

# The Preservationist

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear NHS Members,

It is hard to believe that 2022 is almost over. NHS has had a busy year with the Octagon House reopening after its hiatus, a huge amount of collection's cataloging, getting ready for the Christmas season, and preparing for Newstead's Bicentennial year -- just a few things that keep us busy.

Later in the newsletter, you will see the Slate of Officers and Trustees for 2023. You will notice that Adam Burg and David Webster have graciously accepted the positions of president and vice-president respectively. These two men have a long family legacy with the NHS and will do a great job. I am pleased to see some younger "blood" taking leadership positions; it will strengthen the society. Kudos to both!

The Board will be losing two long time members: David Wakeman and Mary Sellers Hanley. Both have been willing participants on the Board. Mary has been a trustee for two terms or six years. We will miss her greatly.

David Wakeman has a long history with the NHS Board. I needed to do some research to find out all that he has been involved with. His participation started when he joined the society in spring 1980. A few months later he became a trustee from 1981-1984, then he moved up to the presidency. He was NHS president for six years during which time the Octagon House was purchased, and fundraising was a constant. I am sure it was a challenging time. After the presidency, Dave became acquisition chair for twenty years and then moved back to being a trustee in 2011 until the present time.

We all know David has been selecting our annual Amish quilt for some time. Well, during my research, I found out he started helping his wife, Joan, with the quilt tickets and soon after was the person selecting the quilt. If my calculations are correct, he has been involved with the quilt raffle for 36 years. David's keen eye has selected many, many beautiful quilts that have honored numerous homes in Akron/Newstead. I am pleased to say I won one many years ago, and still use it every day.

David has been a continuous member of the Board for 42 years!! I think he has served longer than any other board member in our 64-year history. Quite a remarkable achievement and one that probably will not be broken. David is an all-around good guy: working with the Boy Scouts for numerous years, helping at Hearts and Hands, at his church, and giving a helping hand whenever possible. David will be greatly missed on the Board but says he will select the quilt for 2023 once again. The Board will tether him for as long as he is able. David, you are one of a kind. The Society thanks you for continuous service and greatly appreciates your loyal support and assistance throughout the years.

Best wishes for all.

Sincerely,  
Patricia Pearce

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## Charles Adelbert Clark-Octagon House Owner

### Mysteries Uncovered

by Pat Rodrigues

In a previous issue, as part of a series on previous Octagon House owners I outlined what we knew about Charles A. Clark with some additional pieces of information gleaned from the census and other records. Recently even more information was discovered.

While I was doing research on something else in the book "Erie County and Its People " by Truman C. White, published in 1898 I discovered some additional information I wanted to share.

It turns out Mr. Clark was a Civil War veteran and a popular and distinguished one at that. He served in the 27th N.Y. Battery where he was first commissioned a Second Lieutenant and several months later promoted to First Lieutenant. After serving in the 9th (Burnside's Corps) and the 2nd (Hancock's Corps) he was promoted to Captain of the 12th N.Y. Battery where he served until the close of the war.

A peer of his reflected upon him that he was "a cool, energetic officer and no matter what danger or difficulties may surround him always preserves a firm upper lip, and I can safely say no one ever saw a trace of fear lurking in his face. In his intercourse with the men he was affable and considerate, while on points respecting duty or discipline he was rigid and exacting-two characteristics in an officer that go far toward producing military efficiency and maintaining a healthy tone in the ranks. The 27th is a loser by his advance."

After the war he became a clerk to Buffalo Mayor C.J. Wells. In 1870, for nine years, he was Superintendent of the Akron Cement Works. In 1879 he returned to Buffalo as a clerk in the employ of James H. Jewett, a shoe dealer until 1892. In 1893 he was a passenger and ticket agent for The Crystal Beach Steamboat and Ferry Company.

This is as far as Mr. White's book takes us in 1898 when Mr. Clark still held that position. Mr. Clark is buried in Forest Lawn Cemetery. He died in 1918. He is buried next to his wife who predeceased him in 1910.

The tombstone reads, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God."

some additional research provided by John Potera



## MAPLE LAWN CEMETERY RESTORATION PROJECT

Pat Rodrigues

As you may recall, in 2020 the Newstead Historical Society undertook a project at the Maple Lawn Cemetery to repair and resurrect many of the gravestones that had fallen into disrepair through the years. The historical society hired Brian Daddis Masonry, and with the assistance of Town Councilman John Jendrowski thirty-five gravestones were completed. That project was completed at a cost of \$4,000 which was funded by the Newstead Historical Society.

At a recent board meeting the Society approved an additional \$6,000 to address an additional sixteen more severely damaged stones. These that include Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and Civil War Veterans, and other local notables.

In mid-October 2022 the work was begun again. Currently the row closest to John Street is being worked on by Brian, of Brian Daddis Masonry.

He will reconstruct bases for many of these stones, but on the first gravestone he attempted to work on he found the base buried in the dirt. This was for Henry Strait, Civil War veteran. In that first week he also resurrected the stones of Lanson Gifford Tanner who was wounded at the battle of Fair Oaks in the Civil War, as well as A.C. Tanner, another Civil War veteran. Chief Clinton Moses' stone was also raised. He was a Native American who volunteered to serve in the war but was discharged when they found out he was a Native American.

