

Fall -2014

ECHOS OF ELMA

Volume XIV 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

September 8, 2014 Membership meeting

Senior Center 7 PM Joseph Jakubik, Manager of the Historical Preservation Division of the International Chimney Corp, will present a program about "Relocation of Historic Lighthouses."

September 9, 2014 Holland Historical Society tour museum 1:30 PM

October 4, 2014 Pumpkin Festival – see notes on this event

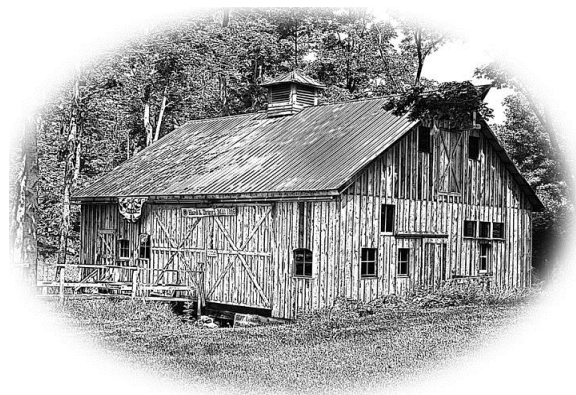
November 10, 2014 dinner and basket fund raiser – Senior Center 6 PM

ELMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

3011 BOWEN ROAD

PO Box 84

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HURD & BRIGGS SAW MILL MUSEUM

BUILDING & GROUNDS

Hurd House Museum: The maintenance projects are complete for 2014. Luke Jesonowski power-washed the deck and the west and south side of the museum and he applied three coats of paint to the west and south side of the museum. He also painted all the shutters and caulked the windows as needed. New wooden shutters were purchased for the upstairs windows. Both porches on the driveway side were totally refurbished by Fritz Kohl. Society volunteers donated time to the projects as a means to defray some of the costs.

Sycamore tree: The tree that stood next to the water pump, adjacent to the barn museum, had to be cut down for liability reasons. After 75 years the tree became stressed from the close proximity of the black top driveway. This caused branches to die off and fall creating danger to individuals and vehicles. We intend to cut up the sycamore logs and use the timbers to construct a cradle for the Northrup gear assembly that is presently stored in the barn museum and will eventually be displayed in the shelter.

Frank Maciejewski

Fred Streif

NORTHROP WHEEL SHELTER

The structure itself is 90% complete. Fred Streif provided lumber for the bracing that is now in place. Boy Scouts from Troop 290 led by Chris Weber (Eagle Scout candidate) provided electrical service to the structure. Still need one more yard of stone to level off the ground surface. Once the stone is in place the Northrup wheel artifact can be temporarily moved under the shelter. Hopefully the Town Highway Department can help out to move the wheel.

Frank Maciejewski Fred Streif Jay Elliott

SAW MILL MUSEUM

Our annual ice cream social in July was a success with over 200 visitors to our museum complex.

Frank Maciejewski Fred Streif Jay Elliott

BARN MUSEUM

We continue to organize and rearrange the artifacts in the barn museum. We are preparing to move the Northrup gear wheel from the barn to the new Northrup shelter. This new location will do two things. It will give us more room in the barn and allow us to create a new display. The gear wheel was originally used as the main drive wheel at the Northrup Saw Mill located on the north side of the Cazenovia Creek on Northrup Road.

We plan to set up our new display as a demonstration of how the gear wheel was originally used. Anyone interested in helping with the design or the creation of the new display is invited to come and help.

We are seeking donations of metal shelving or metal cabinets to use for storage in the barn.

Frank Maciejewski Fred Streif Jay Elliott

SUNSHINE

Sunshine had an easy summer because there weren't many requests for cards. Please continue to inform us if someone is in need of a greeting.

Margaret Maciejewski 652-6256

LIBRARY REPORT

The library has been busy this summer. We have had some new acquisitions and quite a few visitors. Our volunteers are combing our Society's scrapbooks for pertinent historical information on the years from 1957 up to the present. This is in preparation for inclusion in the upcoming third book of Elma's history. Our scrapbooks contain invaluable information both genealogical and historic. Our thanks go out to the historical Society's members who preceded us for all their hard work in gathering and preserving these irreplaceable records of Elma's past.

Leita W. Reed

Erie County Fair August 6 – 17
Theme was “GROWING STRONG”

We are happy to report that we took two ribbons: Honorable Mention and Theme Participation. For our display we chose to use items from the history of Bleeck’s and the Jamison Road store, hotel, and saloon up to and including the current occupant of this historic building, Earth Dimensions. Thanks to our volunteers with the set up and dismantling of the display.

PUMPKIN FESTIVAL
OCT 4TH 1-4PM

Partnering with all of the activities in the Village Green, our museum complex will be very busy that afternoon and we need as many volunteers we can get to help.

We will be pressing apples in the saw mill and serving cider and donuts to the guests. Sonny Schultz will be showing the visitors how to make sauerkraut and a volunteer will be in the herb garden telling visitors how to use herbs.

