

The Preservationist

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Loyal Supporters:

Summer is winding down quickly, and we will be starting our fall schedule. We have three interesting programs left in the year which you will want to attend.

September will provide an account of a physician during the Civil War. John Potera, an experienced re-enactor, will explain the care of the wounded. After hearing about the 1860's medical treatment, we will certainly appreciate the medical advances that have taken place since then.

October will have Anneliese Meck, an historian and dressmaker, who specializes in nineteenth century clothing. From corsets to cage crinolines, petticoats, and parasols, we will learn how ladies' fashions dominated the era. We will see a complete 1860's ensemble. It will very informative.

November will be a nice precursor to the 2023 Newstead Bicentennial when Don Shonn will discuss the complicated history of land titles in Western New York from colonial times to the incorporation of the Village of Akron. It should foster a discussion on the land under our feet. Don is a long-time supporter of the NHS, former Village attorney, and real estate lawyer.

The November presentation should initiate discussion of our early times and generate interest in the 2023 bicentennial. If you would like to join the bicentennial committee, more hands are needed. The committee usually meets once a month at the Town Hall. The next meeting will be Tuesday, August 30 at 6:30 PM. Please consider joining – we need help with planning, organizing, and bringing to fruition the plans for this celebration.

It is with a sad heart that I inform the membership that our long-time treasurer, Annette Komroy, will be stepping down from the Board of Trustees. Annette has been a well-organized keeper of the books for the society, and my right-hand woman when it came to grant writing. She will be greatly missed, but we wish her great joy for her future endeavors. Best wishes, Annette!

At the time of this printing, the board will need a new treasurer. If any NHS member would consider this position or other future board positions, please contact me.

Best wishes for all.

Sincerely,

Patricia Pearce

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FOURTH OF JULY

The Fourth of July was another huge success. There were many visitors at the Knight-Sutton Museum and the Octagon House. The "Akron through the Years" has been a great exhibit with many interesting photos and articles relating to Akron's history. Stop by soon since it will be ending in October. The Octagon House was a curiosity. Many visitors wanted to see the new wallpaper, rug and re-arrangement of furniture. Stop by the first and third Sundays of the month to see either or both museums.

Pie Sale: The many pies were gone by the early afternoon. Many thanks to the wonderful bakers and donations from NHS members. Kudos to all!!

Quilt: Congratulations to Mary Valentine, the winner of the beautiful quilt. Mary is a long-time NHS supporter. Minor prizes were won by Mary Hilliard and Tony Kutter. Congratulations to all three.

MORAL DECADENCE

Don Holmes – Town Historian

Just so you know, "moral decay" is nothing new. I recently came across the following in an issue of the *Akron Breeze* from June 1871:

"A healthy and moral sentiment has sprung up among the fathers and mothers of the village against the admission of any more Merry-Go-Rounds. The contrivance has a tendency to disrupt the morals of the young, besides it is a nuisance of the worst kind."

Our mothers and fathers today have many things about which to worry, but I expect, I hope, that Merry-Go-Rounds are not on their list.

SPECIAL ACQUISITIONS

The society is very fortunate to have received a special donation: the original deed to 59 Main Street (now H&R Block). The property had been owned by former and future President Grover Cleveland. Mr. and Mrs. Greg Stone donated this deed which has been in his family who owned Stone's Drug Store at the site from 1920's into the 1960's.

Grover Cleveland served as Erie County Sheriff in 1870, Buffalo Mayor in 1881, and Governor of New York in 1882 before becoming president. While sheriff, records show that Cleveland acquired a few properties in Akron. Two years before becoming president, for the second time, Cleveland sold the property to John Harrington for \$1,300. The deed was signed by Cleveland and his wife, Frances.

The NHS is very grateful to the Stones for donating this document. It will be framed properly and hung in the Knight-Sutton Museum soon. Another important acquisition is a copy of a special New York State map: "HO-DE-NO-SAU-NEE-GA or People of the Long House." The board purchased this map from the Concord Historical Society. The map states: "map from 1851 compiled by Louis H. Morgan and Ely S. Parker, a Seneca Sachem, from several French maps of 1720 or earlier showing ancient trails, lakes, villages, and principal locations with their Aboriginal names. The map was redrawn in 1962 by Eber L. Russell, historian, Perrysburg, New York with additions of villages, trails, springs from more than fifty years of research".

