

2013 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ELMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Our year was busy with over 2000 visitors to our complex. This number is down from 2012 because attendance was low at park events due to the weather. Most visitors were at the Car Show in June, the Pumpkin Festival in October and the Annual Tree Lighting in December.

Community involvement:

- Held several meetings to support the enactment of Local Law 2-2013 to help save our historical properties. The Law was passed on July 17, 2013.
- Met with Mr. Kenny from Iroquois School asking for students to tour the museum. We had no student tours from Iroquois.
- Opened museum complex for Elma Day and annual car show in June
- Opened museum complex for Pumpkin Festival in October
- Opened museum complex for Elma Night Out in August
- Opened museum complex for Envirothon students in March
- Provided projects for local Boy Scouts to earn their Eagle Scout rank
- Partnered with SPARK from the United Methodist Church for 6th graders to come to the museum in March
- Presented a \$500 scholarship award to a senior at Iroquois School
- Partnered with Kiwanis for annual Town Tree Lighting and Santa pictures
- Partnered with Elma Marilla Wales Boys and Girls Club for a Pet Parade at the Town Tree Lighting
- Member of “Thank a Vet” and “Blue Star Vets” programs

Membership:

Our membership remains constant at 226 with 20 of them being Corporate Partners. Members are now located in eleven states.

Building and Grounds

- Painted the steps on the porches of the Hurd House
- Designed and constructed a 10' X 16' shelter to display the 6' gear assembly from the Northrup mill and other artifacts relating to the history of our saw mills. Credit goes to our volunteers, our highway department and Baschmann Construction for assisting in the construction of the shelter. It is 90% complete and will be ready for visitors in the spring
- Rebuilt the tilting table saw for the mill
- Manufactured a new connecting rod for the saw mill apparatus
- Replaced some of the wrist pin joints on the saw mill apparatus

Building and Grounds (cont.)

- Repaired a six foot gap in the Hurd House sill joint to eliminate the intrusion of wild animals
- Procured a plaque commemorating Eagle Scouts who have worked on projects for the Society which is displayed in the library in the Hurd House
- Applied for a grant for the barn expansion but we didn't qualify. Will apply with other grant providers
- A spindle bed used in the 1860s by workers at the mill was restored by a member volunteer and will be part of a new display in the Hurd House
- Boy Scout projects included
 - Clearing Northrup saw mill historic site of overgrowth at the Cazenovia Creek crossing
 - Providing a documentation of a pictorial and digital account of the remains of the Northrup mill site
 - Installation of 110 feet of split rail fence adjacent to the Hurd & Briggs saw mill
 - Clearing the area around the saw mill of overgrown vegetation
 - Restoring a ca 1850s wagon to a useable condition with lumber grown and milled in Elma

Programs and activities:

- We had speakers at our member meetings on various historical topics. Public participation has increased due to subject material
- Apple pressing demonstration at the saw mill using antique apple press and water wheel
- Sauerkraut making demonstration at the saw mill drew many interested visitors
- Old fashioned crafts for children at the Hurd House showed them how to make yarn dolls, etc.
- Opened museum for several personal tours for visitors from out of town and out of state
- Had two large tour groups visit the complex
- Held an ice cream social at the saw mill
- Participated at the Erie County Fair with a Civil War era display and took honorable mention
- Partnered with the Abigail Fillmore DAR of E. Aurora for Flag disposal program on Elma Day
- Partnered with Kiwanis for the annual Town Tree lighting
- Partnered with EMW Boys and Girls Club for a pet parade and pictures with Santa at the tree lighting
- Member Blue Star National Vets program.

Changing Museum displays:

- Volunteers change displays in the Hurd House on a monthly basis
- Plans for 2014 are
 - To arrange displays in the barn to show a “store” ca 1880s and a dairy “farm”
 - Set up a new display to exhibit the ca 1860 spindle bed
 - Exhibit an Easter egg display showcasing our collection of decorative eggs

Library:

Our records date back to 1820 and many visitors continue to come to our library looking for family and property history. We also assist others via mail and e-mail requests.

- The 2nd printing of “It is For Your County” is selling well. Some copies are in local stores for purchase
- The 4th printing of the “History of East Elma” booklets are also selling well
- With only three hard cover copies left of Jackman’s History of Elma, we found it necessary to put it on disc. The DVDs are now available at a cost of \$10 each.
- Our volunteers continue to restore the many scrapbooks with valuable information that are in poor condition
- Past records of our artifacts continue to be placed on our computer and we are up to the year 2004 for data entry
- As new items come in they are photographed and recorded on the computer. A backup is made periodically and is stored off site

Website:

Our websites have drawn close to 32,000 visitors since its inception with “hits” from all over the world.

New acquisitions:

Members of the community donate 99% of the artifacts that we receive. Many new artifacts have come to us and are too numerous to mention in this report. All are well documented on our computer and appropriate letters have been sent to the donors.

Fundraisers:

All money raised goes to the upkeep of the museum complex, restoration projects, and programs in keeping with our Mission. In 2013 we held the following fund raisers:

- Two chicken BBQs
- Three teas
- Theme basket and dinner
- Sale of books

2014 plans:

- Complete the shelter to display the Northrup gear on the grounds
- Apply for a grant to expand the barn which is necessary to house our increased collection of farm and dairy equipment
- Place shutters all around the Hurd House
- With the help of volunteers, continue to restore artifacts
- Update our agreement with the Town of Elma (last agreement was signed in March 1989)
- Upgrade the display in the barn
- Approach schools, other societies and tour companies to bring visitors to our complex
- Pave the parking lot adjacent to the Hurd House

February 5, 2014