

The Preservationist

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

As the year slowly comes to an end, we can look back and say, "we made it through." 2020 has been a very difficult year with the Covid19 pandemic and water damage at the Octagon House. We need to look forward with hope and determination to make next year much better.

I am sure most of you are wondering what is happening with the Rich-Twinn Octagon House. At this point, the restoration committee has decided on hiring Picone Construction Corporation (Clarence, NY) as the contractor for the work. The inside work will begin in December or January depending on its backorders. The air conditioning unit has been examined and some changes have been made. Hopefully, this malfunction issue will never happen again.

Many members have asked if NHS will have fundraisers for the expenses that will be incurred. I have total confidence that the insurance companies will pay for repairs. I am sure it will take time to work out the issues with the installation company and the manufacturer of the unit. With time and patience, the work will be completed, and bill paid. I appreciate all who offered concern and support for our beautiful house.

How about some good news: I am pleased to announce all the 2020 programs that were cancelled will be presented in 2021. All the presenters were gracious and willing to put us on their schedule for next year. The 2021 program brochure will be mailed with the March newsletter; you can mark March 11 on your new calendar for the first program. Mark Saglian, who will be joining our Board of Trustees and is the local expert on Murder Creek, will present his program on the Richardson Complex. There will probably be safety guidelines from New York State to follow but it will be great to have a membership meeting and program. Please watch for information in the *Akron Bugle*, NHS website and social media for details as the time approaches.

At the October board meeting, our quilt winner and pick-a-pie winner were drawn. I am pleased to announce that Justin Heissenberger, a new NHS member, won our beautiful quilt. Dawn Izydorczak won a huge lemon meringue pie as the winner of the pie raffle. These raffles were substitutes for our annual Fourth of July quilt raffle and pie sale. The board was concerned that this year

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would not be as profitable as in the past, but not true, our loyal supporters came through again. The profit was somewhat smaller than normal but was much larger than we expected. Our members are the best. Many thanks for standing with us and congratulations to our winners.

Next year will be the bicentennial celebration of Erie County. Don Holmes and I have been working on a committee, along with representatives from Clarence, Lancaster and Alden, to create a "passport" to visit other museums in the county. It is a project under construction and will be shared as preparations are finalized. The next newsletter should have specific information. If you are wondering, Newstead will celebrate a bicentennial in 2023 –not too far away so start generating some ideas.

During this most unusual year, please appreciate the small blessings we all have. If a smaller holiday celebration is planned, make it safe and healthy for all involved. The NHS Board of Trustees sends you and your family many good wishes for a better new year.

Sincerely,

Patricia Pearce

MAPLE LAWN RESTORATION

Submitted by: *Pat Pearce*

The first week of November brought spring-like temperatures to Western New York. John Jendrowski and Brian Daddis, of *Brian Daddis Heritage Masonry*, started restoration work at Maple Lawn Cemetery. Brian specializes in old and historic masonry projects. This project has been on the "drawing board" for a while, and the society's board is pleased to see the initial stage of work. This year John and Brian will work on as many monuments as possible. It will take a year or more to complete this job.



NHS received donations from the Lyons Club, Bernhardt Foundation and Society members to assist with this project. The money raised will help with this year's work. If you would like to contribute towards next year's phase, please send your donation to NHS. Any amount will be appreciated.

SLATE OF OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES 2021

Our by-laws require an annual meeting of the membership in November for the election of officers and trustees. Since this is an *unusual* year, there will be no November meeting so you will find an insert in this newsletter. It is important that you vote for the slate of officers and trustees. You will find three new trustees: Mark Saglian (replacing John Jendrowski), Kate Stapleton Parzych (replacing Pat Rodrigues) and David Webster (replacing Carole Borchert). We are pleased to have all three. Most of you will know Kate and David's names. Kate is the daughter of Jim Stapleton and David is the grandson of Kelsey Webster. Jim Stapleton and Kelsey Webster were both extremely active and held significant positions in NHS. A huge welcome to all three trustees.

