



# Avon Preservation & Historical Society

## Newsletter

VOLUME 22, No. 1

www.avonhistorical.org

Winter 2010

## 200 Years of Continuous Fellowship at the First Presbyterian Church

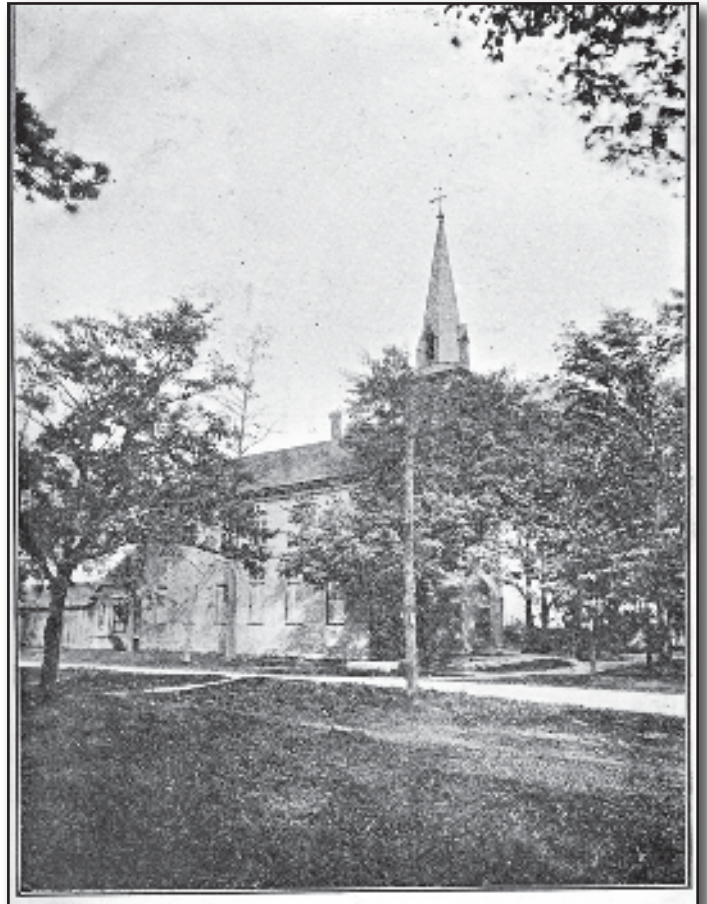
By Carolyn Swanton

The old brick church in East Avon, known as the First Presbyterian Church was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2005. It was organized in 1795 by Rev. Daniel Thatcher, who had been sent out as a missionary to this then wild region. In 1810 they reorganized as a Congregational Church and Rev. John Bliss was installed two years later as the first pastor in a partially built brick church. It remained Congregational for another twenty years although it had merged with the Presbyterians. March 23, 1844 the church by its own request became fully Presbyterian.

"In 1827 the church was completed and dedicated. In 1836 the high round pulpit, reached by winding stairs, was let down about half way to the floor. In 1841 the church received its third steeple and pulpit. In 1845 the bell was procured - which had lost much of its voice by being struck too hard in the Civil War. In 1850 the park in front of the church was improved and the Parsonage built. In 1866 the church received its fourth steeple and pulpit and assumed its present comely appearance." **Grace Phillips Scott**, page 5-6 Pierson Reunion booklet 1929.

A subscription was started in 1870 and from this an organ was purchased from St. Michaels' in Geneseo. Two of the stops had come from Trinity Church in NYC and were in 1929 considered over 100 years old.

The name given credit for the building of this church was **John Pearson** who also built the tavern later known as **The White Horse** at East Avon at the same time. It was often remarked that no one knew if one business was intended to help the other, but it did draw people to the four corners of East Avon, making it for a time far more active than Avon. Pearson died in 1812 of the flu but his widow, Rebecca Waterous Hull, lived to be 96 years old. She married **Colonel Samuel Blakeslee** and "the tavern became known as John's



*First Presbyterian Church of Avon, NY - Erected in 1812*

Industry and Rebecca's Economy." page 7 *ibid*

**"I hope this community will keep this old church as it is ... Old style brings near to us the old traditions which grown more precious as the memories of our pioneers fade away. Keep this old church!"** Grace pleaded.

One of East Avon's early pioneers was **John Pierson**. His father, **Joseph Pierson**, built the home which is known today as the **Taintor House**. Built next to the tavern, it was given high praise for its style of architecture at this same time by Ms. Scott. The 1929 reunion itself was held in the home of **Miss Louise Jenks**, the great-granddaughter of Joseph Pierson, further east.

# Jolly Farmer; Then and Now

By Carolyn Swanton

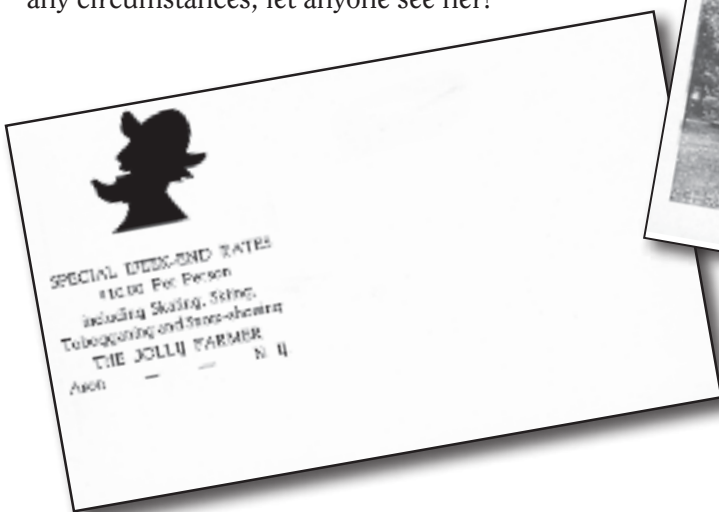
The name “The Jolly Farmer” has been used since at least the early 1600’s in Britain. A roundabout on the London Road A30 is the most noted Jolly Farmer. It was also the name for one of Avon’s many lovely bed & breakfast homes.

Ever since the early days of Avon it has been a tourist haven. We enjoy a steady stream of visitors whether we are the actual destination, or when people are looking for a more comfortable rest stop along further destinations. Many people still prefer the straight route that 5&20 offers with no toll and our beautiful landscapes. Gone are the immense sanitariums but Avon still has many elegant homes where you are treated like family guests of a bygone era. Homes that were designed to house large families with live-in maids are plentiful in Avon. The housing of a maid was usually equipped with a double staircase for her mysterious activities and a bathroom in the basement. Carl F. Schmidt, western New York architect and historian, once remarked that “Society dictated that you have a maid, but not under any circumstances, let anyone see her!”

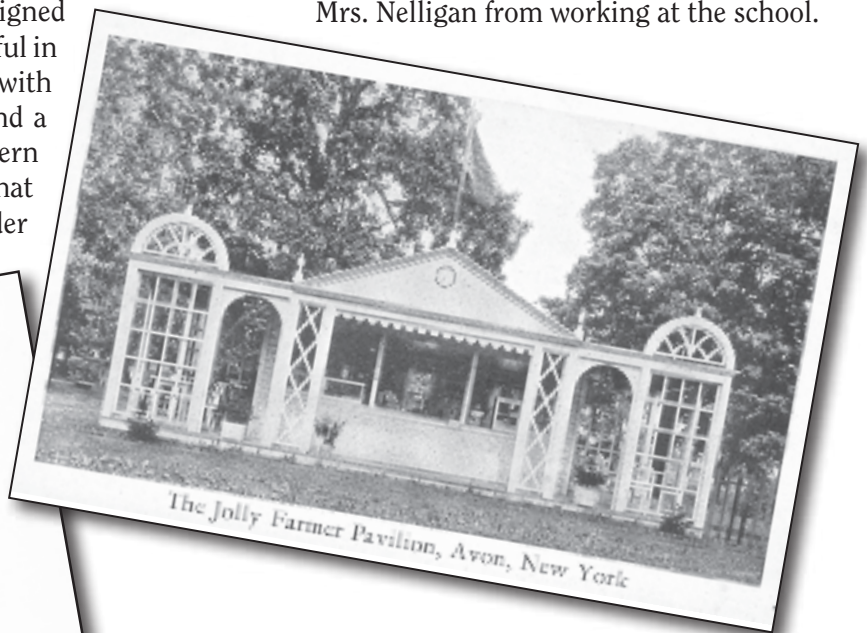


“A Real Inn” - 5243 East Main Street

During the 1950’s it was run by Mary Jane and Bill Nelligan, who also ran a small lapidary shop out front that for one year was the Elrond Gift Shop. Many will remember Mrs. Nelligan from working at the school.



This postcard advertising “a real inn” and “antiques” from 1935 is addressed to Mrs. Ward Detniles at Hyannis, MA on Cape Cod. She writes, “Enjoyed the Jolly Farmer, using your maps. Hyannis Thursday, Mary & Elizabeth”.



Today The Jolly Farmer is an assisted living home for mentally challenged adults and their workers. Our very quiet neighbor, which is today referred to as the East Avon Nursing Home is one of several service projects for the Avon Lioness Club. The Easter Egg Hunt is a special day for both groups.



*Having fun in the 1950's.*

## In the 1950's

Ever wonder about the changes in our economy and why two can't live on one salary anymore? This is the way my parents and their friends had parties; someone's unfinished unheated basement, folding chairs (probably saved up with green stamps), a few crepe paper streamers, and some "cool"

LP's. This Halloween Party was a Central Presbyterian Circle of friends; from L to R: Irene Swanton, Mrs. Charlie Moran, Ruth Clark with her arm around husband, Bob Clark "Chevrolet", Wally and Belle Whipple, Charlie Moran. In the back: Walter Swanton, John & Mary Kay Gott with Bud and Cyrilla Miller in their home on Temple Street.

## And the way that teens had fun a few years before!

### Attention Teenagers! Swing Club to Start Meetings Saturday At Library

A greatly needed recreation for the teenagers of Avon, which has been dormant for several years, will be resumed when the Swing Club under the guidance of the Avon Book Club starts Saturday evening, October 11 in the Social Room of the Avon Free Library

**Mrs. Henry Selden**, having been approached by several students of Avon Central School, has given the consent of the Library Association and the chaperonage will be under the care of **Mrs. Lovette West** and **Mrs. Milton Lewis** (town librarian). Although the club has not organized its rules and regulations, officers have been elected as follows: President, **Ann Holler**, Vice-President, **James Settle**, Secretary, **Harriet Holler** and Treasurer, **John Krick**. The committee included **Betty Curry**, **Dolores Holdridge**, **Martha Moran**, **Bob Hite**, **Jack Strong**, **Jack Hilliard**, and **Don Thomasson**. Admission

has been set at 25 cents (No limos needed then either) **From the October 9, 1947 Avon Herald News** (The same year **Frances Grow** from Avon made news by crossing the country by bicycle!



*1927 Pals: A. MacLeod, Jack Westfall, R. "Bricky" Bardin, and Howard McNinch*



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### From the Mail...

**Dr. Richard Collins** added a note to our last issue's article which mentioned Dr. Parry's fountain. He recalled when his brother, Chuck, broke his arm playing on the "attractive nuisance" in the park (which may explain why it was moved to the Avon Inn). The interruption of his father's medical practice on East Main St. to tell him the grim news was not an easy thing for young Richard to do, as anyone can imagine. \*\*\*\*\* **Congratulations to the Avondale Tavern for 100 Years of business! \*\*\*\*\* Anyone with any historical references for this business, please share them with us.**

Leicester Town Historian **Tom Roffe** has been given a state archives grant to do research on the Craig Colony for Epileptics in Sonyea as reported in a special to the Livingston County News. "In the late 1800s the living conditions and treatment for the afflicted were deplorable. Through the compassionate vision of **William Prior Letchworth**, the progressive Craig Colony facility was established. The facility was also important for the economic opportunities it provided for the workers." Roffe will be grateful to talk with anyone who can provide information to further his understanding of the Craig Colony. He can be reached at (585) 382-3234.

Also, we are still trying to locate the large cottonwood tree in Ashantee that should be easy to spot as it was the largest tree of its type in New York in the 1970's. Did it get cut down? Anyone with information on this tree, please call 226-9424.

Thank you, Editor

### Membership

It is easier than ever to renew or start a membership with the Avon Preservation & Historical Society. **Sharon Knight** at the Town Office on Genesee Street in the Opera

Block is our new Membership Chairman! Our memberships are criminally low starting at \$5 for 5 newsletters and notifications along with being a part of this new chapter in our town.

### One Hundred Years Ago

What Made the Journal kept by Will Leighton, Avon Postmaster

#### January, 1910

3 - Mrs. Anna Brayton died in Rochester yesterday and her body was brought to Mrs. E. G. Sackett.

#### February

9 - Governor Hoch of Kansas gave a fine lecture at the High School

12 - Judge Nash says it is the heaviest snowfall since 1855 (18 inches)

23 - Trains are snowed in on the Attica branch and between here and Wayland.

26 - There is a balance of \$2,766.55 in the village treasury, \$2,423.96 in the water fund.

28 - At the Democratic Caucus P. J. Hanifin nominated for the president of the village, W. J. Leighton, Trustee, J. L. Westfall, Treasurer and Jon. Shantz Collector and F. A. Stephenson, Assessor.

#### March

3 - Water on the east side of the river bridge as far as the Browne house (now the last house before the bridge).

9 - McLaughlin's have a new house.

30 - Van Zandt Co. minstrel show at the Opera House.



# Avon Preservation & Historical Society

## Newsletter

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Spring 2010



*Our former Mayor, Bill Mulvaney's barber shop  
with the Class of 1959.*

*Photo donated by Mrs. Dana Collins*

## Corn Festival

By Jean Batzing

The 24th Rotary Corn Festival will be held August 12 and as always gives the Avon Preservation and Historical Society an opportunity to share in telling Avon's History. This year we will have double exposure. You may visit the AP&HS Tent in the same spot as before with books and artifacts to peruse. A new collectible is now available of the Opera Block.

As you know the AP&HS is now located in the Opera Block in the space that used to be the A & P Store. That area will also be open 10:00AM to 3:00PM the day of the Festival.

The AP&HS book for this year will be on the Opera Block. It will have history, yes, but also newfound historical information, interviews, and plenty of pictures. **Debbie Morrow**, a new Avon resident, is the author and will be in the tent to autograph the book.

Memberships for the year 2010 will be available in both places:

Single \$5.00

Family \$10.00

Business \$15.00



Elm Place  
J. P. TUCK, MANAGER

ERIC TROUBLEY - ELM PLACE

## Avon Barns

By Carolyn Swanton

Farming has been a vital component of New York State's economy and social history for centuries. For every farmhouse there was at least one barn, more if they prospered. The New York State Barns Restoration Preservation Program is a matching small-grants initiative to assist in educating rural communities and encourage interested parties to apply for grants.

"This diverse collection of barns (in New York) contributes to a rich tapestry of rural life and history. But we are in danger of losing these valuable assets. Many of these structures have fallen into disrepair as their use becomes obsolete, others decay and collapse from neglect." (www.barncoalition.com) We see it all around us. You can help by joining the quoted organization at Cornell University and capture at least with photography some of our examples.

Avon is rich with beautiful barns in the village as well as the township. They are valuable assets to a village home and are usually kept in good condition. Some have even gained notoriety. Daniel Fink's book "Barns of the Genesee Country" is a treasure trove for anyone researching the history of this area. Fink introduces a chapter, in his comprehensive book, on silos and noted that in 1884 a trench (underground) silo was constructed south of Fowlerville Road on Route 39, making it one of the earliest in the country constructed by white men. (Fink, page 243).

A silo is any structure which stores and keeps dry, bulk materials for farming, usually grain. Grain silos

became in vogue in this country after the American Civil War, replacing corn cribs and barn lofts, which left barns vulnerable to fires. The Swedish are generally given credit for introducing the concept of the silo in Europe, dating back many centuries. But the American Iroquois had their own version of silos for corn storage which was appreciated very early by the Wadsworth Family farms of Avon. Their early silo gained such a reputation, that even the remains of the silo are revered.

## The “Silo Barn”

by Diane Rice Meyer

“On May 30, 1930 my mother, Ernestine Benscoter Rice at age five, came from Pennsylvania with her mother, Alice Smith Benscoter to live with Alice’s parents (Aubrey & Carrier Smith) who lived in the tenant house on the Silo Farm. It was a two family dwelling separated by a large room in the middle with doors for each house.

Howard Smith purchased the farm from the Wadsworths. My Mom was told the reason the farm was called the Silo Farm was in one of the barns there are four cement bases about three feet high that are the remains of the silo from the first barn.”

Mrs. Shevrick (Case) lived at Talley Ho (further south on Route 39). She purchased two Guernsey cows and left them at the Silo Farm where Aubrey would milk them and bring the milk to Talley Ho. Some of the people who worked at Talley Ho were Charlie Orman and his wife, and daughter, Bessie, with my grandmother, Alice. Around 1937 Aubrey and Carrie bought a farm on Oak Openings Road and son Howard Smith and his son Jerry ran the farm.

Editor’s Note: Curious about the “Silo Barn” in Avon, I was surprised to learn that my former ACS classmate and friend, Diane Rice Meyer, personally knew so much about it. She explained in a letter learning about the farm from his mother in the story above.

## Barns in the Village of Avon

by Carolyn Swanton

I never though it was odd (until I went to college) that we had a barn when I grew up, as most everyone else on Main Street in Avon did. Everyone had owned livestock for transportation when the houses were built in our historic village. Veterinarians had their practices in the large barns behind their houses like Dr. Christian J. Haller on E. Main St. and Dr. Francis Sutterby on Wadsworth Avenue. These barns are a part of the reason that Avon qualifies as an Historical Village. It could be placed on the National Register as Geneseo and Pittsford have been.



*Photos of the Silo Barn  
Tenant House*

*A. June, Jerry, Nathan &  
Eileen Smith.*

*B. Aubrey & Carrie Smith,  
Charles  
& Alice Ace, parents,  
Howard & Mildred Smith,  
Jerry and June Smith in the  
front of the house.*

*C. Gail Beckwith Solomon  
at 9 months with friend.*



*Col. Orange Sackett’s barn on Oak was the first on that street.  
(Fred Brown’s home).*



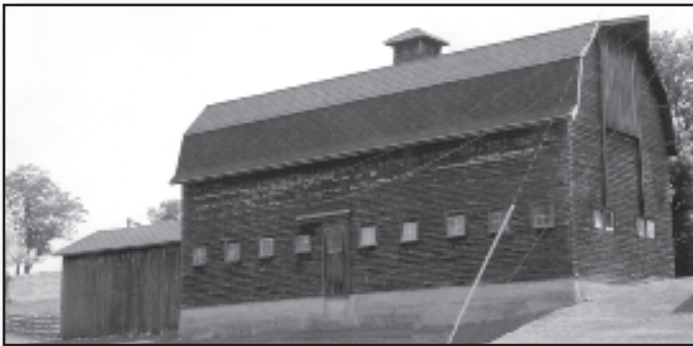
*Dr. Sutterby's Vet Business was in this wide gambrel barn on Wadsworth Avenue.*



## Other barns of distinction in town.

A. North Ave.  
C. Genesee St.

B. E. Main St. from Lacy St.  
D. Clinton St.



## Big Tree Register

Jim Orman kindly called to let us know where the record book cottonwood tree stands. He recalled a wedding photo being taken "by the tree that made the Guinness Book of Records." It is currently a 475 point tree according to Mark Gooding, Forester for the DEC who remeasured it and reported it to Albany so that it is now listed as Number 1 on the big tree register website as New York State's largest tree of that species.

Merv Abbott has been patiently waiting to locate the tree. With owner, Tom Lawriw's permission we took photos of the tree and measured the girth ourselves to find it 29.5 feet (not inches) around. It is on old **Reverdy Wadsworth** land and is about 225 years old. If it would only talk, what an oral history that would be!



*New York State's largest cottonwood tree; Carolyn Swanton, Tom Lawriw and Mervin Abbott on Mill Street in Avon.  
Photo James Brewer*



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### One Hundred Years Ago

What made the *Journal* kept by Will Leighton, Avon Postmaster

#### April, 1910

6 - Rev. O. P. Farron died this evening in a Rochester Hospital.

11 - Father Farron was buried today. The funeral was one of the largest ever held in Avon.

14 - Rudy Van Zandt Crosby died about 7:30PM (married on 10 months - childbirth)

16 - Jim Dooer, Howard Gott, J. L. Westfall, Will Lang and Bud Wheeler were bearers at Ruby V. Crosby's funeral at 2:00PM.

19 - Viola Smith Henderson died this A.M.

20 - Announcements are out tonite that Allie Van Allen was married yesterday. It is a surprise to all his friends.

27 - Flats are flooded to Canawagus.

#### May

21 - Halley's Comet could be faintly seen from Avon this evening.

23 - Flossie Cleavland died tonite.

28 - A very good view of Halley's Comet was seen in the western sky tonite.

30 - The Sanitarium has been completely refurnished and is being opened as a first class hotel under the name of the AVON INN. Miss Laverty's canning factory is now being built.

#### June

4 - Mr. Kellogg and Mr. Weed went to Rochester to get a Hudson auto.

12 - At 10:30PM, the fire alarm sounded the fire being in the Gans car at the Erie Shops. The interior was ruined.

23 - About 200 were present at the Alumni Banquet at the Avon Inn.

30. - L. M. Pease was buried this afternoon.

### Current News

Debbie Kidd donated a flour sack from the Light Bros. Mill at Littleville. This is on display at the new Exhibition Hall. Jean Schoenthal of Floral World donated some materials from the D'Angelo Macaroni business. These donations help build our collection and tangible artifacts that help preserve our heritage. Think of us when you do spring cleaning. If it is old and from Avon, chances are we are interested! We would especially appreciate a piano bench or stool. Our pump organ works, but one must be seated to use both feet.

### ERROR

The newsletter editor truly misses our retired proofreader, Mary Ann Margiotta, who would have easily caught the mix up with the Wally Whipples and the Robert Clarks in our last issue. Sometimes it takes fresh eyes to catch the obvious mistakes. Anyone attending the meetings can be a proofreader.





# Avon Preservation & Historical Society

## *Newsletter*

VOLUME 22, No. 2

www.avonhistorical.org

Summer 2010



*Postcard of High Acres*

## ‘High Acres’: The Subdivision That Was Never Built

Introduction by Carolyn Swanton

**Charles J. Hayden** was a well known chair and cabinet maker from State and Mill Sts. in Rochester. His curved wood frame design with a caned seat was very popular in its time and is prized by collectors today. **Blake McKelvey** (past city historian of Rochester) wrote in his Rochester on the Genesee “Several carriage and furniture manufacturers, including Charles J. Hayden, who paid the highest wages in town, acquired a reputation for their products and marketed some in distant cities.” (page 87). From an old Third Ward family, Charles J. Hayden Sr. was mayor of Rochester in 1855 living at 107 S. Fitzhugh St. He was also President of the Board of Trustees for the State Industrial School in Rush, “for the care and instruction of vagrant children.” In 1898 his son, **Charles A. Hayden**, built his home in Avon, hiring Rochester architect, **Claude F. Bragdon**.

On Feb. 9, 1934 area papers reported: “Avon Landmark Razed by Flames.” The home had been purchased two years earlier by **William W. Farnum** who had done a few renovations. The boiler overheated in the minus 20 degree frigid cold snap. Mrs. Farnum was having a phone conversation with **Mrs. Henry Selden** of Elm Place when her maid came to tell her of the fire at 8 AM. She immediately

called the Fire Dept. but it was several minutes before the alarm could be sounded because that too was frozen. Years earlier the town had turned down the request for a fire hydrant for the new resident, so they had to lay hose from the **Anderson House** about 1400 feet away.

Former resident, **Robb Bakemeier** provided more information on this lovely spot in our town.

## “The High Acres Tract In Avon”

By Robb Bakemeier

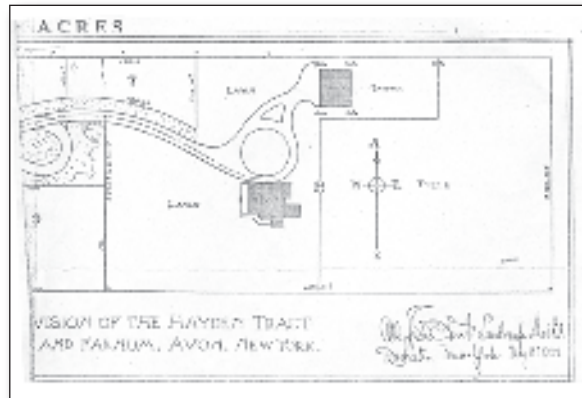
A ten acre tract of land known as “High Acres” is located in Avon to the east of Genesee Street and south of Pine View Heights. The property became the estate of Rochester furniture manufacturer Charles A. Hayden in the 1890s. Hayden’s father (Charles J. Hayden) was mayor of Rochester in 1855-56, and founded the Hayden Furniture Company. The younger Hayden joined his father in the furniture business and in approximately 1898 built a Dutch Colonial house at the top of the winding lane running from Genesee Street through High Acres. In the very early 1920s, Hayden declared bankruptcy and died in a field near the house when his gun discharged as he apparently was crossing a fence.

After Hayden’s death, High Acres was purchased by the Farnums (William W. Farnum and Edna P. Farnum) and the Wheelers (William A. Wheeler and Gertrude H. Wheeler) in approximately 1922. William Farnum was the second generation pharmacist and owner of the Farnum Drug Store, located on Genesee Street in downtown Avon for 76 years (from 1883 until 1959). William Wheeler was an Avon lawyer and Justice of the Peace, and was later a Livingston County Judge from 1928 to 1940. The original Farnum/Wheeler business proposition was to subdivide High Acres into twelve lots according to a plan prepared by Alling Stephen DeForest, a Rochester landscape architect. Nearly a third of the tract was set aside for a large lot encompassing the former Hayden residence, its circular driveway, a barn, paddock, and back field, which became the Farnum home. A second large lot was established adjacent to a second circular driveway in the center of the tract. The Wheelers

built their own residence there in 1923, on the south side of the lane.

In addition to the Farnum and Wheeler residences, ten smaller lots of various shapes and sizes were laid out in the High Acres tract. A four-page brochure was distributed to offer the lots for sale, and to advertise the benefits of living in Avon in the 1920s: “Down in the beautiful valley of the Genesee River, about 20 miles from Rochester, there lies a pretty village of comfortable homes where life is lived fully. Near enough Rochester for one to get the thrills of a great city, but far enough away to enjoy the hills, the valleys, the woods, the waters and all the other lure of God’s open country. This is Avon: famous for its milk farms, its hunts and its horse shows and rich in Indian lore and other traditions of days gone by.” The brochure featured pictures of Avon homes then-owned by other “Rochester families,” particularly the home of John E. Morey of the Rochester *Times-Union* (the former Asahel Wadsworth home, later owned by the Strassenburghs, and recently the White Oak Bed and Breakfast at 277 Genesee Street), the

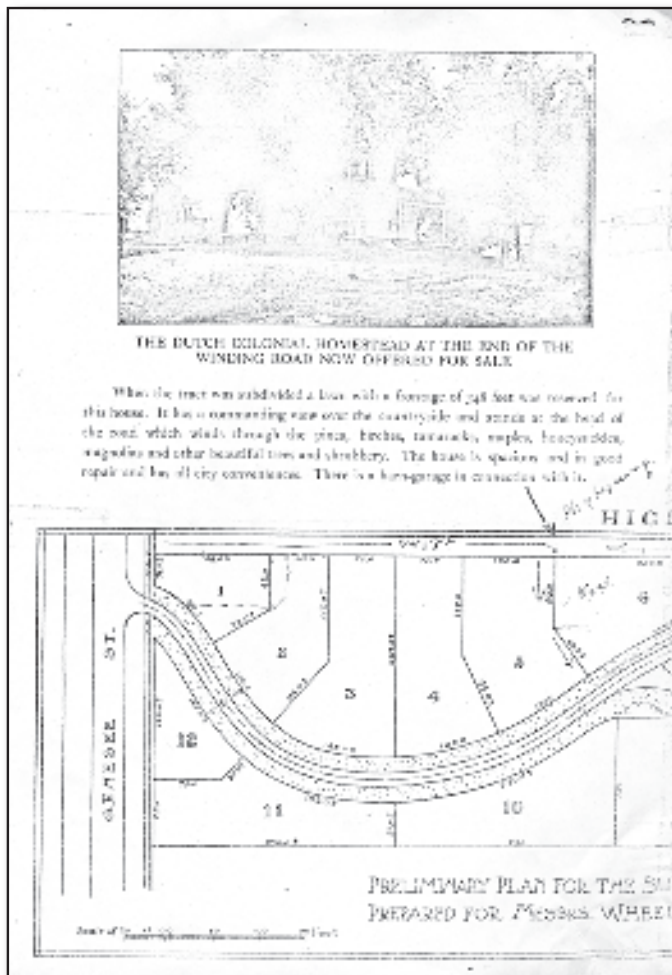
“Jane Brewster Residence” (the Hosmer-Brewster-Pierpont-Browne-AnnisRose house at 104 East Main Street), the home of “Rochester Capitalist” Henry Pease (now known as “West Winds” at 40 Spring Street), and the home of C.L. Whiting, a Rochester automobile dealer (located at 200 High Street).



Alling S. DeForest, Landscape Architect

The Farnum/Wheeler real estate venture did not prompt a building boom at High Acres, perhaps due to the challenging economy of the 1920s and 1930s. Evidently no lots were sold. As a result, the Farnums and the Wheelers retained the entire tract for over three decades. On February 9, 1934, the Farnum residence (the c. 1898 Hayden house) burned to the ground when a chimney fire spread into the attic.

The Rochester *Times-Union*'s front page ran a picture of the house under the heading “Avon Landmark Razed by Flames.” It was the coldest day ever recorded in the area, reaching a low of 22 degrees below zero (a record that still stands today). According to the newspaper accounts, “many of the firemen were unable to start their cars” due to the cold and “those who did arrive had their hands frozen.” The fire hoses also froze and thwarted efforts by the Avon Fire Department to save the house. However, the family escaped safely and the ground floor furniture was saved. The Farnums and their three young daughters (Nancy, Carol, and Cynthia) rebuilt on the original site, and the family moved into their new house on January 3, 1935. That house stands at the top of the lane today.



After retiring from the county court and the drug store, the Wheelers and Farnums built smaller homes at High Acres. In the 1950s, the Wheelers built a new house directly across the drive from their former home. In 1960, after selling the Farnum Drug Store, the Farnums built a house near the top of the drive. Other family members took residence in the first two houses built in the tract. But by 1987, all Wheelers, Farnums, and their relatives had departed High Acres after living there for almost 65 years.

Sources: *High Acres Marketing Brochure, c. 1922* (1922 subdivision plan and advertising text); *Rochester Times-Union, February 12, 1934* (circumstances of fire); “Avon, Heart of the Genesee Country,” *Made C. Preston, Sanders Publications, Avon, N. Y. 1976* (Judge Wheeler’s term on the bench); *Rochester Democrat & Chronicle* newspaper article by meteorologist Kevin Williams, February 3, 2002 (record low temperature on February 9, 1934); Edna Paviour Farnum, Recorded Interview, November 7, 1984 (circumstances of Hayden’s death); Robert Farnum Bakemeier, Personal Knowledge.

# Avon Corn Festival Report

By Jean Batzing

The 24th Rotary Corn Festival was very special to the Avon Preservation and Historical Society. It was the first year the organization entertained in their new home at 23 Genesee St. The AP&HS Tent in its usual location in front of the Central Presbyterian Church, was a convenient spot to also peruse Avon's history.

The new book "History Restored" proved to be especially popular. Debbie Morrow, editor of the book, autographed for those purchasing one. The cover artist for the book, Deirdre Keating, was also on hand. An 8' by 4' panel on the history of the Opera Block, done by Virginia House, was a good reason for many to stop and take a long look how Avon's history can be saved.

Mary Liz Stanton was in her usual spot at the tent selling Memberships and receiving \$\$\$ for items and books sold. There were six renewal, and several new memberships. Memberships expire December 2010.

The Historical Society would like to thank all that visited the two areas, made purchases and especially to volunteers; setting up and taking down the tent, volunteering time to be in one of the AP&HS locations, and especially to the Rotarians for making the Corn Festival a great Community Event.

