

The Preservationist

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Summer is here!

The sun is shining, flowers are blooming and the NHS is preparing for the week-long Bicentennial and Fourth of July celebration! At the KSM the new exhibit "Newstead – 200 Years" is proving to be a hit. Director Pat Rodrigues, Marybeth Whiting and Laurel Jones have put together a great program. In addition, Pat oversaw the completion of the latest phase of the Maple Lawn Cemetery restoration. A well-deserved thank you to Brian Daddis Masonry, without whom none of the work would look so good.



The Octagon house is resplendent in its summer glory. Director Kate Stapleton Parzych and her volunteers have been feverishly sprucing up the house and gardens for all the visitors the Fourth of July and Bicentennial will bring.

You are going to read a lot on the Fourth of July and Bicentennial, so I will let those articles speak for themselves. The Bicentennial Committee and all the volunteers have given an incredible amount of their time and effort to bring these programs and events together. We live in a remarkable community and it never ceases to amaze me the dedication that goes so often unacknowledged. Thank you to all who have contributed to this long-awaited anniversary.

So, get out there and enjoy the fruits of their labors, but don't forget to get your quilt raffle tickets in and don't forget to grab a Fourth of July pie from the pie sale! See you on Main Street!

Thank you,

Adam Burg

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Rich-Twinn Octagon House

Kate Stapleton Parzych, Director

Musings at the Octagon

It is so nice to see the RTOH open for tours. We've had many visitors, both local as well as out-of-state, stop by to see what The Octagon is all about. There will be another ACS Reunion tour (Class of '73) this season, as well as a few group tours already on the calendar for this summer. It's not too late to arrange a tour for your group.

Gentleman's Bedroom

Come and visit the Octagon and see the updated Gentleman's Bedroom with the new wall color and William Morris-inspired frieze that allows the Louis Belger furniture to really stand out. This year the Children's Bedroom is also on display. Both rooms will be open on the 4th of July walk-through.

Gardens at the Octagon

Linda Cowan has volunteered countless hours over the years to keep the gardens and flowerpots looking wonderful. The NHS is very grateful for her dedication to the lovely gardens that are on the RTOH property. Thank you, Linda!!

At the present time, she is a "committee of one", so this is a request that if you would like to help keep the flowers watered and growing, please consider signing up for a day to help. In dry weather, the pots need to be watered every day -- and it is looking to be that kind of summer.



If you know Linda, you may reach out to her directly, or you can email:

Director_RTOH@newsteadhistoricalsociety.org

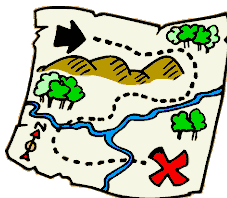
Holiday Happenings at the Octagon

Saturday, July 1st from 11am - 3pm is Kids Day passport event. Participants will be stopping by to see how they measure-up to the full-size photograph of the Clark children's growth chart that we will have set up on the lawn. (The original door is always on display in the Receiving Room). Kids get their passport stamped and move on to the next location. Please feel free to stop by to see the fun -- you can get measured up at the door as well!

Sunday, July 2nd from 1pm - 3pm we will have our "Highlights of the Octagon" tour of the entire House. Adults \$8. Youth 11 - 17 years \$5. Present your 2023 NHS membership card for a free tour.

Tuesday, July 4th, the Octagon will be open from 12pm - 2pm We will once again offer a "Walk-Through" of the main and third floors -- no cupola and no ground floor. This is a "Pay What You Can" event - thank you in advance for your support.

Sunday, July 9th 1pm - 3pm is the Scavenger Hunt Wrap-up in the side lawn of the RTOH. Stop on by to see how everyone fared.



Mantle Clocks

A big thank you to Walt Tanski for cleaning up some of the clocks in our collection. They are finicky contraptions, but it's so nice to hear them "tick-tock" and chime. We now have one on display on each of the floors.

Spring Tea Party

Our First Tea Party at the Octagon was a success! 12 guests were in attendance, including a family of three generations that donned spring hats and fascinators. Graciell from the Soul in Bloom had three different teas for us to taste and enjoy as she spoke to us about various herbs and customs of Victorian times. Anneliese Meck was dressed in a stunning 1884 bustle dress that she described in detail along with the fashion trends of that era - a perfect outfit to wear to an afternoon tea. Local Pastry Chef Megan Roffle from Dessert First provided tasty tea sandwiches, scones, and mini cupcakes to savor between sips of tea. A special thank you to Kimberley Burg and Joann Lega for being wonderfully attentive servers, and Roxanne Rebmann and Rita Diebold for handily assisting them and leading the cleanup crew. We just might do this again sometime!! Stay tuned to the Preservationist, our Facebook page, and the Akron Bugle for updates.