The next set of graves to be worked on include William Love (another Civil War veteran), Peleg Hart, Revolutionary War veteran, and Jonathan Delano, War of 1812 veteran.

One of the more interesting stories is that of Peleg Hart's grave. Peleg Hart's grave was hidden for years under the fence, and no one knew it was there until his family visited and removed grass that had grown over it. They moved the stone more inside the fence with the aid of some Boy Scouts doing a project there, according to family members. His stone needs a new base and other repair as it is missing a piece.

The total final phase is expected to take approximately another month, weather permitting. It represents a total commitment on the part of the Newstead Historical Society of \$10,000, some of which was in donations specifically designated for the project.

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!!*





## Rich-Twinn Octagon House

Kate Stapleton Parzych, Director

### CANDLELIGHT EVENING AT THE OCTAGON - AN 1850'S CHRISTMAS

5pm - 8pm Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> \$5 donation per person suggested

In conjunction with The Knight-Sutton Museum's "Christmas Through the Ages", the Rich-Twinn Octagon House begins the timeline with an 1850's Christmas. There will be a table-top sized tree in our newly restored Drawing Room with three tree lighting ceremonies on the half hour. Live music and a reading of Clement Moore's "Twas the Night Before Christmas" will take place throughout the evening. Cookies will be served in the Canning Kitchen (our "modern" kitchen) with The Soul In Bloom tea apothecary serving tea - premiering a blend honoring the 2023 Town of Newstead Bicentennial. Fashion historian Anneliese Meck will be there modeling an outfit of 1850. If you saw her program last month, you know that her dress will be one that every lady of that time would want for her own.

Make an evening of it with your family and friends! Stop by both museums to take in all the lovely displays. As always, we appreciate your continued support for our cultural non-profit organization!

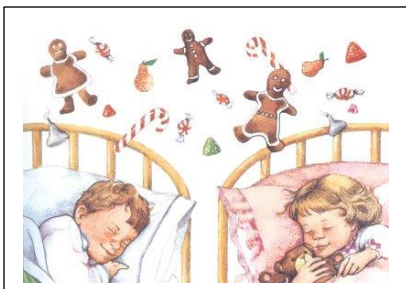
### Musings from The Octagon

Kate Stapleton Parzych, Director

This year has been an exciting one as we welcomed visitors back to the House. A big thank you to all the volunteers and docents who were involved in our first season back for tours. If you love the Octagon House (like we all do here at the NHS) consider sharing that love by signing up to be a docent for our 2023 season. It's easy to do, there's notes that you can have with you as you talk with our visitors, and you can be involved as many or as few days as you prefer. We have snowbirds who are here only part of the season, and that's fine with us.

We are starting up a High School student docent program. If you know a student who's interested in local history, please let them know about this new opportunity.

For anyone who is interested in becoming a docent for the Rich-Twinn Octagon House, (or the Knight-Sutton Museum), please reach out at [Director RTOH@newsteadhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:Director_RTOH@newsteadhistoricalsociety.org) or you may talk to me when you stop by the Octagon for one of our holiday Sunday tours and events. Thank you!



#### RICH-TWINN OCTAGON HOUSE

#### SUNDAY TOURS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

1 – 3 pm Adults - \$8 Youth 11 - 17 yrs. \$5

November 27 December 4, 11, 18

...and then we will settle in for a long winter's nap...

## THANK YOU AND A BIG WELCOME TO OUR 2023 CORPORATE SPONSORS!

So far, we are happy to welcome the following businesses as Corporate Sponsors for 2023!!

### Jonathan Russell Level - \$1000 and up

Perry's Ice Cream Co. Inc.  
Two Eagles Smokeshop / Joandy's Place

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

MGA Research  
Signmatic Systems, Inc.

### Dennis Nolan Level - \$250 - \$499

Brady Insurance Agency  
Fred E. Thomas Agency, Inc.

### Jonathan Delano Level - \$100 - \$249

Akron Animal Hospital, PC  
Akron Family Care  
Akron Family Dentistry  
Akron House of Spirits  
Destroyer Park Golf  
Filtration Unlimited  
Kreher Farm Fresh Eggs, LLC  
Newstead Homes & Improvements, Inc.

Thank you also to Guy's Submarines for your generous donation.

There's still plenty of time to renew your corporate sponsorship if you have not already done so. You can do this by returning the form sent to you on September 1<sup>st</sup> or go to our website: [Newsteadhistoricalsociety.org](http://Newsteadhistoricalsociety.org) and download the Corporate Sponsorship Application or contact Linda Capan at: [membership@newsteadhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:membership@newsteadhistoricalsociety.org) for more information.

If you own a business and would like to become a new sponsor in 2023 please see information above.

