

The Preservationist

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Spring will soon be upon us and a new season will begin for the Newstead Historical Society in just a few short weeks. The Holidays were wildly successful with recent record numbers of visitors to the Octagon and KSM. Directors Kate Parzych and Pat Rodrigues continue to expand their programming and look forward to another great year. It was wonderful to see all the old faces returning and the many new faces that visited during the Light Up Akron Celebration.

The Board was pleased to receive the good news that Erie County has approved a significant grant to the Society. The Board is extremely grateful for their support in our continued mission. This year marks the eighth year we have been fortunate to receive their support. The County is only one of the tremendous networks of supporters and volunteers including the Town of Newstead and several local businesses through our Corporate Sponsorship program.

In closing, please take a moment to thank those that have supported and continue to support our organization and set your sights on some warmer weather and new beginnings as we look forward to the opening of our buildings and the tremendous slate of programs the Program Committee will be offering.

Thank you,

Adam Burg



Rich-Twinn Octagon House



Kate Stapleton Parzych, Director

Behind the Scenes at “The Octagon”

There is always something exciting happening at the House during our off-season! This year we are updating the third bedroom (the child’s bedroom) with a new coat of paint along with a wallpaper frieze and baseboard border created in the style of William Morris and Walter Crane, two mid-nineteenth century designers who created popular wallpapers whose designs still can be seen in decorating items today. Rita Diebold, Marcia Torody, and Laurie Stapleton Baldwin are once again working their magic to get the project on course.

RTOH 2023 Season Review

We had a total of 314 visitors for tours and 350 visitors for our 2 open house events.

Our “Candlelight Evening at the Octagon” coincided with Light Up Akron, and it proved to be a great success - and the weather co-operated as well.

We had nearly 200 visitors for the evening, and over \$700 in donations was received. Thank you to all who stopped by, and many thanks to all the people that made this event possible. Dale and Lois Kruschke donated our lovely fresh-cut blue spruce, and Joann and Steven Lega donated fresh greens that decorated the doorways and rooms. Joann, along with Laurie S. Baldwin and Kimberley Burg created all the beautiful fresh arrangements in the style of a mid-nineteenth century Christmas/New Year’s celebration.

A special Thank You to Jim and Lynn Asmus who provided trolley car rides from the Knight-Sutton Museum to the Octagon, Jannette and John Potera, and Anneliese Meck for providing historical background (with wonderful attire!) of Christmas customs of the mid-nineteenth century, Hannah Cuthbertson for providing incidental violin music, and Pat Pearce for making and serving the mulled cider in our canning kitchen.

Adam Burg, Marlene Gehl, Roxanne Rebmann, Harold and Carolyn Finger, Joann Lega, Kimberley Burg, Laurie S. Baldwin, and Carole Borchert were on hand during the evening to guide visitors through the House.

It was a lovely, joyful evening and I am grateful for all the participation and support of our community.

Beginning Our 2024 Season

Join us at the Octagon for an Open House Sunday March 10th 2pm – 3:30pm

-- a welcome back to our veteran docents, and a fond hello for anyone who is interested in sharing your love of the Octagon House with our visitors. A tour of the House with our new tour booklet for 2024 starts at 2:30. Light refreshments will be served.

FYI: Docents for the Rich-Twinn Octagon House can choose the dates they want - as few as once a season, or as many as every-other Sunday for the summer! All the help for our tours is greatly appreciated. There's no need to memorize the facts and stories of the House - there's a booklet that every docent has available to them.

The 2024 season runs April through October on the first and third Sundays, from 1pm - 3pm. Special holiday hours during November and December will round out the year.