The 44 ½" x 36" map will be framed and hung in the future research room at the Knight-Sutton Museum.

PROGRAMS

- September 8, 2022: "Caring for the Wounded: Medicine in the Civil War"
- October 19, 2022: "19th Century Fashion"
- November 10, 2022: "This Land is Your Land, This Land is My Land"

All programs
will be held
at 7:00 PM
at Newstead Town
Hall.

CATALOGING THE COLLECTION

The society is very fortunate to have acquired numerous artifacts over the years: furniture, clothing, kitchen items, textiles, etc., etc. When Covid closed the museum for two years, it was a good chance to inventory all the items at the Knight-Sutton Museum. Director Pat Rodrigues and Collections Manager Jannette Potera worked tirelessly to organize the many items at the KSM with help from others. Each item needs to be measured, described, documented, photographed, compared to already documented items and information typed into a computer program. This process is long and sometimes overwhelming, but each step gets us closer to the finished product: having all our artifacts on a computer program for easy access. This is an on-going process at both houses. After the repair work was finished at the Octagon House, the process started there. We are fortunate to have dedicated volunteers helping: Pat Rodrigues, Jannette Potera, Carolyn Finger, Laurie Baldwin, Mary Sellers Hanley, Marlene Gehl and Pat Pearce (hopefully no one was left out). Teamwork makes it easier.

Volunteers are always needed for many society tasks. Besides cataloging, there are always guides at the museum, gardening, baking, cleaning, stuffing envelopes, and much more. If you feel you would like to give an hour or two to the society, please contact any board member or call 716-542-7022 or email info@newsteadhistoricalsociety.org.

Patricia Pearce



Tours at The Octagon

“Highlights of The Octagon”

First and Third Sundays
April through October
1pm -- 3pm

Adults \$8
Youth 11 - 17yrs \$5

Private/Group Tours
90min - by appointment

\$12 for groups of one to five persons
\$10 for groups of six or more persons

To arrange, please email
[Director \[RTOH@newsteadhistoricalsociety.org\]\(mailto:Director_RTOH@newsteadhistoricalsociety.org\)](mailto:Director_RTOH@newsteadhistoricalsociety.org)
or leave a message at
716-542-4270

Holiday Tours for November/December
will be announced in the next issue of
The Preservationist



Rich-Twinn Octagon House

Kate Stapleton Parzych, Director

Welcome Back to The Octagon

It is truly wonderful to see people touring at The Octagon again! Our 4th of July Restoration Walk-Thru was very well received. We had several local folks that mentioned they were there for their first tour and returning visitors who were there to see the rooms that had been redone ceiling-to-floor. They extended many accolades to the NHS. There's new wallpaper with motifs taken from 1870's designs, and new cotton lace curtains with patterns also created in the nineteenth century. You just might have noticed them in the windows of the second and third floors if you happened to be out walking or driving by.

A few of our favorite items are displayed in new places throughout the house: Victorian standards such as the hair wreath, the tramp art cabinet, and the Bittern taxidermy piece. Stop by to find out what room they are in! Recently we've been gifted three Eastlake furniture pieces, and an Eastlake style clock. The Eastlake furniture movement began in England in 1870 and quickly spread to America. Its popularity came from being affordable as they were machine-made, a product of the industrial age. Also, there are two paintings that are new to the museum, including a lovely example of Hudson River School art. Whether you've been to The Octagon in the past, or just haven't gotten around to taking yourself there, please stop by soon. We'd love to show you around and tell you about the building, the families that were there, and how people lived in the mid-nineteenth century.

Our 1st and 3rd Sundays open house tours are now called the Highlights of The Octagon. No reservation is required, and visitors will be guided through the museum by our docents who will be pointing out some of the special artifacts that we have on display throughout the building. The Highlights of The Octagon tours run approximately 45 minutes, and they offer a great opportunity to stop by without a reservation.

Our private and group tours are by appointment. Inquiries for a more in-depth (90 minute) tour, can be made by email at Director_RTOH@newsteadhistoricalsociety.org stating how many people, what possible dates would work with your group, and a call-back number. If preferred, you may call 716-542-4270 and leave a message. Give us up to three days to respond to your phone call inquiry. Thank you.

Octagons are not the most common Victorian style, although following the publication of *A House for All* in 1848, as many as several thousand were built over the next ten years. These unique houses are a pleasant surprise when spotted on an older streetscape. Their appearance and the philosophy of the man who wrote the book distinguish them from other homes of the era.

