

# The Preservationist

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's hard to believe we're nearing the end of summer! What a summer it has been. The Bicentennial Celebration was a tremendous accomplishment and fitting of Newstead's two hundredth birthday. Another Independence Day in the books and as always, the Society benefitted from the support of our community. The Pie Sale and Quilt Raffle were successes. A great thank you to all those who volunteered their time to help with those events. It wouldn't be an Akron/Newstead Fourth of July without them.

The Octagon House has seen one of its busiest summers yet. The house always shines in the summer with all the of the flowers in bloom. Thank you to Linda Cowan and her volunteers for their hard work. Visitor count is up and director Kate Stapleton-Parzych has created new opportunities for us to share our landmark with a wider audience.

The Knight Sutton Museum is also having quite the summer. In addition to the ongoing Newstead -200 Years exhibit, director Pat Rodrigues and her volunteers began the fulfillment of a long-desired goal; a resource room. Our community will now have dedicated space at the museum for research and study.

The beginning of the end of summer is marked by one important event, the Erie County Fair. For those that attended, I hope you had an opportunity to visit the historical building. The Alden Historical Society was gracious enough to let us share their exhibit space and celebrate our Bicentennial. We thank you and appreciate your support. Moving forward as we transition in to fall we have some great programs coming up and look forward to another great holiday season!

Thank you,

*Adam Burg*



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## Rich-Twinn Octagon House

Kate Stapleton Parzych, Director

### At the Octagon

81 kids of all ages stopped by the Octagon for the Newstead 200 Kids Day event to see how they measured up to the Clark family children: Seth, Charles Jr, Catherine, and Nellie, who lived in the house with their parents from 1871 to 1879. (They were the second family to reside there). The door that displays the years of growth of the siblings is in the Receiving Room and is too delicate to handle so the door was photographed - to size - and the full color replica was placed outside by the lower entrance to the house. Thank you to Kevin Hickey, Myra Hegmann, and Adam Burg for helping with this fun event.

Our 4<sup>th</sup> of July open house event was very successful with 150 visitors stopping by that day to view the main and third floor of the museum - many were there for the first time!

*A very special thank you* to Sharon Beyer, Kimberley Burg, Joann Lega, Pat Pearce, Marcia Tordy, and Jim Parzych for spending the holiday afternoon at the RTOH. Akron's 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration includes many events across the village to choose from, therefore, I am grateful that these friends of the Octagon chose to spend their day with us.

It's been a wonderful summer at the Rich-Twinn Octagon House! We've had many terrific visitors stop by to spend time with us learning about mid-nineteenth century life - in turn, they've shared their stories and love of local history.

Our remaining **Highlights of the Octagon tours** for the 2023 season will be September 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, and October 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to bring your NHS membership card for free admission on those dates. In the next issue of The Preservationist, look for our Christmas Holiday tours and events schedule.

## Programs

There are 3 remaining programs that will take place before our next newsletter is published. All programs are held at the Newstead Town Hall, 5 Clarence Center Rd. Akron, NY. The programs begin at 7pm and are free of charge and open to the public.

**Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup>**, local history is on display when everyone is invited to learn about Hy-Wynne Farms and the Sutton Family. From its early days as the home of Louis H. Sutton, owner at the age of 20 of Wheat's Ice Cream Company, to its current incarnation as a horse breeding, raising, training and stabling facility, this Akron-based farm has history spanning three generations to share.

**Thursday October 12<sup>th</sup>** living historian and dressmaker, Anneliese Meck will describe all the details of what it took for a lady to be fashionable in the year of Newstead's beginning. She will do this while getting dressed in an 1823 ensemble.

**On Thursday, Nov. 9<sup>th</sup>** back by popular demand, Don Shonn will continue a discussion of local land titles that will highlight the battle of the Tonawanda Senecas to avoid removal to the west and to preserve their ancestral land. The program is entitled "This Land is Your Land Part II."

## Pieces Too Short to Save

Patricia Rodrigues, Director Knight-Sutton Museum

The Byer Bell collection is home again, the Scavenger Hunt signs are down and alas, the Bicentennial is over. So many volunteer hours went into it by so many people and all are to be congratulated.

One of my favorite memories is the Community House tour at the Reservation. I had never been there before and enjoyed the tour given by Terry Abrams showing us the many artifacts on display. There was a picture that particularly entranced me, taken during the Depression of two Native American women standing in front of a corn crib that had been turned into a lending library for reservation residents. What an amazing photograph of a moment in time! I wasn't aware that the Community Building was open to the public and I was told over 125 people toured that day. Bravo!

There were so many things to enjoy, not the least of which was the outdoor concert given by the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra which was another new experience for me. In addition, the preservation work done to make sure the Limerick could be open as part of the celebration was outstanding. And, the garden walk, despite the rain was still a great success.