Who can be a docent? Anyone in Western New York with an interest in local history, mid-nineteenth century life, and/or an interest in architecture. Adults, as well as students (high school freshmen to seniors), are welcome. If you have questions about becoming a docent for the Octagon, please email Kate at Director_RTOH@newsteadhistoricalsociety.org

Of Special Note

Tours and events at The Octagon would not be possible without a very dedicated docent and volunteer staff! The following have lent their time and talents to the RTOH in 2023: Michele and Bill Asmus, Mary Jane and Don Shonn, Rita and Larry Diebold, Carole Borchert, Claudia Best, Jean Fee, Sharon Beyer, Pat Pearce, Roxanne Rebmann, Hannah Cuthbertson, Marsha Tordy, and Myra Hegmann as docents and helpers during tours, Marlene Gehl for heading up the cleaning crew, Bill Asmus for all the repairs and structure updates, and especially, many thanks to my core team; Laurie Stapleton Baldwin, Joann Lega, and Kimberley Burg.

FROM YOUR TOWN HISTORIAN

Memories

Beverly Summe

One of my favorite poems is entitled "Old Things." Beginning with the first verse it goes like this "Old things are more beautiful than many things brand new because they bring fond memories of things we used to do." Isn't that the truth? It is about the memories that I love most. Memories benefit us long after they have happened.

I believe that is why I like history so much, especially when told by someone else. It can make you feel like you were almost part of it.

As your Village and Town Historian I am encouraging all of you to share your past, some of your memories with connection to our town. Start with "I Remember when..." and jot it down.

I am looking for handwritten remember when's. They will be compiled and put into a notebook for future generations to enjoy. Do not let your memories die with you for it's how you stay alive and to be remembered long after you have left us.

Pieces Too Short to Save

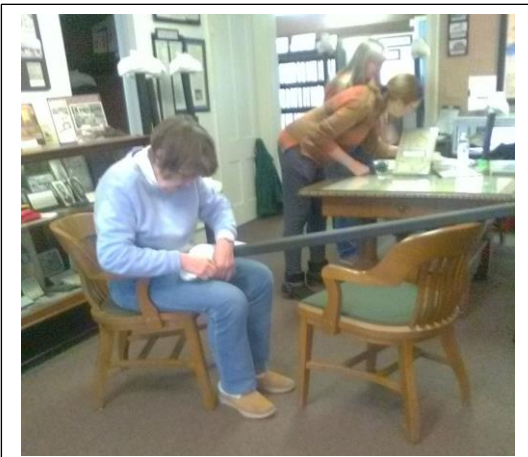
Pat Rodrigues, Knight -Sutton Museum Director

This is our quiet time, theoretically at least. However, the team at the museum have been consistently cataloguing and archiving the collection despite the museum being closed to the public.

As for me, I have been starting the preparation and research for the annual rotating exhibit which this year will be fashions from our collection representing different time periods in our past. I am currently reading a small book put out by the Margaret Woodbury Strong Museum and the Rochester Museum and Science Center published in 1974 called "The Glass of Fashion" as I try to become more knowledgeable. It charts fashion evolution from the 1830's to the 1930's.

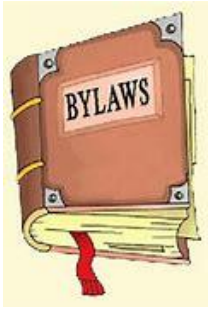
Collections Manager Jannette Potera and I have been pulling the fashions from storage for consideration after reviewing their images on the computer. There is much work to do in preparing them for display, down to stuffing and covering the hangers they will be hung on. Recently two new bridal dresses were donated, a mother-daughter combination, along with the accompanying photos and invitations. It could easily have been just a bridal exhibit. Stay tuned and be surprised! This should be a fun exhibit and I hope you will all attend when Annaliese Meck (fashion historian and seamstress) will do a small talk on the items showcased at our grand opening on Sunday, April 7th at 1 p.m., the exhibit's opening day.

This is the first of a series of rotating exhibits we hope to do in the coming years showcasing various parts of the collection (YOUR COLLECTION) in the non-traditional categories which we house and maintain for you. Next year I would like to highlight the quilt collection.



Recently you may have noticed our beautiful outdoor sign collapsed in the wind, rain, and snow we had in the last storm. Fortunately, not much damage was done to it other than the posts and we are working on getting it redone and reset. It is always something, just as it is when you own your own home. Other repairs and improvements are being assessed and decided upon for the future.