For once, no European style figures into the inspiration for these homes. The author of *A House for All*, Orson Squire Fowler, believed that the circle was nature's most perfect building form. He pointed out that the circle encloses the greatest amount of interior space with the least exterior wall. This apparent efficiency also presented a problem, however, because the building materials of the day tended to be straight rather than curved. But Fowler thought the problem through and devised a flat-sided shape that remained essentially circular but that could be built with rectilinear materials. The Octagon House, with its eight flat sides, was born.

Bobvilla.com

PIECES TOO SHORT TO SAVE

Pat Rodrigues
Knight-Sutton Museum Director

The summer is a busy time for the museum! It kicks off annually with the quilt raffle and pie sale being held on our grounds and again was a great success. Thanks to all the pie bakers and NHS volunteers who made many phone calls to secure the pie-baking volunteers, without whom it wouldn't have been possible and to Dave Wakeman for another successful quilt raffle. These two events raised \$3,900 for the society.

We had 82 people come to the museum that day, many for the first time. It is always exciting when new people come in for the first time. And it happens more than you think, with people who have lived here their whole lives.

On July 17th we hosted the Antique Automobile Club of America, Erie County Division, for a tour. Fifty-two people arrived in two phases in their antique cars and lined their cars up and down Main Street. It was a great sight to see, and they hope to come back next year to tour the Octagon House.

They particularly enjoyed the field baby cradle which has runners on it, which is on display in the exhibit. I guess it was the forerunner of "Take Your Child to Work Day". In the early days of farming, you didn't get a pass if you had just had a child - you just brought them with you as you helped pick the crops. The automobile club posted a photo of this item in its coverage of the tour in its newsletter.

Speaking of tours, we will also be doing one August 24th for the members of the Senior Center.

In addition to regularly hosting our Wednesday visitors this summer I would like to acknowledge volunteer Sharon Beyer who has been inventorying our book collection, as well as volunteering at the Octagon House on Sundays. She is a great asset, and we thank her.

We have also been fortunate to have been offered window space in the new tea shop in the village, "Soul in Bloom". For the July 4th display we had a quilt depicting the buildings of the Pan American Exposition, as well as a photographic display of early July 4th celebrations in Akron. Stay tuned as it will be ongoing.

Meanwhile the museum has been experiencing a bit of sprucing up. The front steps and porch were recently painted and the interior frames of four windows. In addition, our interior wooden blinds will get some paint too. They protect our documents from sun exposure on the upper level and needed a facelift.

Outside the landscaping has been done - the garden and grounds have been freshly mulched, and the bushes trimmed.

We focused on the front yard gardens as we have summer guests in the backyard. It is sort of a B&B for the deer coming up from Murder Creek. The wildflower (& weed) garden in the back, surrounded by a perimeter of bushes and trees seems to have been, this summer, an ideal spot for a small family of deer, at no cost, to spend the night. And so they have, continuously most of the summer. They like the taste of some of our bush and flower leaves too. When I come in in the morning the gardens are gently pressed.

Finally, Village and Town Historian Don Holmes and his assistant Bev Summe, John Potera, Pat Pearce and I, representing the historical society, have been working on the commemorative book for Newstead's Bicentennial next year. Along with that Myra Hegmann, Pat Pierce, Jeanette Kreher- Heberling and myself are working on a historical scavenger hunt, a kind of "Did You Know?" about Akron/Newstead road trip test.

It's going to be an exciting, week-long of events next year. Join in - volunteers make the world a better place!

Corporate Sponsors

THANK YOU TO OUR 2022 CORPORATE SPONSORS!!

A huge THANK YOU to the businesses that stepped up and supported us in 2022. Your support has helped us maintain our two museums!! We can't thank you enough!

Jonathan Russell Level - \$1000 and up

Akron-Newstead Rotary Club
Lions Club of Akron, Inc.
Perry's Ice Cream Co. Inc.
Two Eagles Smokeshop

Ely S. Parker Level - \$500 - \$999

Cold Spring Construction
County Line Stone
Joandy's Place
Signmatic Systems, Inc.

