

## **2016 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ELMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

We are happy to report that we had another successful and productive year. Visitor count in 2016 was 1,435. Most of our visitors come from events held at the Village Green Park. We plan programs to coincide with the events at the park which draw visitors to our museum buildings. Our volunteers logged over 1,220 hours in 2016.

### **Community involvement:**

- We had no student tours from the Iroquois school system
- Attended the grand opening of the Holland Bank in our plaza
- Participated in the Annual Memorial Parade
- Opened museum complex for Elma Day, the annual car show, Elma Night Out, and the Pumpkin Festival
- Conducted the annual Flag Disposal ceremony partnering with the Abigail Chapter of the D.A.R. We had a higher attendance this year than other times for this event
- Opened museum complex for tours for Envirothon students in March & April. The students toured the mill and the barn
- Displayed artifacts in February and March at the Elma Library
- Provided projects for local Boy Scouts to help them earn their Eagle Scout rank
- Presented a \$500 scholarship award to a senior at Iroquois High School
- The Pomeroy Foundation again gave us a grant for a historic marker. A marker was installed in Blossom telling the history of the hamlet
- Partnered with the Town of Elma and Kiwanis for annual Town Tree Lighting and Santa visit.
- Member of “Thank a Vet” and “Blue Star Vets” programs

### **Building and Grounds:**

- The parking lot was paved by the town
- George Blair Jr. donated an elm tree in honor of his late wife, June Reuther Blair. It stands next to the herb garden

### **Hurd House:**

- Installed an electrical lift on the north side of the house providing a more handicap accessible entrance
- Volunteers periodically change displays in the Hurd House
- Replaced the security light on the north side of the house
- In an effort to preserve important historical artifacts, we rebound an 1860 history book about the Iroquois in Western New York
- A plaque was found on the Jamison Rd. bridge when it was torn down to build a new bridge. The Elma Conservation Club donated it to the Society. The plaque was stripped of its paint, coated with a clear cover to preserve it and is mounted in the library.
- Gutters were cleaned in the early fall, removing leaves to prevent rain overflowing on to the porch
- Re caulked the perimeter of the chimney to prevent rain damage

## **Barn**

- Continue to secure and rehang farm implements
- Ultrasonic animal repellents installed in the Barn and Mill help deter the infiltration of raccoons and squirrels
- Screened in the cupola on the barn to help keep animals out

## **Sawmill**

- Three pumps at the sawmill were vandalized, reported damage to the police and to the Town Hall
- Pumps were repaired at a cost of \$350
- Repaired the wheels and belt on the antique cider press
- Replaced the bridge walkway

## **Northrup shelter**

- Large historic rocks have been placed in a ceremonial pattern in front of the shelter.
- Designed and installed the cradle for the Northrup gear assembly.

## **Boy Scout projects**

- Cleared brush and renovated the Davis Cemetery.

## **Programs and activities:**

- We had speakers at our member meetings on various historical topics. Attendance from the public has increased due to subject material
- Toured the West Seneca Museum
- Held an apple pressing demonstration at the saw mill using the antique apple press and water wheel
- Demonstration of making sauerkraut at the saw mill drew many interested visitors
- Opened museum for several personal tours for visitors from out of town and out of state
- Held an ice cream social at the saw mill
- We tied for 4<sup>th</sup> place with Eden at the Erie County Fair this year, and we also took a Theme Participation ribbon.
- Various organizations and local residents set up their personal trees in the Hurd House for a grand Christmas display.
- Filed our annual report with Albany. We are now required to file on line and list all items that were deaccessioned in the past year

## **Library:**

- Volunteers continue to restore the many scrapbooks that are in poor condition
- Visitors continue to call looking for information on their home or family; we assist others with phone, mail, and e-mail requests.
- Volunteers continue to research our records to cull information for the next history book of Elma

## **Membership:**

Our membership has grown to 257 including 20 Corporate Partners. Members are now located in eleven states and Canada.

## **Website:**

Our websites have drawn over 37,000 visitors from all over the world since its inception.

## **New and current acquisitions:**

Many 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 in 2016 went to the upkeep of the museum complex, restoration projects, and programs in keeping with our Mission. In 2016 we held the following fund raisers:

- Two chicken BBQs
- Annual Tea
- Ice Cream Social
- Theme basket and dinner
- A Christmas party for Erie County Federation of Historical Societies
- A Christmas party for the Auxiliary of VFW Post 6625
- A Christmas party for the Polly Hull DAR
- Sale of books
- **All proceeds from fund raiser events in 2017 will go to the fund to expand the barn**

## **2017 plans:**

- Hold a dedication ceremony for the new shelter holding the Northrup gear
- Arrange displays in the barn to show a “store” ca 1880 and a dairy display
- Plans and fund raising events are underway to expand the barn to better house the many farm and dairy artifacts
- Hold a barn dance as a fund raiser for expanding the barn
- With the help of volunteers, continue to restore artifacts
- Upgrade the display in the barn
- Set up artifact displays at the Elma Library
- Set up a Halloween Village display in the Hurd House to attract more visitors
- Hold a Community Carol Cade at our annual tree lighting

- Approach schools, other societies and tour companies to bring visitors to our complex
- Continue to assist residents with their historic preservation plans
- Provide historic plaques to residents who have homes 100 years or older
- Local Law 2-2013 was passed on 7/17/2013, however to date the Town has not appointed a commission. Several residents would like to place their homes on the National Register and this cannot be done without the commission. As soon as one has been appointed we will begin working with the residents to help them with their goal.

January 18, 2017