## NOTICE:

**Docent Chairman and Docents needed, for AP & HS. No experience necessary, need not be a member of the board.**

## DOCENTS

As the Avon Historical & Preservation continues to grow, so also are our needs for volunteers/docents for the hours that the Historical Society is open. The hours are 2-4 pm on Thursday and Sunday. There is an orientation and also a checklist for you to follow. If you have any free time and are interested, please contact the Historical Society and become a new volunteer/docent. You can volunteer for one day a month or one day a week, or whatever fits your schedule. It is a fun and exciting way to learn more about the community in which you live, and to meet interesting people.

# In the People Who Never Get Enough Credit Category...

Everyone loves the ACS lunch ladies, even if they may sometimes grumble about the food. The servers were "Moms" waiting for us with daily smiles while reminding us to eat our vegetables. Bus drivers get to know children as well as teachers and amazingly manage to do their job with fifty or so back seat drivers! Thank you all for your part in our memories - **To all past and present lunch ladies and bus drivers!**



LEFT TO RIGHT: Mrs. Thew, Mrs. McKeown, Mrs. Goodberlet, Mrs. Wilbur, Mrs. McNinch, Mrs. Fusco. ABSENT: Mrs. Fincher and Miss Anderson.



FRONT ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: Mr. Kellen, Mr. Miller, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Farrell. SECOND ROW: Mr. Williams, Mr. Cook, Mr. McKeown, Mr. Ford. ABSENT: Mr. Linder and Mr. Finity.

**Staff at Avon High School - 1963**





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### One Hundred Years Ago

What Made the Journal Kept by  
Will Leighton, Avon Postmaster

#### July, 1910

20 **Henry Pease** drove his auto from the city line on Genesee St. to Canawagus in 33 minutes.

26 Farmers are threshing their largest wheat crop in years. 35-45 bushels per acre.

27 **Frank Kellogg** went to Rochester in the first trolley and brought back a Hudson roundabout.

28 **Whitmore** has a new Oakland touring car.

#### August

3 **Frank Kellogg** and G. D. Doer were elected to the school board today.

5 A girl was born to the **J. L. Westfall's** at 10PM today.

9 **Danny McLaughlin** died this morning.

10 **Mr. Weed and Frank Kellogg** went to Rochester on the #18 to see the 1911 Cadillac.

#### September

5 Big Fireman's Field Day & Parade - dinner at **St. Agnes** school.

6 **Mr. Weed** went to Rochester to get a new Cadillac.

11 They are preparing to build a new river bridge.

29 The steel girders are almost across for the new river bridge.

### ACCESSIONING

We have received and accessioned nearly two hundred items that were donated thus far this year. They include military uniforms, books, photographs, toys, furniture, glassware, paintings, soldering irons and even some copper items that survived that devastating fire at the Avon Copper Shop. We are especially interested in items pertaining to the Erie Railroad and to the various fire departments that have been in Avon.

As we continue to build our collections, if you have any items that no longer hold your interest or that you do not have room for, please consider a donation to the Avon Historical and Preservation Society.



*James Doer & Chestnut.*



# Avon Preservation & Historical Society

## Newsletter

VOLUME 22, No. 4

www.avonhistorical.org

Fall 2010

## One Room Schoolhouses

By Carolyn Swanton

Like everywhere else in this country at one time, Avon relied on one room schoolhouses and it wasn't as long ago as you might think. There are many people alive who attended these early facilities, signing our list at a recent **Avon Rotary Corn Festival**. One of the first buildings sought for by the **Genesee Country Museum Village** was the schoolhouse from across the **Elm Place Farm** on the East River Road. They also obtained the replica log cabin from Elm Place of the very first school building, which is considered "almost" authentic.

One room schoolhouses were commonplace across the nation until the 1930's when the invention of the automobile made it possible for rural children to be transported to schools. "As late as 1913 one half of the school children in the U. S. were enrolled in the country's 212,000 one room schoolhouses."

"Perceptions of American country school are clouded by two contradictory myths. One is that country schools are the poor stepchildren of American education...and the other is of the little red schoolhouse pleasantly situated beneath shade trees and full of bright, young students eager to learn their lessons and please their teacher." page 52 "School Days" Andrew Gulliford, Historic Preservation Book excerpt.



*One of Avon's one room schoolhouses  
(poss. Sugarberry School)*

Most students were lucky and had a good teacher, but a poor teacher could hold back a whole community. Teachers also had to be very versatile people. Not only did they have to be able to teach, but being the first to blaze the trails, literally, they had to do their own repairs, load up the potbellied stove to have heat, light kerosene lights and be a nurse to many ages. This was, of course, all done during a time when there was a large wolf and panther population and no phones, cell or otherwise!

Often older students were enlisted to teach the younger. This helped reinforce their instruction and gave them good training skills. This is the basic principle used by the successful **Head Start Program** adapted to assist children in need and their siblings.

The one room schoolhouse was the focus of every community as it still is in the communities where they still use this method. The identity of rural communities became inextricably linked with their schools and some went to great lengths across the country to keep their one roomed schools open for as long as the law would allow. "Furniture generally consisted of a cross legged table, high back chair, a water pail (with) dipper and a splint broom."(page 49 Ye Old Log School House Tymes, James S. Minard 1905)

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS -  
ANNUAL MEETING -  
January 30, 2011 • 2:00PM**



*Photo of the Class of 1926 Dutch Hollow School in their Junior Year. Back row left to right: Fred Futter, Donald Gross, Vernon Durkee, Alloysius Malone, Jean Curry, Gertrude Futter, Esther Nye, Mrs. Forest Gardner, teacher, and Florence Durkee. Front Row: Alex Davidson, Mary Clements (Mrs. Arnold Woleslagle), Hugh Clements, Eugenia Nye, Eleanor Nichols, Rebecca Gardner, Norman Futter, Raymond Nichols, Jr., "Red" Walter Nichols, and Sidney Futter.*

## Membership Dues

By Jean Batzing

As the world grew smaller through technology, communities merged for larger schools and better programs. Gone was the bond between the older students and their younger colleagues. Much prose went out the window along with the slate readers, dunce's caps and the sense of giving back. Is progress advancement? Certainly our grammar has taken a hit.

2010 has been an exciting year for the Society. Since having to move out of the Depot Building on Railroad St. in 1988 and putting our museum collection in storage, we have been operating out of a "suitcase" until this spring when we were able to move in and open our museum in the restored Opera Block. With our new quarters come additional expenses. Thus for the first time since the Society was founded in 1983, we will need to, reluctantly, increase our annual membership dues.

### **New Annual Dues**

**Individual** \$10

**Family** \$20

**Business** \$30

Also in 2011, we will begin a rolling membership structure where the dues when paid will cover the next 12 months. This will provide us continuous cash flow throughout the year as well as treat new members who join us later in the year fairly. An additional benefit for members beginning next year will be a 10% discount when purchasing items we have for sale in the museum.



*Florida schoolhouse illustrating indigenous materials were used everywhere*

# Political Correctness in Avon

By Carolyn Swanton

I was very surprised to see the Confederate Flag displayed on high in our new Exhibition Hall last May. I was told by a board member that he wanted to honor the soldiers of the Confederacy. When I reminded him that they were traitors to our Nation, he said that at the end of the war everyone shook hands and went home happy. While I dispute this, I personally find the flag offensive in a public hall. **Stephen Thomas**, Director Emeritus of the **RMSC**, told me that **Ely S. Parker, a Seneca American**, had written the treaty which the North and South signed at Appomattox Court House in Virginia. Upon seeing such a dark skinned man at this rather humiliating circumstance, Gen Lee asked that Parker be removed, but was informed that he was one of the dignitaries and had to stay. The flag came down for the quilt show, but it is back up as if it were a relic of Avon. My ancestors fought against the rebs who openly defied our Constitution and I believe it is best to leave their flag in the past.

My family moved from Avon to Lynchburg, VA in 1957. It was my sister, Susan's Junior year in high school. We both went to segregated schools, as we had no choice. My stomach actually turned the first time I saw a "colored only/whites only" drinking fountain in public and the obvious disparity between the two of them. I knew it wasn't right and I was just a little kid! We moved back to Avon before the end of the school year where we could pick our own friends.

I have lived in the beautiful south since then and know that although laws have changed, there are still KKK members who pass along their "tradition" of hate and the new Neo-Nazi's who think they are being super patriotic. All embracing the Stars and Bars as their flag of choice.

Political correctness stopped the hilarious minstrel shows from performing for our entertainment. The very first minstrel shows were held by African-Americans to amuse each other in makeshift buildings. The music and bawdy humor was soon no secret and white folks began sneaking

in tents to catch the acts. Whites then tried to copy the routines in their normal getups but the audiences didn't laugh. However, when make-up was put on and exaggerated personalities came out, all had a good time. But, as stereotypes became insulting and misleading, moral people of all races objected, and black face comedies were halted.



*Photos of minstrel shows in Avon*

In Avon, blacks were not the ones I remember being parodied except by the black face make up.

Italians, like **Dom D'Angelo** made fun of themselves with his "Donna Squeeza the tomatoes" routine. The Chinese and English were also often brought into the game. I am sorry that new generations are missing out on the

musical experience of a minstrel show. I will never forget the fun of

watching the **Jess Furlans** dance together, my Dad sing barber shop and all the people of Avon showing off their talents. Soloists **Nancy Mason** and **Mary Collins** were always a delight.

During the 1960's when foul language became more acceptable via the media, Johnny Carson was interviewed about use of "dirty words" on TV. He told his friend, Merv Griffin that the dirtiest words in the English language are the words that people use to hurt each other. Names that make fun of a person's race, religion, lifestyle or nationality have no place in American society. I always thought Johnny was a very wise man after that and feel that the Confederate flag belongs in that genre.\*Opinions reflected here are not necessarily the opinions of the AP&HS Board. Please feel free to respond.



**Avon Preservation and  
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Avon Town Hall  
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## Address Service Requested

### One Hundred Years Ago

What Made the Journal kept  
by Will Leighton, Avon Postmaster

#### October, 1909

8 **C.C. Hovey** was buried in Lima today.

19 **T. H. Duffy** died this evening.

20 **Myron H. Bronson** died today.

27 **Edna Hogmire** and **George Williams** were married  
this evening to night in Rochester

#### November

8 Only 276 votes were cast.

10 **Herman Dooer** and **Frances Lacy** were married this  
evening. It was a great surprise to all their friends.

22 St. Agnes Church Fair

#### December

12 **Mr. Weed** received word this am that his father,  
**Charlie**, had died last night at Austin, PA of heart disease.



*Avon Inn Newell Post - Photo by Carolyn Swanton*

### Avon Preservation & Historical Society awarded prestigious Barber S. Conable Award for its Opera Block Restoration

Presented by the Landmark Society of  
Western NYS in a ceremony on East Avenue.



*Opera Block*





# Avon Preservation & Historical Society

## *Newsletter*

VOLUME 23, No. 1

www.avonhistorical.org

Winter 2011

### Memorial Issue 2010

## Zinc Grave Markers

by Carolyn Swanton

Ornamental white bronze or zinc castings were produced in only a few foundries and just for a short time in America. In fact, most castings came from the Monumental Bronze Company of Bridgeport, CT from between 1874 to 1914 as researched by enthusiast, **Donald Hall**, Director Emeritus of the Strassenburgh Planetarium, and a fellow former Board member of the **Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery** in Rochester.

Zinc's durability, especially when exposed to the weather made it particularly desirable for use in outdoor statuary and monuments. White bronze is not an alloy, but a refined zinc of almost absolute purity, and weathers to a light blue-grey in color. When zinc is exposed to air it quickly becomes covered with a thin layer. This hard, enamel like coating of oxide, prevents further oxidation, ideal for longevity. However, as Don Hall noted, "It was a good idea that never caught on."

The castings were highly adaptable, just as cast iron was in architecture. Perfect for eclectic artists, as any motif could be expressed, which was highly important to Victorians. Many books have been written about Victorian Symbolism. People knowledgeable about Scripture incorporated references into stone through visuals rather than direct quotes.



*Photo of Ward Monument in East Avon Cemetery*

Lambs, symbols of meekness and innocence, usually designated children; while anchors, sheaves of wheat and the crown on the cross were among those for reverent adults. A tree with its limbs cut, urns, columns and obelisks have also been favorites throughout the ages.

Earlier monuments were plain, with little ornamentation excluding weeping willows, which were acceptable along with skulls with wings and other deathly images. Script was often hard to read and many have weathered beyond recognition.

Zinc gravestones could be purchased through a Montgomery Ward Catalog by the 1880's and have it delivered! It was considered cheaper by some, but was ultimately the wisest decision. Monuments were designed to be viewed and read by all who came after the deceased. Because so many families visited cemeteries during

the Victorian times, it was considered highly important to have your family's name recorded in the silent, but active community in town.

Anyone tracing genealogy will find cemetery records invaluable. It is one of the only places that a woman's maiden name appears and cemetery records usually lists the cause of death. (For more about the Ward Manufacturing, see AP & HS newsletter Sept. 2003.)

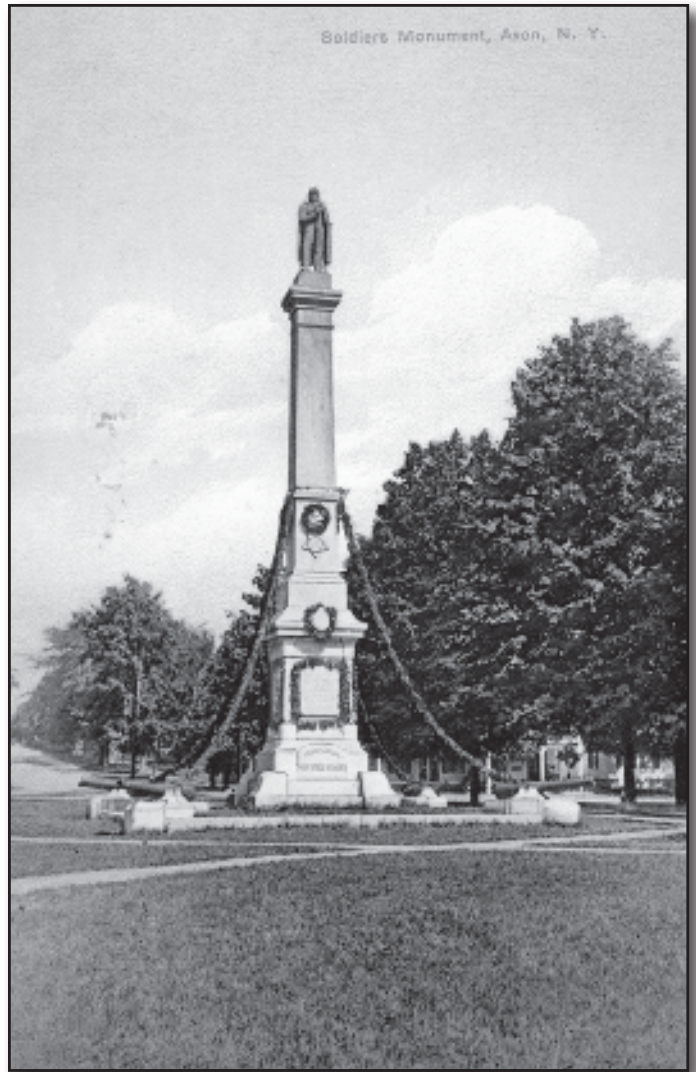
## Editor's Note

by Carolyn Swanton

The Board received an eloquently written letter from **Mr. Sim Sutterby** of Orlando, FL, and formerly of Avon, NY regarding an article in the last issue. So, I would like to clarify the editorial "Political Correctness" which brought up for discussion the Confederate flag currently hanging in our exhibition hall.

Having worked with six historical establishments/museums along the east coast in Florida, Georgia and in New York State, I noted that Georgia was the only other place I saw a confederate flag and they were all authentic. The real stitching with the blood, sweat and tears of *any* American soldier is surely an artifact. Mr. Sutterby correctly wrote, "The Confederate battle flag is a proud symbol for Southern American resistance to Federal and foreign domination." Sim also pointed out that many northerners had slaves or indentured servants at one time, as at the time of our colonization, it was still customary.

Like most people I had relatives on both sides of the war, but our **Soldiers Monument** in Avon's park circle is only for local heroes. Here is where we engaged in setting slaves free via the underground railroad and that would be a far more accurate message to convey to the public about our town's heritage, than a shiny new replica from another part of the country. Our park monument dates to the winter of 1865 when "patriotic citizens formed an association of which **Calvin Knowles** was President. Through the efforts of an address delivered by **W. C. Hosmer** in Marsh's Hall, a concert in the Methodist Church and entertainment by the ladies of Avon, the amount was raised to start their tribute." Given our very limited display space, and considering that there are many people who find new confederate flags offensive, is this really the best use of our space? That was the question.



*Postcard of the Soldiers Monument in Avon*

**Please understand that I am the only one responsible for the opinions in this article. It is well known that others disagree with me on the Board.**

---

## Coyne Farms Takes Top NY State Award!

The January 20, 2011 *Livingston County News* reported that an Avon business had been awarded this honor. "The Business of the Year award recognizes quality, innovation, industry, leadership, community advocacy, and continued development... Irish immigrant Malachy Coyne purchased a 192 acre farm for his family in 1922. Starting with 20 cows milked by hand, the farm is now being operated by a fourth generation of Coyne's in Avon." Their "Dairy of Distinction" located on Routes 5 & 20 in East Avon occupies the historic lands of the pioneering Pierson family and is still making history with its innovative manure management program of "Worm Power."

It should also be noted that "1500 acres of their farmland has been placed under contract with NYS to be permanently

protected and exclusively available for farming forever." Congratulations to the **Richard and Jeanne (Sutterby) Coyne** family!



## Avon's Spas

### PART I - Canawaugus "Stinking Waters"

by Carolyn Swanton

#### *"First there was the water"*

The **Iroquois Trail** was a footpath that ran through forests, over hills, streams and rivers, between what are now the cities of Albany and Buffalo in New York State. It was seen as the center aisle down the Great Longhouse of the Iroquois League Nation. The path was wide enough for one person, a foot deep in some places, beaten down by so many runners. The trail connected the Five Nations. The Iroquois were famous runners and a good messenger could travel 50 miles in a day. They ran, not only for important messages, but to visit relatives and bring things back from marketplaces.

A major Seneca settlement, Canawaugus was discussed in the Spring, 2008 AP&HS issue. The **Avon Downs** park and race track occupies the land (at the end of Spring Street) opposite **Handsome Lake** from where the native village stood. These stinking waters were revered by the Seneca, who were wise enough to know their healing powers and tried in vain to keep possession of the treasured water.

Suddenly the Iroquois were faced with the dire problem of whom would they trust in this wave of white men: those trying to take their land or those promising to help them, the English? They trusted the King's army and gave them crops and refuge for their troops, but were not so easily talked out of their land. It is easy to understand now why it was so hard to defeat these well trained hunters and gatherers who knew this region so well. When British soldiers learned that it was not going to be by their wit that they would take the Iroquois' land, they outnumbered them.

"Looking back at the lost paradise, the beaten Seneca saw in the sky that hazy early September of 1779 the smoke come out of their burning villages. From Kanadesaga (Geneva) to Kanandaigua (Canandaigua) to Little Beard's Town (Cuylerville) all were reduced to ashes. George Washington's "Red Menace" problem had been solved.

**Tomahawks and Old Lace (Arch Merrill 1948) P 10**

## Boyd & Parker

"Sullivan's massacre" was to the Iroquois like Sherman's "march to the sea" was to the Confederacy. Sullivan's soldiers wrote in their diaries about skinning the dead natives to make leather stockings.\* When those proud braves found their desecrated family members, they vowed a painful revenge. When a few remaining Seneca came across two of Sullivan's scouts, **Boyd & Parker**, in Cuylerville, they held the two accountable for various deeds at the famed "Torture Tree," now a fenced state park.

As if torture wasn't enough of an uneasy rest for the two men, their remains (hopelessly mixed together) were dug up many years later to be reentered in Mount Hope Cemetery in Rochester. During the formal ceremony it began to pour a heavy rain, so people dropped what they were doing and ran for cover. Upon returned they discovered that dogs had gotten into the box of bones and spread them around the hilly 300 acre burial ground. The military gathered what they could identify, and they are at rest now.

The water remains... To be continued.

## One Hundred Years Ago What Made the Journal Kept by Will Leighton, Avon Postmaster

### January, 1911

19 **William van Zandt** died about 9pm aged 83.

### February

8 **Frank Kellogg** attended the auto show in Buffalo

15 Twenty inches of snow on the ground.

### March

23 **Charles Vaniterson** was found dead in Macabee Hall this A.M. He had committed suicide by taking carbonic acid.

27 **Mrs. John T. Marshall** died this A.M.

---

## House Plaques

The plaque is a metal oval, about 10 inches wide, with the construction year of your home and the words "Avon Historical Society" printed in gold.

The plaque is available for \$75. For further information or the necessary forms, contact: James Brewer, 14 Nune Park, Avon, NY 14414. Phone 226-2729.

Remember, these plaques make nice gifts. A plaque can be ordered for any home regardless of age.





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# Memorial Page - 2010

**Batzel, Carole** nee O'Dea,

**Buske, James A.**

**Collins III, George**

**D' Angelo, Gladys (Mrs. Philip)** nee Cole

**D' Angelo, Sam** - Last person to own and operate the Avon Macaroni Comp.

**Dioguardi, John S.** - (Jan. 6) U. S. Air Force, Veteran of the Korean War, past commander of the American Legion in Avon.

**Fusco, Rose**

**Greer, Ruby (Mrs. Robert)** nee Orman

**Greer, Thomas**

**LaGeorge, Joseph** - WWII Navy Veteran.

**Landon, Glenn** - Insurance Co.

**Mulvaney, William** - Former mayor of Avon, barber extraordinaire.

**Pusateri, Frank** - From Cerda, Sicily in 1922, U.S. Army Vet, U. S. Mail System, later operated the Cottonwood Inn at Conesus Lake, American Legion.

**Pusateri, Josephine "Pep"**

**Quinlain, Kevin P.** - former mayor, proprietor of Mobil gas station in town.

**Schweitzer, Rob** - Lions Club

**Webb, Beverly** (nee Mastin)

**Welch, Jane (Mrs. Daniel)** - AP&HS

**Wilfeard, Kenneth E.**



*Photo of the "Snyder Sisters" taken at the Avon Bicentennial with Tom Moran. Left to right: Betty Neubeck, Suzie (Charles) Connor, Patty (Ted) Tubbs, Dorothy Snyder (Mrs. Donald) and Connie (Mrs. Frank) Snyder. Missing: Judy Snyder.*



# Avon Preservation & Historical Society

*Newsletter*

VOLUME 23, No. 1

[www.avonhistorical.org](http://www.avonhistorical.org)

Early Spring 2011

## ≡ *Celebration Issue 2011* ≡

### Opera Block

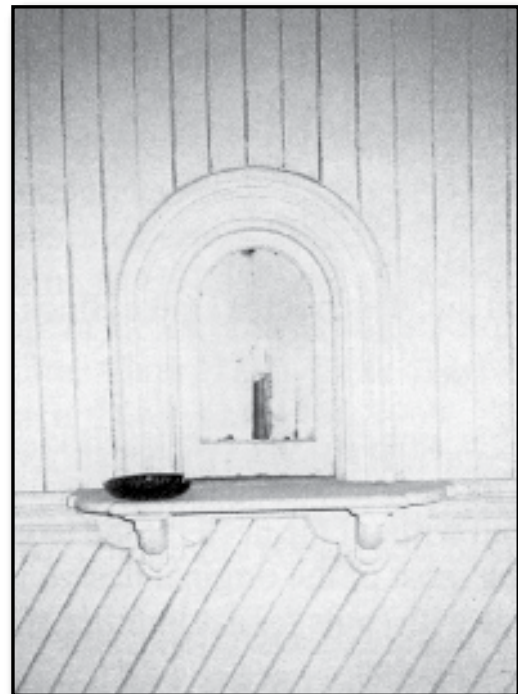
The Opera Hall was the site for musicals, dances, dramatic productions, vaudeville, minstrel shows, lectures, high school graduations, and at one time, basketball games. Will Leighton listed many of the activities in his journal. Entries for the Opera Block include:

- June 19, 1905 Prize speaking contest at the Opera House with first place going to Ed Nobel and Margaret Sackett.
- June 22, 1905 Alumni banquet was held at the Livingston Hotel with the dance at the Opera House.
- November 15, 1905 Businessmen's Carnival
- February 15, 1906 Minstrel Show
- June 18, 1906 Essay Contest
- November 13, 1907 Chemical Company (firemen) gave a well-attended play, "Way Down South".
- December 27, 1907 Leap Year Party. 55 couples attended.
- May 22, 1908 DeRue Brothers Minstrel Company is in town.
- November 10, 1908 Minstrel Show using local talent.
- February 19, 1912 The new Avon Board of Trade holding an Industrial Exposition. It was estimated that over 2,000 attended during the week.
- February 21, 1912 Senior Class Dance.
- December 28, 1914 - Troop M. Ball. New Troop M (militia) sworn in at Ashantee March 21, 1914.
- March 12, 1917 Troop M returned (WWI) with a big celebration in the Park.
- March 16, 1917 Reception and dance for Troop M at the Opera Block.

- June 12, 1919 Parade of returned soldiers. Dinner at the Avon Inn, dance at the Opera Block.
- February 22, 1922 Masquerade Ball.

Activities diminished in the Hall as other locations became available, notably, the construction of Avon High School, 1907 and St. Agnes School, 1908, each with its own auditorium/gymnasium facilities. The condition of the great hall has worsened over time, but without the need for the large auditorium to be "up-graded," we have a gem of rare beauty holding most of the original design in tact. Autographs of performers, dressing room commentary, the stage with spots for gas lighting, the floor of unusual design, wainscoting, box office - all as they have always been.

With purchase of the building by the Town of Avon, it is planned that space will be utilized to best serve the community and to preserve its history as well.



## Avon Town Hall

J. C. Walliss Hardware stood on the site of the present Avon Town Hall at 27 Genesee Street. In 1906, it was destroyed by fire. The property was purchased by the State Bank of Avon and a new building was planned.

William Leighton closely charted progress of construction in his journal, from the August 7, 1906 entry stating that bids for the building had been received, through the foundation work August 29; brick laying September 13; timbers, September 19; arrival of stone from Carson Brothers on September 24; placing of cut stone, September 25, etc. On March 23, 1907, Judges Nash and Carter moved into upper rooms in the new building and banking transactions began on the first floor May 6.

The Great Depression had a mighty effect on Avon, as it did throughout the country. On October 26, 1931, the State Bank of Avon was taken over by the Banking Department for liquidation. Though the bank was closed and people had to travel to other communities for any banking business, the building was saved through diligence and financial investment on the part of a group of individuals from the community.

In 1934, the Union Trust Bank opened at the site. There was great rejoicing in the streets of Avon as band music, parades and ribbon-cutting welcomed the new

financial institution. The name of the bank evolved between 1934 and 1980, as companies merged, so that it was Marine Midland Bank that moved to the new location on the east side of Genesee Street in October, 1982. Since that date, the building has served as Avon Town Hall and is home to the Museum of the Avon Preservation and Historical Society.



***And Look At Us Now!***

# ***Celebrations!***

**The APHS Board of Trustees are delighted to announce that for the first time since the Roarin' 20's, the third floor of Avon's Opera Block was opened for a public gathering and celebration. This event was truly the culmination of a year filled with the tremendous joy and anticipation of opening our new museum, historian's office and meeting rooms.**

## **AVON TOWN BOARD PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS, the residents and guests of the great Town of Avon, New York recognize the 90th birthday of **Jean Ersla Downing Batzing**, a giving member of our community, which she loves so dearly.

WHEREAS, Jean was born February 23, 1921, in our community of then mostly farmers. Jean was the first baby born to the original members of The Inverness Community Club, whose records begin about 1920 listing members and activities through 2003. Original members are all deceased; and

WHEREAS, most of Jean's childhood was spent at 55 East Main Street, graduating from Avon Central School in 1939. The Senior Vesper Service was held in the High School Auditorium and the program had a scripture reading, prayers and the singing of the hymn, "Jesus Calls Us"; and

WHEREAS, attendance at the Geneseo Normal School, where one could choose the study of teacher or librarian. In 1943, Jean was amongst the first class to graduate under the four year plan, then named the University of the State of New York in Geneseo; and

WHEREAS, she began her career in teaching, then returning to the University to continue her education and in 1960 received her Master's degree and retired after 33 years of teaching and serving as an administrator and;

WHEREAS, also in 1960 Jean was married to Dewey, both being of the same mind as others of that era, that marriage is forever. Their marriage was one that they both treasured until death did them part on September 8, 1993 with Dewey's passing and;

WHEREAS, Jean has volunteered in many capacities such as the Livingston County Children's Protective Association, a driver for the Avon Nutrition Center, as an early Member of the Avon Preservation and Historical Society, the Millennium Celebration, and Red Cross Blood Drives, Friendly Service Representative for the Livingston County Retired Teachers Association, Election Inspector, a judge of the Avon Springs Lodge Youth Talent Show, Crop Walk, Avon Interfaith Council, Livingston County Cooperative Extension Board of Directors, Farm Home Administration, Chairman of the Cancer Drive for the Town of Avon, Judge for Brainstormers and Odyssey of the Mind, Episcopal Church Home, Avon Nursing Home, the Livingston County Cornell Cooperative Extension Service, Lay Eucharist and lay reader and;

WHEREAS, Mrs. Batzing has deep roots in the Avon Community and exemplifies outstanding citizenry, a tradition of excellence in teaching, farming, volunteering and a commitment to the Avon Community and the great State of New York.

WHEREAS, she was honored with a "Surprise Birthday Celebration" held February 20, 2011 at the Opera Block/Town Hall on the third floor, with more than 190 attendees.

**Therefore, Be it Resolved** the Avon Town Board does hereby formally recognize

## **JEAN ERSLA DOWNING BATZING'S 90TH BIRTHDAY**

by declaring February 23rd as Jean Ersla Downing Batzing Day.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my Hand and Signature

**David L. LeFeber, Supervisor**

## **NEW YORK STATE PROCLAMATION**

Whereas, it is the desire of the community to celebrate great occasions and recognize the achievements of its citizens. Birthdays are one such celebration of a life well lived and a tribute to the individual from family and friends; and

Whereas, Mrs. Jean Batzing was born February 23, 1921, and celebrates her 90th Birthday this year, a momentous occasion to be shared by her family and friends. Jean Batzing celebrates nearly a century of good times and loving memories, first with her husband, Dewey, they enjoyed 33 years together building their home on Poison Ivy Lane in Caledonia. Jean Batzing is a graduate of the State University of New York at Geneseo, and was both a teacher and then served as principal at the Livonia Central School District; and she is a volunteer for many community organizations; and further be it

Resolved, that as a duly elected Member of the State Assembly of New York, I recognize that on the most auspicious occasion of Jean Batzing's 90th Birthday Celebration, February 20, 2011, we pause to recognize a deserving individual, one who is worthy of the esteem of both the Community and the great State of New York.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto Set my Hand and Signature, Dated: February 20, 2011

**Daniel J. Burling, Member of Assembly**



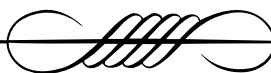
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Jean Batzing	John DuBois
James Brewer	James Gerace

**Address Service Requested**



**The Sesquicentennial of the Civil War**

**Commemorative county-wide *Bell Ringing Event* was held on Tuesday, April 12, 2011 at 10:00am.**

On Tuesday, April 12th at 10:00 am churches, schools and individuals in every corner of the county were requested to simultaneously ring bells for two minutes to mark the solemn occasion. The public was invited to gather together to reflect upon the sound of the bells, the "call to battle" and the effects of the Civil War. After the bells were silenced, community leaders, teachers and students were asked to read an appropriate poem or passage.

**Tidbits**

From Will Leighton's Journal  
 Provided by Barbara Dolgos

⇌ 1911 ⇌

**April ~**

- 5 **M.W. Hine** was elected fire chief
- 12 There was a grass fire in the vacant lot next to Nesbit.
- 15 **Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Clark** have a new baby (Relly)
- 21 **Harry Carr**, a switchman was killed in the railroad yards about 10 a.m. He got his foot caught in a guard rail and 2 cars ran over him.
- 24 **Mabel Clark & Howard Gott** announced their engagement today
- 28 **Henry Burt** came today to act as Mgr. of the Avon Inn.

**May ~**

- 20 **Fred Chappell** has a new auto
- 26 **Mr. Hall** died about 11 p.m. tonight.