## HOLIDAY HOURS

### RICH-TWINN OCTAGON HOUSE

November 27, December 4, 11, 18

Sundays 1 -3 PM

\*\*\*\*\*



Candlelight Tour: November 27

5 PM - 8 PM

\$5 per person donation suggested

### KNIGHT-SUTTON MUSEUM

*Christmas Memories, Traditions and Customs*

November 27, December 4, 11, 18

Sundays 1 PM – 3 PM



November 27 5 PM – 8 PM

Wednesdays 10 AM – 1 PM

**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](http://www.newsteadhistoricalsociety.org)

#### **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](mailto:membership@newsteadhistoricalsociety.org) Rest assured - You will *not* receive numerous messages; this is meant to be a convenience for those who would like it



## PIECES TOO SHORT TO SAVE

Pat Rodrigues  
Knight-Sutton Museum Director

Well, it is Christmas here at the Knight-Sutton Museum. Ready or not, here it comes. Much work and time have been invested since the beginning of October doing the research and gathering items for the "Christmas Memories, Traditions and Customs" exhibit which opens November 27th and closes December 28th.

The eight-foot Christmas tree will be decorated with ornaments from the museum's collection dating back to when Bev Summe was director of the Rich-Twinn Octagon House. At that time, she collected them and designated them with the donator's name on them. Some date back to the turn of the century. Many village and town residents have lent or donated toys from the past to be on display as well, so it will surely look like Santa visited 123 Main Street this year.

We will have a "Did You Know?" tree with Christmas trivia questions on it, a display case of "Santa Through the Decades" ornaments, highlighting his evolution, and antique Christmas cards on display.

A new display case donated from the old Akron Pharmacy will house some home decor items that will take you back in time and hopefully evoke some fond memories.

All in all, I hope it will be something for the family and children and grandchildren to enjoy and I hope you will come. It is free of charge and since it is my first effort at an exhibit, I hope it passes muster.

Meanwhile the cemetery project is underway - (see the attached article) and we continue doing our inventory of the museum's collection with two new volunteers - Sue Nicholas and Marilyn Perry. Thank you to them. A few hours a week helps more than you know.

Anyway, isn't that what they all tell you when you volunteer for something - "It's just a few hours a week." That's how I started. Ha-ha! But seriously we appreciate any amount of time. It all helps make a dent in a huge undertaking.

Hoping to see you at the exhibit. If not, have a blessed and peaceful holiday season.

### SLATE OF OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES 2023

President	Adam Burg
Vice-president	David Webster
Treasurer	Patricia Pearce
Recording Secretary	Roxanne Rebmann
Membership Secretary	Linda Capan

#### **TRUSTEES 2021-2023**

Harold Finger

John Potera

Open

#### **TRUSTEES 2022-2024**

Jannette Potera

Kevin Hickey

Marcia Tordy

#### **TRUSTEES 2023-2025**

Marlene Gehl

David Meegan

Kristen Skeet

Welcome to our newest Board members: David Meegan and Kristen Skeet. Kudos to you !

## 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 "Anise Xmas Cookies" submitted by Idabelle Bedford.



### ANISE XMAS COOKIES

4 c. butter or margarine	10c. pastry flour
6 or 7 eggs, well beaten	8 tsp. baking powder
4 c. granulated sugar	1 tsp. salt
25 drops essence of anise	

Cream butter, add eggs and sugar. Mix well and add anise oil; after blended together add flour, baking powder and salt which have been sifted together.

Let stand until cool and roll on well-floured board to between 1/8 to 1/4 inch thickness [and cut with] with Xmas cookie cutters. Bake in 350-degree oven for 10 to 12 minutes, or until golden brown. Frost as desired.

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

<u>Trustees: 2020-2022</u>	<u>Trustees: 2021-2023</u>	<u>Trustees: 2022-2024</u>
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

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

(Activity from August 1 – October 31, 2022)

### PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS:

- Suzanne Arditty
- Ron & Ginger Martin

### THANK YOU FOR MEMORIAL DONATIONS

received from:

- Kevin Hickey in memory of his mother, Mary Hickey, to be used for painting the Gentlemen's bedroom
- Robert M. Webster in memory of Kelsey & Dorothy Webster

### THANK YOU FOR DONATIONS

received from:

- Rodger & Diane Brown, Kimberley Burg, and Don & Sandra Kreher

**Membership renewal** envelopes have been mailed out. We hope our annual members will renew and we hope all members will visit the Octagon House to see all the beautiful updates!

**THANK YOU** for all the donations we have received this past year. We truly appreciate your support! Please consider an NHS Membership as you plan your upcoming Christmas list! Memberships are inexpensive and includes a tour of the Rich-Twinn Octagon House!

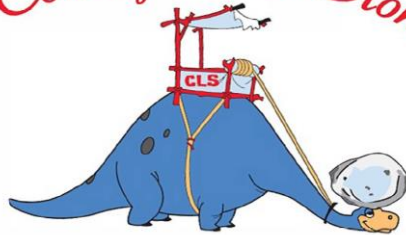
### Check our website:

[newsteadhistoricalsociety.org](http://newsteadhistoricalsociety.org) for membership information or pick up a membership envelope at Akron Market on Main, Martin's Mercantile, the library, and the town hall or village offices. (Please request by 12/15/22 in order to receive in time for Christmas giving.) 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



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](http://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.