Eileen Holden will have crafts for the children in the kitchen of the Hurd House.

MEMBERSHIP

It’s time to renew your dues. Our fiscal year is July 1 through June 30 and your dues help support our programs and cover the cost of our newsletter. A renewal application is enclosed for your convenience. If a colored dot appears on your mailing label your dues are due. Thank you for your continued support.

Betty Braun-Renaud

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

It has been a busy summer for everyone! And not too much summer weather either. In fact I saw three LARGE flocks of birds gathering yesterday getting ready to head south. But we choose to live here and I wouldn’t trade our four seasons for anything.

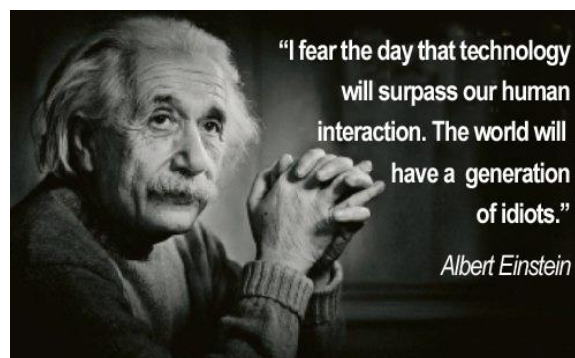
So as we prepare for the coming months please be sure to mark our events on your calendars and join us in our meetings and festivities. It’s always good to see our friends and neighbors

and we provide a venue for you to do that. So we look forward to your joining us.

Hats off to our many volunteers who helped at the museum over the summer. I can’t list them all because I would surely miss someone and that would not be a good thing. But you know who you are and you know how much I appreciate your help.

I continue to catalogue the past records and everything that comes in on the computer. It is time consuming but it is definitely a one person job and believe me I am happy to do it. I have learned so much about Elma’s history this way and have a pretty good handle on each of our artifacts. Hopefully, someone will step up to learn the system so they can locate artifacts with a stroke of a key on the computer instead of looking all over the building for it.

Still, because we are getting so dependent on computers we should keep the following in mind:



See you in September.
Marlene Baumgartner

HURD HOUSE MUSEUM GIFT SHOP

History of East Elma by Henry Laughton Allen, 1942, \$5.00
History of Elma NY from 1620 to 1901, by Jackman 1902, \$20.00
NEW: HISTORY OF ELMA on DVD \$10
It Is For Your Country, letters and history of Elma during the Civil War \$30
No Stoppin’ This Boppin’ history of rock & roll in WNY \$18
Two Quiet Heroes & One Grateful Son – memoirs of WWII - \$18
Available at the Town Hall after September 15th:
Silver elm tree charm - \$45
14k gold elm tree charm \$95

NEWTON'S TALES

FAIR TIME (episode 2)

I wrote in the last episode about showing our cattle at the Hamburg Fair (Erie County Fair.) This article is about other things we did all week at the fair. We slept in the 4H Snack Bar so no one would slip in and grab some candy or ice cream. There also was a night watchman who was walking around the area. At night we would watch the hell drivers do their stunts.

Joey Chitwood and Irish Horan were the ones there most of the time. When I was very small we saw Lucky Teeter's hell drivers perform. We were on the side across from the grandstand. When they went by in their cars they made so much noise we had to hold our ears. They didn't have any mufflers on the cars! After the show was over they put on the fireworks display which was much more elaborate than what is done today. They had displays made of roman candles and they looked like waterfalls. Some were pinwheels which threw sparks all over. The arial displays were about the same as they do today.

You know we spent a good amount of time on the midway. They had machines that for a quarter you could shoot down airplanes. Also, there were submarine periscopes and you could shoot torpedoes at enemy ships and sink them.

It wasn't all fun and games in that we had to do things required by the 4H Club. The first requirement was when I entered a chicken judging contest. I knew little about chickens only that they lay eggs. I didn't have a clue as what made them a champion. Guess what! I won a Blue ribbon judging chickens. I had to judge the cattle contest also. All I ever got was a White Ribbon. They also had a tractor operator's contest which I entered and I won a Blue Ribbon in that.

The first Friday of the fair was Agriculture Farmer's Day so they would have a parade of farm implements around the race track. My brother Merle and I would hang around the John Deere tractors and we would always get to drive a new tractor in the parade.

As I was pointing out in the beginning of this saga we slept in the 4H snack bar at night. So early in the morning our 4H leader would collect the eggs that the hens laid which were on display in the 4H building. He would bring them over to the snack bar and fry them on the grill for us to eat. We would clean the grill up and by the time the 4H leader lady came in to open up the snack bar grill was cold again. She then made us eggs and bacon for breakfast all over again! We were growing boys back then!

Your overly stuffed town historian, Bob

Robert Newton, Historian

Please remember to drop off your torn and worn flags for proper disposal at the Town Hall or in the box on the porch at the museum



The mill race by the saw mill October 2012