**Buy A House Plaque Here**

The plaque is a metal oval, about 10 inches wide, with the construction year of your home and the words "Avon Historical Society" printed in gold.

The plaque is available for \$75. For further information or the necessary forms, contact: James Brewer, 14 Nune Park, Avon, NY 14414. Phone 226-2729.

Remember, these plaques make nice gifts. A plaque can be ordered for any home regardless of age.





# Avon Preservation & Historical Society

## Newsletter

VOLUME 23, No. 1

www.avonhistorical.org

Summer 2011



1987



1988



1989



1990



1991



1992



1993



2010



2009



2008



2007



2006



2005



2004



2003



2002



2001



2000



1999

**Here Ye! Here Ye!**

**'Tis The 25th Anniversary Of The Avon Rotary Corn Festival**

**Saturday, August 13, 2011**

**10:00am - 4:00pm**

**Genesee Street, Downtown Avon**

*The APHS Is An Enthusiastic Participant In This Annual Celebration!*

2011 heralds the second year the APHS has been fortunate to be able to participate at both the North and South ends of Genesee Street!

As always we will have our display tent in front of the Avon Library and Central Presbyterian Church where this venue serves for networking, historical pictorial displays, and of course, collectibles for purchase.

As a point of interest, for more than a decade of the Corn Festival's 25 year history, APHS' journal/publication committee has published a book in time for display and sale at our Festival tent. Much research went into all of these historically themed books telescoping Avon's past - from our agricultural history both past and present to our famous spa era and grand hotels, to our horse country heritage, and of course the Opera Block. Copies will be available for purchase at both the display tent and at our new Museum location in the Opera Block where we will also be on-site eager to give you a tour of our exhibits!



1994



1995



1996



1997



1998

## One Hundred Years Ago

As recorded by Will Leighton, Avon Postmaster, 1st half of 20th century. Kindly shared as an ongoing feature of the AP&HS Newsletter by Barbara Collins Dolgos.

### June, 1911

- 5 W.E. Cole has a new Cadillac
- 12 Scott Cole was buried today.
- 13 Lulu Salley Sackett died at 2 A.M.
- 14 Howard & Mabel Gott were married at 7:30 A.M. at Zion Church
- 18 Dr. Frost preached his first sermon as pastor of Presb. Church
- 19 Milo Moran was so badly injured by being crushed between 2 cars at Batavia that he died in about 8 hrs.
- 22 170 were present at the Alumni Banquet and a dance was held afterwards at the Opera House.
- 27 Geo. Root caught a fellow from Rochester who had stolen an auto, at 5 PM

### July

- 3 98 degrees - hottest day in 40 years
- 8 Mr. Weed, Frank Kellogg, Zim Gilbert & J.L. Westfall went to Cobbs Hill where they saw an airplane in flight for the first time.
- 19 Mrs. W.G. Markham's funeral was held this afternoon
- 24 Judy E. Nash died about 11 AM
- 27 Rely Shattuck died about 8:30 this evening

### August

- 1 E.H. Clark died about 10 PM
- 21 Mr. Weed went to Rochester to see the 1912 Cadillac
- 23 Jamie Carson & J.S. Westfall went to Rochester to see the GAR Encampment. Pres. Taft reviewed the parade & spoke.
- 30 At 7:30 PM Aaron Barber's auto overturned near Cuylerville. Mr. & Mrs. Barber, Mr. & Mrs. W.E. Hall & Travis Paylor were in the car. Paylor & Mrs. Hall were quite badly injured.
- 31 Mr. Kellogg & Mr. Weed went to Cuylerville this AM & returned with Mr. Barber's auto. It was quite badly marred but returned under its own power.



## Celebrating a Life Well Lived

On July 31, 2011, Letha Brown-Ridley celebrated her 100th birthday as Avon's newest centurian.

Letha Ridley's passion for learning began at a young age. A self described book worm who loved to study, she credits her parents for encouraging her in her education. Following her graduation from Shaw University in Raleigh, NC in 1932, Ridley taught middle school math and science for a decade before moving to the Rochester area.



*Letha Brown-Ridley*

Married in 1937 to William Ridley Jr., Letha gave birth to a son, William III in 1944. Shortly after, her husband's work with Stromberg Carlson led the family to relocate to Rochester, NY.

Mrs. Ridley's Rochester teaching career started with a late night phone call from the City School District for a substitute teacher. Success with a difficult class led to a full time teaching position. A few years later, Mrs. Ridley became a "Helping Teacher" charged with the supervision of teachers new to the district. She was recognized in 1958 as "Representative of the Best in the Teaching Profession." When questioned about classroom management, Mrs. Ridley explained, "They were children and I was the adult. I was the teacher and we had rules and regulations to go by. We were all expected to follow them." Days frequently began with a discussion of classroom etiquette. The classroom, Mrs. Ridley stressed, was "a family, a place where we would live and let live."

In 1962, Mrs. Ridley became acting principal of School No. 20. She retired in 1973 after 24 years with the Rochester City School District, receiving multiple honors. She and her husband enjoyed traveling the U.S. during their retirement. Following his death in 1986, Mrs. Ridley continued to travel the world, visiting Europe, South America, Russia, China, Egypt, Greenland, New Zealand and Australia.

Active in her community, Mrs. Ridley earned numerous awards, including the "National Sojourner Truth Meritorious Service Award" in 1973, the Urban League of Rochester's "Award of Distinction" in 1979 and the "Empowered Women Award" presented by the Rochester Genesee Valley Club in 2009 on Rochester's 175th birthday.

A longtime resident of East Avon, Mrs. Ridley has served as a Deacon, Elder and Sunday school teacher at Avon First Presbyterian Church. Her life has truly been "a light shining bright for others to see" as expressed in a poem written in honor of her 98th birthday.

## What's Being Added To The AP&HS Newsletter!

**SUGGESTION BOX CORNER - We want YOUR input!! Let us know what you would like to read about! Send comments to:**

Avon Preservation & Historical Society  
c/o Joan Reid, Curator  
23 Genesee Street  
Avon, NY 14414

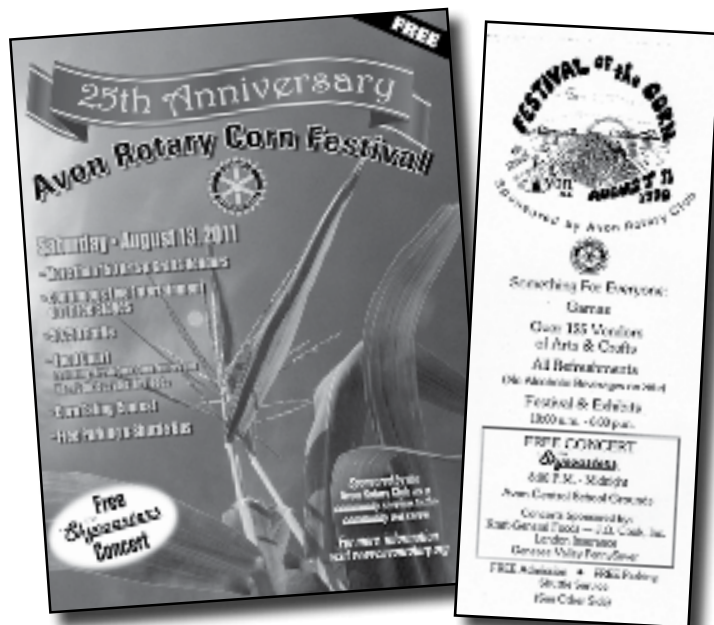
or e-mail us at: [Sknight.aphs@gmail.com](mailto:Sknight.aphs@gmail.com)

**RECENTLY ACQUIRED ARTIFACTS:** (A sampling of items donated since our last publication.)

- 1925 Genesee Valley Breeders Show First Place Blue Ribbon - Donated by Mr. John Kemp of Chili, New York.
- A wonderful mint condition Early American Doll in a lovely burgundy velvet dress (she now resides in a same era doll carriage in the forefront of our display area!) - Gifted to AP&HS by Mr. Richard Farrell of Avon.

**DO YOU KNOW? CAN YOU HELP US LOCATE?** (AP&HS has a number of collections of Avon memorabilia that are in sequenced sets - Unfortunately some are incomplete.)

- This issue's wish list: Avon Central School Year Books - any prior to 1943; 1982; 1985; 1990; 1993; 1994; 1995; 1996; 1997 and 2007.
- Corn Festival programs from 1987; 1989; 1990 and 1992.



## APHS THANKS YOU:

To the Avon Central School Sixth Grade Staff: Thank you for including us in your June Downtown Avon Walking Tour. We enjoyed showing your students our Museum Exhibits!

## EAT, DRINK AND BE MERRY!

(BUT be sure to send us any early Avon family recipes you may have which have been passed down in your family through the years!) Below, are this issue's selections:

### Corn Chowder

(Very quick and easy)

Submitted by Esther D'Angelo

- 5 slices bacon, crisped
- 1 - 1 lb. can of corn
- 1 medium onion, sliced thinly
- 1 1/2 c. milk
- 1 c. raw potatoes, diced
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 can condensed cream of celery soup

Cook the bacon slices until crisp. Remove bacon and most of fat. To the remaining fat in the pot, add the liquid from the can of corn, the onion, potatoes and salt. Cover and simmer 15 minutes or until potatoes are tender. Add the canned soup and milk. Also the drained corn. Heat through. Crumble the bacon

over chowder. (I sometimes use Mexican or add pimento as it has more eye appeal.) - St. Agnes Church, Avon, Rosary Society Cookbook, 1963

### W. V. Sackett's Cherry Puffs

Submitted by W. V. Sackett

- 1 egg
- 2 T. butter
- 1 1/2 c. fruit
- pinch salt
- 2 T. sugar
- 1 c. sweet milk
- 3 tsp. baking powder
- 2 scant c. bread flour

Put in cups and steam 1/2 hour. Serve with vanilla sauce. Recipe from: The Pantry Shelf Cookbook by Avon P.T.A. about 1915.

### Rhubarb Coffee Cake

Submitted by Myrtle Hinds

- |                                      |                         |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 1/2 c. brown sugar                 | 1 tsp. vanilla          |
| 1/2 c. shortening                    | 1 1/2 c. cut-up rhubarb |
| 1 egg                                | 1/2 c. sugar            |
| 2 c. flour                           | 1 tsp. cinnamon         |
| 1 tsp. baking soda in 1 c. sour milk | 1/2 c. chopped nuts     |

Put dough in two greased cake tins. Sprinkle combination of white sugar, cinnamon and nuts on top and bake. Bake at 350° for 45 minutes in a square pan.

- Zion Episcopal Church, Avon, Centennial Cookbook 19XX

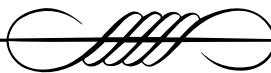


**Avon Preservation and Historical Society**  
 Avon Town Hall  
 27 Genesee Street  
 Avon, New York 14414

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## Address Service Requested



### What's New Continued...

## Civil War 150th Year Commemoration: 1861 - 2011

So many interesting pieces to write about and so difficult to choose!! However, AP&HS has two pieces of good fortune! First, word has it that our fellow Americans will be commemorating the Civil War Anniversary over the course of four years, giving us many more opportunities to share articles in the AP&HS newsletter. More importantly, we are privileged to have Mr. John DuBois as one of our Board Members, who, having spent years researching Civil War History, including of course Avon's bit in all of it (with special attention given to Avon Circle Park's monument and cannons), is our resident expert. Look forward to John DuBois' Civil War commentaries in AP&HS's future issues!

Below is a somewhat lighthearted vignette found by a Board member and taken from *Civil War Mascots and Pets: Stories of Man's Best Friend and Other Faithful Companions* by B. L. Atkins, Illustrated by S.A. Costanzo. Pub. Critter Company/Gettysburg. 2004...

### General Lee's Hen

During the months that led up to the Battle of Gettysburg in July of 1863, Confederate General Robert E. Lee traveled with a pet hen. Every morning the hen laid an egg under the General's camp bed. In return, Lee would leave the tent flap open so that she could wander freely about the camp.

As Lee's army retreated from Gettysburg on July 4th, the hen was discovered missing. Her disappearance caused Lee and his men considerable grief and a search party was formed. General Lee was not satisfied until his hen was found and placed securely in his wagon. Unfortunately for the hen, she met her fate with a stewpot later in the war.

*\*If you know of a friend or relative who wants a 2011-12 membership, the form below can be cut out and used. (One perk is that they will receive the newsletter!)*

### Avon Preservation & Historical Society MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please fill in below, tear off, and return to

AVON PRESERVATION AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
 23 Genesee Street • Avon, New York 14414

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate desired membership level

(   ) Individual \$10     (   ) Business \$30

(   ) Family \$20     (   ) Donation

Please make check payable to AP&HS

May we contact you to volunteer?

(   ) Yes     (   ) No

**Phone: 585-226-2425 x22**

**Email: SKnight.aphs@gmail.com**

Museum Hours: Thursday, 2-4 • Sunday, 2-4, Or by appointment.



# Avon Preservation & Historical Society

## Newsletter

VOLUME 25, No. 2

www.avonhistorical.org

SPRING 2012

### APHS MEMORIAL ISSUE - MAY 2012



#### Soldiers' Cenotaph

#### Inscription West Side of the Monument

During the winter of 1865, a number of citizens of Avon formed the Soldier's Monument Association. Its purpose was to erect a monument as a memorial to those who fought and died in the defense of their country during the Civil War.

Erected by the Town of Avon  
In Memory To Her Deceased and Fallen Soldiers  
Whose Names Are Inscribed Hereon

During the years 1874 to 1876, various activities were undertaken to raise the necessary funds to purchase this monument. Eventually \$4,284 was raised.

Rest Here for the Night  
Around the shaft are the names  
Fredericksburg  
Gettysburg  
Wilderness  
Atlanta

The monument was designed by a Mr. Peter Pitkin of Rochester and was the first in the area. It rises 45 feet above the base. It is made of granite and topped with marble statue of an American infantryman standing at "Parade Rest."

- Avon Preservation and Historical Society et al  
Printed May 2011

The monument was finished and dedicated on Memorial Day 1877. The dedication was attended not only by veterans of the Civil War but also veterans of the War of 1812 and the Mexican War.



**APHS Newsletter Staff Note:** *In honor of Memorial Day, the thought was how interesting our membership (especially the 80+ who reside out of town and/or state), might find it to receive the annual Avon Veterans and American Legion listing of the names of Avon's fallen heroes, including which wars fought in and which of Avon's cemeteries they were laid to rest. The APHS thanks the Avon VFW and The Avon American Legion for copy permissions.*

## **Veterans Buried in Avon**

### **AVON**

#### **World War I**

Adams, Kenneth  
Acker, Ralph  
Bradley, Merton  
Bradley, Percy  
Bryant, William  
Carter, William  
Cleaver, Fred  
Connors, James  
Dettrick, Frederick  
Downing, Robert  
Epner, Harvey  
Ellis, Louis  
Farnum, William W.  
Forsythe, William J.  
Green, James  
Harmon, Henry A.  
Henty, Clarence  
Hosmer, Stephen  
Iler, Charles  
Iler, Clyde  
Lang, Harry  
Laverty, Lillian  
LeFeber, Marvin  
Lucas, Roy  
Marschke, Albert  
Payne, Lewis  
Pollard, William  
Rightmeyer, David  
Ritchly, Gustav D.  
Robinson, William  
Schafer, Jennings  
Snyder, Arthur  
Stephenson, Frank  
Stephenson, Lyndale  
Stokes, Arthur  
Studley, George  
Woodruff, Buell

#### **World War II**

Ancker, Walter B., Sr.  
Babcock, Vernon F.  
Bailey, Albert  
Bailey, Lyndale  
Baker, Jack E.  
Banach, Dimytro  
Barbour, Albert  
Bartz, Emil  
Bartz, Rose M.  
Bellingier, Douglas D.  
Boyd, Ralph M.  
Bradley, Courtney  
Brandyberry, Paul  
Brewer, Gaylord  
Brown, J.  
Brown, Leonard A.  
Browne, Bruce V.  
Carrick, David S.  
Carrick, F. James, Sr.  
Clark, Harold R.  
Clark, Robert  
Coates, Jack  
Curtis, George F.  
Debruycker, Charles J.  
Epner, Harvey  
Figler, Edward A.  
Forsythe, Howard A.

Frazer, Donald  
Gillette, Floyd J.  
Goddard, William W.  
Hallett, Wilton E.  
Hands, Norman C.  
Hanna, Clarence  
Hoppe, Richard G.  
Ireland, Alfred  
Jackson, Sidney  
Johnson, Archie  
Kehr, Frederick W., Jr.  
Kellen, Matthew  
Kellogg, Martha  
Klien, Laverne  
Little, Arthur J.  
Long, Lois C.  
Longfellow, Harry E.  
Marschke, Arthur J.  
Marvin, Howard L.  
McFadden, Charles R.  
McFadden, Charles Sr.  
McLaughlin, Walter J.  
Miller, W. Douglas  
Miller, Grover F.  
Morrow, Nelson J.  
Neal, Newton E.  
Nelson, Walter H.  
Nevin, William J.  
Orman, Clayton E. (Pete)  
Peer, Howard D.  
Perrin, Royal T.  
Pike, Harley D.  
Queally, Dr. Francis J.  
Rankin, Bruce P.  
Robinson, Murry J.  
Robinson, Russell F.  
Rogers, Harold  
Rose, Owen  
Salvatore, Alpa  
Salvatore, Ray  
Schaefer, Herbert H., Jr.  
Scott, Farley E.  
Shaver, John H.  
Smith, Wesley E.  
Spence, Raymond  
Stevens, Alfred  
Stewart, George T.  
Tabor, William D.  
Teel, George P., Jr.  
Twamley, Burton  
Woodruff, Ralph W.  
Wright, William  
Young, John D.  
Yanowitch, R., MD.

#### **World War II,**

#### **Korea & Vietnam**

Whipple, Walton B.

#### **Korean War**

Arthur, Thomas E.  
Bailey, William F.  
Croston, Paul  
Haas, Charles J.  
Hallett, Duane  
L. Harden, William R. Jr.  
Johnson, Richard L., Sr.  
Keeley, Charles E.  
Krick, John C.  
Lee, Lorin C.  
Mortensen, George K.  
Smith, Roy A.  
Strother, William  
Tabor, William D.

#### **Vietnam War**

Barbour, Robert J.  
Bartz, Albert T.  
Cooper, Wayne H.  
Jackson, Taft, Jr.  
McFadden, Charles D.  
Regali, Robert F.  
Rightmyer, Richard J.  
Simpson, Donald E. Sr.  
Upright, Edward

#### **Persian Gulf**

Mason, Todd Hoyt  
Herczog, Sgt.  
Chester L. "Bo"

#### **Peace Time**

Kessler, Robert A.  
Koch, Thomas L.  
Stevens, Charles L.

### **ST. AGNES**

#### **World War I**

Barber, Charles  
Barnes, Harry C.  
Barton, Albert J.  
Becker, Edward H.  
Bodenstiner, John J.  
Campo, Antonio  
Cantanese, Louis  
Clark, George W.  
Cleary, Matthew T.  
Cole, Harold E., Sr.  
Dale, George T.  
Davin, Clarence T.  
Davin, Edwin  
Donegan, John V.  
Emerick, Arthur F.  
Fitzpatrick, Raymond J.  
Gallipeau, Joseph  
Hanretta, John T.  
Inzinna, Jerry  
Ippolito, Anthony  
Laverty, William J.  
Lewis, Frank W.  
Margiotta, Rocco  
McGinty, John  
McLaughlin, Lewis  
McLaughlin, Walter  
Mendola, Frank  
Michael, Lawrence W.  
O'Connell, Philip M.  
O'Keef, William C.  
Pellegreno, Gaspari  
Peri, Samuel J.  
Ryan, William  
Salley, Raymond J.  
Schafer, Carl G.  
Schafer, Frederick W.  
Schafer, William  
Schrör, Theodore H.  
Sherrin, Andrew J.  
Stanton, Thomas H.  
Thiel, Henry G.  
Vonglis, Harry G.  
Yull, William F.

#### **World War II**

Agnello, Leo L., Sr.  
Andrews, James B.  
Annis, Howard S.  
Archibald, Wm. Sidney  
Arcomo, Carmello  
Barber, Charles E.  
Baum, John R. "Jack"

Biondolillo, John J.  
Boor, Guy W.  
Brown, Edward  
Browne, W. Jack  
Burke, Albert C. Jr.  
Butler, Jack L.  
Campanella, Henry P.  
Campo, Gerald S.  
Cantanese, Joseph D.  
Cary, Fred L.  
Cash, Raymond  
Carlin, William T.  
Chowanniec, John  
Clark, Edward F.  
Coffey, James E.  
Cole, Harold E., Jr.  
Collins, Charles D.  
Colvin, Charles W.  
Colvin, John J.  
Coniglio, James J.  
Conine, Charles F.  
Connor, James M.  
Cosgriff, Carl F.  
Cottone, Samuel J.  
Cottone, Francis R.  
Coyne, John T.  
Cullen, James R.  
Cullinan, Charles F.  
D'Angelo, Gerald J.  
D'Angelo, Ross J.  
Davidson, James D.  
Davidson, John L.  
Davin, Francis X.  
Delaney, Edward M.  
Delaney, Leonard J.  
DiFranco, Frank J.  
Dougherty, Albert L.  
Dougherty, George P.  
D'Pasquale, Dominic S.  
D'Pasquale, Dominic J.  
Driscoll, John W.  
DuBoise, Herman A.  
Eisenhart, Thomas E.  
Emmi, Carmello L.  
Farr, William  
Flynn, Lawrence J.  
Freeman, Thomas M.  
French, John F.  
Fusco, Joseph T.  
Fusco, Leo J.  
Fusco, Samuel F.  
Gelsomino, Joseph C.  
Gibbons, Joseph S.  
Gillard, Thomas F. "Todd"  
Gilmartin, Edward S.  
Gross, James B.  
Guion, William E.  
Hale, George  
Hall, Robert T.  
Heeler, Spencer C.  
Hill, John T.  
Hulburt, Roy C., Jr.  
Inzinna, Charles J.  
Ippolito, Amos J.  
Ippolito, Anthony L.  
Jenkins, Clarence W.  
Johnston, Francis A.  
Kachmer, Joseph J.  
Kelly, Francis W.  
Kingsbury, Ronald T.  
Krenzer, Frank J.

LaGeorge, Joseph A.  
LeHaye, Norbert E.  
Leone, Peter P.  
Liberti, Dr. John J.  
Light, John L., Jr.  
Locurto, Samuel M.  
Mairs, William J.  
Marchase, Angelo V.  
Marschke, Frank F.  
Marthage, Gilbert J.  
McCarthy, Paul T.  
McLaughlin, Leo  
McLaughlin, Leonard T.  
McShea, Francis J.  
Meath, Robert E.  
Miller, George  
Moran, Frederick V.  
Moran, James Arthur  
Neirocker, Frank E.  
Neubeck, John R. Sr.  
O'Brien, George  
Page, Leo

### **ST. AGNES CONT.**

Paine, Lewis S.  
Panepinto, Samuel C.  
Pangrazio, Harold J.  
Pauer, Julius  
Pike, Chester A.  
Prinzi, Samuel J.  
Pusateri, Frank  
Pusateri, Leo, Sr.  
Pusateri, Michael F.  
Restivo, Anthony L.  
Restivo, Joseph T.  
Richardson, Donald W.  
Roeser, F. Eugene  
Rosselli, George A.  
Ryan, Peter J.  
Salley, Emmett F.  
Saeva, Saro  
Sawyer, Leo C.  
Schelle, Dean F.  
Schillinger, J. Kenneth  
Siegl, Rudolph C.  
Smyth, Howard F.  
Snyder, Francis W.  
Snyder, William J.  
Stella, Raymond E.  
Stevens, Edward F.  
Stevens, Paul J.  
Stoltman, Stephen  
Paul, Jr.  
Stoltman, William H.  
Tarmino, Anthony  
Taromino, Joseph S.  
Temperato, Angelo J.  
Temperato, Salvatore J.  
Torregiano, Leo J.  
Torregiano, Russell J.  
Thrift, Nina  
Trubia, Charles G., Sr.  
Tubbs, Arthur J.  
Underdown, Leo D.  
Welch, Howard T.  
Westfall, Duane C.  
Wetherow, Lawrence R. Sr.  
Wheeler, Paul A.  
Whitney, Claude  
Williams, Herman A.  
Wimett, Charles M.  
Woods, Harry J.  
Zito, Anthony

#### **Korean War**

Carney, Robert E.  
Cole, Harold E., Jr.  
Cullinan, Timothy M.J.  
Cole, Martin W.  
Dioguardi, Dominic "Jim"  
Degarmo, James H.  
Emerick, Arthur C.  
Fusco, Frank D.  
Gelsomino, Joseph C.  
Hammond, Burney E.  
Harness, Richard M.  
Henderson, Richard J.  
Hite, Robert A.  
Kane, John A.  
Kingston, David E.  
Kuitnen, Robert  
Lee, Donald E.  
Landers, John V. Jr.  
Magee, Robert L.  
McEvoy, Edward J., Jr.  
McEvoy, Wm. D. "Homer"  
Montesano, Gioachino  
Perry, Myron  
Pirano, Frank  
Reibson, Charles E.  
Rizzo, Joseph A.  
Snyder, Donald J.  
Snyder, John R. "Corky"  
Taromino, Anthony P.  
Taromino, Samuel R. Sr.  
Veeder, William H., Jr. "Bill"  
Wilcox, Clarence R.

#### **Peace Time**

Cottone, Charles  
D'Angelo, Samuel J.  
Dioguardi, Joseph  
Fusco, Frank  
McGee, Robert L.  
Meath, James E.

#### **Vietnam War**

Conine, Andrew H.  
Davin, Jerry C.  
Degarmo, James H.  
Fusco, Paul R.  
Greene, William P.  
Horrocks, Gary A.  
Kohr, John F.  
Lanham, William B.  
Murphy, Richard J.  
Neri, Anthony R.  
Pusateri, Vincent A.  
Saunders, William B.  
Steger, Bernard A.  
Vonglis, Michael A.  
Whitford, Brent E.  
Wetherow, Lawrence R., Jr.

#### **Grenada/Lebanon**

Agnello, Leo L., Jr.

### **EAST AVON**

#### **World War I**

Bromley, William  
Connor, Robert  
Fisher, Harold  
Gustafsson, Ralph  
Stephenson, Carl

#### **World War II**

Ayers, Alvin  
Arend, Arthur  
Barber, Kenyon

Boulden, Frederick  
Cook, James O. "J.O."  
Crawford, John  
Davidson, Bates  
Deshane, Harold  
Dieter, Royal E.  
Furlan, Jacinth A.  
Futter, Sidney  
Harkley, Sidney  
Hinds, Harold  
Hooker, Howard  
Hooker, John  
Jacobs, Preston  
Last, Walter  
Mooney, John  
Moulton, Cecil  
Pierson, Ramon  
Phillips, Kenneth A.  
Roeser, Donald R.  
Rush, Harold M. "Harry"  
Russell, Walter  
Scott, Arthur  
Seeley, Jack  
Sick, Paul G.  
Swartz, George R.  
Thomson, Leland P.  
Thomson, Louis  
Wade, Donald  
Woodruff, Kenneth  
Wall, John C.  
Warren, Maynard  
Wiard, Robert N.

#### **Korean War**

Arend, John S.  
Carpenter, James O.  
Holler, James M.  
Hyde, Charles F.  
Hyde, Kenneth  
Landon, Richard D.  
Moulton, Albert H.  
Wilson, Kenneth  
Webster, Robert B.

#### **Korean & Vietnam**

Shauger, Horace L.  
**Vietnam**  
Gilman, Jack Edward  
Hill, Robert A.  
Strother, Michael D.

#### **Peace Time**

Landon, Glenn A.  
Leone, Frank J.

### ***Veterans Prior to World War I***

#### **AVON**

##### **American Revolution**

Blakeslee, Samuel  
Hosmer, Timothy  
Hosmer, Graves  
Markham, William  
Wadsworth, Gad

##### **War of 1812**

Anthony, Joseph A.  
Blakeslee, Samuel  
Deming, Andrus  
Gillet, Stephen  
Hosmer, George  
Hosmer, Sylvester  
Nowlan, Asa  
Prosser, Jerry  
Smith, Isaac

Wadsworth, Ezekiel  
Whitney, David

##### **Mexican War**

Adams, Abraham

##### **Civil War**

Armsted, Thomas H.  
Babcock, E.H.  
Barnard, Charles  
Barnhardt, Willam W.  
Benedict, Jason  
Bennett, George W.  
Burns, George W.  
Burns, James  
Chase, C.G.  
Chase, Henry  
Crye, David  
Cutler, Henry C.  
Davis, Mortimer  
Dean, Marcellus  
Farr, Alfred  
Gilbert, L.P.  
Gray, Dr. John W.  
House, William A.  
Jones, Philander  
Laplante, Claude D.  
Looney, Thomas  
Mather, Matthew N.  
McDonald, R.  
McPherson, J.H.  
McPherson, J.A.  
Milliman, Erwin  
Morrison, John T.  
Nobles, Edgar  
Nobles, John  
Nott, H.W.A.  
Parsons, John  
Porter, James  
Prosser, Edgar A.  
Root, Lyman  
Royce, Ezra M.  
Russell, William F.  
Russell, William T.  
Sackett, Orange  
Scott, Kidder M.  
Snyder, Charles  
Sunderline, E.D.  
Vanzandt, Henry  
Watkins, Myron C.  
Wood, Almon A.

##### **Spanish American**

VanAllen, Allison C.

#### **ST. AGNES**

##### **Civil War**

Branch, Isaac  
Carroll, James  
Carroll, John  
Carroll, William H.  
Cisgen, Joseph  
Connors, William  
Connors, Patrick  
Cullen, James  
Driscoll, Thomas  
Hosmer, William H.C.  
Kelly, Thomas  
Keyes, F.J.  
Knight, Frederick  
McIntee, James  
McIntee, Owen  
McIntee, Thomas  
McNally, Christopher  
Phalen, Thomas

Rush, Andrew  
Stinson, Thomas H.  
Tighe, Patrick  
Welch, Patrick  
Wood, Philip

##### **Spanish American**

McGraw, John H.

##### **Philippine**

##### **Insurrection**

Brothers, Thomas

#### **EAST AVON**

##### **American Revolution**

Breman, Jesse  
Hanna, Isaac  
Thomas, Jacob  
Whitmore, John

##### **War of 1812**

Billings, Benegar  
Boughton, Seymour  
Chapin, Dr. Danforo  
Martin, Waite  
Peck, Archibald  
Pierson, Benjamin  
Pierson, Jesse  
Wiard, Thomas

##### **Mexican War**

Covert, John

##### **Civil War**

Bryan, J.H.  
Conroy, Robert  
Dann, Bradley  
Deal, Cyrus  
Dillion, William  
Fisher, William  
Sherman, Hiram  
Withey, Bradley

##### **Vietnam**

Hill, Robert A.

#### **BRONSON HILL**

##### **American Revolution**

Bliss, John  
Moore, Charles M.  
Rebb, Benjamin J.  
Slater, Charles E.  
Whitmore, George H.

##### **War of 1812**

Allen, Potter  
Thayer, Peter  
Whaley, Caleb

#### **OTHER**

#### **CEMETERIES**

##### **Alamo**

Forsyth, John H.

##### **War Unknown**

Chase, Joseph

##### **Civil War**

Charlton, Cyrus  
Chase, James

##### **SOUTH AVON**

##### **American Revolution**

Deming, Andrus  
Fuller, Joel

##### **War of 1812**

Barnum, Samuel  
Deming, Benjamin  
Kellogg, Amos

Kellogg, Nathaniel  
**Mexican War**  
Eggabroad, Alexander

#### **POLE BRIDGE**

##### **American Revolution**

Shepard, George

##### **War of 1812**

Shepard, George, Jr.

##### **Civil War**

Robinson, John

#### **LITTLEVILLE**

##### **War of 1812**

Bacon, Elisha  
Blackman, William  
Chandler, Winthrop  
Hogmire, Conrad  
Pierpont, Hezakiah  
Streeter, Hazelton

##### **Civil War**

Barber, Elmerzer  
Barber, John  
Blankenship, Pelig  
Cleveland, Calvin  
Darrow, William  
Fanning, James E.  
Knowles, Calvin  
Moore, James

##### **Spanish American**

Stone, W.

