

The Preservationist

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hard to believe it but we are nearing the end of summer already. Each year seems to go by quicker. The Society has had a very busy summer. The Sidewalk Sale was very well attended and a successful effort. The Fourth of July was another rousing success. By all accounts the pies were sold within minutes; many were sold before they hit the table! Thank you to all of those who provided a pie for us to sell. The annual Quilt Raffle was once again a great fundraiser and congratulations to the winner; Linda Wiltberger. Attendance has been strong at both the Octagon and KSM.

It is with a heavy heart that we mourn the passing of Jeff Jones; longtime volunteer and partner to Laurel. Jeff was an excellent docent and helped Laurel in everything she has done over the years for our exhibits and buildings.

We have a fascinating slate of programs coming up for the fall beginning with Greg Kinal's presentation on the Erie Canal on September 12th at 7:00 PM. Greg puts on a great, engaging presentation and we are fortunate to continue to have him as a presenter. The Society continues to be blessed with our volunteers and donors. Without you we would not be able to continue our mission

The Board was informed last month that Trustee Harold Finger will be stepping down from the Board. His tireless efforts on behalf of the Society deserve the highest recognition. He has helped us work through some of our most difficult challenges over his tenure and has always been mindful of the future of our organization. On a personal note, Harold has been a sage advisor, and I greatly appreciate his counsel and guidance. Thank you, Harold, for your efforts.

In closing, as always, we are looking for volunteers of any type and possible trustee positions. Please give me a call at (716) 570-0633 for more details.

Thank you,
Adam Burg



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Rich-Twinn Octagon House

Kate Stapleton Parzych, Director



Behind the Scenes at “The Octagon”

4th of July Review

Our 4th of July community appreciation (pay-what-you-can) walk-through of the main and third floors of the Octagon was a great success - 70 visitors stopped by, and many were folks that were visiting for the first time.

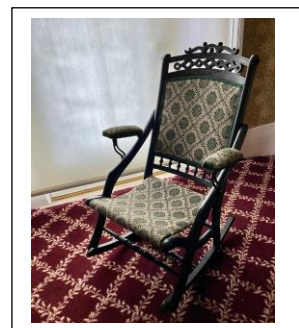
A big thank you to the following for spending part of their 4th of July day with us: Carole Borchert, Myra Hegmann and her friend, Mike McGillen, Joann Lega, Don and Mary Jane Shonn, Marcia Tordy, and a special thank you to Hannah Cuthbertson who stayed throughout the day and played patriotic tunes on her violin for our visitors. Also, a big thank you to Kevin Hickey along with Harold Finger, Thom Dose, Don and Laurie Baldwin, and Jim Parzych for setup and takedown for the event.

Donations for this event totaled \$189.00 to help kick off our campaign to update the front entrance to the Octagon. Presently, there are large slate slabs that have settled unevenly and are beginning to break apart that we would like to replace with brick pavers, which are historically accurate choice for mid-nineteenth century walkways and would provide a safer approach to the museum.

Please consider contributing to this cause! Every amount, large or small would be appreciated. You may stop by the Octagon or the KSM during our open hours, or you may send a check made out to Newstead Historical Society and note that it would be for the new walkway, thank you. Our mailing address is P.O. Box 222 Akron NY 14001.

Camp (carpet) Folding Rocking Chair

When Betty Henderson brought back the burgundy velvet settee that she had repaired and reupholstered for us, I inquired if she would be taking on any other projects, knowing that she and her husband were retiring. I pointed out a chair that was one of the early acquisitions to the NHS for the Octagon, and she agreed that it would be an “easy” project to do. The refinished chair is now back at the museum! This type of chair was very typical to have on hand as an extra seat during dinner parties as the guests were finding their way to the Drawing Room after their dinner. Betty gifted her time for this project as a thank you for being part of the Octagon. We are so appreciative of her contributions to our collection. You will be able to see both beautiful pieces during a visit to the Octagon.



