
ECHOS OF ELMA

SPRING 2022
VOL. XXIII
No. 4

ELMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 84, 3011 BOWEN RD., ELMA, NY 14059-0084
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A 501(c)3 CORPORATION UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE NEW YORK STATE BOARD OF REGENTS

SOCIETY EVENTS AND MEETINGS

- **Membership Meeting, Monday, March 14 at Elma Senior Center at 6:30-pm** (note earlier time). Speaker: Lisa Redmond discussing Cold Case Files at the Buffalo Police Department. Light refreshments to be served. Public is welcome.
- **Spring Tea on Saturday, May 14 at 11:30-am and 1:30-pm** (2 sittings) at Hurd House. Cost: \$20.00. Seating is limited. Call Eileen Holden at 652-0648 by May 4 for reservations. Theme: vintage dresses.
- **Membership Meeting with Election of Officers for 2022-to-2023 on Monday, May 9 at 7:00-pm at the Elma Senior Center.** Anyone interested in running for a position (see Officers on page 4) call Sue Sudlik (Secretary) at 687-1516.



FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

Even though it's February, we are thinking spring at the Hurd house and the volunteers are busy cleaning the closets and hidden corners.

While they were thoroughly cleaning the upstairs storerooms, I'm happy to say they came across a box that held a group of more than twenty daguerreotype photos. This type of photo was the first commercially successful photographic process (1839-1860) in the history of photography. Louis-Jacques-Mandé Daguerre of France invented the technique. All are ca 1850 – 1890 and are in very good condition. I will access the archive department in Albany and do some research to see what the best way is to preserve them for another 170 years and longer, and how they can be displayed at certain times. Some are in paper frames which don't appear to be archival, but they lasted for a long time.

The board is thankful to all who have made contributions to the society these last few months. The donations will definitely be put to good use. If you didn't get a thank you letter that you need for tax purposes, please give me a call.

We are happy to say that quite a few visitors have come to our library over the winter months, looking for their genealogy records, and we have been happy to have been of some help. Our long winter hasn't stopped them from doing their research.

At last we will have a membership meeting on March 14th at the senior center. Note the time will be 6:30. We have not had a membership meeting in a long time, so I urge you to attend and catch up on what your board has been doing.

We are in the process of getting people to serve as officers and trustees of the Society board and a nominating committee has been selected. Please consider taking a position. Election time will be at our May membership meeting and the new officers will be installed in June. We need new thoughts and ideas to oversee our programs and artifacts. As my second paragraph suggests, we have a lot of history, and it is such fun finding and managing it. If you are working, we can always change our meeting time.

So, place us in your schedule to serve on our board. It isn't as time consuming as you would think. We are all volunteers and have families and a life elsewhere, but serving in the community is always a good thing to do.

— Marlene Baumgartner, President



HOSTESS REPORT



The Elma Historical Society will host their Spring Tea on Saturday May 14th at the museum. A delicious lunch will be served. There will be two sittings: 11:30 and 1:30. Seating is limited and reservations are needed. The cost is \$20.00. Please call Eileen Holden at 652-0648 no later than May 4th with your reservations. We will be showing vintage dresses from our collection. Hope to see you at the Tea.

— Eileen Holden, Hostess

SUNSHINE REPORT

The last few months have been busy for "Sunshine" requests. In January alone we sent out 12 get well or sympathy wishes to our members. We are saddened to report the recent passing of members, Bobbie Baumgartner on Jan. 5, 2022 and Bob Smith on Jan. 28, 2022. If you know of someone who would appreciate a friendly greeting, please let me know. Call 652-6256.

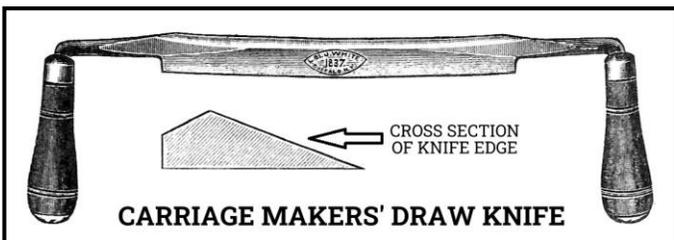
— Margaret Maciejewski, Sunshine

SAWMILL REPORT

This winter has slowed the Mill update. Without heat in the Mill and with frozen water in the raceway it makes work difficult. The additional foundations and floor beams were completed in late fall, and will allow enhanced public access. The Elma Historical Society can't thank the mill restoration crew enough for all their help completing the engineering update. A big thank you goes to Ed Eschner; Ed Hartman, Sr.; Ed Hartman, Jr.; and Paul Boland.

At the start of the winter an additional drive pulley was added onto the main waterwheel shaft to drive a tilting table saw. This new saw, originally used in Elma, needs some TLC but when completed will be a great addition to the Mill. The next project will be to connect the new drive pulley to the tilting table saw by means of a flat belt. These specialty belts are hard to find. Pooley Inc. at 196 Vulcan Street in Buffalo was able to supply the required belting and parts. When the temperature warms up we will install the new belting to get the table saw operating.

— Fred Streif, Sawmill Operations



BUILDINGS & GROUNDS, AND BARN MUSEUM REPORT

We have various projects planned for warm weather.

Let's look at an unusual old tool from our Barn Museum. The shave horse is a fast and easy-to-use clamp for holding green wood, such as for shaping wheel spokes. The piece to be worked is placed under the head of the horse and firmly clamped by pressing down on the foot bar while pulling the cutting tool. The draw knife would be pulled down the work piece peeling a large shaving with each stroke.