##### **Regular Army**

VanNess, Moses A.

### ***Veterans Not Buried in Avon***

Abel, Peter H.  
Amond, Edward H.  
Arnold, Robert J.  
Arnold, Wilbert J.  
Barber, William  
Baroody, David R.  
Batzel, Gary  
Bayles, Richard I.  
Beach, Laverne J.  
Bennett, Ronald A.  
Bishop, Charles J.  
Bodine, Donald E.  
Bow, Roy W.  
Brian, Richard E.  
Bristol, Clifford  
Cannarozzo, Rodney J.  
Catanese, Samuel J.  
Collins, David M.  
Collins, Paul L.  
Coffey, Gerald F.  
Coffey, Maurice  
Cooper, Wayne H.  
Coyne, J. William  
Cratsenberg, William G.  
Culbertson, Wayne G.  
Curry, Maurice  
D'Angelo, Angelo J. "Doc"  
Davlin, W. Leonard  
Deming, Daniel P.  
Dewey, Robert B.  
Donlon, Richard P.  
Dooley, John E.  
Druschel, Henry R.  
Farley, Vernon  
Faisst, Charles F., Sr.  
Farr, Frank E.

Ferris, John H. "Jack"  
Fitzgerald, Maurice  
Frisch, Ralph  
George, Earl G.  
Grafton, Dorsey  
Gregory, Daniel T.  
Halbin, Peter E.  
Hall, Robert E.  
Hally, Paul J., Sr.  
Hamblin, Wilfred L.  
Hann, George V.  
Hanna, Howard H.  
Harmes, Alfred R.  
Harmes, Harold M.  
Harrison, Paul  
Harrison, Roger  
Hildebrand, John L.  
Hildebrandt, Wayne A.  
Hinsvark, Orville N.  
Hooper, Robert G.  
Hulbert, Gerald  
Iler, William C.  
Ippolito, Amos D.  
Ippolito, Carl  
Jerris, Thomas  
Johnson, George C.  
Kaczeriwski, Joseph  
Kellond, Arthur S.  
King, Francis F. "Freddy"  
Knight, George W. Sr.  
Kohl, Wallace B.  
LaGeorge, Samuel A.  
Lathron, John A.  
Leary, Joseph  
Lemke, Mark A.  
Long, Michael D.  
Loriot, George B.  
Lynch, Dr. George E.  
Maloney, Varian H.  
Macartney, Robert J.  
MacLeod, John S.  
Mahar, Alvie F.  
Maris, Loois N. Sr.  
Martin, Gerald A.  
May, Clarence R.  
Mayoue, Vince  
McEvoy, Joseph E.  
McDaniel, Richard C.  
Medley, Stanley S.  
Meekin, Jack  
Melenbacher, Otto  
Merithew, Lester W.  
Michael, Norman G.  
Miller, Augustus  
Miller, Norman Andrew  
Morath, Robert T.  
Morrow, James L.  
Mulligan, Livingston T.  
Nadeau, Frederick  
Naven, F. Willard  
Nelson, Earl C.  
O'Brien, Ethel F.  
Parks, Ward J.  
Passarell, Kenneth  
Peri, Angelo "Spanky"  
Peri, Leonard S.  
Peterson, William D.  
Pfleegor, Thomas B.  
Poray, Maynard C.  
Prinzi, Carl  
Prinzi, Charles  
Prinzi, Frank

Rathbun, John  
Raynard, Patrick D.  
Reimann, James C.  
Reeves, John P.  
Rhodes, John R.  
Rogers, Nelson  
Rollins, Kenneth  
Rountree, James R.  
Sackett, Clark  
Sanders, Robert K.  
Savard, Ralph  
Schillinger, Clarence W.  
Schultz, Edward B.  
Sember, Stephen J.  
Sommel, Thomas A.  
Settle, James L.  
Siers, Mildred S.  
Simpson, Glenn C.  
Sinclair, Wallace R.  
Slaight, John A.  
Spencer, Elwood  
Smith, Gordon L.  
Smith, Kenneth E.  
Snyder, William D.  
Speta, Robert  
Springett, Benjamin  
Stahl, Newton L. "Bud"  
Stanton, Robert Miller  
Stephenson, Carl L.  
Stone, Maurice  
Sutherland, Charles U.  
Swanton, Walter F.  
Taylor, Robert K., Jr.  
Thomson, Gerald C.  
Todd, Gene  
Torrey, Larry E.  
Trenkler, Raymond J.  
Trewer, Wilfred T.  
Tubbs, Donald J.  
Underhill, Herman L., Jr.  
Warner, Irving A.  
Webb, Clarence H.  
"Stubb"  
Webster, Everett L.  
Wells, Alan H.  
Wheeler, William H.  
Widener, Duard C.  
Wilfeard, Kenneth E.  
Willistein, Frederick E.  
York, Robert J.

### ***Missing In Action, WWII: Clarence (Bud) Meekin***

***From the diary of William Leighton, Avon Postmaster:***

**1916** - Troop M deployment

**1917 - (March 12)**  
Troop M returned - Big celebration in Park

**1917 - (March 16)**  
Reception & Dance for Troop M at the Opera House

**1918** - END of WAR Celebration

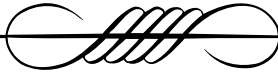


**Avon Preservation and  
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Avon Town Hall  
27 Genesee Street  
Avon, New York 14414

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<b>AP&amp;HS Board of Trustees 2012</b>	
Richard Burke <i>President Retiring</i>	Jean Batzing Geri Brewer
Robert Westfall <i>Vice President</i>	James Brewer Richard Burke Dana Collins
Tom Bartolini <i>Treasurer</i>	John DuBois James Gerace Carol Hayes
James Brewer <i>Assistant Curator</i>	Dr. Robert Hayes Sharon Knight Mary Lou Miller Pat Moran Clara Watson

### Address Service Requested



## Please Stop By The Opera Block & View This Month's Window Display!

Geri Brewer, aided by our Museum Curators, Joan Reid and her assistant, James Brewer, put together a theme for Memorial Day that is both fitting and truly moving! Geri was made aware of the symbolism of the "empty chair" signifying soldiers who were either POW's or MIA.

This trio is the lifeblood of not only our window displays, but the reason our "new museum" is showing growing success and an increasingly interested public. **APHS THANKS YOU!**

*\*If you know of a friend or relative who wants a 2012-13 membership, the form below can be cut out and used.  
(One perk is that they will receive the newsletter!)*

### Avon Preservation & Historical Society **MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Please fill in below, tear off, and return to  
AVON PRESERVATION AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
23 Genesee Street • Avon, New York 14414

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate desired membership level

(   ) Individual \$10    (   ) Business \$30

(   ) Family \$20                      (   ) Donation

Please make check payable to AP&HS

May we contact you to volunteer?

(   ) Yes                      (   ) No

**Phone: 585-226-2425 x22**

**Email: SKnight.aphs@gmail.com**

### **APHS 2011 - 2012: In Memoriam**

- Jerome Appleton, Aetrina Biondolillo
- Anna Biondolillo, Dana Collins
- Martha Cullinan, Marcella Davin
- Mark Duryea, Rita French
- Christian Haller, DVM, Martin Hanna
- Richard Harness, Barbara Kerr
- Alyson Kluth, Alvie Maher
- Patricia McNinch, John Orman
- Vince Pusateri, Joan Steele
- Dorothy Tarmino, Jennie Tarmino
- Joseph Tarmino, Lynn Thompson

Museum Hours: Thursday, 2-4 • Sunday, 2-4,  
Or by appointment.





# Avon Preservation & Historical Society

## Newletter

VOLUME 25, No. 2

www.avonhistorical.org

Summer 2012



1987



1988



1989



1990



1991



1992



1993



2011



2010



2009



2008



2007



2006



2005



2004



2003



2002



2001



2000



1999

## Here Ye! Here Ye! 'Tis The 26th Anniversary Of The Avon Rotary Corn Festival

### Saturday, August 11, 2012 • 10:00am - 4:00pm Genesee Street, Downtown Avon

*The APHS Again Enthusiastically Participates  
In This Annual Community Wide Festivity!*

2012 heralds the third year the APHS has been fortunate to be able to participate at both the North and South ends of Genesee Street!

As always we will have our display tent in front of the Avon Library and Central Presbyterian Church where this venue serves for networking, historical displays, and Avon collectibles for purchase. In addition, to the North, we will be at our (still new) museum in the Opera Block.

As a point of interest, for more than a decade of the Corn Festival's 26 year history, APHS' journal/publication committee has published a book in time for display and sale at our Festival tent. Much research went into all of these historically themed books telescoping Avon's past - from our agricultural history both past and present to our famous spa era and grand hotels, to our horse country heritage, and of course the Opera Block.

*This year* a much awaited publication has been written by Joan Reid, APHS Curator, James Brewer, APHS Assistant Curator, and APHS Trustees, Geri Brewer and John DuBois entitled: *Avon Recalls the Past*. This has been truly a labor of love - the outcome providing both a good read and delightful pictures. Well worth your attention!

Copies will be available for purchase at both the display tent and at the Museum where we will be on-site eager to give you a tour of our exhibits including Opera Block tours.

**\*Shuttle Bus Service available all day from the Avon Central Middle School parking lot.**



1994



1995



1996



1997



1998

## This and That / Recent Museum Activities

**June 15th** - The Sixth Grade students of Avon Central's Middle School took a field trip to the APHS Museum where they were given an overview of Avon history. Curator Joan Reid welcomed the group to the museum housed in the refurbished Opera Block, taking advantage of the moment to explain about wooden water pipes. Jean Batzing and John DuBois showed examples of local Native American artifacts. Geri Brewer spoke about an early Genesee Street business, Woodruff's (Woody's) Ice Cream Parlor. (Lemon Custard was this writer's favorite!) Assistant Curator, Jim Brewer finished by speaking about the future of space travel. The volunteers were rewarded for their efforts by presenting to a group of very interested and highly enthusiastic students! Thanks to all!



**June 16th** - APHS participated at an "Attic Days" sponsored by Friends of Livingston County History at the Livingston County Museum in Geneseo. Jean Batzing, James and Geri Brewer, Carol Hayes, John DuBois and Joan Reid hosted APHS's table offering sale of our collectibles. It was an entertaining day while also providing an opportunity to meet and network with representatives from other Livingston County historical societies. A plus was viewing what others were selling providing ideas of what to present for purchase next year.

**July/August 11th** - APHS is selling tickets for a chance to win a colorful Fall quilted wall hanging to be raffled at the end of the festivities on Corn Festival Day. Tickets are available at the museum and town hall as well as from any member, the cost: \$1 each or \$5 for 6 tickets.



**August 22nd** - Board members V.P. Robert Westfall, Trustees Pat Moran, Jim and Geri Brewer and John DuBois will attend a one day museum workshop in Geneseo focusing on strategic planning goals, textile preservation and volunteerism.

## NEEDED

APHS Board of Trustees needs YOUR help! We are in dire need of individuals to volunteer as docents for our museum on either Thursday or Sunday afternoons even one afternoon a month - this is a three hour time slot - bring a friend! Let us know ahead and we will explain the procedures, guidelines and give you a general overview of our artifacts and locations. Enthusiastic to hear from you!!

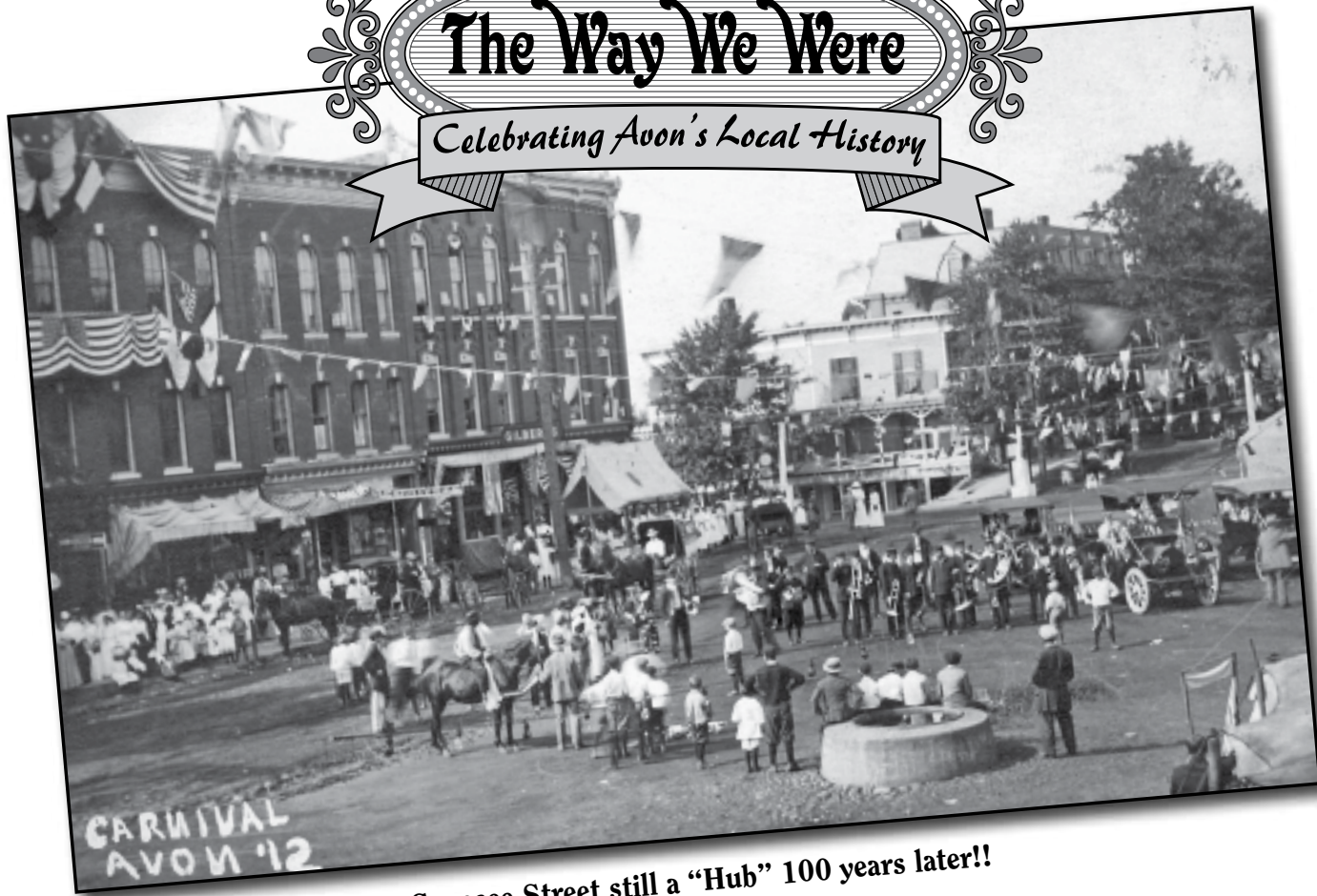
Volunteers are needed to spend one hour with an Avonite or former Avonite you know who is willing to share their memories and family histories gathered over the years in Avon. APHS has a list of names if you don't have any - Jean Batzing has the tape recorder (226-8290) and Joan Reid has the tapes (226-8337). (We also accept written vignettes, stories and anecdotes of families and events.)

**VINTAGE CLOTHING** (NOT uniforms - i.e. military, sports, law enforcement, etc.) Needed: Gentlemen, ladies, children and infants dress/casual clothing and shoes.



# The Way We Were

*Celebrating Avon's Local History*



Genesee Street still a "Hub" 100 years later!!



## Avon Enters **The Roaring Twenties!!**

July 5, 1920 - 1,558 people attended the horse races at the Springs today.

Street dance at 8:30pm uptown (Congress Hall still existed).



August 7, 1920 - First Concert by The Avon Band

August 10, 1920 - Water Carnival at Wadsworth Pond

September 15, 1920 - Fair opens at The Springs

December 16, 1920 - Minstrel Show at St. Agnes Hall, given by the Rochester Chamber of Commerce Glee Club for the Van Zandt Hose Company



**Avon Preservation and Historical Society**

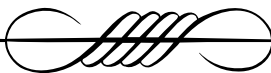
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Joan Reid <i>Curator</i>	Carol Hayes Dr. Robert Hayes
James Brewer <i>Assistant Curator</i>	Sharon Knight Mary Lou Miller
	Pat Moran Clara Watson

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate desired membership level  
 Individual \$10     Business \$30  
 Family \$20             Donation

Please make check payable to AP&HS

May we contact you to volunteer?  
 Yes                     No

**Phone: 585-226-2425 x22**  
**Email: SKnight.aphs@gmail.com**

Museum Hours: Thursday, 2-4 • Sunday, 2-4,  
Or by appointment.



**House Plaques**

The plaque is a metal oval, about 10 inches wide, with the construction year of your home and the words "Avon Historical Society" printed in gold.

The plaque is available for \$75.

For further information or the necessary forms, contact:

**James Brewer**  
**14 Nune Park**  
**Avon, NY 14414**

Phone **226-2729**

Remember, these plaques make nice gifts.  
A plaque can be ordered for any home regardless of age.





# Avon Preservation & Historical Society

## Newsletter

VOLUME 24, No. 1

www.avonhistorical.org

WINTER 2012

### Fall 2011 Programs

APHS held a fascinating program October 23rd presented by Lynn Belluscio, Curator of The LeRoy House, LeRoy, New York.

Lynn described a large painting of Henry Clay, the "Great Compromiser." The painting, like so many old things, was among their archives and debate often ensued about the need for keeping it. Through Lynn's efforts, the painting was saved and eventually went to Washington. This proved important as the painting of Henry Clay also included the early Senate Chambers. A DVD showed the restoration of Phineas Stauton's 1865 7' by 11' painting, which now hangs on the stairway wall of the Senate Office Building. The December 2009 "Smithsonian" Magazine featured a four page article entitled "The Rescue of Henry Clay".

On Nov. 13th, Mr. Christopher Bensch, Vice President for collections at The Strong International Museum of Play lectured on "Those Amazing Toys."

\*NOTE: The APHS solicits individuals to present on topics such as those described above usually four times yearly - all are held on the second floor of the Opera Block at 2:00pm on Sunday afternoons. We would welcome more guests in attendance. We invite you to come for an hour to enjoy these programs with us and partake of refreshments and good camaraderie. Please look for our posters around town and in the Genesee Valley Penny Saver. (Also, we would appreciate hearing from you about programs times and topics.)

### Recently Acquired Artifacts

APHS has received four polo mallets from the Greer Family. As late as the 1950's, Polo was played regularly on River Street across from The Robert Greer Farm.

*Genesee Valley polo players: left to right:  
Robert Greer, Bill Bailey, Van Knight, Lew Bailey,  
Don Yull, Bob Davidson, Jack Ryan, Chic Kelley.  
Circa 1950-1955.*



## Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

APHS invites you  
to come join us  
as we ring in the  
New Year!

Sunday, January 29, 2012  
1:30pm in the afternoon  
for our 2012

Winter Program:  
"The Erie Railroad"

Avon Opera Block  
2nd Floor  
Genesee Street, Avon

Refreshments will be served  
A brief Annual Meeting  
will be held following



## Camp near Stafford C. H., Va., April 1st, 1863

*Editor Mirror:-* The first of April has come and the Army of the Potomac still remains quiet. No attempt to advance has been made, notwithstanding the daily papers have published several times that the army of the Potomac was on the point of moving. By the way, is it not rather strange that army correspondents of New York City, and other papers, should know so much more of our anticipated movements than do our Major and Brigadier Generals.

March has been very cold and stormy; night before last, and yesterday we had a regular New York "sugar snow," a few days of bright sunshine which must soon come, will dry up the mud, and then "forward" goes the army. Are you at the North getting impatient because we do not advance comfort yourself with the assurance that while we have been lying in camp, the time has not been lost; for you cannot conceive how much in the last two months we have gained. Our army is now in a perfect state of organization, the soldiers are in the best of spirits, the health of the army is good, and all manifest a spirit of determination to stand by the "old flag," and to do their utmost to crush out this infernal rebellion. We are as much pleased with the aspect of public feeling at the North, as we are with the condition of the army; and here let me say, the army will reflect every phase of Northern public sentiment. If a home you are a divided people for the vigorous prosecution of the war, we shall be here. But if you present an undivided front and say the rebellion shall be crushed, you inspire every man in the army, and you almost make a brave man of a coward. The time with us has gone by, when we ask of a man what his political principles are, we care not whether he be Democrat or Republican if his acts prove him a firm supporter of the old flag; that is the only question we care to have a man answer. -It is

no time to quarrel over politics for we cannot afford it. We need all the energies of the country to drive on the war. We have faith and confidence in the President, and I only wonder he has done as well as he has. Our last Congress, too, in the passage of the conscription act, did just the thing they ought to have done. -The effect of that act alone has inspired us with more confidence than anything besides could have done. We no longer argue the question whether or not we are to conquer the Rebellion, and no one of us now anxiously inquires "can it be done?" Instead of that we hear, "how soon can we subdue the South?" In the army the idea of compromise is obsolete.

Appearances indicate that very soon an advance will be made. We have received marching orders, -that is to have everything ready to march at an hour's notice. Where we shall go or in what direction, I will not hazard an opinion; we know as little of where we are to go, as you at home do. Gen. Hooker has the confidence, I believe, of every man under him, and I hope the North, too. He has seen that his soldiers are well fed and clothed. Many things have been changed for the better, and we are today in far better condition and more effective than ever before. The 136th is in good spirits and well officered. The "Holiday Officers" who came out with the Regiment have resigned and gone home, and their places are filled by men who volunteered to fight. Somehow we haven't a very high opinion of men who get commissions and soldier it three or four months; and then when they think there is danger of a fight, resign. It may be all right, but we can't see it.

L.O.S.

**Lt. Orange Sackett  
of Avon, New York**

---

### Suggestions Needed!!!!

A number of years ago the APHS was gifted with a lovely old sleigh, but sadly in need of extensive repair. In addition there is a conundrum in owning this sleigh as it is a funeral sleigh! At least once every year the sleigh is placed for discussion under the Board's "old business" agenda!

ALL suggestions are welcomed. Please e-mail us any and all thoughts!



## Another Civil War Mascot: Jack the Turkey

Tad Lincoln, the youngest son of President Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln, was notorious for his White House antics. Following the death of his brother Willie, Tad was very much on his own. His father was busy with the war and his mother, desolate, locked herself away from the world.

During those trying days, Tad discovered a new friend. It was a turkey that had been given to the White House. He became Tad's special pet and was named "Jack."

When Tad learned that Jack was going to be Christmas dinner, he ran crying to his father. After explaining his dilemma to the President, Jack was given a special wartime pardon. Jack's life was spared and he spent the

remainder of his days at the White House roaming the grounds.

This was actually the first Presidential pardon of a turkey in the White House. The next one occurred during the Truman administration, starting the annual tradition of pardoning the White House Thanksgiving turkey.

From *Civil War Mascots and Pets: Stories of Man's Best Friend and Other Faithful Companions* by B. L. Atkins, Illustrated by S.A. Costanzo. Pub. Critter Company/Gettysburg. 2004.

## Two Hundred Years Ago: 1812

Construction of the White Horse Tavern begun by John Pierson. After his death it was finished by Benjamin Pierson.

- *Henry Selden, Elm Place, Avon*

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## EAT, DRINK AND BE MERRY!

PLEASE send us any early Avon family recipes you may have which have been passed down in your family through the years!) Below, are this issue's selections:

- *St. Agnes Church, Avon, Rosary Society Cookbook, 1963*

### DATE AND NUT BREAD

1-1/2 cups boiling water	1/2 tsp. salt
1 cup chopped dates	2 tsp. baking soda
3/4 cup granulated sugar	1 cup chopped walnuts
1 egg, beaten	1 tbsp. melted shortening
2-1/4 cups sifted all purpose flour	1 tsp. vanilla
	1/4 tsp. baking powder

Pour the boiling water over the dates and let stand 10 minutes. Meanwhile add the sugar gradually to the egg, beating continuously. Sift together the flour, baking powder, salt and soda and stir nuts into them. Add date mixture, alternating with sifted dry ingredients to the sugar and egg mixture. Stir in the shortening and vanilla and pour into greased loaf pans. Bake in oven 350 degrees until done.

\_\_\_\_\_ B. Mulvaney

### HOLIDAY PUNCH

1 cup water	1/2 cup sugar
2 cups cranberry juice	6 whole cloves
3/4 cup lemon juice	1 cup orange juice
1 cup pineapple juice	1 pint ginger ale

Mix well and chill before serving.

\_\_\_\_\_ Phyllis Light

- *Zion Episcopal Church, Avon, Centennial Cookbook, 1992*

### RASPBERRY LIQUOR

1 qt. fresh raspberries	3 c. sugar
1 qt. inexpensive whiskey	3 c. water

Dissolve sugar in water and bring to a simmer. Cool completely. Put raspberries into a clean gallon jug. Pour whiskey and syrup over berries. Cover loosely for 3 months. Strain, filter and bottle. Raspberries are good served over ice cream.

\_\_\_\_\_ Hank Druschel

### CHINESE NEW YEAR COOKIES

- 1 (6.oz.) pkg. Nestle's semisweet chocolate bits
- 1 (6.oz.) pkg. Nestle's butterscotch bits
- 1 (3-oz.) can Chinese noodles
- 1 (7-oz.) can salted cocktail peanuts

Melt chocolate and butterscotch pieces together thoroughly. Remove from heat and stir in Chinese noodles and peanuts. Drop from teaspoon onto waxed paper. Allow to firm up before storing.

\_\_\_\_\_ Bernie Wheeler

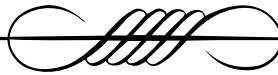


**Avon Preservation and  
Historical Society**  
Avon Town Hall  
27 Genesee Street  
Avon, New York 14414

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<b>AP&amp;HS Board of Trustees 2012</b>	
Richard Burke <i>President Retiring</i>	Jean Batzing Geri Brewer
Robert Westfall <i>Vice President</i>	James Brewer Dana Collins John DuBois
Tom Bartolini <i>Treasurer</i>	James Gerace Carol Hayes Dr. Robert Hayes
Joan Reid <i>Curator</i>	Sharon Knight Mary Lou Miller Pat Moran Clara Watson

### Address Service Requested



### One Hundred Years Ago...



### 1912 - A Few Reasons Why You Should Locate in Avon, N. Y.

Because Avon is unsurpassed for either residential or manufacturing purposes.

Because Avon has beautiful shaded and improved streets.

Because Avon has an excellent municipal water system and Niagara electric power.

Because Avon has an adequate sewer system and disposal plant.

Because Avon has thirty-five daily passenger trains to and from Rochester.

Because Avon has several first class hotels and boarding houses.

Because Avon has a low tax rate with all the improvements of a large city.

Because Avon has two fine schools, four churches, and an excellent state bank.

Because Avon is one of the most healthy and thriving villages in New York State.

Because Avon is the center of the famous Genesee Valley, the richest farming community in New York State.

For further particulars address,  
Secretary Avon Board of Trade, Avon, N. Y.

*\*If you know of a friend or relative who  
wants a 2012-13 membership, the form below  
can be cut out and used.  
(One perk is that they will receive the newsletter!)*

### Avon Preservation & Historical Society **MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Please fill in below, tear off, and return to  
**AVON PRESERVATION AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
23 Genesee Street • Avon, New York 14414

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate desired membership level  
 Individual \$10     Business \$30  
 Family \$20                       Donation

Please make check payable to AP&HS

May we contact you to volunteer?  
 Yes                       No

**Phone: 585-226-2425 x22**  
**Email: SKnight.aphs@gmail.com**

Museum Hours: Thursday, 2-4 • Sunday, 2-4,  
Or by appointment.





# Avon Preservation & Historical Society

## Newsletter

VOLUME 25, No. 3

[www.avonhistorical.org](http://www.avonhistorical.org)

November/December 2012



'Tis the Season of Festivities and Well Wishes!  
A Time of Gathering, not only of  
Fall's Harvest but of Family and Friends.  
Of Children's Excitement, Warm Fires,  
Snowflakes and Twinkling Lights.  
A Time of Hope and A Time For Joy.  
A Time of Bounty and Sharing it with Others.

*From All of Us Here at APHS to Each  
and Every One of You:*

*May You Have Much Happiness and  
Good Health During This Great Season  
and Into The New Year*

### Inside This Issue...

...a wonderful piece on The War of 1812 written by Avon Town Historian, Maureen Kingston. We are delighted that in most future issues Maureen will be contributing historical pieces for us!

Also, on the back page you will find APHS membership renewal information with a section to cut out and mail back for your convenience. These membership forms also make great Christmas gifts!

Our House Plaques also can be ordered as gifts - while they may not arrive in time for December 25th, a picture and description can be placed in a card. They consist of a metal oval 10 inches wide with the year your house was constructed and "Avon Historical Society" printed in gold. \*Your home does not have to date back to a certain time to qualify! For further information & the necessary order form contact: James Brewer, 14 Nune Park, Avon, NY 14414 Phone: (585) 226-2729



**Thanks to our Staff "window dressers", Geri Brewer and Joan Reid for the November Museum displays featuring a tribute to our Veterans and a trip down Avon Central School's Football Memory Lane!**

**BE SURE TO CHECK OUT DECEMBER'S WINDOWS WHICH ARE FEATURING TWO WONDERFUL HOLIDAY DISPLAYS!**

## Museum News

Education activities: In September Avon Scout Troop, Cub Pack #26 toured the Museum and heard interesting historical facts related to Avon & beyond including how people lived in the early part of our history. In October Avon's Tiger Scout Den arrived for more of the same. (These 5 and 6 year old first graders, were delightfully attentive and good listeners!) Next to arrive will be St. Agnes School Fourth Graders.

**October 27** - Curator Joan Reid participated in The New York Museum of Transportation's train ride reporting that it served not only as a novelty trip for all ages, but provided a well done narration of our local region's history with ample opportunity for taking photos. The Museum hopes to offer more trips like this in the future. They can be reached at their location at 6393 E. River Road in Rush by calling: (585) 533- 1113.

**November 3** - Museum Curator Joan Reid attended the WNY/AHA Program @ Genesee Country Museum. There were two main topics addressed: Volunteerism, and The War of 1812.



## Recent Acquisitions

Mike Driscoll of E. Main St, Avon, has donated a photo of the 121st Troop "G" Cavalry taken at Pine Camp, New York (now Ft. Drum). Included in the photo is the late Ralph Miller's father, Howard. The photo is dated June 28, 1928.



## Wish List

- Mannequins: one male and one child
- Four "4 drawer" file cabinets
- Topics people would like to hear as program presentations
- Speakers for these programs

## We Want You To Know:

- **Annual Meeting Date: January 27, 2013** • Meeting at 1pm • Refreshment Break for all • Program at 2pm Amie Alden - Livingston County Historian. Topic: *Avon's Part in Operation Morale*
- The APHS will be publishing FOUR seasonal/quarterly newsletters per year (with an additional issue when exceptional news is deemed worthy), as follows: November/December; February; May, and August
- There is a Memorial Book kept in the Museum as well as a Memorial Plaque on the wall. With questions or for more information, please contact: Jean Batzing, Corresponding Secretary @ (585) 226-8290.

## On a not so bright note:

The Ortiz brothers have been released from incarceration and have resumed their pattern of attempted robberies of local Western New York Museums including those in Livingston County. While they seem focused on Civil War artifacts, they have recently shown up at The Landmark Society Office requesting access to their Research Library. Extra vigilance is needed by all those active in their Historic Society locations.

## Donations

- Conservation of an 1838 Liv. Cty. Map
- Conservation of an 1830 Singing Book
- Framing of Avon Cemetery Plot Map
- Books/info.about Avon to donate to us: Vol. 4, Phister's New York in the War of the Rebellion 1861-1865, 3rd Ed. 1909

## "Past and Present" Parallels

### The Past:

**223 years ago in 1789:** Township of Hartford (now Avon) established

**225 years ago in 1791:** Hartford (Avon) holds first town elections

**159 years ago in 1853:** Avon Village incorporated; 1st village election held

### The Present:

Avon, New York and the Nation held elections in November and elected a President and closer to home, elected or re-elected county and state officials

### The Past:

**175 years ago in 1837:** Avon experienced a financial depression

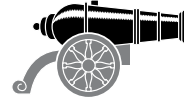
### The Present:

Avon and the Nation experiencing major economic hard times

*\*Past dates/info from:  
"Guideposts of the Past 1780 - 2009." APHS, 2009*

## Town Historian's Word

### *The Forgotten War*



C. P. Stacey wrote in 1958 describing the War of 1812 “... is one of those episodes in history that make everyone happy, because everyone interprets it in his own way. The Americans think of it primarily as a naval war in which the pride of the Mistress of the Seas was humbled by what an imprudent Englishman called ‘a few fir-built frigates...’ .The Canadians think of it equally pridefully as a war of defence in which their brave fathers, side by side, turned back the massed might of the United States and saved the country from conquest. And the English are happiest of all, because they don’t even know that it happened.”