BICENTENNIAL/FOURTH OF JULY



The Fourth of July is fast approaching, and Newstead will be having a huge party. The town's bicentennial committee has been hard at work to provide a fun-filled week for the entire family.

The following information will give you some of the events. Check out the calendar included in this newsletter. Saturday, July 1 will have many opportunities for children and families. You will receive a passport that will highlight seven stations including: Russell Park, Newstead Public Library, Rich-Twinn Octagon House, the Tonawanda Community Building, Akron Fire Company, Limerick Hall and Maple Lawn Cemetery. There will be fun activities. Receive a sticker at as many stops as you can manage. If you receive at least three stickers, each child will receive an ice cream treat after 1:00 PM in Russell Park. Passports will be available at each station.

Limerick Hall (12579 Clarence Center Road) will have numerous activities, including games, demonstrations on calligraphy, potholder making, candle making, tour of the 1869 school with a "teacher" on site. Pretzels and lemonade will be available for visitors.

The Scavenger Hunt begins on Friday, June 30 but can be finished anytime during July. Everyone will enjoy finding out historic information at the many spots on the hunt. If you finish the hunt by July 9, come to the Octagon House and receive an ice cream treat between 1:00 and 3:00 PM. Scavenger booklets can be found at the Newstead Public Library, Town Hall, Village Hall, Knight-Sutton Museum and the Octagon House. One booklet per family, please. Tonawanda Indian Community House (372 Bloomingdale) will be open for tours and demonstrations. Learn about the history of the Seneca people and the reservation and experience the Native culture. Artifacts will be on display. Many of our long-time members will remember Grace Byers' bell collection. It has not been on display for many years but will be now, along with Dottie Freeman's antique doll collection. These two exhibits will be on display at 63 Main Street. Stop by on one of the three days listed in the schedule of events and enjoy these two collections.

Maple Lawn Cemetery Project Updates

Just in time for Memorial Day fittingly, phase two of the Maple Lawn Cemetery project, sponsored by the Newstead Historical Society was completed. The project is part of a three-year, \$13,000 contract with Brian Daddis of Brian Daddis Masonry to restore the headstones of military veterans and early pioneer settlers in the cemetery.

In this second year, five Civil War veterans (including an infantryman who was wounded at the battle of Fair Oaks, VA. and died at age 46, and a Native American who volunteered and was discharged solely because he was a Native American) were among those who had new bases created for their stones so that we could unearth their stones and mount them upright. Brian also addressed two Revolutionary War veterans, by creating a new back piece for one of them that had been discovered in the ground with graffiti on its reverse. The wife of this Revolutionary War veteran who bore him 13 children also had her stone raised and the back refaced.

The second wife and two young children (who had died prematurely at ages 3 and 10 months) of Charles B. Rich of the Octagon House also had new bases created and were elevated to stand beside Mr. Rich's stone.

In the case of Lorenzo Covey, a former Town Justice and Town Supervisor, whose monument is tree shaped, the monument had to be elevated and new supports put under it and stone laid around it. All the headstones that were worked on were also treated with a chemical wash and grass seed was planted.

In the fall more Civil War veterans and local dignitaries' graves will be addressed as part of the contract and our ongoing commitment to restore this pioneer cemetery, for as someone once said, " lives are commemorated here, our heritage is here, and every life is worth remembering."

PIECES TOO SHORT TO SAVE

Patricia Rodrigues Director Knight-Sutton Museum

I would like to start out by acknowledging a recent \$250 donation designated for our new research room by Jim Childs, great grandson of James Gibson Childs, (the former publisher of the Akron News in the early 1900's). Jim visited us recently to research his ancestors and their "Akron life" as part of a book he is writing. He brought along his cousin and together we poured over the museum's copies of the Akron News we had in the collection, as well as maps, photos, and other resources. Jim had visited over 8 towns, village and city historians, research librarians and museum directors seeking information.

His donation will go towards the purchase of computers for the newly appointed research room. Next, we will need a proper desk for them. We are on our way and most grateful and excited.



Secondly, I would like to recognize Julie Constantino, health teacher at ACS, and five of her students for their assistance in inventorying the museum's photograph collection. This is done by doing a descriptive worksheet on each photograph, measuring it, assessing its condition, and detailing its provenance, if any.

The work is part of the students' five-hour community service commitment in order to graduate. The work can be tedious at times, but the job was chosen specifically for them because the photos depict Akron-Newstead people and places of the past, which gives the students somewhat of a historical perspective of the village and town they live in. Good job by all of them and thank you to Erik Aignet, Jack Julicher, Connor Lucia, Elixis Mitten, Aiden Romesser.

