

SUMMER 2018

# ECHOS OF ELMA

Volume XVIII 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

**June 10, 2018** - Annual Chicken BBQ at the car show at the Village Green - noon until four pm. *Please help by volunteering.* This is a major fund raiser for us.

**June 10, 2018** - The museum will also be open. We need docents in all three buildings, so if you can't help at the BBQ please join us at the museum.

**June 10, 2018** - Annual Flag Disposal at the barn at 1PM. Bring your used and torn flags to the museum anytime, and place them on the porch in the bread box. Encourage your family, friends, and neighbors to support this event.

**Please note:** we will not be hosting a chicken BBQ at any band concert this summer.

**September** - Date to be announced. We are planning on hosting a meat raffle as a fund raiser. More on this in our next newsletter.

## **Erie County Fair Historical Building Sign-up** *August 8 thru August 19, 2018*

Is anyone interested in door-sitting at the Historical Building at the Erie County Fair? Duties will include counting people entering the building and answering questions they may have. (Don't worry, if you don't know the answers, you can send them to the main desk for help!) Shifts will be either 2 or 3 hours each and will be available each day the Fair is open. All volunteers will receive free admission to the Fair and free parking for the day you volunteer. You can contact Mike Ternullo at 652-0047 with any questions or to sign up. Deadline is Friday, June 8. All names must be submitted to Mike by then so they can be sent to the Fair office. First come, first served, so don't delay!

## ***Buildings & Grounds***

After several months of jacking and straightening the floor and replacing a major rotted beam, the Saw Mill is open and ready for demonstrations.

We are currently working on a new barn addition. It will be roughly the same size and the same look as the existing barn. Thanks to Chuck Facklam and 2 CAD students from the W. D. Ormsby Educational Center for providing the architectural drawings needed to receive a building permit. Over the next several months construction will be in full swing on the east end of the existing barn. Of course we are still in need of donations to complete the project. The idea was to start the much-needed storage and display area in stages. We are in the process of erecting a secure addition without a concrete floor. The temporary stone floor will remain until funds are available while the new structure will keep our farming artifacts protected and the second story will provide the much needed storage.

*Chuck Facklam and Fred Streif*

## Crystal City

In 1891, a village was planned around the Spring Brook Station of the WNY & Penn RR on Pound Road. Approximately 120 acres of land was purchased for the development of a subdivision to be known as the Spring Brook Subdivision and was later known unofficially as Crystal City. It was situated on lots 94 and 95 on the north side of Bullis Rd. and on the west side of Winspear Rd. It was also south of Bullis Rd. on lot 95 and west of Pound Rd.

Approximately 90 lots were staked out, each measuring 25' by 100' and laid out in a grid pattern with streets and alleys servicing each lot. During the same time period, a trolley line was under construction crossing Pound Rd. in an east to west direction, approximately 100 yds. north of the 400 Expressway. The trolley roadbed can still be seen today, overgrown with saplings and brush. Whether the trolley line was planned in connection with Crystal City is not known.

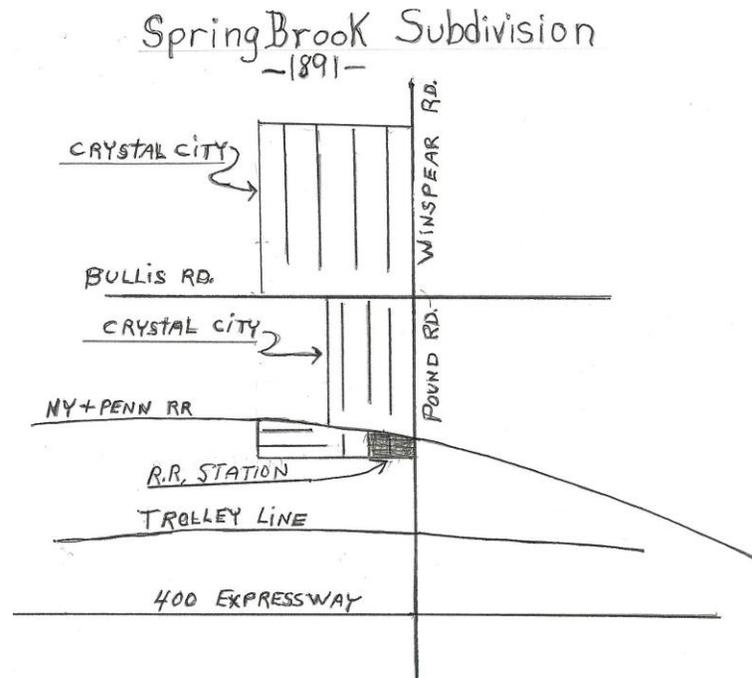
Crystal City turned out to be a failure as only a few individuals built a home on the development site. The trolley line was never completed, but the roadway berm remains there almost totally overgrown. This subdivision and trolley line could have contributed to major population growth in Elma in the early 1900's. Today there are only a handful of residents and commercial properties in that area.