The truth no doubt is somewhere there among the many opinions. This bicentennial of the War of 1812 provides a perfect opportunity to look deeper into our history. The War is generally considered in terms of the siege on Washington, D.C., the Battles of Lakes Ontario and Erie, the penning of the National Anthem, etc. However, much of the fighting took place on the Niagara Frontier here in Western New York.

War was declared by a divided Congress June 18, 1812. Some Americans had no wish to re-engage Great Britain in war; others stated that the new United States must defend itself against maritime coercion by Great Britain and their incitement of Native Americans along the Great Lakes. Outright invasion of Upper Canada was another consideration, but many of the New York militia had little desire to pursue this option.

The plan was to mount a three part campaign: along Lake Champlain toward Montreal on the east; on the west from Detroit into Upper Canada; and, in the middle along the Niagara Frontier.

Previous to the war, the Genesee Valley had enjoyed great settlement between the opening of the area in 1789 and outbreak of hostilities. Some forty Avon men were

recruited from their newly established homes on the frontier to join in the war effort. Most became members of the militia, signing on for a period of months. The war itself was a bloody series of conflicts-some victories, some defeats. Queenston, Fort George, Chippawa, Fort Niagara, Buffalo, Lundy’s Lane, Black Rock, Fort Erie, Lewiston among other sites along the Niagara, figure prominently in this, “The Forgotten war.” The Avon, East Avon, Bronson Hill, Pole Bridge, South Avon and Littleville Cemeteries all list veterans from this war. It formally ended with the Treaty of Ghent, December 24, 1814.

For more information consider:

Doty, Lockwood L. A History of Livingston County New York. Geneseo, New York: Edward E. Doty, 1876.

Ellis, David M., et al. A Short History of New York State. Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press, 1957.

Mau, Clayton. The Development of Central and Western New York. Rochester, New York: DuBois Press, 1944.

Smith, James H. History of Livingston County, New York. Syracuse, New York: D. Mason, 1881.

Stacey, c.P. “The War of 1812 in Canadian History,” in Zaslow Morris, ed. The Defended Border. Toronto, Ontario, 1964.

Turner, O. History of the Pioneer Settlement of the Phelps and Gorham Purchase and Morris Reserve. Rochester, New York: William Alling, 1851.

The War of 1812: a Three-volume Regional Commemoration of the Bicentennial, 2012-2014. Cheektowaga, New York: Western New York Heritage Press, 2012.

Submitted by Maureen Kingston  
*Historian, Town of Avon, NY*

**Annual Meeting Date: January 27, 2013**

**Meeting at 1pm • Refreshment Break at 2pm**

**Program at 2pm Amie Alden - Livingston County Historian.**

**Topic: *Avon’s Part in Operation Morale***



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**AP&HS Board of Trustees 2012**

Robert Westfall <i>President Interim</i>	Jean Batzing Geri Brewer Richard Burke
James Gerace <i>Treasurer</i>	John DuBois Carol Hayes
Joan Reid <i>Curator</i>	Dr. Robert Hayes Sharon Knight Mary Lou Miller
James Brewer <i>Assistant Curator</i>	Pat Moran Jerry Sutfin Clara Mulligan Watson

**Address Service Requested**

**ATTENTION: MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL UPDATES - PLEASE READ BELOW**

Memberships, both new and renewals will run through December 2013 (excluding a lifetime member)

**CLIP & MAIL**



**Avon Preservation & Historical Society • MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Dear APHS Member or Potential Member:  
**Please fill out membership form as follows:**

1. Complete personal information, include e-mail address.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (      ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Choose membership type - Please Check

- Individual \$10       Business \$30
- Family \$20       Lifetime \$100

3. Choose -  New or  Renewal

4. May we contact you to volunteer?  Yes  No  
 Volunteer Choice - Please Check

- Museum Docent       Corn Festival
- Maintenance of Museum       Inventory
- Annual Meeting       Refreshments
- Other       None

5. Please make checks payable to the AP&HS, and mail to the Museum at 23 Genesee Street, Avon, NY 14414.

Any questions please phone  
 585-226-2425 ext. 22.

*We would love to hear from you!*



**Annual Meeting Date: January 27, 2013**  
**Meeting at 1pm**

Refreshments will be served preceding the program.

- Program at 2pm Amie Alden - Livingston County Historian  
 Topic: *Avon's Part in Operation Morale*



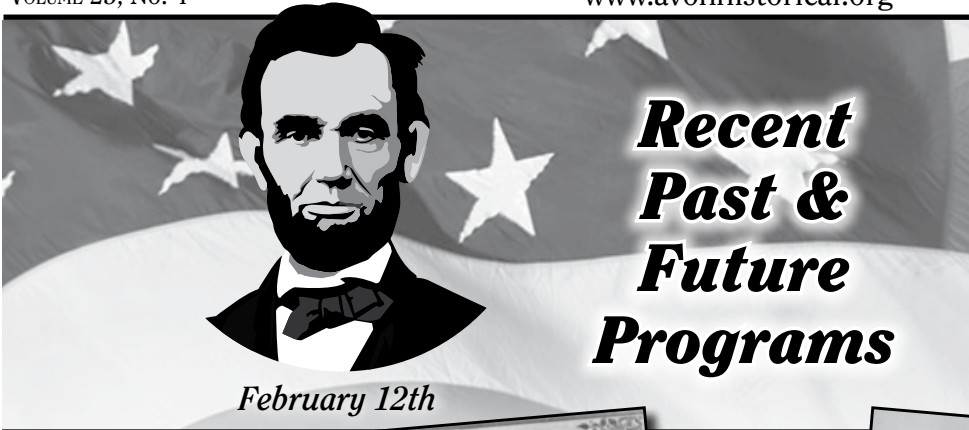
# Avon Preservation & Historical Society

## *Newsletter*

VOLUME 25, No. 4

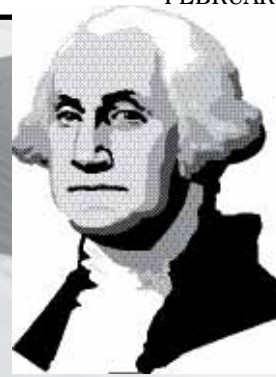
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FEBRUARY & MARCH 2013

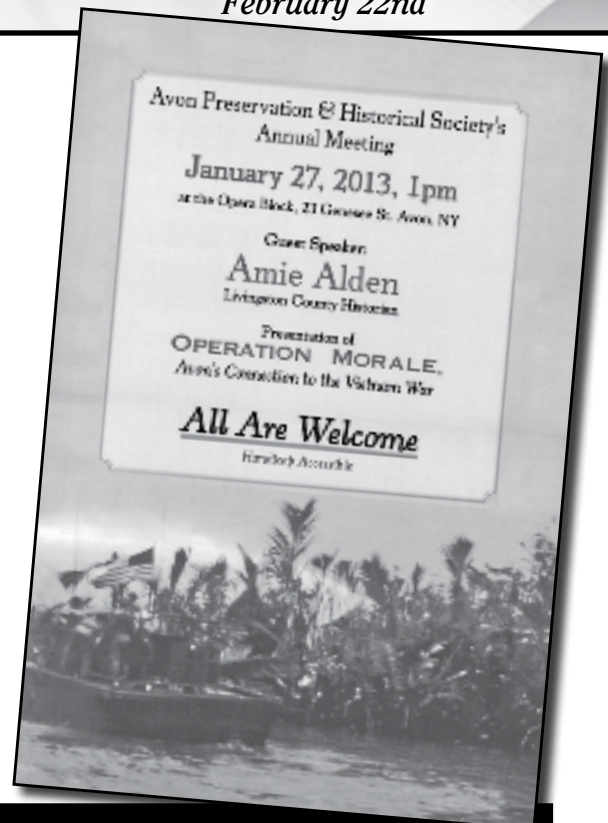
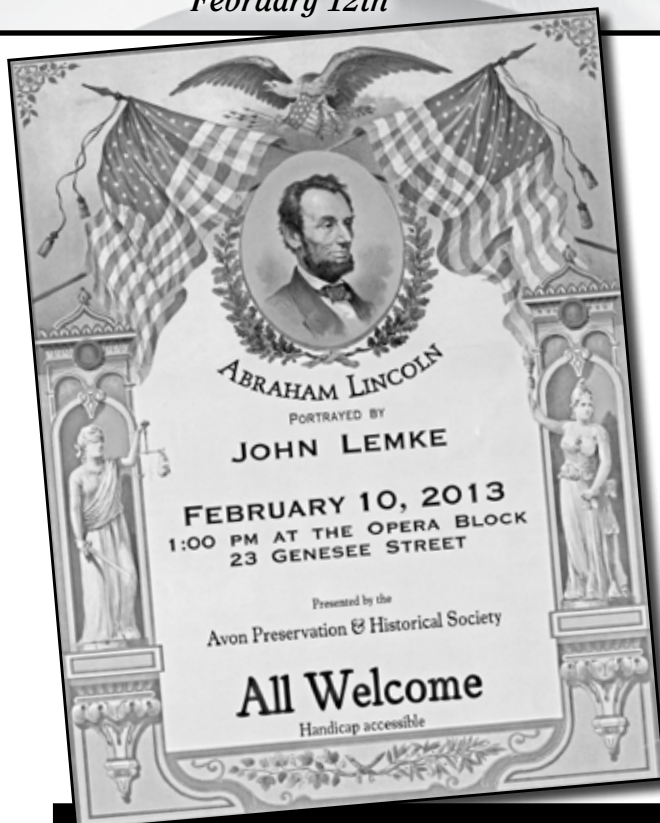


*February 12th*

### ***Recent Past & Future Programs***



*February 22nd*



**Recent programs both well attended**

***Up and Coming***

**SUNDAY, APRIL 28TH • 2-4PM**

**AT MUSEUM - 2ND FLOOR**

**David Palmer on "Women Surviving in the 19th Century Home"**





Please join the APHS Board of Trustees in honoring the Memory of our long time, and very dedicated member

*Dana Pfenninger  
Collins*

**October 24, 1924 - April 23, 2012**

Dana's name has been inscribed on our Memorial Plaque which hangs in our museum

*She is greatly missed by all*



## **A Reflection From The APHS President -**

It's said that History is a Living Thing.

I have recently been reflecting on the history my generation has lived through. Things that my grandchildren are reading about in school. My classmates from Avon Central were born at the dawn of World War II. Early on we saw the widespread growth of television; the Army McCarthy hearings, & the birth of Rock and Roll.

The 60's started out peacefully, but so much happened in those 10 years! We witnessed the assassinations of a President, a Civil Rights Leader, and a U.S. Senator, who in all likelihood would have been President. I've often wondered how history would have changed had these men lived! And we watched a man walking on the moon! Imagine that.

We saw a century end and a new one begin - with the new century we witnessed the worst attack on U.S. soil ever. We have seen leaders who inspired us and ones who disappointed us; wars that divided us and ones that united us. We've seen the election of the first African American President.

Through all of this Avon has been a refuge, a great place to live and raise children. I left when I was 19, came back for good at 57 and it's been a great joy. Now I watch my grandchildren thriving in school in Avon and making lifelong friends.

I've touched on just a few historic times in my life. There are many more. History truly is a living thing.



# Annual Report - 2012 Museum Statistics

678 persons visited the APHS Museum

*this included :*

- 82 Avon Central 6th Graders
- 45 Avon Boy Scouts & Girl Scouts
- 15 Kraft Foods Retirees

## **In addition:**

The Museum was open for two “Avon Saturday Night Out” events - 40 visitors and on

- Memorial Day - 50 visitors
- Corn Festival Tent Venue: 200+ visitors
- Museum on Corn Festival Day: 86 visitors  
(Combined profits for the day: \$1943.50, plus 16 memberships were sold)

**APHS Newsletter:** Published four times. Feb/Mar; May (Memorial Issue); July/Aug (Corn Festival Issue); and Nov/Dec

Issues focus seasonally and often thematically. The GV Penny Saver is now collating, folding, stapling and mailing this communication for us.

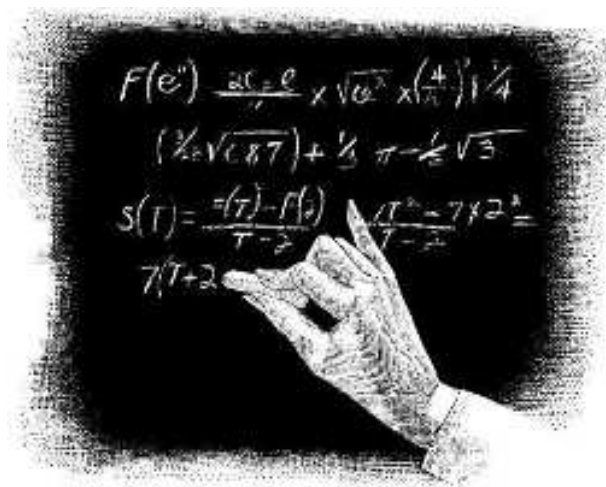
Various Board Members have attended/participated:

- Livingston County Attic Days in Geneseo
- WNY Assoc. of Historic Agencies Workshops

**Other:** 2012 saw a new APHS publication compiled by Curator Joan Reid & Asst Curator Jim Brewer and perfected by a team of proofers, entitled “Avon Recalls the Past.” This book has enjoyed a tremendous positive response: 200+ copies have been sold, and it is now in its fourth printing!

The Board has “deaccessioned” the gift to us of a Horsedrawn Hearse/Sleigh to Jim Jerris.

In addition, we have “deaccessioned” the gift of an Erie Railroad Bench to The NYS Railroad Museum on East River Road in Rush. It will have a plaque affixed: Gift of Avon Preservation and Historical Society.



## **Behind The Scenes!**

As I was sitting here pondering the challenges of the organization, it became very clear that I will probably never complete this list. So!

It's really not the tortoise life for me! What I could really use is to clone myself or encourage some of you wonderful members to just volunteer for a bit of time. Then we could all go play!

### *The Curator*

## **Avon Historical Notes**

*Compiled by Henry R. Selden*

**Preface:** Avon New York is one of the beauty spots of the Genesee Valley and its history embraces many interesting incidences of historic note in the developing of the Valley.

Its Sulfur Springs are of international fame and for many years it was a leading health resort.

After the destruction by fire of most of the hotels and bath houses, they were never rebuilt, but there is a movement on foot at the present time to have the State take the Springs over and develop them. (*Editor's note: Image that!!!*)

The following are some of the “Highlights” in Avon's history:

**1812** - Construction of the White Horse Tavern begun by John Pierson. After his death it was finished.

### **200 Years Ago:**

**1813** - Capt. Ezekiel Wadsworth and Capt. Daniel Bigelow of Avon led their companies in The Battle of Black Rock (Buffalo) as part of Col. Samuel Blakeslee's Regiment (Caledonia).



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**CLIP & MAIL** 

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Dear APHS Member or Potential Member:  
**Please fill out membership form as follows:**

1. Complete personal information, include e-mail address.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Choose membership type - Please Check  
 Individual \$10      Business \$30  
 Family \$20      Lifetime \$100

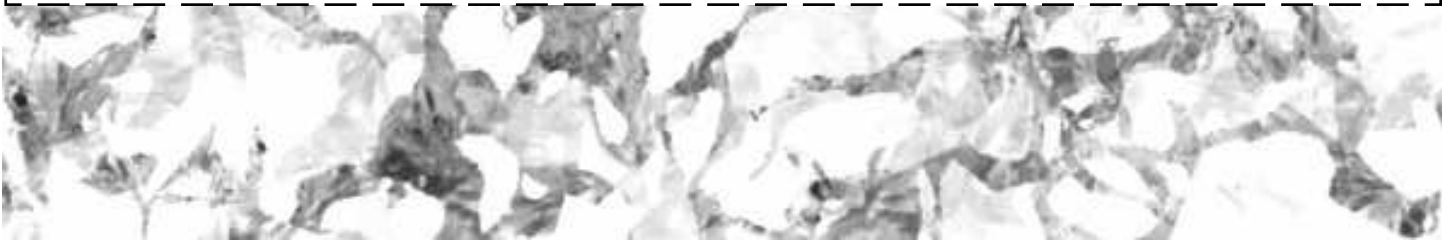
3. Choose -  New or  Renewal

4. May we contact you to volunteer?  Yes  No  
 Volunteer Choice - Please Check  
 Museum Docent      Corn Festival  
 Maintenance of Museum      Inventory  
 Annual Meeting      Refreshments  
 Other      None

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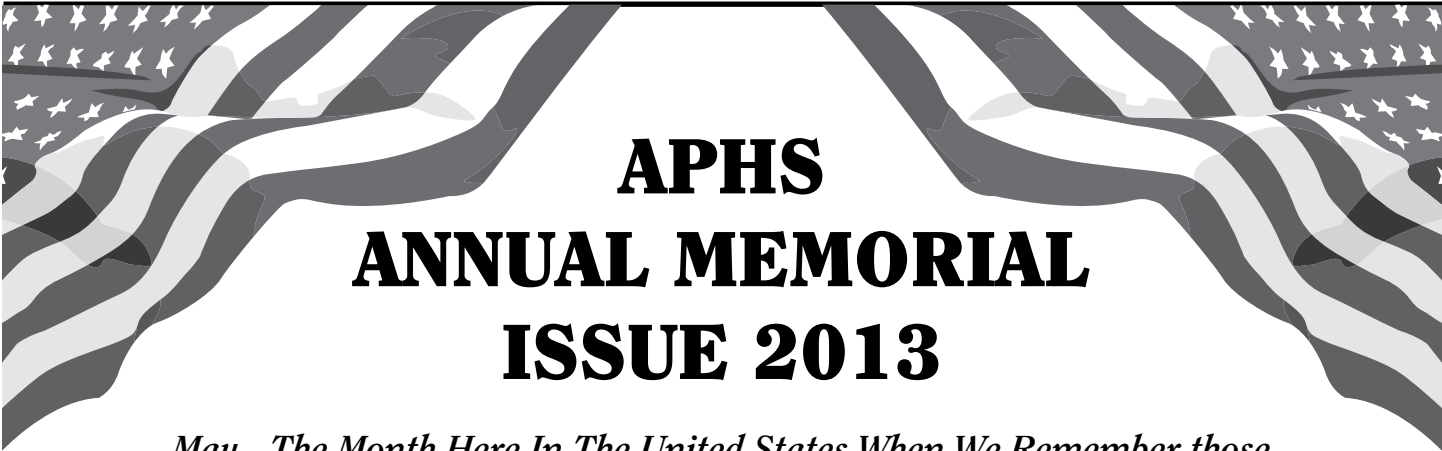
# Avon Preservation & Historical Society

*Newsletter*

VOLUME 25, No. 4

[www.avonhistorical.org](http://www.avonhistorical.org)

MAY & JUNE 2013



## APHS ANNUAL MEMORIAL ISSUE 2013

*May - The Month Here In The United States When We Remember those men and women who have given their lives in war to protect our country and thus safeguard our freedoms.*

On Memorial Day in every village, town and city countrywide, commemorations are held honoring these fallen heroes, and salutes are given to those who currently serve. Through parades, speeches, gun & cannon salutes (& often a flyover), then the haunting sound of Taps in the stillness. We stand proudly with local Veterans and American Legion members on this day - not without a tear or two, missing buddies and friends who didn't make it back...



**Avon Community Veterans  
deceased this past year:**

William Bartlett, Donald Cook, Charles Gianforte,  
Merton Hanna, Thomas Ippolito, Thomas King  
George Rapone, Jr., Ben Siragusa, Joseph Tarmino,  
Donald Thayer.

*Please note* the special "Wounded Warrior"  
window display at the APHS Museum dedicated to those  
injured in conflict defending our country. The Museum has  
free pins, rubber bracelets, & stickers commemorating  
Wounded Warrior efforts

*\*Donations to this program are accepted but not required,  
nor is this any manner of fundraising for the  
APHS Museum*

**The APHS takes time in each Annual  
Memorial Issue to pay tribute to its  
deceased members of the past year:**

Hon. Wesley Arnold, Robert Bristol,  
Jane Bruckel, Dana Collins,  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Downing

**A Party! A Party!  
A Wonderful Party!  
Come Celebrate 30 Years!**

**APHS Has A Birthday! & Have We Grown!**

**Please join us on Sunday, July 21, 2013  
at The Avon Inn from 2:00PM until 4:00PM**

The Celebration will feature a short history  
of the Avon Preservation & Historical Society  
given by Avon Town Historical, Maureen  
Kingston. Tea & delightful refreshments  
will be accompanied by background music.

This event will be held outdoors,  
weather permitting.

*Tickets are \$5.00 each from  
any board member and at the  
museum and the Avon  
Town Office*



---

**From The President's Corner..**

Growing up in Avon was a special time for me. Considered a very peaceful time in comparison to the decade that followed, even though it had its share of conflicts (The Red Scare, Korea, beginning of The Cold War), it was still a more innocent time.

I thought I'd like to share some memories of places I remember fondly from those days, most gone, perhaps forever:

The Park Theater, where for fifty cents you got two movies, a newsreel and a cartoon. They actually changed their bill three times a week & on school holidays had 25 cartoons for a quarter!

On Saturdays we also got a serial of Superman or of a Western, or such, which pretty much guaranteed us returning the next week!

The Twin Kiss Drive-in which became Tom Wahl's. When it opened it sold just two flavors of soft serve ice cream which could be blended (Twin Kiss, get it?!) and Root Beer in a frosted mug.

Foster's Restaurant, the HOT spot for Friday night fish fries. My parents took us often and I always got a quarter to play five songs on the juke box.

Wadsworth Pond when you could actually swim in it! We put a rope on one of the trees and would swing out to the middle and jump.



The News Room where for about a dollar and a quarter you could buy a comic book, two candy bars and the latest 45 RPM record. (Remember those?)

D'Angelo's Shoe Store. Always an adventure. Mr. ("Sam") D'Angelo knew where everything was although heaven knows how!

And of course Woodruff's Ice Cream Parlor (known to all as "Woody's"). It was THE after school hangout, Cherry Cokes and Milkshakes. Chuck Berry's "School Days" always brings back that memory.

And how about when the business section of Avon was filled with stores, all busy.

And Avon Central School housed Grades K through 12 in ONE building! As I said, special. Hope this brings back a few memories to you as well.

**- Bob Westfall  
APHS President**

# Artifacts & Archives

## Recently donated artifacts:

- Early Avon Post Office desk from first Post Office (Genesee & Park Place)
- Five Civil War Era newspapers have been conserved
- WWII Ground Observer Corps book w/Altitude Distance Finder
- Civil War Era women's "reenactment" costume
- Irene Coleman's report of the Avon Elementary School Fire
- Lussow's Grocery Thermometer
- ACS Yearbooks 2010 & 2012
- **Two copies:** Squire's 5th Annual Music Festival Program
- "Flying Nun" Lunch Box
- Four children's books
- Umbrella (Courtesy: Witherow Family)

---

### *Behind the Scenes from the Curator*

We have completed indexing the bottle collection and the book collection, the books by subject as well as location.

A huge thank you to Avon Wesleyan Church members for donating their time, talent and energy to thoroughly cleaning the Museum. This was their service day project. They have our gratitude! We have had several people visiting the Museum looking for interesting information and asking challenging questions.

"So time moves on and so do we and nothing stays the same, but I sure do love to reminisce and walk down memory lane."

**- Joan Reid**  
*APHS Curator*



**Don't Forget That  
June 14th Is Flag Day  
In The USA**



*Courtesy of: Mary Morey*

---

## **A True Civil War Vignette: Dog - "Jack"**

A large black and white bull terrier with the common name of Jack marched with the 102nd Pennsylvania Infantry from 1862 until his disappearance in 1864. Jack followed his two-legged comrades into several battles including the Siege of Yorktown, the Battle of Williamsburg, Fair Oaks, and Malvern Hill, Virginia, where Jack took a bullet. After Jack's recovery, he was taken prisoner at Salem Church along with many in his regiment. He was imprisoned for six months in Richmond and it was there that he was exchanged for a Confederate prisoner. He rejoined his unit and went through the campaigns of the Wilderness and Spotsylvania and the Siege of Petersburg. Jack was last seen in Frederick, Maryland in December of 1864. He disappeared after receiving a silver collar from his comrades. Jack was probably the victim of a robbery.

*- Civil War Mascots and Pets, 2004 Critter Company, Gettysburg*



**Avon Preservation and Historical Society**  
 Avon Town Hall  
 27 Genesee Street  
 Avon, New York 14414

Museum Hours:  
 Thursday, 2-4 • Sunday,  
 2-4, Or by appointment.

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<b>AP&amp;HS Board of Trustees 2013</b>	
Robert Westfall <i>President</i>	Jean Batzing Geri Brewer
John DuBois <i>Vice President</i>	Richard Burke Carol Hayes
James Gerace <i>Treasurer</i>	Dr. Robert Hayes Sharon Knight
Joan Reid <i>Curator</i>	Mary Lou Miller Pat Moran
James Brewer <i>Assistant Curator</i>	Jerry Sutfin Clara Mulligan Watson

## Address Service Requested

**ATTENTION: MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL UPDATES - PLEASE READ BELOW**

*\*If you know of a friend or relative who wants a 2013 membership, the form below can be cut out and used. (One perk is that they will receive the newsletter!)*

**CLIP & MAIL** 

### Avon Preservation & Historical Society • MEMBERSHIP FORM

Dear APHS Member or Potential Member:  
**Please fill out membership form as follows:**

1. Complete personal information, include e-mail address.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Choose membership type - Please Check

Individual \$10      Business \$30

Family \$20

3. Choose -  New or  Renewal

4. May we contact you to volunteer?  Yes  No  
 Volunteer Choice - Please Check

Museum Docent      Corn Festival

Maintenance of Museum      Inventory

Annual Meeting      Refreshments

Other      None

5. Please make checks payable to the AP&HS, and mail to the Museum at 23 Genesee Street, Avon, NY 14414.

Any questions please phone  
 585-226-2425 ext. 22.

*We would love to hear from you!*





# Avon Preservation & Historical Society

## *Newsletter*

VOLUME 26, No. 4

[www.avonhistorical.org](http://www.avonhistorical.org)

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2013



★

JOY  
HOPE  
peace  
happiness  
FELLOWSHIP  
brotherly love  
HARMONY peace  
hope prosperity JOY  
happiness GOOD WILL  
CHEER HOPE family fun  
PEACE prosperity fellowship  
happiness family fun prosperity  
joy THE MIRACLE OF harmony  
brotherly love A SINGLE SEED hope  
HOPE happiness fellowship good will  
family fun prosperity harmony joy PEACE  
**HAPPY HOLIDAYS**  
CHEER  
PEACE

*Avon sketches by Donna Kelsey*



Our November APHS window displays honoring Veterans and VanZandt Hose will soon transition into December's beautiful Christmas displays - Be sure to stop by!

## Behind the Scenes - From the Curator

Karen, our volunteer, and Geri Brewer are busy attaching labels to accessioned artifacts - past and present!

James and Geri Brewer, Robert Westfall & I attended a valuable Workshop on August 21. The morning session was entitled: "Design on a Dime" and discussed creating new museum exhibits with a limited budget including using Photoshop elements to design interpretive signs and sharing the names of printers that they use. Melissa Brown from the Buffalo Museum discussed and demonstrated how to design affordable mannequins. Very interesting! The afternoon session was on Grant Writing and provided tips for successful writing as well as finding "funders" that support your mission/specific needs. We all came away with much motivating information.

Two other Workshops added to our host of ideas, advice and information: August 28th was a Workshop sponsored by WNYAHA entitled: "Grave Matters", describing new concepts in cemetery design. On October 17th, a Workshop sponsored by the Friends of Livingston History consisted of The Museum Emergency Plan revisited with updates, Livingston County Heritage Trail audio tours, new calendar dates from the WNYAHA, and sharing of upcoming Museum events.

By the way, AP&HS has approx. 13 more 2014 calendars available for your Christmas list. Get'em while they last!



**ATTENTION  
DOCENTS  
URGENTLY NEEDED!!**

WILL TRAIN

NO SKILLS BEYOND ENTHUSIASM  
NO NEED TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD

2 - 3 HOURS A MONTH  
on a Thursday or Sunday Afternoon

## Memories of Christmas past growing up in Avon

My favorite Christmas movie is *A Christmas Story*. It always reminds me of Christmas growing up in Avon in the Forties and Fifties. I remember every storefront along Genesee Street having a thriving business and lots of people in and out of them. At Christmas time kids from Avon Central were allowed to paint the windows of these stores with great Holiday scenes (easily washed off after the New Year!) A special memory was Mom & Dad taking us to Sibley's in downtown Rochester to see their wonderful Christmas Village and have our picture taken with Santa. (Which I refused to have taken in about the 4th grade, my sisters held on a little longer). Then up to the Restaurant on top for some hot chocolate.

It was a time when some of our best loved Christmas songs were heard for the first time: *White Christmas*, *Frosty*, *Rudolph*, *The Little Drummer Boy* and least we forget: *The Chipmunk Song!* My personal favorite was Sinatra singing *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas*.

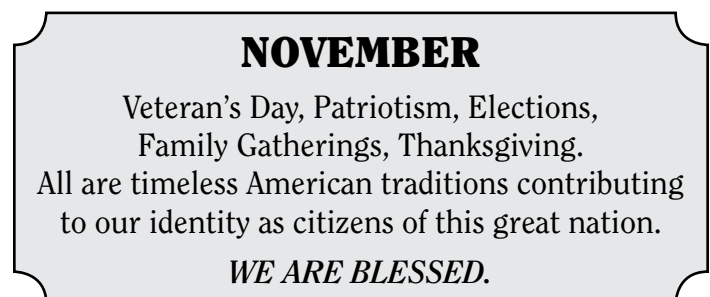
And going to the Park Theater to see *White Christmas*, *It's a Wonderful Life* and some of the other classic Christmas films that came out during this period.

Like Ralphie, I asked for and received a Daisy BB Gun one year. I'm sure at least one of my relatives said: "You'll put your eye out kid!" I even knew someone who froze their tongue to a metal bridge at Wadsworth pond (no names please).

It was a time when it was OK to wish people Merry Christmas and to have "Christmas" decorations and a tree at school.

I'm sure that this year I'll watch *A Christmas Story* probably for the 100th time and remember those wonderful Christmases in Avon growing up. (And didn't we always have snow?)

Happy Holidays to all!  
*Bob Westfall, APHS President*



**NOVEMBER**

Veteran's Day, Patriotism, Elections,  
Family Gatherings, Thanksgiving.

All are timeless American traditions contributing  
to our identity as citizens of this great nation.

*WE ARE BLESSED.*



## Other Avon Novembers and Decembers...

- *November 7th, 1912* - A sewage disposal plant is being installed down by the river
- *November 16th, 1915* - The Village Crew & Electric started to put in the conduit and set the standards for electric lights on Fisk Place
- *November 5th, 1918* - Women voted for the first time! Voting machines used for the first time
- *November 15th, 1930* - Gov. Franklin Roosevelt & party (in a Ford Convertible Sedan) stopped in Avon on the West side of the park.
- *November 1st, 1935* - Quite a severe earthquake at 1:05pm
- *December 11th, 1922* - A new dam is being constructed at Light's Mill
- *December 19th, 1927* - minus 16 degrees below zero
- *December 25th, 1932* - 66 degrees @ 2:00pm. Warmest in history
- *December 25th, 1940* - 60 degrees @ 1:30pm. Green Christmas
- *December 20th, 1942* - minus 16 degrees below zero

*From: The Diaries of Postmaster William Leighton*

## Buttons! Buttons! Buttons!

APHS has received a HUGE, PEOPLE, HUGE donation of button pins marking many large and small elections of all sorts of politics past and a wide variety of many other kinds and categories. They have been appraised and have little monetary value (other than one or two of them) but certainly possessed great sentiment to the collector! What fun! This brings up the topic of:

### ***“Accessioning”***

The AP&HS never tires of donated artifacts. They are the “lifeblood” of any museum - especially if they pertain to Avon’s families and community. Photos, paintings, uniforms (from all walks of life, not just military), collectibles, local business items from the past, books & letters, children’s items, organizations past & present, religious, seasonal, *and* .....