In June, we will be doing several tours - a walking tour with the fourth graders of upper Main Street, a tour for a senior citizen group,

and a class reunion tour. Group tours at the Knight-Sutton Museum are free of charge and can be easily booked by calling 716-542-7022.

In recent months, we have been graced to have some of the museum's collections highlighted in the Soul in Bloom's store window. Currently we are displaying part of our children's book collection with the theme of a "Teddy Bear's Tea Party". Our last window was a small selection from Grace Byer's extensive bell collection. The response has inspired us to display the entire bell collection during the week of the Newstead Bicentennial along with Dottie Freeman's wonderful antique doll collection. We will be open at 63 Main Street on July 3 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., July 5 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and July 6 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Again, this is a free exhibit. If you are a person who loves to dig into old maps the Knight-Sutton museum's exhibit is just for you. Find your house on the map, find old street names that do not exist anymore, as well as farms, one-room schoolhouse locations, and the original hamlets that once existed here and are still referred to. We have a newly acquired map of Newstead in 1855-(we never had one that went back that far before). There are also some newly acquired Native American maps, a newly compiled history of the history of Murder Creek-going back to 1807, artifact displays of early Akron businesses and of course our new research library. The library consists of over 115 notebooks on every topic imaginable relating to Akron-Newstead. We have atlas' going back to 1866, a large collection of ACS yearbooks, old bound issues of the Akron News, farm and business journals, cemetery, and hotel ledgers from the turn of the century. If you have ever dreamed of going back in time, we are the place for you.

Recently we have completed phase two of our cemetery project-please read the article in this newsletter documenting our progress and future restoration plans and, best of all, visit the cemetery housing our quiet neighbors

Snippets of History Bicentennial Display

Beverly Summe, Town Historian

There will be numerous displays in the Cultural Center consisting of our towns history that you will not want to miss. You will learn what we are today because of our forefathers and what they endured to make this town as special as it is today.

Extensive research has gone into The West Shore and Peanut Line Railroad by two avid train enthusiasts. Did you know that the railways played an integral part of what made the Town of Newstead prosper along with the four mining companies that relied on the railways.

We will take you back in time to the 1949 Centennial where you will enjoy the many festivities our ancestors took part in. Our ancestors knew how to cut loose and let the good times roll. We will be remembering Kelly's Bowling Alley and so much more. How about seeing pictures of some rough, tough little boys playing football who are now in their 60's? That is hard to imagine.

We are who we are today because of who they were yesterday. We will be remembering many residents on "The Families of Newstead" picture boards. You will find yourself saying over and over again, "Oh, I remember them."

Put this on your Calendar of events to attend. It will be opened on three different days. Hope to see you then.

UPCOMING DATES

June 17: Annual Sidewalk Sale. NHS will have a table outside of Step-by-Step Physical Therapy. Stop by and look at the beautiful quilt. The Bicentennial commemorative book will also be available.

July 4: Annual Fourth of July activities. Check out the schedule and find many activities. Stop by the Octagon House and Knight-Sutton Museum. The annual pie sale and quilt raffle will be on the front lawn of KSM.

August 4: NHS will host the Friday night shelter during the Community Band concert. Pies, cookies, brownies and coffee will be available.

BAKERS NEEDED: Pie bakers especially needed for the Fourth of July and/or August 4. If you are interested in helping, please call Carole Borchert (716-542-2296) or Pat Pearce (716-542-4192)

PROGRAMS

Earlier in the year we had three great programs: Joseph Ellicott (re-enactor Dennis Upton) was terrific explaining the life of this early surveyor of WNY. Erie County Historian Doug Kohler entertained and educated the audience with ten events in Erie County history.

The June presenter (which will probably happen while this newsletter goes to print) will be Editor (*Akron Bugle*) Marilyn Kasperek. She will speak on the Akron Community Band which is celebrating its centennial this year. Marilyn has been a member of the band for nearly fifty years & has comprehensive knowledge of the band.



Activity from February 1 - May 31, 2023

WITH SYMPATHY - We are saddened to report the passing of life members Donald Holmes on February 6th and Kenneth Kasperek on March 19th. Don was Past President and Treasurer of the Newstead Historical Society and the Town of Newstead Historian. Ken was the publisher of the Akron Bugle and covered all the NHS events over the years. We also lost Honorary members Betty Wright, on February 19th, Patricia Babiarcz on May 15th, and Annual member Lorain Daniels on April 26th. We extend our sincerest condolences to their families and friends.