*Frank Maciejewski, Town Historian*

Our c 1881 outhouse is rotting at the base and needs to be repaired. The outhouse was donated in 2007 by Jim Wyzykiewicz and originally stood at the Christopher Will farm on Jamison Rd. near Seneca St. in the 1880's. We will provide the necessary wood and materials for the repair. If you can help, please call Marlene at 652-9458 or Frank at 652-6256.

We welcome any requests for get-well, sympathy, congratulatory cards to go out to our members and friends. We all like to know that we are being thought about in time of need or celebration. Please call me at 652-6256.

*Margaret Maciejewski, Sunshine*



## Who Remembers These Elma Businesses?

Way back when, there were some pretty popular businesses in Elma that are only a memory now. I am going to mention a few and challenge our membership to send us, at the Historical Society, a reminiscence or short story of these businesses and what they meant to you. Please use the address on the newsletter. Here are a few old hang-outs to spark your recollections: *Leita Reed, Librarian*

*Mike's Bike Shop* – torn down  
*Luders Log Cabin* or *The Log Cabin* – now a Church  
*Souter's Restaurant* - now *Santino's Pizza Shack*  
*Elma Sport Shop* – now *Nocchino's Pizzeria*  
*Bodecker's Auto Repair* – now *Jimmy Dean's Off Road Center*  
*Convenient Mart* or *Elma Deli* – now a *Day Care*  
*Briggs Dairy Bar* – now *Johnny J's Family Pizzeria and Restaurant*  
*Bleek's Tavern* – became the *Long Branch Saloon* – became *Earth Dimensions*  
*The Country Inn* (remember the roof outlined in neon lights?) – Now *Matty's*  
*The Spring Brook Hotel* – now an apartment building

### **FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK**

May 17<sup>th</sup> was a busy day at our museum. We hosted a lunch for our volunteers and members of both the highway and water departments who enjoyed the fare outside on a beautiful day. Many thanks to Eileen Holden for putting the event together.

The Society took the opportunity to present a Citation to Todd Huber for all he is doing to rejuvenate the Spring Brook area. Todd was "humbled" to receive it and we were proud to give it to him.

And many thanks to Eileen Holden as well for overseeing our annual Tea. The theme this year was attire from the 1940's and 1950's. We had a successful turnout and some fun remembering the problems with girdles.

The museum had a thorough cleaning prior to the tea and looked wonderful. The staff will continue to clean, rearrange and categorize the storerooms upstairs. The basement needs some serious attention too.

The Town has a new landscape company who put mulch around the south and east sides of the house and the ladies from the Countryside Garden Club have the herb garden ready for visitors. We could use a new sign on the gate. Is there a volunteer to make one?

As we go to press we are planning on our annual Chicken BBQ at the Car Show on June 10<sup>th</sup>. Patty needs help, so please say "yes" when you get a call. We also need at least five docents in the house, and docents in the mill and the barn. The annual Flag Disposal will be the same day at 1PM by the barn.

Speaking of the barn, we cannot thank our donors enough for their generous donations to help us add a much needed addition to the barn.

The Society Board has decided not to hold a Chicken BBQ at one of the band concerts. The decision was based on the fact we can't get enough help.

Mike Ternullo is busy planning our display at the Erie County Fair.

As you can see, a busy summer is upon us. Anywhere you can help the Society preserve Elma's history is most appreciated.

HAPPY SUMMER!  
*Marlene Baumgartner*



President Marlene Baumgartner and Town Historian Frank Maciejewski present a Citation to Todd Huber in appreciation of his efforts to save the history of Spring Brook.



Members of Elma's highway and water departments having lunch at the museum May 17, 2018

### **DUES REMINDER**

Our fiscal year is July 1 through June 30 and that means your membership is up for renewal. Attached is a member app. Please forward your check payable to the Elma Historical Society in the amount you are paying to:

Elma Historical Society  
PO Box 84  
Elma, NY 14059

Your dues help support the many programs, repairs and upgrades to our buildings that are necessary to help preserve our history. We thank you for your continued support.

**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

ELMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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HELP US EXTEND THE BARN TO BETTER HOUSE AND DISPLAY OUR DAIRY AND AGRICULTURAL ARTIFACTS WHICH, IN SOME CASES, DATE BACK TO THE 1830s.

ANY TAX DEDUCTIBLE AMOUNT YOU ARE COMFORTABLE WITH WILL HELP SUPPORT OUR ENDEAVORS AND IS GREATLY APPRECIATED!

YOUR NAME WILL BE LOGGED IN A SPECIAL BOOK THAT WILL BE PLACED IN THE BARN WHEN IT IS COMPLETED.

DONOR \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL ADDRESS (OPTIONAL) \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE (OPTIONAL) \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE FORWARD YOUR TAX FREE DONATION TO**

Elma Historical Society  
PO Box 84  
Elma, New York 14059



THANK YOU FOR HELPING US PRESERVE ELMA'S PAST FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

Please take some time this summer to visit our museum and see the many changes that have been made. We are open on Thursdays from 1 – 4 pm or by calling Marlene at 652-9458 for a personal tour.