Please return the insert to Newstead Historical Society, P O Box 222 before November 27 or place in the box on the KSM's porch. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

With new trustees coming on we need to say good-bye and **thank you** to Carole Borchert, John Jendrowski and Pat Rodrigues who will take a new position. All three have contributed greatly to the board of trustees and NHS. Our appreciation goes to all three.

CHANGES WITH MUSEUM DIRECTORS

The last newsletter explained that Laurel Jones and Marybeth Whiting were stepping down from their long-held positions as museum directors. Their many years of service were noted and appreciated. With family concerns at hand, they felt they could not give as much time as is needed to these positions but would continue with the exhibit work at the Knight-Sutton Museum.

This change brought a lot of discussion on how to reconstruct the directorships at the museums. The following is a new layout for a museum team:

- Museum coordinator: Kimberley Burg
- Rich-Twinn Octagon House Director: Kate Stapleton Parzych
- Knight-Sutton Museum Director: Pat Rodrigues
- Collections Manager: Jannette Potera
- Research and Design Team: Laurel Jones and Marybeth Whiting.

Running two museums requires a lot of work so we wish the new team best wishes for a successful year. Kudos to all for stepping up to man these positions.

LEGACY GIFT

Keep in mind your Will can be a way to continue to support the mission of NHS. Consult your attorney for assistance in achieving a long-lasting gift.



BY LAWS CHANGE

Newstead Historical Society takes great pride in running two museums. For a small society, owning two buildings is a huge responsibility and the directors should have a "vote" on what happens. We could not do it without our wonderful volunteers. With this said, the people in charge of the museums never had voting rights at board meetings. I am not sure why this happened and was never discussed. The time has come to rectify this issue. On the insert, along with voting for the slate of officers, you will find #2 *Change in By Laws*. Please mark yes or no for making this change. Voting for changes requires the membership's approval. The board will appreciate your time in marking the "ballot" and returning it to NHS.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

On the insert you will also see a listing of possible volunteer opportunities. The board is working on increasing our pool of volunteers for next year. If you would like to help with any of the listed areas or have expertise in other areas that might be useful, please mark the sheet. You can give as much or as little of your time as you would like. Any amount will be appreciated. Volunteers are the backbone of any organization.

ACQUISITIONS – ARTIFACT DONATIONS

Submitted by: *Jannette Potera*

It is the mission of The Newstead Historical Society to preserve the Town's rich social and cultural history through the preservation of artifacts that advance that history. To that end, the Society welcomes donations of items that are related to the Town of Newstead and enhance our collections and understanding of the town's past. However, the Society asks that your donations of artifacts not be left on the doorstep of either museum. Because the museums are currently closed, volunteers are not in attendance on a daily basis. If left on the doorstep, your artifact donation could be stolen or damaged by the weather before a volunteer finds it. Also, we require a "Deed of Gift" be prepared to acknowledge your donation and give the Society legal ownership of the item(s). Please contact the Collections Manager by email at jannette@jpotera.com to make arrangements for safe and secure artifact donations to the Society.

The Knight-Sutton museum is asking for donations of wooden clothing hangers for the museums collection, currently hung on metal hangers which is not conservation appropriate. Your donation can be dropped off at the Knight-Sutton museum back patio or front porch and does not need to be pre-approved.

GARDEN TEAM

Thank you to the Octagon House Garden Volunteer Team for making our Museum grounds beautiful all summer! Linda & Tom Cowan, Annette & Dick Komroy, Sue Brown, Sue Sweitzer, Tara Middaugh, Carolyn Lokken, Marlene Gehl and Sandy & Craig Wilkins, we couldn't have done it without you!

Also, a big thank you to Mike Schilling of Goldome Property Services for his donation of time and materials on the clean-up and mulching of the Knight-Sutton garden beds. He also removed a tired, old bush from the Octagon House gardens at no charge.



Membership

As of October 31, 2020

Submitted by: *Linda Capan*

We are saddened to report the recent passing of honorary member Betty Perry Meyer on October 8, 2020. We extend our sincerest condolences to her family and friends.