*you’ve got the picture!!*

## Programs

Recently, AP&HS held two programs of interest for Avonites by providing histories of The Avon Lion’s Club and The VanZandt Hose Company. These programs are held on Sunday afternoons usually from 2-4pm on the 2nd floor of the Opera Block (Handicap assessable).

### ***Programs coming up in 2014 are :***

- **February 23rd** -  
James Yancer - Boy Scouts in Avon
- **April 27th** -  
Maureen Kingston - Avon Mills
- **September 28th** -  
Clara Mulligan &  
Holly Watson -  
Barber, Mulligan  
Family Histories

**A happy,  
healthy  
holiday and  
new year to  
you all!**





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Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate desired membership level

( ) Individual \$10     ( ) Business \$30

( ) Family \$20     ( ) Donation

Please make check payable to AP&HS

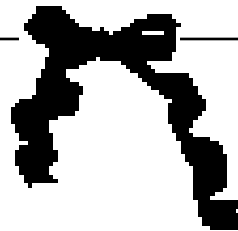
May we contact you to volunteer?

( ) Yes     ( ) No

Phone: 585-226-2425 x22  
Email: SKnight.aphs@gmail.com



*Have the happiest of holidays!*



**Annual Meeting  
January 27, 2014 at 2:00 PM  
at the Museum**





# Avon Preservation & Historical Society

## Newsletter

VOLUME 27, No. 1

[www.avonhistorical.org](http://www.avonhistorical.org)

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2014



### Museum Display Windows

Last month's Scouting themed display was incredible! This month's takes the cake! Early Outhouses!! Check it out!

Included in this Spring's window themes will be a commemoration of The Anniversary of World War II. Avon & APHS are so fortunate to have this special feature on our Main Street.

*Sunday, May 18th at 2:00pm presentation to be given by Avon Town Historian Maureen Kingston on the topic of Avon's Mills*



*Avon Boy Scout House, Ashantee*

### Donors of artifacts to the Avon Preservation & Historical Society in 2013

Avon Central School	Robert Hoffman
Amie Alden	John Iler, Jr
Thomas Bartolini	John Kemp
Jean Batzing	Sharon Knight
James Biondolillio	David Leone
James Brewer	William MacIntyre
Helen Cole	Robert McNinch
Thomas Cole	Mary Morey
Donald Combes	William Morrissey
Richard Corrigan	Clara Mulligan
Carol Cottone	Penny's Department Store
Carol Coyne	Joan Prinzi
Carl Crisp	Joan Reid
Joseph DiTucci	Debra Shuryn
John DuBois	Steve Stephenson
Robert DuBois	Shirley Strasenburgh
Jacob Dziekonski	Jerry Sutfin
Mark Evans	Carolyn Swanton
Barbara Gelsomino	William Wall
James Gerace	Robert Westfall
Lynda Hally	Carol Webster
Jan Hayes	Loren Whipple

# Avon Boy Scout Troop 26 Celebrates Century of Scouting in Avon!

At 12:00pm, on Sunday, February 23rd, an Eagle Court of Honor was held on the second floor of The Opera Block honoring yet another Eagle Scout from Troop 26. At 2:00pm APHS held a Community Program themed on Avon's Scouting history, presented by current Troop 26 Scoutmaster, James Yencer. The hallway outside the meeting area and the conference table in the room were filled with a veritable warehouse of Scouting artifacts, photos and memorabilia. Mr. Yencer gave a PowerPoint presentation illustrating a carefully researched timeline (still being added to!) of the Avon Scouting Movement from approximately 1900 through present as well as an overview of the origins and history of Boy Scouting worldwide, beginning with the organization's founder, Lord Baden Powell of England. A truly well done and interesting program!

The chronology of Avon Scoutmasters and Eagle Scouts listed here are extensive and do us all proud!



## A Few Troop 26 Memories...

*Valley Forge, Pa. 1952 National Scout Jamboree: Avon Scouts attending were*

Jerry Rowe, Steve Stephenson & Bob Batterby. Charlie Babcock was Scoutmaster. Jerry Rowe remembers their group built a bridge replica and put a long pan of water underneath, topped with dry ice! They shared that their project represented The Genesee River and that their river always acted this way!

Steve Stephenson recalled receiving his Eagle status with the late David Kingston, who was also Scoutmaster twice. Steve recalled being a committee member on a Troop trip with Scoutmaster Bob French in Jackson, Wyoming when Bob decided to purchase 32 ten gallon hats! Everybody got a hat! When these cowboys arrived home, Jake Dziekonski who was Troop Treasurer, gave Bob holy heck! (Steve still has his hat).

Jim Gerace, APHS Treasurer, remembers his Cub Scout years where the Cubs met in their leaders' homes - Dana Collins, Lacy Street, & Ruth Woodruff, Lake Road. Jim's older brother, Jerry received his Eagle in 1956.

John DuBois, APHS Vice President, remembers 1956-1958 Troop 26 having 18-20 Scouts with Relly Clark, Tom Cochrane & Kevin Quinlan as Scoutmasters. They put on several plays in the old high school gym: a Native American Play & a Pirate Play which he said were great successes.

APHS President Bob Westfall's grandfather was Avon's first Scoutmaster.

There are several volumes that could be told here!



*Avon Troop 26 Scouts come in all sizes*

# The White Horse Needs Repairs Once Again. Is He Worthy Of The Attention?

You betcha! A national trust. Avon's "identity marker." The fact that he marks the passageway from East to West (Rtes 5 & 20) across our country & Rte 15 from North to South is stand alone! APHS is right now communicating with Town Officials and will be contacting various organizations in the Avon Community as well. If you have an interest in this great White Horse's welfare, please contact Robert Westfall, APHS President or any Board Member as listed above your address on this newsletter. Our tel# is: 226-2425 x 22.



*And here he still rests...but again needy*



*Corrosion built up over 20+ years  
Note the foundation and the rear portions  
of the front hooves.*

## Historic Tavern Stood Since 1812

The flames which burned the White Horse Tavern today destroyed a historic landmark standing since 1812. (Details, Page 1.)

A hostelry without peer in Western New York when it was built, the ivy-covered inn sheltered pioneers on their way West, entertained veterans of the early Indian wars, and became the place where townfolk heard the Civil War casualty lists read. The tavern was a welcome sight for weary travelers, and a meeting place for the famed and wealthy.

CONSTRUCTION began on the tavern early in 1812 when John Pierson, a native of Connecticut, decided to build a public house. Pierson died of the Genesee fever before the inn was completed.

The first landlord, Maj. Seymour Boughton, went off to fight the British and died in the Battle of Black Rock, near Buffalo, in the War of 1812.

Other proprietors have included Thomas Wiard, Isaac Riley Newman, Ward Stickney, and in recent years, Mrs. Emma Rettig, who died in 1948 after managing the inn for 39 years.

Another former proprietor was Ken O'Dea, former catcher for the St. Louis Cardinals, the Chicago Cubs, and the New York Giants.

OVER THE YEARS, the famed inn gave birth to many legends. One of them concerned a printer named Morgan, who was said to have revealed secrets of the Masonic Order in the early 19th Century and vanished. The story goes that he was last seen alive with a group of captors at the inn. He is presumed to have been murdered.

Cattleman used to stop at the inn while driving herds to market. Once, when a steer ran wild, the life of a quick-thinking Avon man was saved by one of the inn's huge porch pillars.

White Horse Tavern was the meeting place of the Genesee Valley Hunt in which Maj. William Austin Wadsworth acted as master of the hounds.

*Rochester Times  
Union - 1955*





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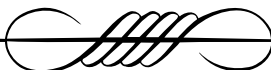
**AP&HS Board of Trustees 2013**

Bob Westfall <i>President</i>	Jean Batzing
John DuBois <i>Vice President</i>	Geri Brewer
James Gerace <i>Treasurer</i>	Richard Burke
Joan Reid <i>Curator</i>	Dan Cochrane
James Brewer <i>Assistant Curator</i>	Carol Hayes
	Dr. Robert Hayes
	Sharon Knight
	Mary Lou Miller
	Pat Moran
	Clara Mulligan
	Barbara Scott

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate desired membership level

( ) Individual \$10     ( ) Business \$30

( ) Family \$20     ( ) Donation

Please make check payable to AP&HS

May we contact you to volunteer?

( ) Yes     ( ) No

**Phone: 585-226-2425 x22**  
**Email: SKnight.aphs@gmail.com**

**A Message from Membership**

Time to renew your membership! Have you renewed your membership in the past 12 months? If not, please consider doing so today. Your dues are important to the Avon Preservation & Historical Society. Your dues support the many good works of the Society.

The Avon Preservation & Historical Society:

- Maintains a beautiful museum
- Provides several programs on topics of local interest each year
- Preserves and stores the many artifacts donated to the museum every year
- Assists with the upkeep of historical sites in Avon

Please fill out the form in this newsletter and mail it, with your dues, to the Historical Society.

Thank you!



# Avon Preservation & Historical Society

*Newsletter*

VOLUME 27, No. 2

www.avonhistorical.org

MAY/JUNE 2014



## *In Flanders Fields*

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the gun below.*

*By John McCrae 12/8/15*

## **Avon's Poppy Lady**

### **Minnie Mehlenbacher**

February 25, 1886? - September 3, 1990

"One May morning in 1927, Minnie Mehlenbacher headed into the village circle with a basket of flowers. No ordinary flowers these, but cloth poppies made by disabled veterans of the Great War (WWI)."

Otto Mehlenbacher and his wife Minnie had recently moved to Avon, where Otto found work as a mechanic. It had been nine years since the signing of the Armistice ending World War I. Otto had served as an infantryman in France and, though not one to talk about the fighting, he could never forget its results or turn his back on the men it left in its terrible wake. Minnie became part of his crusade. There are those who claim that she has sold more poppies than any other single individual in the United States. Minnie always had a smile on her face and offered a cheerful greeting as she affixed a Poppy to your lapel.

Her concern for disabled veterans - "the boys," as she called them - didn't end with Memorial Day; she visited them in area veterans hospitals. Her visits brought joy as well as gifts; some had been there so long their own relatives were all gone. Minnie saw three more wars come and go since that first one. Three wars, each leaving new faces among the old. More new boys.

*Excerpt from Biography written by Wanda Rowe for APHS Publication "Voices from the Past."*

### *Upcoming events in which the Museum will be involved:*

- AP&HS will be participating in the Attic Treasures Day – **June 14th** at the Livingston County Museum on Center Street in Geneseo.
- AP&HS will be participating in Croquet Games at the Downs on **June 18th** starting at 2:00 pm. All are welcome to participate.
- The Avon Central School 6th graders will be coming for their field trip on **June 19th**.
- During the Corn Festival, the AP&HS will be in their regular space in front of the Central Presbyterian Church and the Museum will be open as well.

## ***From the Vice President*** **Another “Piece” of the Civil War...**

On July 1, 1863, two generals confronted one another at Gettysburg, Pa.: One, a Confederate general, Lieut.General Richard S. Ewell and the Union general, Major General Oliver O. Howard. Both were graduates of West Point, graduating 14 years apart. Both were extraordinary men, brave beyond doubt, and both had lost limbs in battle, Gen. Elwell a left leg and Gen. Howard his right arm. Gen. Elwell was born Feb. 8, 1817 in Tenn. He was 5ft 8in. tall, thin and suffered from chronic health problems. He was a skillful and successful division commander. His bravery was legendary and he often commanded his company from the front. He had retired from active service following the Mexican War. He married, but returned to active duty following the Battle of Chancellorsville.

Gen. Howard was born Nov. 8, 1830 in Leads, Maine. He was 5ft. 9in. tall and thin. He was described as being of slight build, strong, but not an impressive man. It was said that he was neither a profound thinker or a man with a “large natural ability,” although his officers and men had unbounded confidence in him.. He was viewed as a Christian soldier and seemed to have a close relationship with his men. These two were both competent division commanders destined to meet in battle. When Gen. Reynolds, the commanding officer, was wounded and then died, Gen. Howard was informed that being the senior officer on the field, he was now in command. Gen. Howard’s men took up position on Cemetery Hill while Gen. Ewell’s men began advancing. The battle continued for three long days.

On July 4th, Gen. Ewell’s men would start a wagon train of wounded south. He had been taken prisoner of war and held at Fort Warren in Boston Harbor until July 18, 1865. After his parole, he returned to his wife’s farm near Spring Hill, Tenn. He and his wife both died of pneumonia, three days apart, Jan. 25, 1872 and are buried in Old City Cemetery, Nashville, Tenn.

Following the war, Gen. Howard was commissioner of the Freedman’s Bureau (Army Bureau of Refugees) and played a major role in the Reconstruction Era. He had charge of integrating the freed slaves into American society. He was

instrumental in the founding of Howard University and the Lincoln Memorial University in Harrogate, Tenn. for the education of mountain peoples. He authored several books. He died Oct. 26, 1909 in Burlington, VT. He is buried in Lake View Cemetery.

Two men from very different backgrounds, went on to serve their country and then to return to their very different lives.

Ref. Pfanz, Harry W.,  
Gettysburg 1993 \**The  
four year Anniversary  
Commemoration of The Civil  
War ends in 2014*

- John DuBois



### **Behind the Scenes:**

Many thanks to our volunteer, Michael Cochrane, who is indexing the Bessie Orman Miller Albums. He is on #9 of 33. We have received a donation of a Hosmer Bible from Alan Recktenwald of Avoca, NY. He found it in an indoor flea market in Newport, Oregon while visiting his father. While it does not have any information on the family record pages, it does have the obits of James and his wife. We received from St. Agnes Church a collection of Lincoln Logs, Tinker Toys and a beautiful old cradle. The toys enhance our toy collection and the cradle will be the bed of some future antique doll. The First Presbyterian Church in East Avon donated two white infant dresses and a slip. The Museum is most appreciative of these or any donations that help to tell the story of Avon.

## From The President

### *“The Old Neighborhood”*

I recently had an opportunity to tour the house on Genesee Street that I lived in until age 11. Joan and John Orman were gracious enough to let me take my son & daughter and grandchildren through before they moved to their new home. This brought back so many memories to me of our old neighborhood and the wonderful people who lived there. I also realized that most of these names are gone.

Next door to us on the north side were the Coonans. I remember Mr. Coonan always bringing us vegetables from his garden and Mrs. Coonan always having homemade cookies for us to eat. Their daughter Carol (McCormick) later lived and raised her family there and now her son and daughter in-law reside there.

Two doors down to the South were the Lussows who owned a grocery store where Avon Floral World now does business. They actually raised chickens in the back of the house and sold them fresh daily in their store! They also delivered groceries if you wanted and had a special vehicle for that purpose.

Next door to them in the house now occupied by Barb Cole were the Learys. They had several children and still have an Avon connection as they were family to Dana Collins and several of Dana’s children have returned to Avon to live.

Across the street in the big house that is now the White Oak B&B lived Paul Strasenbergs and his family. Paul always seemed larger than life to me as a kid. We used to go sledding down “Strasenbergs Hill” in the winter. Not much of a hill now but pretty cool for a nine year old.

Continuing on to the next “big” house was Mrs. O’Neil’s. She was the widow of a railroad magnate and a lovely neighbor. She took a liking to the Westfall family. She would give full packages of Hershey’s Chocolates and periodically she would send over giant cans of Charles

Chips. One Christmas she gave all us children silver piggy banks with our names engraved on them. I still use mine.

Then there were Glen and Mary Brown and their five children, all close in age to us, so lots of neighborhood adventures. Next door in what most people remember as the Mason or Vonglis home were the Anders. They had a son, Gary, my age and had one of the first TV sets. We used to gather every afternoon around 4 PM to watch the *Howdy Doody Show*. They moved after the mother died in a car accident.

Next were the Perry family who had two children, Ted and Beverly; then the Hilliards (Mrs. H was my father’s sister and made great sugar cookies). Now we get to 207 on the corner of Genesee and Fisk where my Grandmother Westfall lived and for awhile ran it as a B&B, back then referred to as a “Tourist Home.” Also a great cookie maker (I’m beginning to remember why I was a chubby kid, all those cookies and Hershey bars!).

Well, that’s my little trip down Memory Lane and all the things touring my childhood home brought back. Hope it brings back memories of your old neighborhoods.

- *Bob Westfall*

---

### *“Small Town Irony”*

About Mrs. O’Neil: My father, John Rowe, was a New York State Policeman for nearly 30 years. During part of that era, he was often called upon to escort people for security reasons – for example, he frequently escorted George Eastman upon request. Mrs. O’Neil would always request him to escort her to the bank to return her jewels – my first Christmas I received a silver baby cup engraved with my name – and like President Westfall’s piggy bank, I still have my cup.

- *Mary Lou Miller, Trustee & Editor*

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## From The Curator: A Note From History!

Due to the nature of the “roads” through central and western New York, travel on foot or horseback was the easiest and quickest way to cover any distance in the least amount of time. This mode of travel was well suited to the adventurer, explorer, land speculator and cattle drover. But for those settlers bringing families and their possessions, this was not the thruway. A wagon or sleigh was the vehicle of choice, but added to the hardships and uncertainty of the journey and thus increased the time of the journey. Crossing streams and lakes only added to the difficulties. Did you know that in 1808, Maria Berry was granted exclusive rights to ferry travelers across the Genesee River? Some of the fees are listed:

1 man and 1 horse – 6 cents; each horse or cow – 3 cents; each sheep or swine – 1 cent; each loaded or empty cart, wagon, sled or sleigh – 25 cents; each additional horse or ox – 12 ½ cents. In 1808, the stage fare was 6 cents per mile, and by 1814 it had risen to 7 ½ - 8 cents per mile. The 1808 stage left Canandaigua on Monday morning at 6am continued through Batavia, Buffalo and reached Niagara on Thursday at 3 am. It would stop when people wanted to get on or off. Meals could be purchased at the various inns and taverns along the way. I wonder what they did eat?

*Joan Reid*



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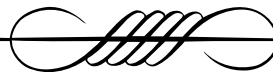
**AP&HS Board of Trustees 2014**

Bob Westfall <i>President</i>	Jean Batzing Geri Brewer
John DuBois <i>Vice President</i>	Richard Burke Dan Cochrane
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**Address Service Requested**

**Museum Hours:**

Thursday, 2-4 • Sunday, 2-4,  
Or by appointment.



*\*If you know of a friend or relative who wants a 2013-14 membership, the form below can be cut out and used. (One perk is that they will receive the newsletter!)*

**Avon Preservation & Historical Society  
MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Please fill in below, tear off, and return to:  
AVON PRESERVATION AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
23 Genesee Street • Avon, New York 14414

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate desired membership level

(   ) Individual \$10     (   ) Business \$30

(   ) Family \$20     (   ) Donation

Please make check payable to AP&HS

May we contact you to volunteer?

(   ) Yes     (   ) No

**Phone: 585-226-2425 x22  
Email: SKnight.aphs@gmail.com**

**Avon's Mills**

The May 18th APHS Community Program was presented by Avon Town Historian, Maureen Kingston, a total success with over 50 persons attending. We hope Maureen will do a Part 2 next May. A few facts from her presentation: An 1824 NYS report listed Avon as having 26+ mills: 5 Grist; 8 Saw; 3 Fulling (fabric treatment); 5 Carding; 5 Distilleries; 1 Iron Works; & 3 Asheries. 6 are still in existence either standing or converted to residences etc. King Cole Bean; Glen Avon - Residence; Spring St. now Commercial use; Ashantee Waterwheel Mill now a residence; Paper Mill now a Town Park by Conesus Outlet Creek on Paper Mill Road; & Gilbert Mill now a residence... just a tip of the iceberg - hoping for Part 2!







# Avon Preservation & Historical Society

*Newsletter*

VOLUME 27, No. 3

[www.avonhistorical.org](http://www.avonhistorical.org)

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2014

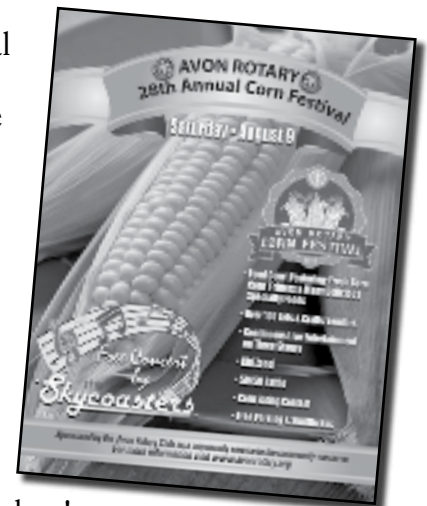
## Seasonal Greetings! Summer Is At End & Fall Is Upon Us



1987

Normally readers have expected a Corn Festival themed issue on or around the beginning of August. This issue has taken the above theme to a more historical level and you will notice more pages. Curator Joan Reid starts off on the remainder of this page and inside with a well researched piece on Avon's weeklong Carnival of 1912 with some Vaudeville history at the finish. Following, a brief piece on Avon's 1938 Festival which lasted three days and an ad announcing Avon's 2001 Millennium celebration. More on these latter in a future issue. Does anyone

remember our first Corn Festival? It lasted two full days!



2014

We're entitling this issue:

**A CENTURY PLUS: PIECES OF AVON'S CARNIVALS, FESTIVALS AND VAUDEVILLE HISTORY**

## Our Big Carnival

There is a big time in store for Avon the week of September 2nd, 1912. Plans are underway by the Board of Trade for a BIG carnival that week. The park is to be walled in and filled with high-class attractions. A nominal admission charge to the park will be made and there will be free attractions that will be well worth the charge. Some attractions of the highest class have been booked. It is expected that the village will be brilliantly decorated and lighted by electricity for the evening events. The Board of Trade never does things by halves, so Avon may prepare for one grand time the first week of September.

The committee in charge is enthusiastic and working hard to secure the best that can be procured. Whenever they hear of anything that would tend to better the show it is quickly secured. There is to be an electrical display that has never been equaled in any small town in Western New York. The park and main streets will be illuminated in a manner equal to any city display. A contract was let for the electrical display and decorations to the G.A. Traham Company of Cohoes, NY.

The committee also has a contract with C.S. Karland, Carnival Manager of the Rochester Theatrical Exchange to furnish the free attractions. He also has the contract for letting all concessions. If any people of Avon wish to take part in these make application to Mr. Follett. Mr. M.E. Ross has been appointed to head the agriculture exhibit. If any resident of Avon has anything in this line they wish to exhibit, they should contact him.

Among the free attractions will be Animal Shows, Diving Girls, Vaudeville Acts, Riding Devices, as well as "Enigmarelle" the Electric Man.

The advertising car was out and about distributing advertising fliers throughout the county and southern Monroe County. Anyone wishing to secure an advertising space in the flier should contact D.M. Lewis. It is expected that about eight thousand fliers will be distributed. There will be ten thousand printed. The price for an advertisement is \$2.50 a space.

Monday, September 2, Labor Day, will be the annual Inspection and Field Day of the Avon Fire Departments. There will be eleven companies and five bands in the line of march. The parade will be followed by a fine program of sports which will be open to local and visiting firemen.

After dinner has been served to the visiting firemen and bands at the parochial school banquet hall, the parade will start.

The parade will form in Genesee Street opposite the post office in this order: Board of Trustees, Board of Fire Commissioners, Chief and visiting chiefs and assistants, Honeoye Falls Band, Caledonia Fire Department, Tennant Hose Company, Chemical Company, Spring Creek Hook and Ladder Co., Dansville Protectives, Avon Cornet Band, Avon Hose Co., VanZandt Hose Co., Avon Hook and Ladder Co., Chemicals, and Erie Hose.

The fire whistle will be sounded and bell will be rung at 1:30pm sharp then the column will move around the north side of the park to East Main St. to Lacy St., counter march down East Main to Temple St. to Oak St. to Genesee St. to West Main St. to Wadsworth Ave. as far as Isham Ave. counter march to West Main St. to Genesee, around south side of the park where the procession will be reviewed by the Chief, Trustees, and Commissioners. The ranks will be broken in the vicinity of the fire hall.

A program of sports will follow, hose race, fat man's race, 100 yard dash for the Avon firemen, 100 yard dash for visiting firemen, shoe race for boys under 12 years, knapsack race, three legged race, 100 yard dash for boys under 16 years, sack race and a half mile run. In the evening there will be music and dancing at Clark's Hall.

Tuesday is scheduled as Old Home Day. It is hoped that there will be a great gathering on that day. Prizes will be awarded to the exhibitors during the afternoon. At 10pm there will be a fine exhibit of fireworks.

Wednesday afternoon there is to be a big Calithumpian parade in decorated automobiles. Enigmarelle, driving the first car, will lead the parade.

Thursday a program of sports will take place. Among the events will be a modified marathon run. There will be fireworks at 10pm and dancing at Clark's Hall.





Friday is to be Grange Day. A public auction of livestock and other articles will be held in the afternoon. A display of fireworks will again be held in the evening.

Saturday is Children's Day; a big parade of children will take place and it is hoped that every child between the ages of five and sixteen will participate. These children will be admitted free of charge to the park enclosure. The Queen of the Carnival will be crowned in the evening and a good time will prevail until the carnival comes to a close at midnight. There is a contest for the Queen of the Carnival. Any young lady of this village may enter. The winner will be given a beautiful diamond ring. Remember the most popular and hard working young lady will win.

Avon's Street Carnival held last week was the biggest success of anything ever attempted in this village. The attendance was well over 10,000 people who paid admission to the park. The free attractions were of the highest order and well worth the price of admission. Emigmarelle, the mechanical man, was an attraction that has starred in Europe and this country as a headliner at all the leading vaudeville houses and proved to be a marvel. The Massand Duo were clever acrobats and received warm applause with each appearance. Frank Stephenson, son of Mr. & Mrs. Thomas V. Stephenson of this village also appeared on the slack wire. His performance has greatly improved since his last appearance and was well received.

The Japanese booth had some handsome wares. Several striking machines, the shooting gallery and the popcorn man were very popular. Several merchants reported that they were surprised at the amount of business the carnival brought to the town. The circle wave, merry-go-round and show were quite well patronized. A man from Dansville said that he drove people to the carnival every day. Never was a village of this size decorated in such a handsome manner as was Avon for the Carnival. It was simply magnificent and caused a lot of comment from our out of town visitors. The park looks very fair now and after a shower or two nobody would ever know that it was used for a carnival. What's the use of having a site of this kind if it cannot be enjoyed? The decorations were very beautiful. The monument was certainly an exquisite site and much admired. The lights attracted many at night and the flags gave an appearance of gait in the daytime.

Miss Ethel Russell was crowned the Queen of the Carnival and received the diamond ring. The following are the winners of the field day sports:

Hose Race- First prize of a trumpet went to the VanZandt Hose second to Erie Hose. The winning team was made up of R.D. Browne, J.D. Carson, Harry Boorman, Chester Westfall, Ray Downing, W.H. Clark, F.H. Cooper, W.O. Soper, Herbert Longfellow, and H.R. Gibson. Fat Man's Race first prize of a smoking set went to C.E. Hawley and second prize, a cigar case to A.C. VanAllen. First prize of an umbrella in the 100-yard

dash for firemen went to C.F. Richie and second prize of a scarf pin went to Ed Dooley. In the Shoe Race for boys, Francis Kellogg in first winning a pair of shoes, and William Master in second winning a pair of sneakers. Knapsack Race with Raymond Kennedy and Ray Downing in first winning 100 cigars and Chester Westfall and Stanley Weed in second winning 50 cigars. Three Legged Race with Ed Smith and Robert Downing in first winning 100 cigars and Chester Westfall and Stanley Weed in second winning 50 cigars. In the Boys Race, Louie Battalia in first winning a sweater coat and William Masters in second winning \$1 box of candy. 100-Yard Dash for all with Matt Cleary in first winning 50lbs. of flour and Glen Webb in second winning 25 lbs of candy. Half Mile Run with Carl Richie in first winning a set with a watch and chain, scarf pin and cuff links, and Harry Credit in second winning a watch fob and Ray Downing in third winning cuff links.

Many stuffed poodle dogs were disposed of during the week, judging from the ladies and children who were carrying them away. Yes, the men, too, carried away a lot of them.

H.C. Follett is certainly entitled to a world of credit for the success of the big event as he was the chairman of the committee and consequently had most of the work to do.

In retrospect, the success of this carnival was due in part to the demise of the spa era, the improvement in the economy following the minor depression, the number of trains coming and going from Avon, the increase in those driving automobiles, and the sense of well-being that prevailed at this time.

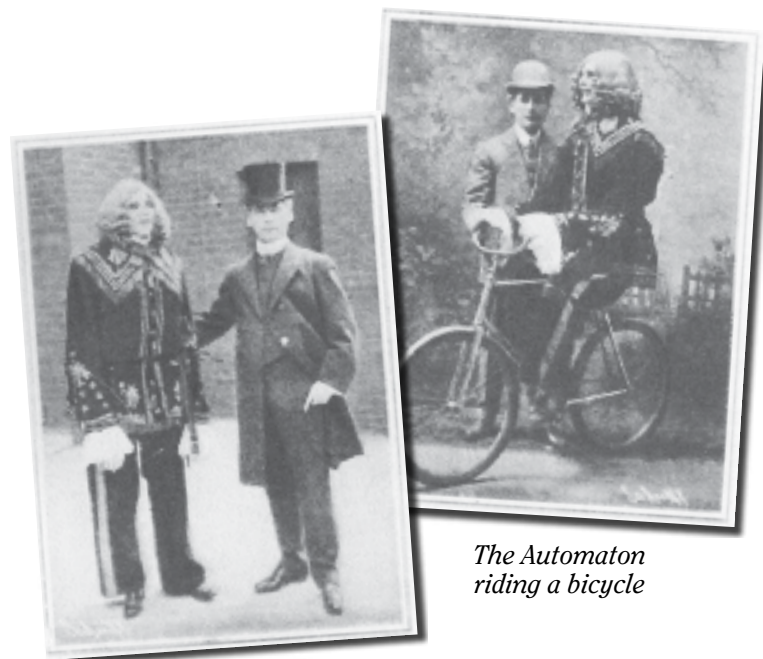
**Note:** Enigmarelle was probably the first robot. It was an automaton constructed of 365 different parts and actuated by electricity. He is six feet in height, weights 198 lbs, and is composed of 365 distinct and separate parts. As to composition, the feet are iron, the lower limbs of steel and wood, the arms are steel and copper. The body is insulated steel wire frame cased with fiber and rawhide, while the head is wax. The figure contains seven motors, three of which are spring and four are electric which draw their power from wet-cell batteries concealed in the trunk. Unbuttoning his waistcoat reveals a mass of wheelwork and wire, levers and cranks. Unfortunately, within all of this trumpery there beat no mechanical heart. The figure rode a bicycle, wrote his name on a blackboard, and performed other tasks similar to a human being. Enigmarelle was exhibited in the London Hippodrome in June 1905. He also toured other capital cities in Europe playing to the nobility. His human companion was Frederick Ireland.

---

## From Ord-Hume's *Clockwork Music*

Another and equally spectacular "android" was that exhibited at the London Hippodrome in 1905. Called Enigmarelle, this seven-foot high figure possessed incredible abilities. It would walk onto the stage, write its name in somewhat backward-sloping manuscript upon a blackboard, and then ride a bicycle in a circle. Its head was of wax, its feet of steel and its legs of wood and iron. The motive power comprised no less than seven motors-three being spring, and four electric which drew their power from wet-cell batteries concealed in the trunk. Unbuttoning its waistcoat revealed a mass of wheelwork and wires, levers, and cranks. Unfortunately, within all this trumpery there beat no mechanical heart, but that of a real, live man.

*Avon News-Herald, Aug. 1912*



*The Automaton  
riding a bicycle*


*Introducing "Enigmarelle,"  
a clever mechanical and  
electrical automaton.*

*Avon Community Carnival*

Sponsored by

AVON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
 AMERICAN LEGION  
 AVON PUMPER COMPANY  
 AVON ROTARY CLUB  
 W.M. VAN ZANDT HOSE COMPANY

Purpose of the Carnival to Provide Lighting Equipment  
 for Community Athletic Field



AVON, N. Y.  
*August 31, September 1, 2 and 3,*  
 1938

**AVON STEALS A LEAD!**

WHEN night lighting is installed at the Community Athletic Field, Avon will be almost unique among villages of its size. Few other towns will be able to boast of facilities so complete and adequate for the enjoyment of its sports enthusiasts, players and spectators alike. Every citizen of Avon may well be proud of this evidence of the progressive spirit of our community.

