

SOCIETY CALENDAR

March 10, 2014 7PM member meeting at the Community Center – Roger Clark will talk about his working in Romania and Eastern Europe.

April 14, 1:30 pm. Orchard Park Historical Soc. will tour museum

April 14, 2014 member meeting with Wales, Marilla & Holland – tour Wales museum. Flyer included for reservations

April 10 through April 30, egg display at the museum. See Thursday Crew’s report

Apr or May – Northrup Wheel shelter dedication

May 3, 2014 Annual Tea – flyer included for reservations

May 12, 2014 7pm member meeting at the Community Center (elections) & Greg Kinnal will talk about immigration from Europe at the turn of the 1800s to 1900s

June 8, 2014 Elma Day, Car Show & our Chicken BBQ fund raiser

July 9, 2014 our BBQ fundraiser – Terry Buchwald (Elvis) will entertain visitors.

Much help is needed when there are events at the park. If you can volunteer only a couple of hours in a year it is very much appreciated.

SOCIETY SPECIAL REPORT

PRESERVING HISTORIC SITES

The law to help us save our historic properties was passed and the Commission should be in place very soon. The Law can be viewed on the Town’s web site under public documents. It is Local Law 2-2013.

We now have five properties that may be in danger of being lost:

- Property behind Pond Brook and Camp Centerland owned by Brian Young and slated for 54 plus units to be built. The Indians used the land and an archeological study needs to be made

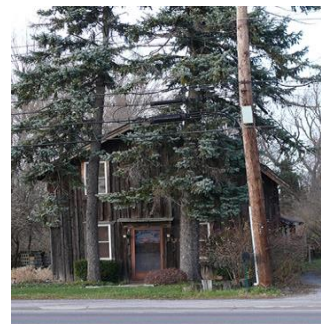
before the lands are cleared of trees and shrubs.

- Tarnish property, former Cypher Poultry Farm and where the famous Thomas Flyer auto was stored when Charles Finnegan owned the property. Brian Young now owns the property and an older home and barn still stand.



1907 Thomas Flyer auto, in 1908 it won the race in the longest international race from NY City to Paris. The wheels are flanged for operation on Asian railroads.

- North Star Tavern, closed for business
- Spring Brook Hotel, closed for business
- Blacksmith shop, unoccupied. Would make a fantastic museum devoted to the blacksmith & carriage industry in Elma but we need a miracle to purchase it. The building has plank floors and a floor to ceiling fieldstone fireplace with warming oven.



These properties are extremely important to our history and need to be protected and saved.

HURD HOUSE MUSEUM

From April 11th through April 30 we will have a display of eggs of all kinds from an oyster egg to a painted Easter egg with Jesus and the bible inside and eggs from the Franklin Mint. They are from Carol Bosch's collection and are worth seeing. We will open for special tours during the Easter break by calling 652-9458.

The Thursday Crew

Building & Grounds

Jay Elliot has donated an antique chandelier, which will be exchanged for the light presently in the library in the museum. Jay is planning to place the light more towards the center of the room so we don't keep hitting our heads on it.

Porch steps – Keep a sharp eye when entering or leaving the museum as ice is forming on the steps. We are placing deicer on the steps but with the exceptionally cold weather this year the ice is very thick.

Frank Maciejewski

Fred Streif

Northrup Wheel Shelter

The shelter located just east of the mill on the knoll will be completed this spring and the display dedication is scheduled for April or May.

Frank Maciejewski

Fred Streif

Barn Museum

It has been much too cold to work in the barn. We will resume working as soon as the weather breaks.

Frank Maciejewski

Fred Streif

Sawmill Museum

We had a break-in at the mill this winter. It seems as though a raccoon jumped down or fell onto the glass display case and broke the top piece of glass. Some of the fragile artifacts made of glass were broken. We will check the

damage more closely when the weather warms up a bit.

Frank Maciejewski

Fred Streif

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

We had a wonderful year in 2013 and our annual report that was presented to the Town Board can be found on our web site www.elmanyhistory.com. If you don't have access to a computer I will be happy to give you a copy.

It is truly time for new leadership. We have several positions open including mine. If you would care to be an officer or trustee, but aren't sure about what role you would play, give me a call. We will invite you to attend our board meeting to help you decide. And whatever position you chose to take, we will be happy to help you all the way.

Elections will be held in May. If we are going to continue to be as good as we are now, we need new leadership. Think about it and call me.

Marlene Baumgartner

LIBRARY REPORT

Thanks to our readers we find the Erasmus Adams house is in Marilla and now we have another mystery. Can anyone identify this gentleman?



We have many unidentified photos. Please remember to label and date your photos for future viewers.