As always if anything is needed from us, even though we are closed feel free to call or email us.



CHANGES TO BY-LAWS

The Executive Board has made a few changes to the NHS By-Laws. Some of the changes are required to be in compliance with the New York State Revitalization Laws for Non-Profit Organizations.

The changes include the following:

- the term "independent" needs to be added to officers and trustees' qualifications to serve on the board. (basically, indicates the person has not received any money for compensation in the organization).
- the clause "indemnification" needs to be added.
- a change in wording to section 6: the membership shall be notified of the availability of the budget at the first meeting of the year (instead of January)
- change in wording to section 7: the executive board shall consist of officers and a minimum of six (6) trustees (the word minimum has been added)
- Under treasurer: checks over one-thousand dollars need to have two signatures from the president, vice-president and/or treasurer.
- Under committees: Fiscal Planning committee has changed to Strategic Planning Committee
- A new committee has been added: social media/Publicity committee.

NHS SCHOLARSHIP

The Newstead Historical Society is very pleased to give a \$500 scholarship to a deserving senior. Last year Natalie Ginestre was the recipient. We are pleased to announce the criteria for the 2024 scholarship: a senior at Akron High School who has been involved in community service, has a financial need, and has a recommendation letter from a history teacher.

If you have a relative or neighbor who qualifies, please encourage him/her to apply for the scholarship. Application information is available at the Akron High School.

THANK YOU AND A BIG WELCOME TO OUR 2024 CORPORATE SPONSORS!

Jonathan Russell Level - \$1000 and up

- Akron-Newstead Rotary Club
- Lions Club of Akron
- Perry's Ice Cream Co. Inc.
- Two Eagles/EJ's Cigars

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

- Cold Spring Construction
- County Line Stone
- I Squared R Element
- MGA Research
- Newstead Homes & Improvements
- Renn's Auto Parts & Service, Inc.
- The Rez Plaza

Dennis Nolan Level - \$250 - \$499

- Brady Insurance Agency
- Fred E. Thomas Agency, Inc.
- Jan's Smoke Shop II
- Jendrowski Landscaping

Jonathan Delano Level - \$100 - \$249

- Akron Animal Hospital, PC
- Akron Family Dentistry
- Buck's Motorsports
- Destroyer Park Golf
- Filtration Unlimited
- Guy's Submarines
- Kreher Family Farms
- Niagara Label

Activity from November 1, 2023 – January 31, 2024:

WELCOME TO OUR NEW LIFE MEMBERS: Scott & Patricia Buckley, Wynne Klingel, Sharon Koszuta, Lucas Lowe, Barbara Thoma and Jennifer Whitmarsh

WELCOME TO OUR ANNUAL MEMBERS: Paula & Mike Cocco and Jeff & Cheryl Wright

WITH DEEPEST SYMPATHY: We are saddened to report the recent passing of honorary member, Nancy Tordy on December 15, 2023. We extend our sincerest condolences to her family and friends.



THANK YOU FOR MEMORIAL DONATIONS IN MEMORY OF:

Edward Ballow (Dad) by John Ballow
 David Cummings by Annette Komroy
 David Cummings by John & Flora Leamer
 David Cummings by Colleen & Marty Salmon
 Lorain Daniels by Wynne Klingel
 Larry E. Hanley by Mary Sellers Hanley
 Elaine & Eugene Hofmeier by David Hofmeier
 Don Holmes by Terry Abrams
 Don Holmes by Virginia Cochran, Cheryl Dickerson, & Samantha McDaniel
 Don Holmes by Cheryl Johannes
 Don Holmes by John & Flora Leamer
 Don Holmes by James and MaryAnn Schneider
 Don Karcher by Mike & Marybeth Whiting
 Charles (Dutch) V. Kopp by Cortland C. Kopp
 Roberta Lobur by Jim Lobur