Honoring Flora and John Leamer

Among our long-time supporters of the Newstead Historical Society, John and Flora Leamer have always been standouts - both with their presence at our events over the years, and with their monetary gifts for special projects at the Octagon. This year, we have two significant projects that are being funded through to their generosity.

A standard rocker (c.1880s) that was part of the original acquisitions of the House will be refinished, reupholstered, and placed in the museum. Additionally, original wallpaper scraps that were found *behind* the main door wood casings in the 1980s when the restoration first began and had been carefully stored for all these years have been taken to Meibohm Gallery to be puzzle-pieced together and framed. The finished piece will be on the wall in the Receiving Room where we begin our tours. Both of these unique pieces help to illustrate what life was like at 145 Main Street in the nineteenth century. A sincere thank you to Flora and John for their wonderful support throughout the years!

Sunday “Highlights of the Octagon” Tours

A reminder that our tours on the 1st and 3rd Sundays from 1pm – 3pm will continue during September and October. Private and group tours for those months can be arranged by emailing Director_RTOH@newsteadhistoricalsociety.org See you soon at The Octagon!

HELP WANTED!!

The Newstead Historical Society needs your help! We have a small group of dedicated volunteers who give their time and expertise to help keep the NHS running, but we could use more help!!

Are you looking for a way to give back to your community? Have you been looking for an opportunity to volunteer some of your time to a worthwhile organization and meet some new people? Have you ever thought about getting involved or wonder if there might be a volunteer opportunity that you could help with? As little as a couple hours a month would be welcome!

Some areas that could use your help are:

- *Being a docent at the Rich-Twinn Octagon House or the Knight Sutton Museum or just a “body” to be present during open hours
- *Fundraising ideas, financial record keeping, membership record keeping, correspondence, grant writing
- *Organizing the museum’s collections
- *Handiwork and maintenance at the two buildings, gardening and ground maintenance, moving heavy objects when needed, occasional cleaning at both buildings
- *Baking for the Fourth of July or band concert, working at the refreshment stand on band concert night, miscellaneous help during special events
- * Future board member

Please contact me or any board member whose names are listed in this newsletter. We would be glad to talk with you to see if there is something that might be a good fit for you to give a few hours of your time to a great organization. Who knows, we might just have the perfect opportunity for you. No pressure at all.

If you think you’d like to learn more about volunteering for the Newstead Historical Society, please contact me, Linda Capan at membership@newsteadhistoricalsociety.org, write me at NHS, PO Box 222, Akron, NY 14001, or call me at 716-542-5300 –(please leave a message if I don’t answer and I will return your call).

Thank you for considering helping!! We welcome all ages and hope this might be a great opportunity for you!!

A Question for our Preservationist readers: Do you know any grant writers that would like to help the Newstead Historical Society receive funding for important projects, such as important structural upkeep of our two museums, and program development? If so, please contact us at Director_RTOH@newsteadhistoricalsociety.org or speak with any NHS Board member – thank you.

Pat Rodrigues, Knight-Sutton Museum Director

As the summer ebbs away, I have been reviewing our accomplishments at the museum. Shortly after the last newsletter went to press, we had seven volunteers from the United Way participating in their annual Day of Caring event doing yard clean-up for us. They weeded and trimmed around the bushes, planted flowers and pulled out fallen branches from the backyard trees. They filled 13 cans with debris. The day started out with drenching rain. When that stopped it turned into a 90-degree day. Still, they soldiered on never complaining and got everything I requested done by one o'clock, so we fed them and let them go home. Thanks to Caroline Finger and Pat Pearce for their assistance. The Day of Caring event was preceded by a pep rally at Highmark Stadium where we were given t-shirts, fed lots of amazing food and given a tour of the Bills' locker rooms, the press room, (where they took your picture behind the mike), and let us go out on the field. It seemed much bigger than I imagined. Each Bills locker has a small jar of dirt in it and as you go out on the field there are signs that say, "Protect our turf". It was great fun! Our only cost was providing lunch and water for the volunteers. I applied for it in February and will again next year too. Afterwards a member of The United Way stopped by to see the team and ask how it went and invited us to apply again next year. We were outside the zip codes they asked to be included but took us anyway.



