

SUMMER 2021

ECHOS OF ELMA

Volume XXIII issue 1 quarterly newsletter of the Elma Historical Society, Inc.

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



EC200

The 200th anniversary of opening the Erie County canal will be celebrated until April 2022. Thirty five historical societies in Erie County will open their museums to visitors in honor of the event. You can obtain a passport listing these museums at our museum or your local library. When you visit each of the museums, your passport will be stamped and a prize will be awarded at the end of the celebration for the family or group supporting the most museums. Visiting other museums always teaches us about our local history, in this case our local county history. The passport does not include the museums in Buffalo. They only include those in our towns and villages.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Our volunteers have been very busy getting our museum complex ready for visitors. Covid kept us from cleaning and setting up new displays, but we will have great displays for visitors during the EC200 event. I can't thank all of the volunteers for all that has been done. Under Paul Rauff's direction, the barn has new displays with LDI lighting in cabinets. The Post Office, Bleek's display and farming displays are all upgraded and look great. The mill will be open in July as Fred Streif and his crew of volunteers completes the upgrade. And of course, the house retains its charm.

Kathy Markowski did a great job with our chicken BBQ and we thank all who supported it. We sold out.

Eileen Holden and Dixie Coffman set up a wonderful display in the Elma Library with artifacts and books from our museum. Stop by to see it.

Our next event will be the **flag retirement and scavenger hunt on June 19th at 11 a.m. at the barn museum**. Our VFW, Cub Scouts from St. Gabriel's Church, the Abigail Fillmore DAR, Elma firefighters and others will take part.

Kathy Markowski's **scavenger hunts** are always fun and you can do it in your car. So stop to see our patriotic retirement ceremony and then take a planned route around Elma for the Hunt. I am sure you will learn things about Elma that you didn't know.

Watch for information on July and August events.

Marlene Baumgartner

MEMBERSHIP

Our fiscal year is July 1 to June 30 which means your dues are up for renewal. Please continue to support us. A renewal form is enclosed and you can also download it from our website. If your envelope has a red dot by your address, that indicates your dues are up for renewal.

Betty Braum 683-5258

LIBRARY

We are finding many treasures lately. The following was missfiled among several documents for the Hurd Bros Lumber Yard that was located in Buffalo, NY. It is a Volunteer Enlistment signed Sept. 5, 1862. John Lindeberger of Elma, New York was enlisting to serve as a Soldier of the Army of the United States of America during the Civil War. William Bancroft, the Justice of the Peace, also signed it. It will be displayed in our military room exhibit.

Also, Brian Szafranski found phone numbers for the Hurd Bros Lumber Yard in Buffalo from 1895. This is what he found:

1895 NY State Telephone Book -- Buffalo -- page-229 NEW YORK Hurd listings at left Buffalo. 229

No.	Name.	Address.	No.	Name.	Address.
Seneca.... *522	..Hunt, Lyman, & Son..Vessel Brok- ers & Marine Ins..	Exchange bldg	Seneca.... *1145	..Jones, Geo. H., Sons..Architectural Iron Works & Safes.	.312 Terrace
Bryant... *10	..Huntley, C. R...Res. Gen'l Mgr. Buffalo General Electric Co.	.288 Highland av	Bryant.... *458	..Jones, J. T.....Residence.	.1192 Delaware av
Seneca.... *657-a.	Hurd Bros.....	Lumber..Ganson	Seneca.... *1277	..Jones, M. B., & Co.....	Grain..49 Board of Trade
Seneca.... *657-d.	Hurd Bros..Lumber Yard & Docks.	Tift Farm	Bryant.... *356-a.	Jones, Robert E.....	Pharmacist..Hoyt & Potomac av
Seneca.... *694-a.	Hurd & Hauenstein...Wholesale Lumber Office.	.60 Main	Seneca.... *527-a.	Jones' Ticket Office...	W. S. Jones..31 Exchange
Seneca.... *694-d.	Hurd & Hauenstein..Lumber Yard.	Tift Farm	Seneca.... *1082	..Jones, W. D.....	Hay Wholesale..143 Michigan
Amherst.. *71	..Hurley, Daniel...Real Es. & Ins..	.243 Forest av	Seneca.... *527-d.	Jones & Hawkins...Ticket Brokers.	.12 E. Eagle
			Howard... *157-a.	Jordan, O. J., M. D..Phy'n & Surg'n.	.600 Walden av
			Seneca.... *949	..Judd, William M., Co., The..	Real

Our library is indeed a wonderful source of Elma's history.

SUNSHINE

A note of "Sunshine" is that we can start to return to our normal activities without wearing a mask! And now that the museum is open again we can welcome you to visit.

If you hear of someone who needs a get well greeting, a thinking of you card, or a congratulation, call 652-6256. Stay healthy and happy.

Margaret Maciejewski, Sunshine

ERIE COUNTY FAIR WILL BE OPEN FOR VISITORS

We are happy to announce that we will have our usual booth at the fair and the set up will be divided between even and odd numbers. Our booth number is 15 and we will set up on August 7 and 8. Even numbers have another two days for their set up. Mike is working on getting the information for our display and will need help setting up. Please give him a hand with his plans as they come to fruition.

