. 1880 Elma Maps posted, too. All labeled "Courtesy of Elma NY Historical Society." Creates free advertising and goodwill. Rec'd 2 thank you emails.

Brian Szafranski,
webmaster@ElmaNYHistory.com



Here's the M42 Army Tank being unloaded at Town Hall on July 23. Elma VFW Post 5861 acquired the tank to honor the many service veterans and active military members in Elma. This is one example of how our local VFW Post is helping to keep history alive in Elma.

SUNSHINE

We are always pleased to send out a greeting to members who need a get well or a sympathy card from the Society. Also a congratulations card may be in order. Let me know, at 652-6256.

Margaret Maciejewski, Sunshine

THE BASKETS ARE BACK!

On Monday, October 25th, the Elma Historical Society will hold a basket raffle and roast pork and chicken dinner.

The doors of the Elma Senior Center will open at 5:00 p.m. with dinner at 6:00 p.m.

Cost of the dinner is \$18.00 and basket tickets are \$5.00 per sheet.

We are hoping that each member can donate a basket or gift card. Monetary donations are also greatly appreciated.

Baskets and other donations can be dropped off at the museum or my home.

Reservations are required.

Please call 652 0648 beginning *September 15th.*

Whatever Covid guidelines that are in place at the time of the dinner will be followed.

Eileen Holden, Coordinator



HISTORIAN'S CORNER

On August 18, 2021, upon request of the Elma Librarian, Tom Carlino, a power point presentation about the History of Elma was given by the Elma Town Historian. It was part of the Erie County 200 year anniversary speaker series.

Topics covered were land acquisition by means of Native American Treaties (1826 and 1842) to acquire land from the Buffalo Creek reservation, by way of allowing purchases by the Ogden Land Company.

The Hamlets and points of interest were shown on various maps. Transportation of the early days was discussed, such as footpaths and plank roads. Then came the railroad stations in town at Pound Road, Bowen Road and Jamison Road.

Prominent farms in town were also shown, such as the Luders and Baker farms.

Approximately 25 attended in the library room filled to capacity seating. It was an hour and a half program with questions and discussion afterwards from interested attendees.

Frank Maciejewski, Town Historian

MEMBERSHIP

Please renew your membership in the Society if you have not already done so. Our fiscal year runs from July 1st through June 30th.

Your membership, support, and donations are very much appreciated. All dues money goes to support the many programs we hold throughout the year. Please take time to send a check to keep Elma's history alive. Thank you and hope you are enjoying our newsletter.

Betty Braun, Membership

HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

- New Membership
- Renewal Membership

Individual annual membership \$10 (minimum donation): _____

Family annual membership \$15 (minimum donation): _____

(Father, mother, children in same household)

Lifetime membership \$150
(minimum donation): _____

Name: _____

Telephone _____

Street: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

E-Mail: _____

Mail to: Elma Historical Society Membership
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