WELCOME to the following new **ANNUAL** members:

- Kathleen M. Ceisner
- Justin & Brooke Heissenberger

WELCOME to the following **NEW LIFE** members:

- Donald & Sandra Kreher, Jr.
- Kathleen S. Parzych
- Robert & Betty Williams



THANK YOU FOR DONATIONS RECEIVED IN HONOR OF DOLORES WHITING CELEBRATING HER 90TH BIRTHDAY FROM:

- David Schubel and Philip & Dawn Keppler
- Mike & Marybeth Whiting, Philip, Amanda & Evie Whiting, and Allie
- Eric, & Kaylee Stolberg



THANK YOU FOR MEMORIAL DONATIONS given for:

- Roland W. Laese by Richard R. Laese
- Betty Perry Meyer by Joe and Linda Capan

THANK YOU FOR DONATIONS RECEIVED FROM:

- Donald & Sandra Kreher, Jr.
- Martha Parzych-Short

Memorials and donations to the Society are always appreciated and can be mailed to Newstead Historical Society, PO Box 222, Akron, NY 14001.

Looking ahead to the holidays (or anytime) – a NHS Membership would make a great gift for that “hard to buy for” person or history buff on your list! Individual annual memberships are only \$15, couples \$20, and family \$25. Lifetime single memberships are \$150 and couple memberships \$250. If interested, please mail payment to above address with name and address of gift recipient and name and address of person giving the gift. In order to receive a gift membership in time for Christmas, please mail by December 5th.

Also- all annual members should have received their annual renewal letter and envelope. If you have any questions or have not received yours, please email Linda Capan at: lcapan@hotmail.com with a subject line NHS.



Here's a recipe from *A Book of Favorite Recipes* by the Akron Parent-Teachers Association of Akron Central School dated 1969. This is titled "Potato Doughnuts" submitted by *Theresa Jemison*.

These were probably really tasty just out of the fat with a dusting of sugar and wonderful on a cold day. If you give them a try let us know what you think of the recipe.

RECIPE CORNER

Potato Doughnuts

1 1/2 c. mashed potatoes

1 1/2 c. sugar

1 tall can evaporated milk

3 eggs, beaten

1 tsp. salt

2 tsp. vanilla

1/4 tsp. cinnamon or
nutmeg

3 tsp. baking powder

5 c. all-purpose flour

Pare and boil potatoes; mash while hot. Add sugar and allow to stand until sugar melts. Pour in milk, eggs and vanilla. Mix and sift flour, baking powder, spice and salt. Add to liquid mixture to form dough firm enough for rolling but as light as possible.

Roll to a quarter inch thickness and shape with doughnut cutter. Fry in deep fat heated to 375 degrees, turning to brown on both sides. Drain on paper toweling.

Submitted by: *Jannette Potera*

BELOW: CENTURY HOME #114 Pratt-Campbell House – 82 John Street



Century Home #114-Pratt-Campbell House-82 John Street

Submitted by: *Pat Rodrigues*

Like every old home the home at 82 John Street has stories to tell.

Recently designated as Century Home #114 by the Newstead Historical Society the home has been owned by Jim and Cathy Campbell since 1981.

Listed by the town as being built in 1850, it first appears on an 1855 map of Akron as being owned by William Pratt. Mr. Pratt was a Village Trustee from 1858-1859 and "President", (Mayor) of the "Corporation", as Akron was known then, from 1859-1860. The home is purported to have been built by Jonathan Russell, Akron's founder and sits on 1.1 acres of land which Mr. Russell purchased in 1828 for \$506.

In 1854 Mr. Pratt purchased it for \$5400. Originally the frame home ran north and south. By 1866 an east-west addition was added. Where Cathy's flower garden is now, along the back border of the property, was once a carriage house that even had a basement. From there, down the driveway, led a path for the horses to be walked by the black locust tree. When the black locust tree is in bloom, Cathy says, "it must be what heaven smells like."

Set back fairly-far from the street and nestled in among many trees original to the property, the home has an extensive front porch. A talented painter, Cathy's mom captured its serenity in a painting of the porch and its white wicker furniture and a flat of flowers resting there waiting to be planted. This painting is hung in the home.