The Niagara, Lockport and Ontario Power Company is happy to share the enterprise of these groups and individuals who are doing so much to make this program possible. Our best facilities are extended to the Chamber of Commerce, American Legion, Rotary Club, Pumper Company and Van Zandt Hose Company.


The Carnival Committee wishes to thank all those who have contributed to the success of our Carnival, through advertising, donations, personal effort and in other ways. We wish especially to thank visiting Fire Companies, Bands and Corps for participating in the

W. P. COYNE... General Chairman  
 H. BECKER... Committee Advisor  
 T. SELDEN  
 W. RUCKER

The Carnival Committee Gratefully acknowledge contributions from the following:

JAMES D. CARSON  
 CHAPIN OWEN CO.  
 EAST AVE. SHELL STATION  
 HENRY LEIGHTON  
 EDWARD D. MULLIGAN  
 LE GRAND ROWE  
 W.M. A. SMITH

Also several other firms and individuals



**MILLENNIUM  
 Celebration**

*Avon Preservation and Historical Society with the cooperation of the  
 Town and Village of Avon, Avon Central School,  
 Avon Rotary Club, and Avon Lions Club present*

**“Then and Now”**

**Saturday, June 9, 2001**

- Grand Parade with Bands and Floats -  
 Beginning at 12:30. Friends of Avon Free Library will be distributing balloons along the parade route.
- Millennium Celebration Program -  
 Middle School Auditorium

---

- Games, Activities, Food for the Whole Family -
- Classic Car Review, Music, Fireworks -
- all on the Junior - Senior High School Soccer Field



## House Plaques

The plaque is a metal oval, about 10 inches wide, with the construction year of your home and the words "Avon Historical Society" printed in gold.

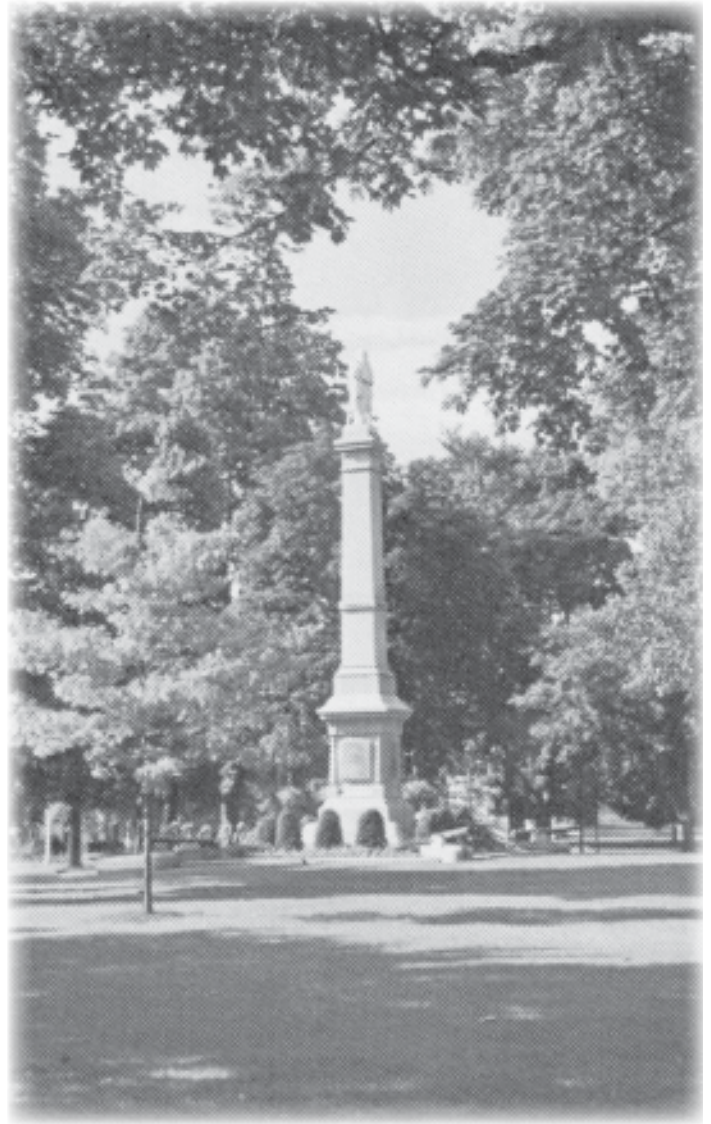
The plaque is available for \$75.

For further information or the necessary forms, contact:

**James Brewer**  
**14 Nune Park**  
**Avon, NY 14414**

Phone **226-2729**

Remember, these plaques make nice gifts.  
A plaque can be ordered for any home regardless of age.



## Behind the Scenes

We have received several donations recently. Mr. Steve Stephenson donated a copy of the 1931 AHS yearbook. Mr. Michael Carroll donated a lovely piece of pottery for a raffle at the Corn Festival. The American Sewing Guild at the Wesleyan Church also donated a quilted wall hanging for a raffle at the Corn Festival. James Brewer purchased an original Howdy Doody in the box from Mrs. Howard Anderson. It was given to Mr. Anderson in 1950. The ACS donated a copy of the 2014 yearbook. The Class of 1964 gave a donation for the museum. Chief Dan Snyder and team came for a visit on July 22nd. Three Trustees attended a workshop in Batavia on cemetery preservation. Three Trustees will be attending a workshop on August 20th in Geneseo. It is the 3rd Annual Basic Museum Training seminar.



## A Note From History!

In the last issue I told you about the cost of travel in the early 1800's. When folks traveled, they also had to depend on the various taverns and inns along the way for food and lodging. In 1805 at the Hosmer Inn in Avon, breakfast consisted of good coffee, excellent tea, loaf sugar, mutton chops, waffles, berry pie, preserved berries, excellent bread, and an onion salad. At General Hall's Inn in Bloomfield, breakfast consisted of tea, toast, and broiled venison. Dinner often consisted of bacon and eggs or salt pork or beef. The cost of staying overnight at an inn at a Genesee Country hostelry and of obtaining a meal was about 12 ½ cents apiece or a little less for lodging. In 1812, one breakfast was 12 ½¢ and one dinner was 18¢. In 1809, the charges at the better taverns were 2 & 6 pence per meal and 1 shilling for your bed.

*Happy traveling!*



display. THE ONE TO THE OUTHOUSE. It certainly drew LOTS of attention!!  
I am always open to new ideas - does anyone have an idea for a display?

PLEASE LET ME KNOW!!

*Geri Brewer, APHS Board Trustee, Display/Director*



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23 Genesee Street  
Avon, New York 14414

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John DuBois <i>Vice President</i>	Dan Cochrane Carol Hayes
Jim Gerace <i>Treasurer</i>	Dr. Robert Hayes Sharon Knight
Joan Reid <i>Curator</i>	Mary Lou Miller Pat Moran
James Brewer <i>Assistant Curator</i>	Clara Mulligan Barbara Scott

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(   ) Family \$20     (   ) Donation

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(   ) Yes     (   ) No

**Phone: 585-226-2425 x22**  
**Email: SKnight.aphs@gmail.com**

*Mark Your Calendars!*



**History of the Barber-Mulligan Farm**

*Presented by*

**Holly Watson**

Avon Deputy Historian, Mulligan family member

**Sunday, September 28, at 2:00 pm**  
**Opera Block, Avon**

Avon Preservation & Historical Society Program  
Free and Open to the Public  
Come join us!





# Avon Preservation & Historical Society

## *Newsletter*

VOLUME 26, No. 4

[www.avonhistorical.org](http://www.avonhistorical.org)

DECEMBER 2014

### ***Angels Among Us Unveiling***

Avon celebrated the unveiling of the *Angels Among Us* sculptures in the Avon Park Circle Saturday, December 6th at 2:30 PM. *Angels Among Us* is a cooperative project of the Metal Trades Students of the Genesee Valley Educational Partnership and Avon Community Cares. The purpose is to enrich and promote the students' educational program while raising funds to benefit Avon Community Cares.



### **Christmas in Downtown Avon**



*Christmas in Avon, 1959*

*Season's  
Greetings from all  
of us here at the  
Avon Preservation  
& Historical  
Society!*



*Christmas in Avon, 1947*

*Look inside for pictures of APHS Christmas window and museum displays from the past four years.*



## From the President

Well, here we are, Christmas time again. I thought it might be both interesting and in the spirit to relate the story of one of our most popular Christmas songs, "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas."

Written for the 1944 film "Meet me in St. Louis" by Hugh Martin and sung by Judy Garland, it was meant to be a sad song as Judy sang it to her "little sister" played by Margaret O'Brien, when their father announced that they were moving to New York City, leaving their friends and budding romances behind.. The original lyric was deemed too morbid by Judy and the director: Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas, it may be your last... As a result some lyrics were changed, making it wistful and not without hope rather than morbid. One line was: "Next year all our troubles will be out of sight" and the last verse became "Someday soon we all will be together if the fates allow...until then we'll have to muddle through somehow, so have yourself a merry little Christmas now." This became very popular with our troops still in Europe and the South Pacific who were separated from their loved ones back home. Perhaps more than even Judy Garland, Frank Sinatra has been

closely associated with this song. He first recorded it for Columbia records in 1947 using the movie lyrics. In 1957 when he recorded his classic album, "A Jolly Christmas" he commissioned Hugh Martin to write new lyrics that fit better with the Jolly theme. So the next year the last verse became: "From now on we all will be together if the fates allow; Hang a shining star upon the highest bough." These are the lyrics most singers use today. Sinatra would record the song once more in 1963 for the soundtrack of the World War two film, "The Victors." For this version he went back to the 1944 lyrics. This version happens to be my favorite, although the way it's used in the film was very controversial at the time, as it was played during an extremely traumatic moment in the film. The other day while browsing through the Christmas CDs at Barnes and Noble, I believe this song was on every 3rd one. It is probably our most popular non-religious holiday song next to "White Christmas."

So to all of the AP&HS members and supporters, and to all of you and yours: Have yourself a merry little Christmas.

*- Bob Westfall*

# Fountain In The Park

In 1904, Milton Smedley, with the assistance of local organizations, assisted the Women's Christian Temperance Union in the erection of a granite drinking fountain in the Circle Park. The fountain weighs more than three tons. It is six and one half feet tall and forty inches square. The base is a solid block of granite twelve inches thick, which rests on another block that is ten inches thick and 30 inches wide. Two more blocks top this base. The top block has a polished circular basin eighteen inches in diameter at its top.

Four polished columns support the top cap, which is ten inches thick and thirty inches square and is cut in an attractive gothic design. There are raised gothic figures on two sides, 1904 the date of the erection, and on two other sides are the letters, "W.C.T.U." Under the fountain in the ground is a receptacle for the placement of blocks of ice to cool the water in the warm weather. About 1934, the water was turned off and the fountain was dry. In May 1952, the fountain was brought back to life through the efforts of Water Superintendent Rely S. Clark and maintenance Foreman Fred Spencer, who replaced the rusty pipe with new piping and chrome drinking fountains. And the water was turned on! Since then the water has been turned off again.



- Joan Reid, Curator

## From The Curator - Behind The Scenes

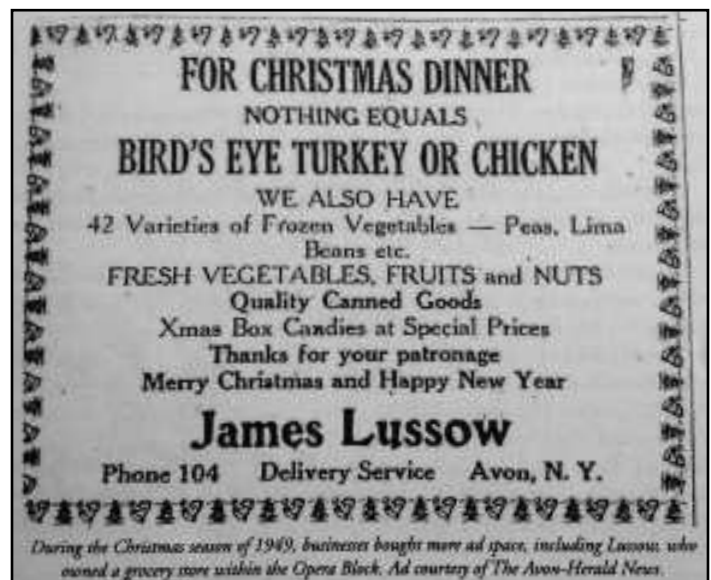
*The museum has been busy with several acquisitions.*

Item	Donor
Sign from Sam's Shoe Store	Rob Agnello
Markham & Puffer Milk Bottle	Tom Reynolds
Coast Guard Coat & Hat	Monique Kourdos
Village & Town Maps of Avon	Dr. Richard Collins
Stereoscope Card of Congress Hall	Dr. Richard Collins
1931 ACH Yearbook	Steve Stephenson
Adlai Stevenson Campaign Pin	Carol Coyne
Trade Tokens	John Kemp
Tom Wahl's Sign	James Brewer
Howdy Doody in Box	James Brewer

Dan Cochrane has organized our collection of campaign buttons for display. Come in and check them out. Michael is now inputting our accession records into the "Past Perfect Computer Program." This program provides for a complete history, text and photo, of each item in the museum. These will then be placed on DVDs and stored off-site. We will always welcome your treasures to add to our collections. See you soon at the museum.

### **Thank you to the Avon Community & Friends:**

*The APHS again sold Christmas Poinsettias with this year's sale realizing a record breaking 140+ plants sold! Great thanks also to Jim and Geri Brewer for their hard work as delivery elves!*





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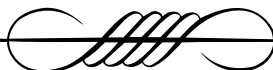
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Sharon Knight  
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Please make check payable to AP&HS

May we contact you to volunteer?

( ) Yes     ( ) No

Phone: 585-226-2425 x22  
Email: clefeberhayes@gmail.com

*Have the happiest  
of holidays!*

**APHS 2014 Collectible**



*Note: Annual memberships are due January for new or renewal subscriptions*

*For a taste of Avon's historic past, check out the APHS website at avonhistorical.org. To keep up with our events and see photos of Avon, follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/avonhistoricalsociety*

**Annual Meeting**  
January 25, 2015 at 2:00 PM 2nd Floor Museum



# Avon Preservation & Historical Society

## Newsletter

VOLUME 27, No. 1

[www.avonhistorical.org](http://www.avonhistorical.org)

APRIL 2015



Robins, geese and crocus are sending their annual promise. A season of new awakenings, and hope -trust in their wisdom. This Spring edition of the APHS Newsletter is themed majorly around the third floor of the Opera Block and our president's editorial coupled with several photos. You may be hearing more about

this in future newsletters as well as updates about The White Horse. Avon's Historic Museum continues to gain in visitors and donated artifacts. Our next edition will include a list of artifacts and names of those who donated. A happy Spring from all of us to all of you.



### Did You Know? - From the Curator

George Washington, as president in the 1790's, said that he resented those who were creating a threat to his young republic by cheating the Indians out of their lands. His army was fighting the Indians in the Ohio Valley, but the powerful alliance of six nations in New York was warning that there were what the Seneca Chief, Red Jacket called "rusty places on the chain of friendship" between them and the United States. In 1794, Washington sent the postmaster general, Timothy Pickering, to renew the peace with the Seneca Nation. The result was the Canandaigua Treaty. This affirmed the nation's right to their lands and established "firm peace and friendship" with them. It bound the U.S. to make a one-time payment of \$10,000, plus annual payments of \$4,500 in goods including calico cloth, which the natives

prized. To commemorate this agreement, Washington commissioned a six-foot long wampum belt depicting 13 figures, representing the 13 states linked with figures representing the Haudenosaunee. They still have it. This so called "Calico Treaty" is one of the earliest the U.S. entered into and is still in force today. Every July, the Bureau of Indian Affairs sends what amounts to a square yard of cloth per tribal citizen to the tribes except the Mohawks. The U.S. believes that the Mohawks were not present at the signing of the treaty. Kevin Washburn, assistant secretary for Indian Affairs at the Department of Interior, says, "The annual distribution of the treaty cloth is a reflection of the importance of the Treaty of Canandaigua." - Joan Reid

# CONCERT

by Glee Club East High School, Rochester.  
Avon, N. Y., January 19, 1906.

## Program.

1. Three Chorus..... Glee Club..... Halley
2. Floating "Did the Little"..... Mr. Foster and Quartette..... Atkinson
3. Reading..... Miss Burns..... Selected
4. An Interrupted Serenade..... Party Staff..... Selected
5. Instrumental Solo..... Miss Foster..... Selected
6. Cooks' Chor. "Home and Juliet"..... Jones..... Jones
7. Miss. "When Art First"..... Glee Club Octette..... Lockyer
8. When First I Heard Sweet "Margaret"..... Glee Club..... Jones
9. Reading..... Miss Burns..... Selected
10. "Y'allers' Chorus from "Fanny"..... Glee Club.....

Reader, Miss Katherine J. Burns.  
Director, Miss Charlotte Paulsen.

Manager, Mr. Arthur E. Williams

### THE SINGERS.

FIRST TENORS—Ralph H. Sabel, Raymond H. Jennings, James C. O'Brien, Arthur L. Williams.  
SECOND TENORS—Friedrich Piel, Earl Northrup, Clarence M. Lusk, George G. Caven.  
FIRST BASSOS—Arthur Smith, Frederic H. Clark, Hugh Stewart.  
SECOND BASSOS—Warren Raymond, Sherman March, Walter H. Woodruff.



AVON CENTRAL SCHOOL  
Class of 1899

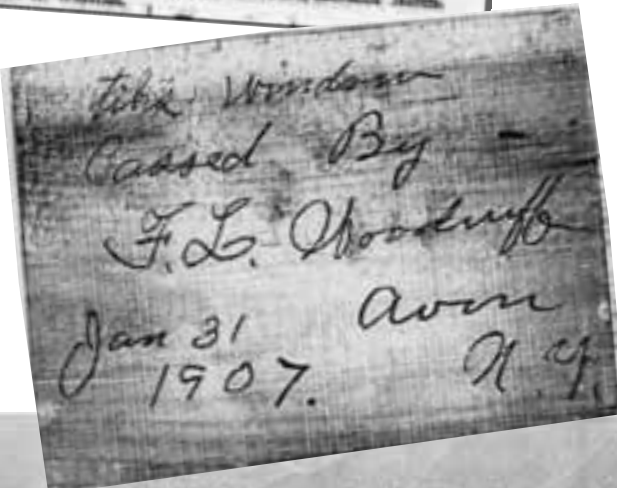
John J. McIntire, President.  
Mary E. Thomson, Secretary.  
Clyde S. Nichols,  
Frances W. Salley,  
Clara A. Siles.

CONTESTANTS FOR THE AARON  
BARBER DECLAMATION PRIZE

John M. Carroll,  
Bertha L. Fenner,  
Lucy S. Hevey,  
Maud Isham,  
Homer S. Sackett,  
James W. Wadsworth.

QUARTETTE

Miss Edith Damon,  
Miss Bonnie Doer,  
Mr. H. Wright,  
Mr. J. D. Carson, Jr.



Yourselves and ladies are cordially invited to attend  
A Dancing Party  
given by  
A. O. N. Club  
in Clark's Opera Hall, Avon, N. Y.  
Friday evening, April eleven  
nineteen hundred thirteen  
Dancing from 8:30 till 1:00 o'clock  
Tumpley's Orchestra Subscription, 75 cents

COMMITTEE  
WILLIAM SCHANTZ PERCY LOCKE THOMAS MORAN  
ALFRED HARDY HARRY UPSON EDWARD GAVIN





*Imagine, the third  
floor was once a  
splendid community  
event hall...*

## **From the Desk of Robert Westfall**

Recently I was looking through some photos at the AP&HS and came across several taken around Avon circa 1940's-1950's. I was saddened when I realized some of the wonderful, historic structures we've lost, especially the ones torn down in the name of progress. The Saint George Hotel, Woody's, the beautiful old fire house, the old red house on East Main next to Peppermints. This reminds me how fortunate we were when the town decided to restore the old Opera Block and Stone Bank building. I was one of the ones involved in giving tours of the building prior to the second vote to approve after the first ended in tie. (Every vote counts, folks.) Every time I did, people would comment about the third floor, most not knowing what was there and the most heard comment was something along the lines of "Oh, they have to do something with this!" After several of our last few AP&HS programs, people have asked to see it and the reaction has been much the same.

For those who don't know, the third floor was originally built as an auditorium, with a stage, dressing rooms, large floor for dancing, meetings, traveling shows, political speeches and so forth. Back stage and in the dressing rooms many people would write their names, leave posters on programs and dates of events. There is so much history to be learned from these writings. With the dawning of the 20th century and the centralization

of schools with their more modern auditoriums these Opera Block spaces were used less and less. Over the years it has fallen on hard times. It has been used for storage, roller skating and after the town purchased the building, water and roof damage was discovered. The roof has since been repaired and the space has been cleaned up, all the windows restored but nothing else.

As current president of the AP&HS, one of the goals I set for this year was for us to get involved in restoring this space to former glories. Think of the possibilities. A community playhouse and an orchestra, a chorus, live music, town events not held outside, movies for seniors, youth events, and those are off the top of my head.

Several local people have expressed interest in being part of this. At some point in the near future we would like to hold some kind of public meeting to come up with a plan, discuss ideas, pros and cons we can take to the powers that be. Be on the lookout for this.

In closing I would like to dedicate this column to Peter Watson, who passed away recently. Peter was very interested in this project. I had several conversations with him and his enthusiasm was contagious. Not only did he want to be part of organizing, he wanted to roll up his sleeves and do some of the work. He will be missed.



**Avon Preservation and Historical Society**

Avon Town Hall  
23 Genesee Street  
Avon, New York 14414

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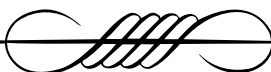
**AP&HS Board of Trustees 2015**

Bob Westfall <i>President</i>	Jean Batzing
John DuBois <i>Vice President</i>	Geri Brewer
James Gerace <i>Treasurer</i>	Daniel Cochrane
Joan Reid <i>Curator Secretary</i>	Carol Hayes
James Brewer <i>Assistant Curator</i>	Dr. Robert Hayes
	Sharon Knight
	Mary Lou Miller
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*\*If you know of a friend or relative who wants a 2014-15 membership, the form below can be cut out and used. (One perk is that they will receive the newsletter!)*

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Please fill in below, tear off, and return to:  
AVON PRESERVATION AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
23 Genesee Street • Avon, New York 14414

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate desired membership level

( ) Individual \$10     ( ) Business \$30

( ) Family \$20     ( ) Donation

Please make check payable to AP&HS

May we contact you to volunteer?

( ) Yes     ( ) No

**Phone: 585-226-2425 x22**

**Email: clefeberhayes@gmail.com**



Dear Friends,

The Avon Preservation and Historical Society programs for 2015 began in January and are as follows. They are free, open to the public, and handicap accessible. We provide light refreshments at each event.

Each program takes place at 23 Genesee Street, in the Avon Opera Block, second floor.

- **Sunday, April 26, 2:00 pm** Spas: Health & Relaxation in Historic Avon - *Maureen Kingston, Avon Historian*
- **Sunday, September 13, 2:00 pm** Genesee Valley Breeders Association: 100th Anniversary - *Presenter TBA*
- **Sunday, October 18, 2:00 pm** Avon Opera Block: Third Floor - *Kelly Cole*

***Come join us!***

*For a taste of Avon's historic past, check out the APHS website at [avonhistorical.org](http://avonhistorical.org). To keep up with our events and see photos of Avon, follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/avonhistoricalsociety](http://facebook.com/avonhistoricalsociety)*





# Avon Preservation & Historical Society

## Newletter

VOLUME 27, No. 2

[www.avonhistorical.org](http://www.avonhistorical.org)

MAY/JUNE 2015



### *In Flanders Fields*

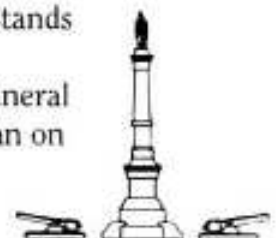
*In Flanders Fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*By John McCrae 12/8/1915*

## From the Vice President: Civil War Facts

- General Robert E. Lee with the Army of Northern Virginia surrenders at Appomattox Court House, Virginia on April 9, 1865
- General Joseph E. Johnston surrenders the Army of the Tennessee / Carolinas at the Bennett Place near Durham Station, North Carolina on April 26, 1865
- Lt. General Richard Taylor surrenders at Citronelle, Alabama on May 4, 1865
- Lt. General Kirby Smith surrenders at New Orleans, Louisiana on May 26, 1865
- General Stand Watie surrenders the Army of Trans-Mississippi at Doaksville, Oklahoma (Indian Territory) on June 23, 1865
- General Joseph E. Johnston stands in the rains and later dies of pneumonia waiting for the funeral of General William T. Sherman on February 14, 1891

- John DuBois



## Behind the Scenes

Our volunteers are very busy. Michael is continuing to input the accession records into the *Past Perfect Program*. Garry is accessioning a box of items that we received from Robert Hoffman.

*We have been gifted with the following:*

- An Eastman Kodak 16mm Kodascope projector Model G Series II in very good condition donated by Mary Graham
- An Eisenhower Jacket, part of a WWII uniform belonging to Rose Tram donated by Thomas Mairs
- Two pen and ink drawings by G. M. Anderson Morgan donated by Julie Clark Keler
- A framed Civil War Service Record belonging to Pvt. Parker Brooks of the 136<sup>th</sup> NY Vol. Inf. dated Oct. 1914 donated by Tony Torregiano
- Mike Driscoll donated a framed collage of three photographs: Frank Hovey house, old Baptist Church, old convent, and the St. Agnes School
- Jerry Valentine donated a WW II army shirt that belonged to John Wall who served in Italy with the 88<sup>th</sup> Division
- Sharon Knight donated an early postage box addressed to Mrs. VanZandt Knight
- Jean Batzinger donated her wedding gown

Thank you for continuing to remember us with your treasures. These items help us to build the Museum's collections. We have more copies of the booklet, *Equus*. If you are one of those who had requested a copy, please stop by or call us and we will be sure that you get one. We have more copies of the *Avon Glory Years*. We will have two new sale items available at the Corn Festival: an ornament with the Erie Railroad station on it and a 2016 calendar with Erie Railroad pictures. See you at the Museum.



## AP&HS Window Displays

The MAY window display theme commemorated the end of World War II seventy years ago. A gentleman from the Avon Veterans Hall loaned us his photos and medals from his service in a Submarine Unit.

Also displayed is a trunk that belonged to Lt. Col. C. Z. Case of Boston and Avon's Charleton House. He served in both World War I and World War II campaigns. In addition, a uniform that belonged to Wally Whipple was displayed.

The Museum was open on Memorial Day for persons to drop in and browse following the Memorial Day Service on The Park Circle.

- Geri Brewer, AP&HS Design Director/Trustee

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## A Note About The Windows

You may or may not be aware, but Avon's Historic Museum is virtually the only museum fortuitous enough to be located on a Village/Town Main Street, and in addition benefits by having two large display windows for passersby to view Avon's ongoing history. The window displays change monthly with themes commemorating both seasonal and annual events from Avon's past. June will surely have some wedding and/or graduation memorabilia.

The task of planning, searching and gathering items for displays and then dressing the windows on a monthly basis is HUGE. Geri Brewer has never been anything but enthusiastic and the museum shines outwardly due to her unwavering dedication. HATS OFF TO YOU GERI! From all of your fellow AP&HS Trustees.

## About the Curator

Well wishes to AP&HS Curator, Joan Reid upon her successful return to health this past Spring. We know it's been a long road. Also The AP&HS Board gives hearty congratulations to Joan for being chosen as a 2015 recipient of Avon's Citizen of the Year Award. We're all proud of you!

## From the President

Ask anyone who has visited Avon and they will almost always remember one of three things; The Circle Park, Tom Wahl's or The White Horse in East Avon. The White Horse has stood watch at the East entrance to our town marking the national crossroads of Rt.15 and Rts. 5 & 20 for 85 years. It has seen many changes to the four corners, some good, some maybe not so good.

But its history goes back much further than 1930, the year it was placed here. Prior to the current horse there was a wooden one, destroyed by vandals. Go back even further and there was a wooden sign with a painting of a horse with the word "Tavern" on it. The Tavern that eventually became the White Horse Tavern was built in 1812 and destroyed by fire in 1955. But the horse still stood.

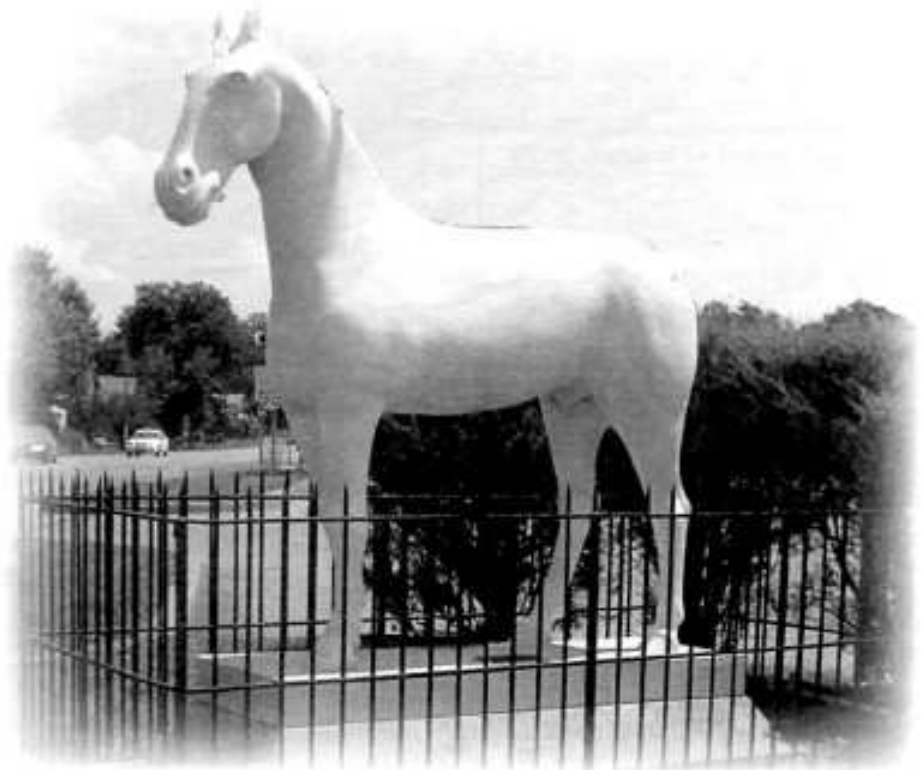
Unfortunately the horse has fallen on hard times. Its base has been crumbling and this last winter made things even worse. The AP&HS last year made some queries and received two quotes to see what it would take to do repairs. One of the problems we had was determining who actually owned the horse. This puzzle was never really solved but since it sits on State land, the State was contacted. They had no claim on it.

### **GOOD NEWS!**



At this time last year I went before our town board and made the case for the funds to repair it. They agreed to a man that it was a worthwhile cause and an historic landmark. This

*And here he still rests...but again needy*



Spring they authorized the AP&HS to go ahead and oversee the project. **We extend a huge thank you to the members of the Avon Town Board!**

By the time you read this, work should be underway. The horse will be washed with a pH cleaner, epoxy mix used to repair any cracks or nicks, a granite apron put around the base and cemented in. Finally the base and the horse will be protected with a U-V sealer. Hopefully it will be many years before it needs more attention.

***Long live the Horse.***

*- Bob Westfall*





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Telephone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate desired membership level  
(   ) Individual \$10     (   ) Business \$30  
(   ) Family \$20     (   ) Donation

Please make check payable to AP&HS

May we contact you to volunteer?  
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Each program takes place at 23 Genesee Street, in the Avon Opera Block, second floor.

