

SPRING 2018

# ECHOS OF ELMA

Volume XVIII 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

**OFFICERS:**

PRES.: MARLENE BAUMGARTNER (652-9458)  
VICE PRESIDENT: KATHY MARKOWSKI (652-1911)  
LEITA REED, SECRETARY (655-4448)  
JEAN NEWTON, TREASURER (652-9274)

**TRUSTEES:**

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FRED STREIF (675-6320)  
PATTY BURDETTE (655-0695)  
EILEEN HOLDEN (652-0648)  
MARGARET MACIEJEWSKI (652-6256)  
KENNY SCHAF (652-9458)  
MIKE TERNULLO, (652-0047)

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

**TOWN HISTORIAN:** FRANK MACIEJEWSKI 652-6256

**WEBMASTER:** KENNY SCHAFF  
(KENNYSCHF@AOL.COM)

**WEB ADDRESS:** [www.elmanyhistory.com](http://www.elmanyhistory.com)

**SAWMILL WEB:** [WWW.ELMASAWMILL.COM](http://WWW.ELMASAWMILL.COM)

**E-MAIL ADDRESS:** [elmahistory@aol.com](mailto:elmahistory@aol.com)

## SOCIETY EVENTS

### 2018 Schedule of Events

March 12, 2018 Member Meeting  
7pm at the Senior Center  
*H.G. Miller Farms will present a program on how the farm started and their current activities.*

April 9, 2018 Member Meeting  
7pm at the Senior Center  
*Tom Place will present "The Women of the Civil War."*

If anyone has an activity/program that they would like to hear about, please call Kathy Markowski at 652-1911.

May 5, 2018 Annual Spring Tea  
Flyer included

June 10, 2018 Annual BBQ our fundraiser at the Car show on the Village Green

### Sidewalks in Elma!

Yes, there once were sidewalks in Elma Village and beyond, from Clinton Street, as far as the railroad station on Woodard and Bowen Roads. They were built in 1894 by a combination of people, mainly the Young Peoples Association of the Elma Methodist Episcopal Church and a consortium of well-to-do residents and a group of people from Clinton Street such as Cyrus Hurd and George Beidler. The Young Peoples Association's president was James T. Hurd and the secretary was R. Porter Lee. A quote from the public document of the YPA report reads *the women of Elma---bless their dear hearts --- came to the rescue and gave several suppers to support the cause.* Through subscriptions, labor and fund raising, the sidewalk was built and was still in use in the Village section in the 1940's & 1950's. There is only a small remnant left that can be seen on the west side in the village where the sidewalk was once located.

This diverse group was very well organized and was able to do a big job in a short length of time and have it all paid for. This was a private venture – no government handouts or taxes here. A total of 6000 feet of sidewalk was built at a total cost of \$521.65. You can read the full report in a folder at the library.

I can attest to its use+ when walking to Elma #7 school on Bowen Rd., in the 1940's and 1950's. It certainly made walking easier for little children. Sure would be nice to have a sidewalk again!

*Leita W. Reed, Librarian*



The museum has a few used Iroquois Central High School yearbooks for sale. The years are: 1960, '61, '62, '64, '65, '66, '67, @\$10 each. The proceeds will be used for purchasing archival materials for the Library.

### **Buildings and Grounds**

Two students from the W. D. Ormsby Educational Center Computer Aided Design (CAD) program are completing an internship under my direction. The project will include drawing new accurate detailed architectural drawings of the existing Barn and proposed Barn expansion. The students have already spent a Saturday measuring the existing structure and have completed preliminary detailed architectural drawings of what already is on site. They are now working on the drawings of the expansion. Next will be to develop a complete rendering of what the completed Barn will look like on the site. As soon as the snow clears, they also will resurvey the building to assure the accuracy of the existing site map.

*Charles Facklam, Buildings and Grounds*

### **Sunshine**

It's been a busy season for get well cards . Hope you all made it through the flu outbreak. Let me know if you want a card to go out from the Society.

*Margaret Maciejewski 652-6256.*



### **President's Corner**

It may sound like old news, but our November dinner/ theme basket was a tremendous success. Many thanks to all of our volunteers and members, especially Eileen Holden, for the great job they did putting it together.

Our December events were a lot of fun. We had about 200 kids for the lighting of the Christmas tree and, thanks to the Elma Fire Company; Santa arrived on their vintage fire engine. And the children loved Santa's horse. Our Thursday Crew decorated the Hurd House beautifully for the holidays, and our Christmas party was fun with good food and carolers from the high school.

Now we look forward to our Spring Tea and the many events at the park where we take part. Stop by and look at the exhibits in the house. I'm sure you will be pleased at what the volunteers have done to showcase our artifacts.

Many, many thanks to all who have donated to the fund to build an addition on the barn so we can house our farm and dairy artifacts in a more interesting way. We have passed the half way mark of the \$30,000 needed, and hope to begin the project when the weather improves. Your support allows us to be able to continue our quest to save Elma's historical artifacts.

*Marlene Baumgartner, President*

(see photos below)

From the Historian

I'm sure all of you have driven down Bullis Road and passed by the Eiss farm, built in 1856 (now the Robert Smith farm) on the north side of the road at 2761 Bullis. Did you notice the long, red storage building, 50-60 feet long, just to the right of the barns? There is history associated with the Eiss building. Family records reveal that the storage building was first located at the rear of the Elma United Methodist Church at 2991 Bowen Road and was used by parishioners to park their carriages and horse teams while attending services. During the 1920's the storage building was moved about 2 miles from the Methodist Church to the present location on 2761 Bullis Road. How many other buildings do you think were relocated through the years in Elma? (see photos to right ➡)



2761 Bullis Rd., after 1920 - Present

*Frank Maciejewski, Town Historian*



Elm Tree – Oh, how we miss these grand old trees!



2991 Bowen Rd., prior to 1920



## Spring Brook Revitalization

The Fischer Store  
6272 Seneca St.

Todd Huber is doing a great job of renovating the store that was built in 1860. In the past it was known as Bell's store, and had a post office in it with R T Barnett as postmaster.

During reconstruction, Todd uncovered the original posts that are in the old photos and found the entire structure is a plank building, made of post and hand hewn, notched beams, a concave roof line and rounded windows. Plans are for two apartments and a business.



Ca 1860



Planned renovation

## Spring Brook Hotel

6350 Seneca St



As it looked in 1948 with owners Ed & Hilda Hill

## HURD HOUSE

Our museum will be closed for a couple of months so our volunteers can clear all of the storage rooms upstairs in the house. This is necessary to re-organize and categorize the artifacts we have.

This task will help us provide better service to visitors who come to the museum looking for history on a specific family, school, or business. The exercise will also be a huge help to our volunteers with changing and arranging displays throughout the house. We hope to re-open the museum from April 1<sup>st</sup> to April 15<sup>th</sup>. If you can help us in any way in this effort, please contact Marlene at 652- 9458.