Leita W. Reed

NEWTON'S TALES

LEARNING ABOUT WILDLIFE

One of the best things about growing up on the farm was seeing and learning about wildlife. It is remarkable how the different animals and birds had a natural instinct for hiding and getting away from danger when needed. Sometimes you could walk right up and almost step on them, and other times they would hide and not move until you walked right by and then they would sneak away or burst up and away so that they startled you "right out of your boots!"

Some of the most enjoyable times I had in my youth were when I was tracking foxes in the snow. I followed a fox one time and he became aware of my presence. He pulled some tricks that really made it exciting and that showed how smart he was. Following him for a long time his track suddenly stopped as though he flew away and disappeared into thin air. I back tracked him for a while then did a circle of several feet around his track finding that he back tracked exactly in his track then jumped to the side about six feet and ran away. People say fox don't like water but this one crossed a creek that was at least three feet deep. It was getting dark so I was going to call it a day and go home. I thought I would try to see if I could see him. I glassed (binoculars) awhile and lo and behold, there he was sitting on a hill about a hundred yards away looking at me. I swear he had a grin a mile wide on his face!

Another time I was out after a fox in the moonlight. The moon was right overhead and with snow on the ground, it was almost as bright as day. I went down to the Buffalo Creek where it ran behind our farm. I got to where the creek ran behind where the town transfer station is now. I saw the fox and he ran down the ice filled creek where the town park is now. He would cross on the ice to one side, I would cross behind him, and then he would cross again to the other side. He crossed and recrossed several times and then I lost sight of him. I don't

know how he did all this crossing without me seeing him.

It is the same whether you are following a fox, turkey, or deer. They all have a bag full of tricks they love to pull on the hunter that is following them.

Your "hapless hunter" town historian, Bob

Robert Newton, Historian

SUNSHINE REPORT

Sadly we report the passing of Evelyn Carlson on January 9, 2014. Evelyn was very active with the Society. She and her husband, Harry, took care of the museum for many years.

And Eleanor Radder passed away on February 4, 2014. Although she hadn't been a member since her stroke in 1992 she was very supportive in the moving of the Hurd House and helped with the essay contests at the school.

It was a busy winter sending cards. If you know of someone who needs a "pick me up" please call me at 652-6256.

Margaret Maciejewski



Frozen Hurd & Briggs Dam

1/27/2014



ROSE, FRED AND MARGARET SINGING CAROLS AT OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY.

MUSEUM HOURS:

Open 1:00 - 4:00 pm most Thursdays
1st & 3rd Sundays 1:00 - 4:00pm May thru September

for special tours or questions call 652-9458. Donations accepted; Handicap accessible

OFFICERS:

- MARLENE BAUMGARTNER, PRESIDENT (652-9458)
- ROSE SPERBER, VICE PRESIDENT (652-6959)
- LEITA REED, SECRETARY (655-4448)
- JEAN NEWTON, TREASURER (652-9274)

TRUSTEES:

- FRANK MACIEJEWSKI, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS (652-6256)
- FRED STREIF, MILL OPERATIONS (675-6320)
- PATTY BURDETTE, FUND RAISING (655-0695)
- EILEEN HOLDEN, HOSTESS (655-0648)
- BETTY BRAUN, MEMBERSHIP (683-5258)
- MARGARET MACIEJEWSKI, SUNSHINE (652-6256)
- KENNY SCHAFF, PUBLICITY (652-9458)

CURATOR:

HONORARY TRUSTEE: DENNIS POWERS, TOWN SUPERVISOR (652-3260)

TOWN HISTORIAN: ROBERT NEWTON (652-9274)

WEBMASTER: KENNY SCHAFF (KENNYSCHF@AOL.COM)

WEB ADDRESS: www.elmanyhistory.com

SAWMILL WEB: WWW.ELMANYSAWMILL.COM

E-MAIL ADDRESS: elmahistory@aol.com



Magic & Bill Pukalo waiting for Santa at the annual tree lighting.

FLAG DISPOSAL CEREMONY
JUNE 8, 2014 2:00 PM AT THE
VILLAGE GREEN ON ELMA DAY

DROP OFF YOUR WORN AND TORN
FLAGS FOR PROPER DISPOSAL AT
THE TOWN HALL OR THE BOX ON
THE PORCH AT THE MUSEUM.

HURD HOUSE MUSEUM GIFT SHOP

- Gold elm tree charm - \$50 – available at the Town Hall
- Silver elm tree charm - \$25 – available at the Town Hall
- History of East Elma by Henry Laughton Allen, 1942, \$5.00.
- History of Elma NY from 1620 to 1901 by Jackman, 1902, \$20.00.
- It Is For Your Country, letters and history of Elma during the Civil War \$30
- NEW:** HISTORY OF ELMA on DVD \$10