The worker would first cut off the corners of a square spoke making even flats of a hexagonal shape. The worker would do this on the half of the spoke nearest to him, then flip the spoke over and repeat the action on the opposite end. The spoke shave would then be used to refine the shape of the spoke into round or oval.

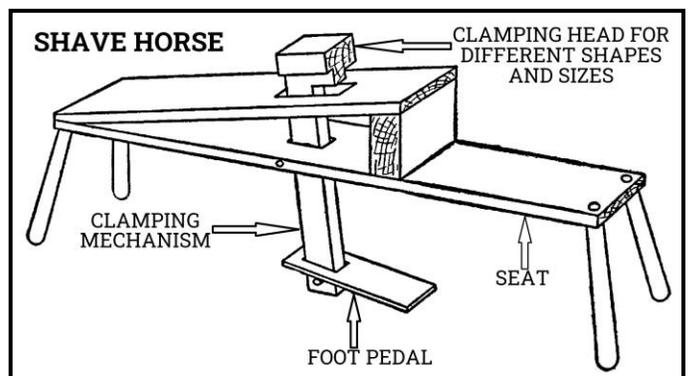
Other trades used similar shaving benches, such as a Bower for making longbows, or a furniture maker for producing round chair legs.

The powered wood lathe eventually replaced the shave bench and draw knife (images below).

— Paul Rauff, Bldgs. & Grounds, Barn Operations



Above photo shows Paul using the shave horse.



SOCIETY NEWS



Hurd House was decorated for Christmas. In the 1890 Room, our "guest" (left) was seen wearing a winter cape & dress ensemble worn by the late Ruth Streif (Fred's mother) in the 1930's.



Just before he left, one of the more affectionate "kids" thanks Santa for taking time from his busy schedule to visit Elma. Santa's Helper, Kathy was also visiting from the North Pole.

HISTORIAN'S CORNER

Each year the Elma Historical Society awards a \$1,000 scholarship to an Iroquois High School graduating senior, an Elma resident, who has been accepted to an accredited college. The student is required to write an essay which will be judged by the Society. The \$1,000 award will be presented to the winner at the awards ceremony at the high school.

— Frank Maciejewski, Town Historian

WEBSITE REPORT

Tales of Old Elma published on Hamlets (Dec. 30), and on Railroad (Jan. 20). Bethesda Mission is next (late Feb.). Further reading materials posted on website. Newspaper editor advises Wales and Marilla historical societies to have similar columns.

Facebook page created for Society; join at www.facebook.com/groups/elmanyhistory. Members can create posts in discussions about Elma history or events.



Routine website updates made, including adding Facebook icon next to main menu.

Additions made to Historical Markers Database for Elma markers at www.HMDb.org. More pending.

New newsletter format created. FYI, "Echos" is indeed an acceptable spelling of Echoes, which makes our newsletter's name unique.

If anyone who is interested in running for office would like to review the Elma Historical Society By-Laws, please contact me at 805-0102 (land line) or at webmaster@elmanyhistory.com. The By-Laws provide details on how the Society is structured and operates, and also covers the duties of each officer.

— Brian Szafranski, webmaster

BOOKCASE NEEDED FOR MUSEUM

If anyone has a barrister style bookcase (with individual glass doors which lift up) available for donation please contact Eileen at 652-0648. The type of wood isn't important, nor is age. Such bookcases are typically 5 feet high but that's not a must. A width of 3-to-5 feet would work well for us. A Larkin bookcase with hinged glass doors would also be of interest.



OFFICERS (2021-2022)

President: Marlene Baumgartner (652-9458)

Vice President: TBD

Secretary: Susan Sudlik (687-1516)

Treasurer: Jean Newton (652-9274)

TRUSTEES

Buildings & Grounds, and Barn Operations:
Paul Rauff (270-7082)

Mill Operations: Fred Streif (465-4876)

Fund Raising: Patty Burdette (655-0695)

Hostess: Eileen Holden (652-0648)

Fair Coordinator: Mike Ternullo (652-0047)

Membership: Betty Braun-Renaud (683-5258)

Sunshine: Margaret Maciejewski (652-6256)

Webmaster & Publicity: Brian Szafranski (805-0102)

HONORARY TRUSTEE

Elma Town Supervisor: Wayne Clark (652-3260)

TOWN HISTORIAN

Elma Historian: Frank Maciejewski (652-6256)

WEB ADDRESSES

Website: www.elmanyhistory.com

Social: www.facebook.com/groups/elmanyhistory

General email: elmahistory@aol.com

News email: webmaster@elmanyhistory.com

MUSEUM HOURS

1:00-pm to 4:00-pm every Thursday and 1st & 3rd
Sundays from May thru Sept.; or by appointment;
museum buildings are handicapped accessible

MUSEUM STORE & GIFT SHOP



All of the Elma history books are available, including new copies of *The Centuries In Elma* from 1956. Many other titles with a local connection are available. Also offered are Elma tree charms (at left in gold) and commemorative

plates. For a complete listing go to our website and click on Museum Store, or call. Veterans and active military service members receive a 15% discount.

ELMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

New Membership Renewal Membership

Individual annual membership
(\$10.00 minimum donation) _____

Family annual membership
(\$15.00 minimum donation) _____
(Parents and children in same household)

Lifetime membership
(\$150.00 minimum donation) _____

Name: _____

Street: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

I am willing to help the advancement of The Elma Historical Society by:

- Staffing the Museum when open
- Working on exhibits, artifacts and documents
- Assisting with fund raising
- Providing administrative support
- Helping with building & grounds maintenance
- Providing a monetary donation
- Donating artifacts & documents
- Leaving artifacts or a monetary donation to the Elma Historical Society in my will

Other: _____

Please mail to:

ELMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP
P.O. BOX 84
ELMA, NY 14059-0084