- On **April 26**, Maureen Kingston, Avon Town Historian, presented a program on the Avon Spa Area to 55+ attendees. She showed the many hotel locations, described each of their various owners and what caused the demise of these hotels - which ultimately lead to the demise of the famous and historical time in our town's history.
- **Saturday, August 8:**  
*Don't forget the Corn Festival!*
- **Sunday, September 13, 2:00 pm**  
Genesee Valley Breeders Association:  
100th Anniversary - *Presenter TBA*
- **Sunday, October 18, 2:00 pm**  
Avon Opera Block: Third Floor - *Kelly Cole*

***Come join us!***

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# Avon Preservation & Historical Society

*Newsletter*

VOLUME 27, No. 3

[www.avonhistorical.org](http://www.avonhistorical.org)

JULY/AUGUST 2015

## **A- MAZE -ING AVON HOSTS 29TH ANNUAL CORN FESTIVAL**

**Saturday, August 8th, 2015**

**Genesee Street • Avon, NY**

***Food • Fun • Music • Vendors • Pony Rides And...***

The amazing Avon Historic Society's Vendor Tent in front of the Presbyterian Church *and* north up Genesee Street our Museum will be open all day. In addition, this year APHS is providing third floor tours of the Opera Block. Elevator convenience!

Below you will see pictures of what APHS is selling tickets for this year. Tickets are available at both sites, \$1 each or six for \$5. We send great thanks to Lakeland in East Avon for the generous donation of the John Deere pedal tractor, and to the Avon Chapter of the Women's Sewing Guild for this year's wall hanging commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Genesee Valley Breeders Association. Watch for the August/September Museum window display dedicated to the Breeders Association.

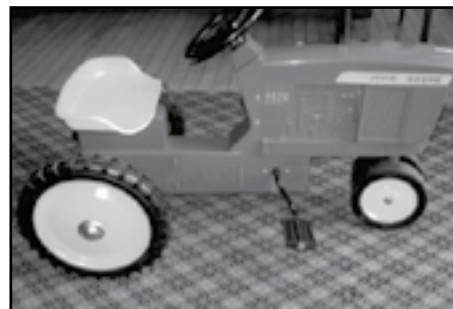
At our September Program, Sunday, September 13th, Patricia Moran will present the history of The GVBA. October's program on Sunday, October 18th will be a presentation by Kelly Cole about the third floor of the Opera Block.

***Stay tuned folks, AND have an A -MAZE- ING time at this year's Corn Festival!***

*Donated by the Avon Chapter  
of the Women's Sewing Guild*



*Donated by Lakeland Equipment  
in East Avon, NY*





**AP&HS 2015**  
**Business Membership List**  
*The AP&HS extends special thanks  
to these businesses for showing their support  
by becoming members:*



**All Seasons Wine & Spirits**

Rick Doudt • Avon, NY

**Avon Library**

Brenda McKeown • Avon, NY

**Bank of Castile**

Diana Williams • Avon, NY

**C&F Car Toys**

Bill • Avon, NY

**Covered Wagon Tours**

Tammy Berry • Hornell, NY

**D.P. Tool & Manufacturing**

Peter Phillips • Avon, NY

**Davin Corn**

Richard Davin • Avon, NY

**Driscoll Locksmith**

Michael Driscoll • Avon, NY

**Frankie's Barber Shop**

Frank Antinore • Avon, NY

**Gearheads**

Michael Robert • Avon, NY

**Genesee Valley Penny Saver**

Kim Dougherty • Avon, NY

**Johncox Trucking**

David Stein • Avon, NY

**Lakeland Equipment**

James Shepard • Avon, NY

**Lattimore Physical Therapy**

Leslie Summers • Avon, NY

**LeFois Brothers**

Jeff LeFois • Avon, NY

**Louie's Pick-Up & Delivery**

Louis Lee • Avon, NY

**McDonald's**

Jessica Warner • Avon, NY

**Partyman H S**

Kaitlyn Strassner • Avon, NY

**Peppermint's**

Chris • Avon, NY

**Platinum Limousine**

Jeramey Bellinger • Avon, NY

**Pioneer Trucks**

Elise Steele • Avon, NY

**Star Headlight**

Chris Jacobs • Avon, NY

**Stone Carving Studio**

Ray Colaruotolo • Rochester, NY

**Tom Wahl's**

K. Herman • Avon, NY

**Veronica's Hair Salon**

Veronica Capriotti • Avon, NY

**Village of Avon**

Thomas Freeman • Avon, NY

**Village Restaurant**

Francis Matusak • Avon, NY

**White Horse Trucks**

Marty Jopson • Avon, NY



## Remembering Jean Batzing

The Avon Preservation & Historical Society has sustained a great loss in the passing of longtime friend and Board Trustee, Jean Batzing. A charter member, she was a dedicated contributor of the Society in all ways.

Jean's name has been added to the memorial plaque in the Museum. We know much of her wisdom will stay with us, popping up when we touch on topics near and dear to her.

**Note:** The only function held on the (not yet completed) third floor of the Opera Block since the building's renovation was a community celebration on Jean's 90th birthday.

Jean Ersila Downing Batzing, 94, passed away on June 18, 2015, but it is not her passing that we share now, it is her life. It all began in Avon, NY.

After growing up in Avon, Jean did not marry right out of high school. Instead, and unlike other young ladies in the late 1930s and early 1940s, Jean Downing decided to attend college to become a school teacher, and with the support of her mother, Pearl, she did. In 1960, she returned to college and obtained her Master's degree, and then she joyfully worked as a principal.

Jean married at 39 to dairy farmer Dewey Batzing. Her wedding was held at the Zion Episcopal Church, and the reception was at Avon Inn. After her retirement and Dewey's death, she dove more into her passions of music, golf, horseback riding, biking, and many areas of volunteering.

Some of her volunteer jobs included working at her church, Zion Episcopal, where she served as Warden, Vestry Member and Eucharistic Minister, as well as at the Avon Historical Society, the Livingston County Children's Protective Association, and she was a driver for the Avon Nutrition Center. In addition, she was also involved with the Millennium Celebration, American Red Cross blood drives, Livingston County Retired Teachers Association, Election Inspector, Avon Interfaith Council, Livingston County Cooperative Extension Board of Directors, Farmer's Home Administration, the Cancer Drive for the Town of Avon, Brainstormers and Odyssey of the Mind, Episcopal Church Home, Avon Nursing Home, the Livingston County Cornell Cooperative Extension Service, and Avon Rotary.

Most of all, Jean loved family and friends. She was a prolific bridge player. She often could be heard playing her organ alone or with friends. She enjoyed all things in nature. Sunflowers were probably her most favorite flower. She kept binoculars close by to watch deer and birds. Her last dog, one of many, was her beloved black Labrador, Shadow. Jean's outdoor activities for most of her years were walking (her dogs), biking and most of all, golf and riding. She rode until she couldn't.

She carried her own clubs on the green until about two years ago. There is so much more about Jean, just turn around and ask anyone, at least in Avon, and they can tell you a wonderful story or two or three... about Miss Jean.

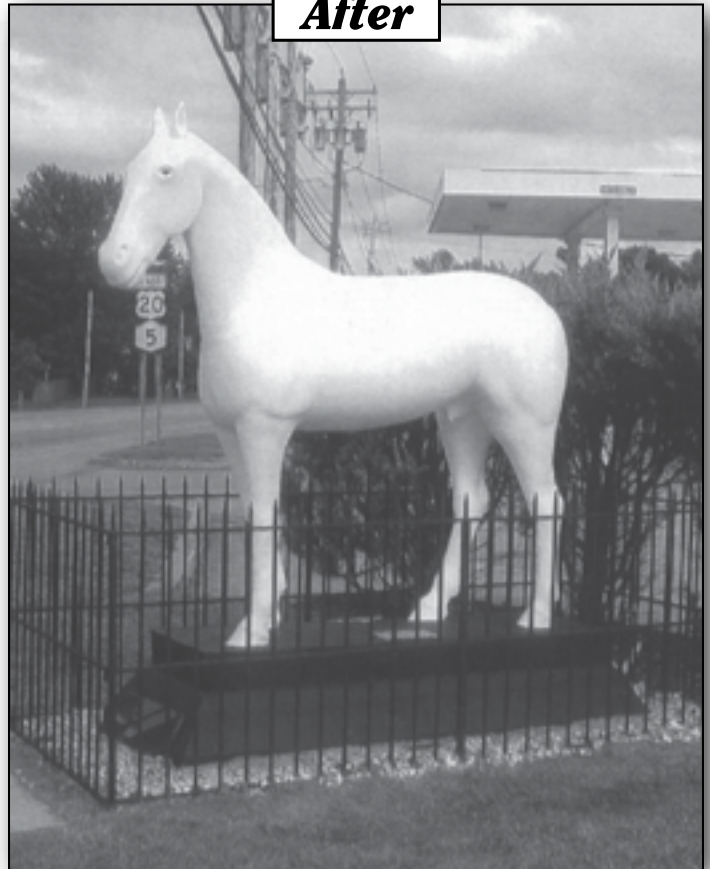
Dear Jean, you are already missed.

**- Deborah  
Smith Ford**



# White Horse Stands Proud Again

## *The Grand Viewing*



*Thanks to Ray Colaruotolo from Stone Carving Studio for fixing the big guy up!*





## AP&HS Donations Made in Jean Batzing's Name

Daniel Cochran  
Jerry & Kim Dougherty  
Ann & Robert Downing  
William MacIntyre  
William & Gloria Korth  
Joan Reid  
Shelby Spezzano  
Jerry & Wanda Rowe  
Richard & Mary Liz Stanton  
Franklyn & Carole Stevenson



---

### Oral History

Oral History is a unique way to provide excellent insight into life in Avon. The AP&HS has made recordings of the recollections of some of Avon's citizens. The collection is available at the Avon Free Library and may be borrowed.

On the evening of Thursday, July 13th, Sharon Knight, Ellen Zapf and Mary Lou Miller had the pleasure (and the adventure of interviewing) three Avon citizens together: Jim Steen, Henry Beason and George Cullinan! Both fascinating and fun, historical moments synchronized at times, and each served to remind the other of wonderful memories of their early Avon lives.

If anyone out there has a person to recommend for an interview, PLEASE let us know!

## Did You Know? *From the Curator*

In 1890, Daniel Burnham challenged a group of engineers to create a showpiece for the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. His one directive was to "make no little plans." One of the engineers, George Washington Dale Ferris, Jr. quickly sketched a huge revolving steel wheel. Since a huge attendance was expected at the fair, he used \$25,000 of his own money to ensure safety studies. In December 1892, the wheel measured 250 feet in diameter, carried 36 cars each capable of holding 60 people. It had more than 100,000 parts including an 89,320 lb. axle. It was launched June 21, 1893. Over the next 19 weeks, 1.4 million people paid 50 cents for a 20 minute ride. In 1896, after the fair, Ferris was bankrupt due to lawsuits and failure of the fair to pay him, he died at age 37 of typhoid fever. A wrecking company bought the wheel and sold it to the 1904 Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis. Two years later it was dynamited into scrap. So died the one and only official Ferris Wheel.



# You May Not Know: Hill Cumorah is Closer to Avon Than You Can Imagine!



Excerpt from  
*Remembering  
the Wives of  
Joseph Smith:*

## Louisa Beaman

Louisa Beaman first met Joseph Smith in 1834 when Joseph and several missionaries stayed in the Beaman home in Avon, New York.

Louisa's sister, Mary, remembered the visit: *"His society I prized, his conversation was meat and drink to me."* One of those missionaries, Parley P. Pratt, also noted the stay: *"Among those whose hospitality we shared in that vicinity was old father Beaman and his amiable and interesting family. He was a good singer, and so were his three daughters; we were much edified and comforted in their society..."*

The Beaman family joined the church and moved to Kirtland, Ohio in 1835. While there, Louisa's father died at the age of 62. Amid church dissension in Kirtland, Louisa, and her Mother, Sarah, made the trip to Missouri and then finally to Nauvoo. Shortly after arriving in Nauvoo, Louisa's Mother also died, most likely of malaria, which was rampant. Louisa moved in with her sister Mary and brother-in-law, Joseph Bates Noble.

In the fall of 1840 Joseph Smith taught Joseph Bates Noble, *"the principle of celestial marriage or plural marriage,"* which Joseph said was given by revelation. Joseph then asked Noble to perform a marriage ceremony between himself and twenty-five-year-old Louisa. Smith also warned,

*"In revealing this to you, I have placed my life in your hands, therefore do not in an evil hour betray me to my enemies."*

Joseph and Louisa were married on April 5, 1841, *"in a grove Near Main Street in the City of Nauvoo, The Prophet Joseph dictating the ceremony and Br Nobles repeating it after him,"* remembers Erastus Snow, Louisa's brother-in-law. To help keep the union secret, Louisa wore a man's hat and coat as disguise. Joseph Bates Noble recalled that after the ceremony, the couple spent their wedding night, *"Right straight across the river at my house."* Noble said he encouraged them to, *"Blow out the lights and get into bed, and you will be safer there."*

After Joseph Smith's death, Louisa married Brigham Young. Louisa bore five children by Young, all of whom preceded her in death. Tragically, Louisa died of breast cancer at the age of 35.

For many years, Louisa Beaman was widely recognized as the first plural wife of Joseph Smith. In 1851, the city now known as Parowan, Utah was christened Fort *"Louisa."* According to Joseph D. Lee, this was, *"in the honor of the first Woman who listened to the light & voice of Revelation - & yielded obedience to the Seal of the covenant...for this noble act, her Name is held in honorable remembrance in the History of the Saints."*

References: [wivesofjosephsmith.org](http://wivesofjosephsmith.org),  
[elizabethabbott.wordpress.com](http://elizabethabbott.wordpress.com), [findagrave.com](http://findagrave.com)



## The Wives of Joseph Smith

<b>Wife</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Husband*</b>
Emma Hale	Jan 1827	22	None
Fanny Alger	1833	16	None
Lucinda Morgan Harris	1838	37	George W. Harris
Louisa Beaman	Apr 1841	26	None
Zina Huntington Jacobs	Oct 1841	20	Henry Jacobs
Presendia Huntington Buell	Dec 1841	31	Norman Buell
Agnes Coolbrith	Jan 1842	33	None
Sylvia Sessions Lyon	Feb 1842	23	Windsor Lyon
Mary Rollins Lightner	Feb 1842	23	Adam Lightner
Patty Bartlett Sessions	Mar 1842	47	David Sessions
Marinda Johnson Hyde	Apr 1842	27	Orson Hyde
Elizabeth Davis Durfee	Jun 1842	50	Jabez Durfee
Sarah Kingsley Cleveland	Jun 1842	53	John Cleveland
Delcena Johnson	Jul 1842	37	None
Eliza R. Snow	Jun 1842	38	None
Sarah Ann Whitney	Jul 1842	17	None
Martha McBride Knight	Aug 1842	37	None
Ruth Vose Sayers	Feb 1843	33	Edward Sayers
Flora Ann Woodworth	1843	16	None
Emily Dow Partridge	Mar 1843	19	None
Eliza Maria Partridge	Mar 1843	22	None
Almera Johnson	Apr 1843	30	None
Lucy Walker	May 1843	17	None
Sarah Lawrence	May 1843	17	None
Maria Lawrence	May 1843	19	None
Helen Mar Kimball	May 1843	14	None
Hanna Ells	1843	29	None
Elvira Cowles Holmes	Jun 1843	29	Jonathan Holmes
Rhoda Richards	Jun 1843	58	None
Desdemona Fullmer	Jul 1843	32	None
Olive Frost	1843	27	None
Melissa Lott	Sep 1843	19	None
Nancy Winchester	1843	14	None
Fanny Young	Nov 1843	56	None

*\* Living husband at the time of marriage to Joseph Smith*



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Avon, New York 14414

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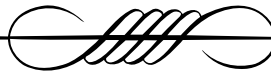
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**Address Service Requested**

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Thursday, 1-4 • Sunday, 1-4,  
Or by appointment.

*\*If you know of a friend or relative who wants a 2014-15 membership, the form below can be cut out and used. (One perk is that they will receive the newsletter!)*



Avon Preservation & Historical Society  
**MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Please fill in below, tear off, and return to:  
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City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Indicate desired membership level  
 Individual \$10      Business \$30  
 Family \$20      Donation

Please make check payable to AP&HS  
May we contact you to volunteer?  
 Yes      No

Phone: 585-226-2425 x22  
Email: clefeberhayes@gmail.com

**Some Corny Historical Facts**

- 1584 - Sir Walter Raleigh attempted to establish a colony on the North Carolina coast. No one farmed, so the place starved out. One of the survivors, Thomas Hariot, later published the first article to appear about Indian corn.
- 1616 - Gov. Thomas Dale ordered each Virginia settler to plant 2 acres of corn for himself and for each male servant
- 1621 - Pilgrims began cultivating corn, barley and peas
- 1839 - Two-row corn planter was patented
- 1843 - Chicago price for corn was 18 cents a bushel; for wheat, 28 cents
- 1846 - British repealed "Corn Laws," permitting more imports from United States
- 1870 - First billion-bushel corn crop was harvested
- 1875 - Two-row corn planters and automatic check-row corn planters were commercially successful
- 1891 - First 2-billion bushel U.S. corn crop was produced
- 1893 - Corn binder was introduced
- 1926 - Hybrid seed corn was first sold
- 1958 - Corn pickers with shelling attachments were offered
- 1976 - First 6-billion bushel corn crop marked U.S. bicentennial year

- *Avon Farms and Agri-Related Business Then and Now* prepared by the AP&HS and the Avon Town Historian August 14, 1999

*For a taste of Avon's historic past, check out the APHS website at [avonhistorical.org](http://avonhistorical.org). To keep up with our events and see photos of Avon, follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/avonhistoricalsociety](https://facebook.com/avonhistoricalsociety)*



# Avon Preservation & Historical Society

## *Newsletter*

VOLUME 27, No. 4

[www.avonhistorical.org](http://www.avonhistorical.org)

SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER 2015

Dear Members and Friends:

The Avon Preservation and Historic Society extends Fall greetings to one and all. This Newsletter is the last for 2015 and it travels from September through December. It is awesome when contemplating the major events that occur during this calendar time frame: school begins; leaves begin to turn; Columbus Day; Halloween; All Saints Day; time change; Election Day; Veterans Day; Thanksgiving; Christmas preparations; Christmas (will it be white and yards filled with snowmen? – not as of this writing); and thanks to BOCES students and Avon Community Cares, this was Avon's "Year of the Angels!"

Soon another year of the 21st Century will have ended. Hope you have found your place in all of it! May you have a joyous holiday season and healthy, happy New Year!



## House Plaques

A reminder is given here about the availability of ordering historical house plaques from APHS. As gifts, while they may not arrive in time for December 25th, a picture and description can be placed in a card.

Each plaque consists of a heavy metal oval 10 inches wide with the year your house was constructed and "Avon Historical Society" inscribed in gold. \*Your home does not have to date back to a certain time to qualify! For further information & the necessary order form contact: James Brewer, 14 Nune Park, Avon, New York 14414 • Tel (585) 226-2729.



## Come One, Come All and Celebrate

In tune with the busy season, don't forget the Community Christmas Celebration on December 5th! Santa will arrive to the Park Circle. From 9-11am, the Fire Hall will host several activities including refreshments and fun for kids, PLUS THE APHS ANNUAL POINSETTIA SALE (\$9 per Poinsettia - five color varieties: Red, White, Pink, both Red and White variegated). Reserve yours now by contacting the APHS during Museum hours on Sunday and Thursday afternoons at 585-226-2425 x22 between the hours of 1:00 and 4:00pm or any day to leave a message. Prepay deadline Dec.1st.

This year's featured Avon ornament will be on sale: a limited edition depicting Avon's Railroad Depot (\$5), and our 2016 Calendar featuring early Avon railroading photos(\$10). Last but not least, APHS will be a vendor at The Avon Inn's Holiday Bazaar throughout the day!

### Women's Rights Future 100th Anniversary

2017 marks the 100th anniversary of women winning the right to vote in New York State. Plans are being made to celebrate the Suffrage Centennial in Avon. If you have any women's rights or suffrage memorabilia (pictures, letters, diaries, banners, buttons, etc.) that you would be willing to lend for a display or if you are interested in helping plan events in Avon, please contact Pat Murphy at (585) 245-3975 or [murphypny5@gmail.com](mailto:murphypny5@gmail.com).

## Fall Programs

September 13th: Genesee Valley Breeders Association. The picture speaks for itself. A Centennial Anniversary of one of Avon's celebrated pieces of history was brought to life in a thoroughly researched presentation given by Pat Moran on behalf of the Genesee Valley Breeders Association. A PowerPoint and many fascinating photos and artifacts including the Museum Window Display appropriately commemorated this and was enjoyed by all!

\*Note the *Democrat & Chronicle* 1958 portion of article by Allison Van Allen: **Avon Holds Title to Historic 'First'**: "Avon had the first organization of the breeders of Thoroughbred horses in all this country or Canada, and its only show of breeding classes. It has the only "stallion station" in operation in America, "Lookover," owned and conducted by the Jockey Club of New York. Only Kentucky now outranks this section of the Genesee Valley in breeding of Thoroughbreds.

Genesee Valley Breeders Association  
AVON, NEW YORK

From photo sold by "Lynch Photo"

Avon Preservation & Historical Society  
Celebrates the  
**100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**  
of the Genesee Valley Breeders Association

Presentation by Patricia Moran  
**SEPTEMBER 13, 2015**  
AT 2 PM  
**OPERA BLOCK**

Handicap Accessible

**NOTE: Correction in last Newsletter  
(July/August, Page 5):  
Under Oral History, James Steen  
should read "James Steele."**

# From the President - The Third Floor: Part Two

We were so pleased at the attendance for our October program on the third floor of the Opera Block. Nearly seventy people came, our largest turnout for a program since moving into our space at the Town Hall/Opera Block.

Kelly Cole gave a great presentation of its history and the benefits the restoration of this amazing space could provide our community.

During the Q&A at the end, enthusiasm was high - so many positive questions and observations from those in attendance! Many asked to see the space and were genuinely excited by what they saw. Several people signed up to be involved when the project becomes a reality.

It was great to have Avon



*Early Vaudeville actors pose prior to a performance at the Opera Block circa late 19th or early 20th century.*

Town Supervisor Dave LeFeber and Avon Town Council Board Member Jim Blye there. I think it was beneficial for them to see firsthand the excitement about this project. Everyone left expressing what a renewed asset to our community this should be. Think of its uses: Community Playhouse, orchestras, bands, dancing, dramatic performances, community commemorations, speakers and so many other possibilities. By the way, it's already handicap accessible with elevator service from the street.

After the holiday season, Kelly Cole and I will be announcing an information program to discuss what can be done by supporters working in conjunction with the Town Board to make this dream a reality. I look forward to getting started and with thanks to all who attended!

*Bob Westfall  
AP&HS President*

## TO-NIGHT

**OPERA HOUSE,  
AVON, N. Y.....**

### Temple OF Fame.

Band Music.  
Beautiful  
Costumes.  
Best of Talent.

BENEFIT OF THE  
**AVON SPRINGS CORNET BAND.**

CAST OF CHARACTERS.

QUEEN OF FAME.....	Miss Helen Davis
Jack.....	Miss Mary Dale
Seaside Parade.....	Mr. Joseph Scarce
Excursion of Three.....	Miss Letitia Landon
Cherry Blossom Column.....	Mr. John L. Westfall
Levi Brown.....	Mr. Almon C. Van Allen
Barber Shop.....	Miss Nellie Dore
Seaside.....	Mr. Herman A. Dore
Cleopatra.....	Miss Mary Westfall
Atkins Falls.....	Miss Letitia Landon
Maude Miller.....	Miss Mary Dore
New Portage.....	Miss Frances V. Lucy
Joe.....	Mr. William T. Beckitt
Sister of Charity.....	Miss Georgiana Dore
* Musical Melodrama.....	Mr. Joe D. Carver, Jr. Buckmaster
Supper.....	Miss Elsie Carter
A Modern Progress.....	Mr. John G. Carpenter
Barber Shop.....	Miss Olive Bader
Christie Niemi.....	Mrs. Edna Knapp, Fairport
Joe of Joe.....	Miss Loretta Higgins
Harriet Sacher Stone and Tony.....	
George and Martha Washington.....	Mr. and Mrs. Walter O. Hall
Young George and Martha Washington.....	Frances and Allen Hutchinson
Prohibition.....	Miss Clara Dore
Capt. John Smith.....	Mr. Benjamin F. Bailey
Mother.....	Mr. W. J. Ward
Maid of Honor.....	Miss Ruth Van Zandt and Mabel Clark
Page.....	Miss Clara

\* Friday evening only.

**DON'T MISS IT.                      ADMISSION, 25c.**

Children under 12, 12 cents.  
Entertainment Commences Promptly at 8:00 o'clock, P. M.





## Biographies of Noteworthy Avonites

### James McClean Steele

John Steele, father of James, came to the U.S. from Ireland. He had been sponsored by another farmer. He worked to repay that debt and then to rent his own farm. His future wife came to join him.

After years of hard work they were able to buy the Conesus Farm and start their family. They had 2 sons and 1 daughter - John, James and Betty. This was depression time, but this family was able to succeed by hard work. This is the cornerstone of who James Steele would become.

Years later they sold that farm and bought the Pierson Farm on Route 15. James was married on October 18, 1952 to his beloved wife, Joan. Then he set out on his own journey capable and determined. They have four children, Dan, Sue, Shelia and Gary.

He wanted to bring the farm into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. He always had an eye on the future. He worked day and night to make a great life for his family.

Getting established in the Town of Avon, he felt an obligation to that community. He started out on the School Board, then Town Justice, Town Supervisor and finally chairman of the Board of Supervisors.

Through all of these years, his day would start at 3:30am farm work, getting the businesses started, hauling bulk milk, alfalfa pelleting, cash crops and a dairy herd, all before breakfast. The rest of the day would be the same.



He could always find time to spend with his wife and children. James Steele was a man with incredible qualities. His work ethic, professionalism, truthfulness and honesty were his hallmark.

- Gary Steele



### Happy Retirement, Frankie!

Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup> was a bittersweet day for many residents of Avon. A local icon has chosen to put his combs and scissors away and go fishing. At 92 years young, Frankie Antinore has served this community for several generations. He says that they have always had a lot of laughs and good times in his shop.

He met his wife, Marion while harvesting crops on local farms. He served aboard a U.S. Navy destroyer during WWII. Upon his return, they were married in 1945. Marion had been a travel agent, so they have traveled extensively including every state.

Deciding that he should not drive this winter, it seemed like the right time to close the shop. Frankie will have more time to watch the deer and turkeys in his back yard and to go catch those fish.

*The Avon Preservation & Historical Society and the Avon Community sincerely wish you a long, healthy and happy retirement.*

# Avon Preservation & Historical Society has been honored to have Dwight Brown as a former Board Trustee and steadfast, loyal worker and friend!

## Dwight Brown

Dwight grew up in the Catskill area of New York State. He attended Alfred University obtaining a degree in Ceramic Engineering.

He entered the Army Air Corps during WW II. Due to the foggy weather, pilots had trouble locating their targets and landing. Radar had just been developed. Dwight, stationed in Darby, England, taught pilots to land using this technology.

Dwight and Joan met at college and were married in 1949. After discharge from the service, he worked for the Clay Co. in New York City, then the Crane Co. in New Jersey, then came to Pinco Co. in Lima, NY.

They moved to Avon in 1958 and bought the Lacy homestead on East Main St. This had been the Blue Lantern. They completely remodeled this home.

He did consulting work in Mexico and the Ukraine. Dwight was very involved in his community serving two terms on the Avon School Board and being the mediator for the teachers. He planted flowers in a barrel at the end of Richmond Lane and in Circle Park.

He and Harold Allen were instrumental in the first refurbishing of the White Horse. He was involved in Scouting with Bob French when his sons were Scouts. He and James Couchman and others refurbished

the 5-Arch Bridge to stop the water damage. He assisted in rehabbing the South Avon Cemetery.

He and his friends then built and planted the flower beds on Rochester St, at the 5-Arch Bridge, near the bridge on

West Main St. and in front of Tops. These make an aesthetic welcome to anyone coming into the village. The Garden Club cares for all these beds now. He is a member of the Garden Club by association!

He has been involved in many ways with Central Presbyterian Church. He retired from the Park Commission in September.

**Happy Retirement!**

- Joan Brown



## From the Curator - Behind the Scenes

We would like to thank all those generous people for their donations to the Avon Preservation & Historical Society Museum. They include Frank Antinore, Dale Bailey, James Brewer, Dan Cochrane, Dr. R. Collins, Tom & Liz Cole, Carol Coyne, Jean Coyne, Michael Driscoll, James Gerace, Martha Graham, Julis C. Kehr, John Kemp, William Nevin, and Debra Shuryn, Ernestine Rice. They have graciously gifted us with baby clothing, military clothing,

Tom Wahl Root Beer Mugs, dress forms, Erie Railroad items, Geo. W. Farnum items, photographs of Kief's /Park Diner, 1937 Avon scene photographs, roller skates, many G.V.B.A. items, and some items from Frankie's Barber Shop. These items really help to enhance our collections. Also a special thanks to Bill Christiano for the sound system for our Sept. meeting. Thank you.

## From the Curator - Did You Know?

For all of us who have ties to **England**, this is a year with ten very historic anniversary celebrations. While the celebrating will be in the United Kingdom, they had significant impact on our own history. So let us start at the beginning.

**1000<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the invasion by the Viking King Cnut.** He was one of the most successful kings of Anglo-Saxon England. In 1015, King Cnut landed an invasion force on the Wessex coast and began a successful campaign for the English throne. **His reign brought prosperity and peace for more than 200 years.**

**800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of King John of England putting his seal on the Magna Carta or Great Charter.** This was done under great duress. This document is the cornerstone of English law and representative democracy. Our own Constitution shares much of this document.

**750<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of the British Parliament.** In 1265 during the Civil Wars against King Henry III, the Earl of Leicester summoned an elected assembly from across England to a meeting of the "commons." Knights and boroughs being represented, it is considered **the first true British Parliament.** Our own government is also represented in this manner.

**700<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrating Robert the Bruce's victory at the Battle of Bannockburn.** This left northern England vulnerable to Scottish invasion which continued over the years. The Scottish people still consider their own autonomy.

**600<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – On October 15, 1415, a badly outnumbered English army took on their arch enemy, the French, and won one of their most famous battles, the Battle of Agincourt.** William Shakespeare has never let us forget this in his intense Henry V play.

**200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – June 18, 1815 marks the Battle of Waterloo** in which one of the most famous English commanders, The Duke of Wellington, led a coalition force against the French forces led by Napoleon on a Belgian battlefield. This also marks **the end of the War of 1812.** Since the English forces were occupied with the French, their resources were split, and victory came to the shores of the United States.

**100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – In August 1914, World War I began.** There was much optimism that it would be of short duration. However, it was not to be. By 1915, the troops were digging in for what would become years of trench warfare. **That year included the first zeppelin attacks on England and chemical warfare was introduced.** The United States joined the war in 1915.

**75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Between May 27<sup>th</sup> and June 4, 1940, the evacuation of Dunkirk became one of Britain's most famous World War II triumphs.** Thousands of Allied forces were evacuated from the beaches of France after being trapped by Hitler's Blitzkrieg. It was code named Dynamo.

**70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – On May 8<sup>th</sup> 1945, the Allied forces celebrated victory in Europe.** Though the war continued in the Pacific theater, **the defeat of Hitler's Nazi Germany** was cause for much celebration.

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – On January 24, 1965, Sir Winston Churchill passed away.** His father shares the same death date as his son, only 70 years earlier. There was a huge state funeral at Westminster Abbey attended by the largest assembly of world statesmen in history. He was buried in Bladon near his birthplace. Sir Winston was widely regarded as the greatest war time leader of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. He was an officer in the army, a historian, prolific writer winning a Nobel Prize in Literature, an artist, amateur bricklayer and a breeder of butterflies. By an Act of Congress, President John F. Kennedy made him **the first honorary citizen of the United States.**

These and many more events color our own history.





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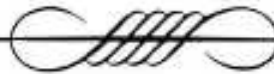
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Indicate desired membership level  
( ) Individual \$10     ( ) Business \$30  
( ) Family \$20     ( ) Donation

Please make check payable to AP&HS

May we contact you to volunteer?  
( ) Yes     ( ) No

Phone: 585-226-2425 x22  
Email: clefeberhayes@gmail.com

*Have the happiest  
of holidays!*

**APHS 2015 Collectible**



*Note: Annual memberships are due in January for new or renewal subscriptions*

*For a taste of Avon's historic past, check out the APHS website at [avonhistorical.org](http://avonhistorical.org). To keep up with our events and see photos of Avon, follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/avonhistoricalsociety](https://www.facebook.com/avonhistoricalsociety)*

**Annual Meeting**  
January 31, 2016 at 2:00 PM 2nd Floor Museum