Once a two-family dwelling, as you enter to the left there is a window in the living room with its original glass. The first thing you notice in the living/family room is the painting over the fireplace, a painting of the house, again done by Cathy's mom. A true family affair there are built in bookcases done by Cathy's dad.

Jim and Cathy have done a lot of renovations through the years, living in one part of the house while working on the other. There once was an enclosed staircase off the living area with a window and a door leading to the upstairs, which they ripped out and opened-up with a new banister leading to the upstairs. The kitchen was originally three rooms- a pantry, a kitchen, and an indoor room for the storage of firewood which has been converted to one large kitchen.

When they purchased the house, every room was heated by radiators-those have all been removed. And Cathy says, they have replaced the front porch floor "many times". Outside there still exists a slate sidewalk taking you to the neighbors' house for a visit. The attic windows have panes of colored glass with small cedar shake awnings over them and the house is trimmed in several places with fish scale wood trim.

In addition to the exquisiteness of the house, there is a rich history of its previous owners. It is said it was the third and final house Jonathan Russell lived in before moving west. In 1893 Elizabeth Edson Rich purchased the property. She was married to Charles Milton Rich-the son of the first owner of the Octagon House. Charles M. was a freight agent for the N.Y. Central Railroad. Mrs. Rich was a music teacher. The home at one time listed a music conservatory as one of its 12 rooms. The historical society has her bible, several of her quilts and music books in their collections.

Mrs. Rich was Elizabeth Edson Rich. Two of her brothers served in the Civil War, each dying at the age of 20, in 1862 and in 1864. She and her brothers are buried in Evergreen Lawn Cemetery. At her death she bequeathed the house to her niece, provided she assume the care of her husband until his death.

From 1939-1955 the house was owned by Harry D. Martin and his wife Irma. The Martin's grandchildren visited often and loved the attic. In a scene reminiscent of something from "Little Women", the grandchildren put on plays in the attic. They hung their curtains over the windows and used the east-west portion of the attic as their stage. It is easy to imagine having seen it and quite enchanting to retell, keeping that memory alive.

It is truly a historic property, lovingly maintained and NHS is pleased to welcome the Campbells to the Century home family.

2020 NHS Executive Board

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| President | Patricia Pearce 542-4191 |
| Vice President | Adam Burg 570-0633 |
| Treasurer | Annette Komroy 542-4714 |
| Recording Secretary | Kimberley Burg 907-2720 |
| Membership Secretary | Linda Capan 542-5300 |

Trustees

| Trustees: 2018-2020 | Trustees: 2019-2021 | Trustees: 2020-2022 |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| John Jendrowski | Pat Rodrigues | David Wakeman |
| Carole Borchert | Jannette Potera | Mary Sellers Hanley |
| Dusty Blasko | David Hofmeier | Marlene Gehl |

Directors and Committees

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Rich-Twinn Octagon House Director | |
| Knight-Sutton Museum Director | |
| Collections Manager | Jannette Potera |
| Publicity | Michele Asmus |
| Website | Colleen Salmon/Patty Buckley |
| Sales | |
| Century Homes & Landmarks | Pat Rodrigues |
| Newsletter | Donald Holmes/Julie Brady |
| Town and Village Historian | Donald Holmes |

If you would like to receive notifications and information by e-mail, please send a note to Linda Capan with NHS in the subject line to lcapan@hotmail.com. Rest assured - You will *not* receive numerous messages; this is meant to be a convenience for those who would like it.

Please donate your bottles & cans to NHS by dropping them off at:

BOTTLE & CAN
RETRIEVAL CENTER
52 Cedar St.
Akron, NY



Tell them you want to donate to NHS!

Newstead Historical Society
P.O. Box 222
Akron, New York 14001
Office Phone: 716-542-7022
Visit us on the Web:
www.newsteadhistoricalsociety.org

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The Newstead Historical Society deeply appreciates the support of the County of Erie, the Town of Newstead, our members and the community at large.