If you have special memories of the Bicentennial you would like to share, please email them to me at [Director\\_KSM@newsteadhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:Director_KSM@newsteadhistoricalsociety.org).

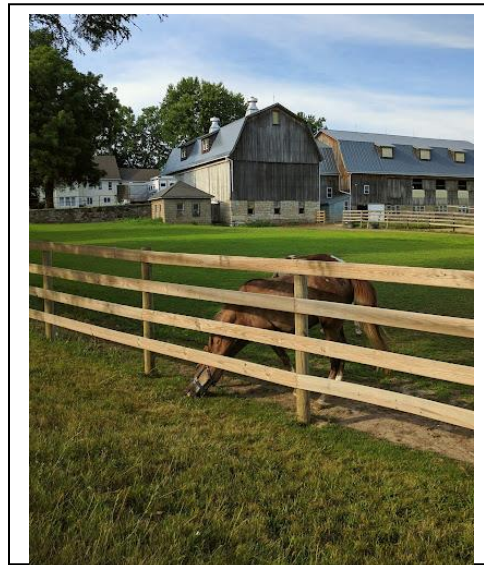
We also would be interested in photographs of the various events to create a memory book.

The Bicentennial books are still available for sale at the Knight-Sutton Museum and the Octagon House as well as Martin's Mercantile, Market on Main, the Town and Village Halls and the Newstead Public Library. They make great Christmas gifts for former residents.

At the museum we are continuing with the on-going inventorying and planning of next year's exhibit. It is phase two of the transition which includes converting one of the rooms to a rotating exhibit room, while the main room becomes the permanent exhibit room. It will be a challenge to make everything fit!

Meanwhile stop in to see the "Newstead 200 Years" exhibit with new info on the history of Murder Creek, several new maps and loads of memories on display.

And finally, be sure to see us for the presentation Sept. 14th at the Town Hall on Hy-Wynn Farms and the Sutton Family. It is a multi-generational story and we are so fortunate to have that history a part of our local history. The program begins at 7p.m. and is free to the public. See you then!



## Snippets of History

Beverly Summe, Town Historian

As your Village and Town Historian, I have discovered the real meaning of history. I have learned that HISTORY IS WHO WE ARE AND WHY WE ARE THE WAY WE ARE. Now, reread that last sentence and think about that.

Your personal history is fascinating if you only take the time to discover it. Our towns' history is also fascinating and that is what I do as your Historian. I research, interpret, and write about the past by studying historical documents and sources. Sometimes it is of a specific place or time, sometimes about human affairs. It is like reading a good book that you cannot put down. Some days when I am in the office doing research I find one small fact, a new fact that I was not looking for and that is when the fun begins. Like a dog unearthing a bone, you cannot stop and you must dig deeper and deeper because you are sure there is another. That is what history is, a never-ending hunt of the unknown.

I often wonder why anyone would ever want to deny or obliterate their history by throwing it away. Your history is yours but not yours alone. It is tied to so many others. Your ancestors count on you to preserve their legacy. If you have historical pictures, deeds, diaries, letters etc. and you do not want them, please pass them on to your loved ones or your Town Historian or local museum where they will be saved and preserved. Perhaps one day a grandchild will want to know more about you. Believe it or not, this happens a lot. You may not realize it but you are the ancestors of the future. To quote Robert Heinlein "A generation who ignores history has no past and no future." One last quote by Marcus Garvey states, "A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots."

In closing, I am honored for the privilege of serving you. I look forward to working together with Pat Rodrigus of the Knight Sutton Museum to preserve the history of our town. If I can ever be of help to you, please do not hesitate to call upon me. You will find me in my office at the Cultural Center, 33 Main St. on Tuesdays from 10 am to 2 pm.

### Maple Lawn Cemetery Project Updates

Patricia Rodrigues

Our on- going project at Maple Lawn Cemetery continues with another \$3,000 being allocated for this fall's work including moving Enos Newman's family stone back to its rightful place in the front of the cemetery. It is an obelisk that was somehow transplanted to an erroneous location in the back of the cemetery and according to the cemetery map belongs up front. During the latter part of the fall many of the remaining fallen stones will be set upright. Then, next year we will work on the remaining veterans. Thanks to John Jendrowski for assisting Brian Daddis of Brian Daddis Masonry with the Newman stone.

## FOURTH OF JULY

Fourth of July is always a great day in Akron/Newstead. Many visitors spent time at the octagon house and Knight-Sutton Museum. Many purchased pies and quilt tickets. It was a beautiful day to celebrate our bicentennial and America's birthday.

