

SUMMER 2017

ECHOS OF ELMA

Volume XVII issue 1 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

JUNE 3, 2017, POSSIBLE HURD FAMILY TOUR

JUNE 5, 2017, SCHOOL TOUR 11 A.M.

JUNE 11, 2017, ANNUAL CHICKEN BBQ FUND
RAISER AT ELMA DAY

JULY 19, 2017, CHICKEN BBQ/CONCERT

HURD HOUSE MUSEUM

Historic signs for your home are now available at a cost of approximately \$160 for gold fleck, and less for gold paint.

The sign will read "century house" or "historic home" depending on the year the home was built, or its historic history.

We have a sign displayed on the porch of the Hurd House Museum. Made of high density urethane, with gold flecks lettering, 1" thick, 10" X 15" oval.

To order call Frank at 652-6256.

SUNSHINE

The Sunshine Committee is always ready and able to brighten the day of anyone in need of a card or greeting. We hope you all have a beautiful, healthy summer. Call Margaret at 652-6256 to request a card.

Margaret Maciejewski

IN OUR LIBRARY

Often our library gets requests about older houses when they change hands. Folks who move into an older home are interested in its history and we get inquiries about those homes. We would like to ask anyone who owns an older home if they would consider letting us copy the deeds or title searches for our archives, old pictures, too.

In addition to the history of older homes, we would love to have any family histories, stories, newspaper articles, genealogies that you would care to share with us. We can make copies if you don't want to part with the originals. I can be reached at 716-655-4448 to set up a time that is mutually convenient if you are unable to come during our regular hours on Thursdays from 1-4 PM.

Leita Reed, Librarian

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

We are happy to welcome Jean Newton as our newsletter editor. If you have anything you would like in the newsletter and if space permits, please e-mail it to her at: rnewton28152@roadrunner.com

What a busy May we had! Congratulations to the ladies who worked for our Tea, and a thank you also to members of the Iroquois Key Club who served our guests. As with other events this year, our profit from the Tea will go to the barn fund to expand it.

About 50 children from Elma Primary toured our complex and learned how people lived in the 1800's.

On one of our rare sunny days this spring, on May 20th, we cut the ribbon on the shelter displaying the ca 1840's gear from the Spring Brook Mill. We held an ice cream social at the same time at the saw mill. The gear was donated by Rory Brake and Mary McIntosh.



Pictured L-R is Town Historian Frank Maciejewski; Donors, Rory Brake & Mary McIntosh; Town Supervisor, Dennis Powers; Society President, Marlene Baumgartner, and Councilman Tracy Petrocy.

A few tours are being booked for the summer months. If we call you for a couple hours to help, please say "yes." There are many family reunions this year and people coming from out of state often call for special tours. We have our annual chicken BBQ on June 11th at Elma Day and another fund raiser at a summer concert in the Village Green Park on July 19th.

And, don't forget to go to the Erie County Fair to see our exhibit in the Historical Building.

On a personal note, I can't thank all of you enough for your cards, thoughts and prayers when I took a nasty fall. The fractures are healing nicely and I'm slowly getting back in the fray.

Have a happy and safe summer.

Marlene Baumgartner, President

"History must be a living thing, that must be written and added to, day by day and year by year...line by line and page by page."

Unknown

HISTORIAN'S NOTES

The museum history book update committee has been spending much time on the next edition of the Elma History Book to cover the years from 1957-2014. Research in this time period brought to memory many significant items that may have been forgotten. For example, the corner of Bullis and Bowen was a busy corner in town during that time period, just from businesses moving in and out. For example, on the corner of Bowen and Bullis at 2185 Bullis the following businesses were housed at one time or another: Elma Post Office, Elma Library, Elma Sport Shop(owned by Dan Yacobush and Charlie Nelson), book store, dental office and apartments. Also on 2510 Bowen were Cy's Pharmacy (before it moved to the plaza), Elma Sport Shop (moved from 2185 Bullis), Reid Tire, Stone Plumbing and pizza shops. Oh let's not forget the Elma Inn (replaced by a gas station) and the Pond Brook Town Houses.

This is a small example of the research going on by the book committee to document the history of our town.

Frank Maciejewski, Historian

ERIE COUNTY FAIR DISPLAY

The Erie County Fair is just 3 months away, and once again the Elma Historical Society is participating by entering a display. This year's theme is "Christmas Traditions in Our Town". So far we have some ideas as to what we will be displaying, but as we build on these ideas, we will need help in design, assembling, and set-up of the display. If anyone is interested in helping, you can e-mail me at mike1742@roadrunner.com and I will contact you as things progress. Thank you in advance for your help.

Mike Ternullo, Fair Coordinator



DOES ANYONE HAVE A HOME FOR THIS CA 1917 KITCHEN STOVE? *It is a Famous Summit brand with pat date May 8, 1917 on the front of the oven. Double ovens on top, large oven with temperature gauge on the door, and eight burners. The stove has all of the original parts and was used with wood, coal and four gas jets. Excellent condition.*

Elma Historical Society

Call: Chuck at 716-655-0508

or

Marlene at 716-652-9458

HELP WANTED

We are fortunate enough to have a ca 1851 kitchen stove donated to us by the Streif family. It will replace the 1917 stove we have in our country kitchen. The 1851 stove is in wonderful condition and will be an asset to our collection, and close to the period the Hurd House was built. However, it is in dire need of a major cleaning. If someone could donate a little of their time helping Chuck and Fred make the stove look like it did 170 years ago, we would greatly appreciate it. Please come to the museum on Thursday afternoons, if you can help us with this project.

Found in our library in the Elma Post Issue of October 1976

Forty one years ago, this poem was given to Ray Tanke, Town Historian at the time. Most times, we find certain subjects continue to be a topic of conversation, and this is certainly one of them.

Are the Children Really to Blame?

We read in the paper,

We hear in the air
Of killing and stealing
And crime everywhere.
We sigh and we say
As we notice the trend,
This young generation
Where will it end?
But can we be sure it's their fault alone?
Too much money to spend,
Too much idle time,
Too many movies of passion and crime,
Too many books not fit to be read,
Too much evil in what they hear said,
Too many children encouraged
to roam,
Too many parents
Who don't stay at home.
Youth don't make the movies,
They don't write the books
That paint the gay pictures
Of gangsters and crooks.
They don't make the liquor,
They don't run the bars,
They don't make the drugs,
That idle the brain.
It's all done by older folks,
Greedy for gain,
And how many cases,
We find that it's true
The label "Delinquency"
Fits older folks, too.

MEMBERSHIP

It's that time again! Our fiscal year is from July 1 to June 30 of each year. If you have not paid your dues for this year (2017), there will be a dot on your envelope. Please forward your dues by the end of June. Also, your dues are due for 2018 by the end of this June. For your convenience you may use the form below. Your promptness is appreciated as it helps support our programs and maintenance of buildings. Thank you

Betty Braun, Membership 683-5258

HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

- New Membership
 Renewal Membership

Individual annual membership \$10 (minimum donation): _____

Family annual membership \$15 (minimum donation): _____
(Father, mother, children in same household)

Lifetime membership \$150
(minimum donation): _____

Name: _____

Telephone _____

Street: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

E-Mail: _____

Mail to: Elma Historical Society Membership
P.O. Box 84
Elma, NY 14059-0084