Dennis Nolan Level - \$250 - \$499

Brady Insurance Agency
Candy Apple Café
Fred E. Thomas Agency, Inc.
Jendrowski Landscaping

Jonathan Delano Level - \$100 - \$249

Akron Animal Hospital, PC
Belknap Heating & Cooling
Destroyer Park Golf
Filtration Unlimited
I Squared R Element Co., Inc.
Kreher Family Farms
Rehwaldt Builders, Inc.
Terra House

Donations were also received from the following businesses: Guy's Submarines & The Russell Park Room @ Cippolina Restaurant

Please watch for your 2023 Sponsorship opportunity – they will be mailed soon. Or you can go to our website: Newsteadhistoricalsociety.org and download the Corporate Sponsorship Application or contact Linda Capan at: membership@newsteadhistoricalsociety.org for more information.



Activity from June 1 – July 31, 2022:

THANK YOU FOR MEMORIAL DONATIONS given for: Robert Anderson by Kristen MacCoy to be used for the Octagon House restoration and Paula Cochran by Pat Rodrigues

THANK YOU FOR A DONATION received from: James Webster IV.

Thank you for all the donations and support we have received this past year. It has helped us through a trying time with the pandemic and water damage to our beautiful Rich-Twinn Octagon House. We truly appreciate your support.

Memberships are inexpensive and the perfect gift and membership includes a tour of the Octagon House! Please consider a membership gift as you plan your upcoming Christmas list! Check our website, newsteadhistoricalsociety.org for membership information or pick up a membership envelope at Akron Market on Main, Martin's Mercantile, the library, town hall or village offices.

Memorials and donations to the Society are always appreciated and can be made by mailing to: Newstead Historical Society, P. O. Box 222, Akron, NY 14001

RECIPE CORNER

Jannette Potera

Here's a recipe from *A Book of Favorite Recipes* by the Akron Parent-Teachers Association of Akron Central School dated 1969. This recipe is titled "Oven Cooked Hamburgers with Gravy" submitted by Mrs. Betty Skutt.

OVEN COOKED HAMBURGERS WITH GRAVY

1 lb. ground beef
1 Tbsp. finely chopped green pepper
1 onion, minced
1/2 c. fine dry breadcrumbs

3/4 c. milk
salt
pepper



Gravy:

1 Tbsp. fat
3 Tbsp. flour

1 Tbsp. catsup
2 c. water

Mix ground beef, green peppers, onion, breadcrumbs, milk, 1 1/2 teaspoons of salt, 1/8 teaspoon of pepper. Form into 8 cakes and brown on both sides in fat. Remove cakes to a greased baking dish. Make gravy with fat you browned hamburgers in. pour gravy over meat – cover and bake in 350 degree oven for 30 minutes.

Disclaimer: I have not tested the recipes submitted for the Recipe Corner. They are given exactly as they appear in the cookbook in which they were originally published.

2022 NHS Executive Board

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| President | Patricia Pearce 542-4191 |
| Vice President | Adam Burg 570-0633 |
| Treasurer | |
| Recording Secretary | Roxanne Rebmann |
| Membership Secretary | Linda Capan |

Trustees

| Trustees: 2020-2022 | Trustees: 2021-2023 | Trustees: 2022-2024 |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| David Wakeman | Harold Finger | Jannette Potera |
| Mary Sellers Hanley | David Webster | Kevin Hickey |
| Marlene Gehl | John Potera | Marcia Tordy |

Directors and Committees

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Museum Coordinator | |
| Rich-Twinn Octagon House Director | Kate Stapleton Parzych |
| Knight-Sutton Museum Director | Pat Rodrigues |
| Collections Manager | Jannette Potera |
| Research & Design Team | Laurel Jones & Marybeth Whiting |
| Publicity | Michele Asmus |
| Website | Michele Asmus/Patty Buckley |
| Sales | |
| Century Homes & Landmarks | Pat Rodrigues |
| Newsletter | Donald Holmes/Julie Brady |
| Town and Village Historian | Donald Holmes |

NHS Website provides information about the society and a gallery of pictures about the Octagon House, Knight-Sutton displays, and Century Homes. Check it out at

www.newsteadhistoricalsociety.org

Don't forget that you can donate your refund to NHS when you return cans to the Bottle & Can Retrieval Centers at 52 Cedar St., Akron.

Just tell them when you drop off your cans.

Thank you!



E -MAIL NOTIFICATION AVAILABLE

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



Akron-Newstead
Rotary
Club

County Line Stone



Jo Andy's Place



(716)542-6212



Newstead Historical Society

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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.