WELCOME to the following new **ANNUAL** members: Robert & Nancy Andrycha and The Cuthbertson Family

THANK YOU FOR MEMORIAL DONATIONS given by:

Akron Lioness Club in memory of Donald Holmes for all his many active years with the Society

Anonymous in memory of Donald Holmes

Bill & Michele Asmus in memory of Donald Holmes

Joe & Linda Capan in memory of Donald Holmes

Sharon & Mark Catalano in memory of Donald Holmes

Virginia Cochran in memory of Donald Holmes

Richard & Diane Cordz in memory of Donald Holmes

Veronica Daugherty in memory Donald Holmes

Harold Finger in memory of Donald Holmes

Nancy Frey in memory of Donald Holmes

Mary Hanley in memory of Larry E. Hanley to be used

for wallpaper border in gentleman's bedroom

Eileen Kasperek in memory of Donald Holmes

Jeff & Laurel Jones in memory of Donald Holmes

Jeff & Laurel Jones in memory of Jack Routledge

Wynne Klingel in memory of Donald Holmes

Gretchen Moore in memory of Donald Holmes

Nancy Nelson in memory of Donald Holmes

Bill & Joanne Oakes, Cindy & Michael Schilling, Kathy &

Jeff Zaprowski, Chuck & Cheryl Oakes, Chris & Sue

Oakes and Terry Oakes in memory of Gordie & Judy Bell

Patricia Pearce in memory of Donald Holmes

Lawrence & Barbara Richardson in memory of

Donald Holmes

Mary Jane & Don Shonn in memory of Donald Holmes

Sally Stapleton in memory of Donald Holmes

Janice Sutton in memory of Donald Holmes

Karen Sutton in memory of Donald Holmes

THANK YOU FOR DONATIONS received from: The Hayes Family, Carl Klingenschmitt & Sue Faye Allen, John & Jan Lauridsen, Patrick McCann and Kevin & Edna Scherf

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



ANNUAL QUILT RAFFLE AND PIE SALE

What would Fourth of July be without the annual quilt raffle? David Wakeman, our star quilt selector, has been picking out the annual quilt for many years – close to 30 years in fact. This year's quilt is called "County Love", a queen size with a beautiful applique design. There is a large bow design in the center with appliqued hearts and flowers creating a heart-shape under the bow. Green leaves enhance the design along with a lovely, scalloped edge in a deep regal purple color. It is a stunning quilt. Letters and raffle tickets were sent to all NHS members. Please return the tickets and remittance to Marcia Tordy, envelope was enclosed in the letter. Check payable to the Newstead Historical Society. The price of ticket and or book of tickets has increased. Please note the change. Many thanks for you continued support with this yearly fundraiser.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2023 CORPORATE SPONSORS!!

We want to sincerely thank our corporate sponsors for 2023. Your support will help us maintain our two museums, the Rich-Twinn Octagon House and the Knight Sutton Museum.

(Members please mention a big "thank you" to these sponsors for their support if you should see them!)

Jonathan Russell Level - \$1000 and up

Perry's Ice Cream Co. Inc.

Two Eagles Smokeshop/Joandy's Place

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

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Signmatic Systems, Inc.

Dennis Nolan Level - \$250 - \$499

Brady Insurance Agency

Fred E. Thomas Agency, Inc.

Jendrowski Landscaping

Jonathan Delano Level - \$100 - \$249

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Akron Family Care

Akron Family Dentistry

Akron House of Spirits, Inc.

Destroyer Park Golf

Filtration Unlimited

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Newstead Home Improvements, Inc.

A Donation was also received from Guy's Submarines

2023 NHS Executive Board

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Vice President	David Webster
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Recording Secretary	Rxanne Rebmann
Membership Secretary	Linda Capan

Trustees

Trustees: 2021-2023	Trustees: 2022-2024	Trustees: 2023-2025
Carolyn Finger	Kevin Hickey	Marlene Gehl
Harold Finger	Jannette Potera	David Meegan
John Potera	Marcia Tordy	Kristen Skeet

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	Michele Asmus/Julie Brady
Town and Village Historian	Beverly Summe

RECIPE CORNER

Jannette Potera

Here's a recipe from *The Cook's Oracle* published in 1823. The author is not named but the title page states the book is "the result of actual experiments instituted in the kitchen of a physician". This recipe is titled "Shrewsbury Cakes."

(No. 63.) *Shrewsbury Cakes.*

Rub well together one pound of pounded Sugar, one pound of fresh Butter, and one pound and a half of sifted Flour,—mix it into a paste, with half a gill of milk or cream, and one egg,—let it lie half an hour, roll it out thin, cut it out into small cakes with a tin cutter, about three inches over, and bake them on a clean baking plate in a moderate oven.

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.



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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.

To Andy's Place



(716)542-6212

I²R

I SQUARED R ELEMENT



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For more information or to become a sponsor - just go to our website: Newsteadhistoricalsociety.org and download the Corporate Sponsorship Application or contact Linda Capan at: membership@newsteadhistoricalsociety.org.

Newstead Historical Society

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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.