Also, if you are willing to sit by the doors to welcome people please call Mike at 652-0047 or 725-9278. The hours to sit will be 10 - 1; 1 - 4; 4 - 7 or 7 - 9. This will be a happy summer again and the fair will help us all enjoy it.

Mike Ternullo, Coordinator

WEBSITE REPORT

The website is essentially up-to-date. An EC200 webpage has been created, and that's ready to go live when ready. Info on the Sawmill foundation work has been added to the website, along with photos. Details and photos from the Membership Meeting at Town Hall on April 12 have been added to the Events page.

The opening of the museum due to lifting of restrictions has been noted on the website. **Thank You!** to everyone who supplied photos for these updates. If anyone has photos from an event please email them. Also, event or museum videos can be uploaded to our You Tube channel if desired.

A flyer for the Flag Retirement and Scavenger Hunt was created, and copies printed. The local press will be contacted soon for posting this event in the papers.

Regarding long-term work (per a suggestion from Fred Streif) Pete Gallivan of WGRZ Channel 2 News will be contacted to consider the Cyphers Poultry Farm (Bowen at Finnegan in Elma Center) for his "Unknown Stories of Western NY" series. Materials need to be collected beforehand. I have a banker's box of original paper documentation on the Cyphers Incubator Company of Buffalo (e.g., rare original catalogs, ads, letters, etc.) along with 38 Gb of computer files (e.g., old downloaded poultry magazines with ads, etc.). If anyone would like some background info on this topic please email. For further reading, our Links webpage has a link to a 1916 Cyphers catalog online which discusses the Cyphers Poultry Farm in Elma Center.

Brian Szafranski, webmaster
webmaster@ElmaNYHistory.com

HISTORIAN'S CORNER

Each year the Town Historian has the honor of presenting the Historical Society's \$1,000 scholarship to an Iroquois senior from Elma. This year we had numerous entries which were exceptional. The topic of the 500 word minimum essay was "Considering the historic Covid 19 Pandemic, what are the advantages and disadvantages to your high school education?"

The entries were sincere and factual. They noted the loss of individual teacher contact and, of course, daily contact with their classmates. Sports and other activities were also missed. On the positive side, they reported that they could work at their own speed and leisure, and be relaxed at home.

The essays were read by a committee of Historical Society members and judged and the winner chosen. Applicants must also prove acceptance to an accredited College. The winner's name is not to be announced as yet. In Pre-Covid years presenters would attend an awards day at the high school. This year presenters recorded a virtual presentation announcing the winner to be shown to the Senior Class. This was all in keeping with Covid guidelines.

The Historical Society wishes this year's winner success in his/her college years ahead.

Frank Maciejewski, Town Historian

SAWMILL

The update of the sawmill is starting to show results. Thanks to our volunteer help that come to work on Mon. Wed. and Fri. I can't say enough for the support of these dedicated people. Mr. Ed Eschner; Mr. Ed Hartman; and Mr. Paul Boland have been digging footings under the existing floor of the sawmill.

From approximately mid October 2020 Frank Maciejewski my Grandsons, Owen and Evan Hovey and I have started pulling up floor planks to gain access and inspect the proposed locations of the added footings.

The Structural Engineers drawings indicated the type and location of the structures so the excavation details needed to be worked out. After not being able to find a contractor, our volunteers started digging. One of our big problems was after removing 2 to 3 ft. of soil we ran into wood and water. The wood apparently is from the old mill floor, that was buried after the original mill burned. The water infiltration is due to the ground water. So we should have footings, beams and shoring in place to bring the floor up to code for public gatherings. The next step is to add new bracing and support to the interior and revise the hand railing at the entrance.

Also a big thanks to Bob Waver from Alp Steel for donations of H berms, Mark Andol from General Welding for angle fabrication, Bo Tucker from Creative Concrete for supplying and pouring concrete.

Fred Streif, Mill Operations

OFFICERS:

PRES.: MARLENE BAUMGARTNER, (652-9458)
VICE PRESIDENT, KATHY MARKOWSKI (652-1911)
SECRETARY, SUSAN SUDLIK (687-1516)
JEAN NEWTON, TREASURER (652-9274)

TRUSTEES:

PAUL RAUFF, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS (270-7082)
FRED STREIF (465-4876), MILL OPERATIONS
JAY ELLIOTT (812-2651), MILL OPERATIONS
FRED STREIF, PAUL RAUFF, BARN OPERATIONS
PATTY BURDETTE, FUND RAISING (655-0695)
EILEEN HOLDEN, HOSTESS (652-0648)
FAIR COORDINATOR: MIKE TERNULLO, (652-0047)
MEMBERSHIP, BETTY BRAUN RENAUD, (683-5258)
MARGARET MACIEJEWSKI, SUNSHINE (652-6256)
PUBLICITY, TBA

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TOWN HISTORIAN: FRANK MACIEJEWSKI 652-6256

WEB ADDRESS:

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WEBMASTER: BRIAN SZAFRANSKI 805-0102

SAWMILL WEB: WWW.ELMASAWMILL.COM

E-MAIL ADDRESS: elmahistory@aol.com

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION:

New Membership

Renewal Membership

Individual annual membership (\$10.00
minimum donation): _____

Family annual membership (\$15.00
minimum donation): _____

(Father, mother and children in same
household)

Lifetime membership (\$150.00 minimum
donation): _____

Name: _____

Street: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Send to ELMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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