George & Clara Martiny by Frances Martiny
 Susan L. McCann by Patrick McCann
 Winifred Meahl by Don & Laurie Baldwin
 Jeff Miller by Gene Wolak
 Tom Perry by Brian & Jayne Perry
 Tom Perry by Marilyn Perry
 Anna Marie Rambach by Richard Rambach
 Matt & Anna Rebovich by Bill & Margaret Rebovich
 Jane by Philip & Arlene Richardson
 Jeanette Scheib by Robert Scheib
 Cortland O. & Helen Tinkham by Cortland C. Kopp
 Nancy Tordy by Patricia Pearce
 Kelsey & Dorothy Webster by Robert Webster
 Donald Whiting by Mike & Marybeth Whiting
 Yvonne Zehr by Annette Komroy

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS received from:

Nicholas & Elizabeth Abraham, Robert & Nancy Andrycha, Sharon Beyer, Roger & Maria Bratty, Jim & Cathy Campbell, Mark & Sharon Catalano Richard & Joyce Christiana, County Line Stone, Harold & Carolyn Finger, Peter Forrestel, Elaine Frey, Ken & Ellen Frey, Nancy Frey, Charles George, Barbara Guancial, Jim & Cindy Hayes Family, Thomas & Pamela Heberling, Brooke & Justin Heissenberger, Larry & Dawn Izydorczak, John & Paula Jendrowski, Roger & Anne Kelkenberg, Martha Kroemer, Aaron & Melissa Macheliski, Patrick & Mary Mangan, Laura Mattioli, Peggy McGowan, Murzewski Family, John & Clara Noce, Carl & Julie Patterson, Patricia Pearce, Bob & Pam Overfield, Richard Packman, Mary Printup, Dennis & Collette Remington, Walter & Diane Rosonowski, Mona Rudolph, Kevin & Edna Scherf, Don & Mary Jane Shonn, Zona Shreves, Kristen Skeet, Robert Smith, Renny Staples, Dave Wakeman, David Webster, James Webster, Fred & Freda Weinreber, Jean Wilson, Mark & Karen Wilson, and Anthony Zola .

Thank you to all who have renewed their memberships for 2024. Renewal reminders have been mailed to those who have not renewed. We will be updating our membership list in the near future, so please reply soon to continue to receive this newsletter.

2024 NHS Executive Board

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

Trustees

<u>Trustees: 2022-2024</u>	<u>Trustees: 2023-2025</u>	<u>Trustees: 2024-2026</u>
Kevin Hickey	Marlene Gehl	Harold Finger
Jannette Potera	David Meegan	Carolyn Finger
Marcia Torody	Kristen Skeet	Sharon Kuszuta

Directors and Committees

Museum Coordinator	
Rich-Twinn Octagon House Director	Kate Stapleton Parzych
Knight-Sutton Museum Director	Pat Rodrigues
Collections Manager	Jannette Potera
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

Memberships are always available. Check our website: newsteadhistoricalsociety.org for membership information or email: membership@newsteadhistoricalsociety.org 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

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

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

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.

RECIPE CORNER

Jannette Potera

From *The Akron Cookbook* published by the Ladies Aid Society of First Methodist Episcopal Church, Akron, NY dated 1921. An unknown individual submitted this "recipe" for "Potatoes in Seven Ways for Seven Days".

POTATOES IN SEVEN WAYS FOR SEVEN DAYS

Sunday—Peel, steam, add milk, butter and salt, then beat like cake batter, the longer the better, till they are nice and light. This steaming and beating will be found a great improvement.

Monday—Bake potatoes in their jackets; if any are left over they may be warmed, peeling when cold, then slicing.

Tuesday—Peel and bake with roast beef.

Wednesday—Prepare French fried with beef steak.

Thursday—Peel, steam and serve whole.

Friday—"Potatoes a la pancak. Peel, cut in thin slices lengthwise, sprinkle pepper and salt, fry in butter or beef drippings, turning like griddle cakes.

Sturday—Potatoes boiled in their jackets.



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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.