The annual Amish quilt raffle was a huge success. The quilt was won by Anita Ballow with second and third prize winners being David Meegan and Patty Keppler. The quilt raffle is NHS's biggest fundraiser of the year. The NHS board would like to thank our wonderful members who support this event annually. This fundraiser is dependent on our membership...and we have the BEST members. Through your support plus additional donations, NHS can sustain the two museums and provide quality programming.



Kudos to our loyal bakers. The annual pie sale (Fourth of July) and refreshment stand (Aug. 4) had many pies for sale. The Fourth of July pie sale is a tradition that many people look forward to.

Again, thank you to ALL who helped with our fundraising endeavors.

## BICENTENNIAL

The summer has been overloaded with activities. Newstead's Bicentennial was a huge success with many activities for all residents. Activities included children's day, scavenger hunt, farm show, BPO concert, Snippets of History display and much more. A special thank you to Dennis and Dottie Freeman who opened their 63 Main Street building for special displays of Dottie's antique dolls and Grace Byers's bell collection. It was a great treat to see these two fabulous collections. Hopefully our local members took advantage of these bicentennial activities.

The commemorative book sold well and is still available through NHS, Market on Main, Martin's Mercantile, Town Hall, and Newstead Public Library. Out of town members may purchase a book through the Newstead Historical Society for \$30 which includes shipping cost; checks payable to NHS.

Since Alden and Newstead share the same bicentennial year, the two historical societies banded together to create a shared booth at the historical building at the Erie County Fair. The document separating the towns from the original larger "Clarence" town was on display plus a map of 1823. Highlights of the two histories through past and present industries and organizations were documented. The display received both a participation and Honorary Mention award from the fair. It was a well-balanced display of our town and Alden. Kudos to Alden for sharing its space this year.

Again, thank you to ALL who helped with our fundraising endeavors.

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Activity from June 1 – July 31, 2023

We are saddened to report the passing of life member David Cummings on June 21<sup>st</sup> and honorary member Winifred Meahl on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. We extend our sincerest condolences to their families and friends.

We would like to welcome new members, George & Sherri Burg – Sidewalk Sale winners of a 2023 membership!!

### THANK YOU FOR MEMORIAL DONATIONS given for:

- Kenneth Kasperek by Don & Mary Jane Shonn
- Kenneth Kasperek by Michael & Marybeth Whiting
- Winifred Meahl by Joe & Linda Capan to be used at the Knight Sutton Museum
- Winifred Meahl by Michael & Marybeth Whiting

Thank you for all the donations and support we have received this year. We truly appreciate your support!

Memberships are inexpensive and the perfect gift *and* membership includes unlimited tours of the Octagon House during scheduled hours! Please consider a membership gift as you plan your upcoming Christmas list! 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, 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 *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 "Potatoe Balls".



### *Potatoe Balls.* . . . (No. 111.)

**Mix mashed potatoes with the yolk of an egg, roll them into balls, flour them, or egg and bread-crumb them, and fry them in clean drippings,—or brown them in a Dutch 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.

## THANK YOU TO OUR 2023 CORPORATE SPONSORS!!

We want to sincerely thank our corporate sponsors for 2023. Your support is greatly appreciated and has helped 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!)*

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A Donation was also received from  
Guy's Submarines

Letters to become a 2024 Corporate Sponsor will be mailed out in September. For more information go to our website:

Newsteadhistoricalsociety.org and download the Corporate Sponsorship Application or contact Linda Capan at:  
[membership@newsteadhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:membership@newsteadhistoricalsociety.org)

## Get Your Newsletter E-Mailed – It Benefits NHS

Did you know the Preservationist – Newstead Historical Society's quarterly newsletter can be sent directly to your email instead of being mailed? You will be the first to receive your newsletter and you will save NHS money. To request this option please email Linda Capan at:

[membership@newsteadhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:membership@newsteadhistoricalsociety.org) and put NHS in the subject line.

You will not receive numerous messages, only the newsletter.

### 2023 NHS Executive Board

President	Adam Burg
Vice President	David Webster
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Recording Secretary	Roxanne Rebmann
Membership Secretary	Linda Capan

### Trustees

<u>Trustees: 2021-2023</u>	<u>Trustees: 2022-2024</u>	<u>Trustees: 2023-2025</u>
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Harold Finge	Jannette Potera	David Meegan
John Potera	Marcia Tordy	Kristen Skeet

### Directors and Committees

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Rich-Twinn Octagon House Director	Kate Stapleton Parzych
Knight-Sutton Museum Director	Pat Rodrigues
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Century Homes & Landmarks	Pat Rodrigues
Newsletter	Michele Asmus/Julie Brady
Town and Village Historian	Beverly Summe



**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!**

*To Andy's Place*



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**I<sup>2</sup>R**

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For more information or to become a sponsor - just 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).

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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.