The next wonderful thing we are appreciative of was the Akron-Newstead Garden Walk organized by Joe Babcock and sponsored by eight local businesses and organizations. For many years the Historical Society did these walks as a fundraiser and Joe's grandma was involved. Last year he participated in the Bi-Centennial Walk. This year he put together a 13-stop tour of 10 village stops and three stops in the town. He had more luck weather-wise than last year as it did not rain! After expenses were paid the historical society was given a portion of the proceeds. It was a great experience, and we met so many new people and saw some amazingly beautiful properties.

Speaking of which we recently had KSM's driveway redone. The stone for the repaving was donated by County Line Stone. They are one of our sponsors and a great community neighbor. The paving was done by Powell Paving who will be sealing it for free in September. The driveway had some highs and lows, holes and cracks and needed a facelift. Smooth sailing now.

As of this writing we just finished participating in the Limerick rummage sale. We occupied half the front lawn and sold donations from our members. It was a great fundraiser. We raised \$400, saw many friends and neighbors, ate our share of donuts, hot dogs, and chili, and bought plenty of items we do not really need but the more we stared at them felt we did! Thankx to the Friends of the Limerick for sharing their space with us.

One final word. Recently the NHS lost one of its most devoted volunteers and a great friend-Jeff Jones. Jeff was a docent at both buildings for many years-if he wasn't at one building he was at the other-always helping, mentoring and available if needed. Attending his memorial service was a great gift to see how many friends he had and the devotion and love of a close-knit family. The tributes were very moving, and he would have loved hearing them. It was a life well lived and we will miss him. Both museums closed that day to honor him. Thank you, Jeff! See you next time.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2024 CORPORATE SPONSORS!



We sincerely thank our 2024 corporate sponsors! Your support has helped us maintain our two museums - we greatly appreciate your help!

Jonathan Russell Level - \$1000 and up

Akron Lady Lions Club
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

FOURTH OF JULY

The Fourth of July is always a busy time in Akron. Our annual pie sale and quilt raffle were well attended. Our wonderful bakers gave us many super pies that were sold by noon time. This pie sale is a tradition that has been working for many years. Many thanks to all our bakers and volunteers who helped during the Fourth of July event.

The beautiful Amish quilt was won by Linda Wiltberger who has been a loyal NHS member and past pie sale chairperson. Congratulations!! Don Baldwin won the second prize, an NHS Bicentennial book and third prize, NHS notecards was won by Ronnie Daughtery.

The annual quilt raffle is sustained by our loyal membership who buy tickets, and many times submit a donation along with the ticket money. Many thanks!!! This is our largest fundraiser of the year, so your support is vital.

REFRESHMENT STAND

NHS manned the refreshment stand in Russell Part during the last summer band concert. Many board members assisted with baking and manning the shelter. Unfortunately, a large rain shower ended the concert before intermission. We had some leftover baked goods but did well with our offerings. The Society made enough money to cover three-fourths of the scholarship award, which the proceeds were intended for. Many thanks to all who baked or helped during the evening.

Letters to become a 2025 Corporate Sponsor have been mailed out. If you did not receive one or if you would like more information go to our website: Newsteadhistoricalsociety.org and download the Corporate Sponsorship Application or contact Linda Capan at: membership@newsteadhistoricalsociety.org.

Acquisitions

Jannette Potera, Collections Manager

The Society would like to thank the following people for their generous donations of artifacts and ephemera: Kate Parzych – a mould, table, chocolate set, silver bowl, journal, chair, Navy hats, Currier & Ives book and a Ford Gumball box; Joe & Linda Capan – a Buckley Bootery card, spreadsheet of 1998 Main St. buildings, books, concert program (1897) and items from the Meahl estate; Pat Rodrigues – a doll and Christmas ornaments; Thomas Maxell – Ross Funeral Home funeral records; Bev Summe – Denio Memorial Library sign; John & Jannette Potera – Strippit stationery, ACS student handbooks, ACS calendar, and 20 issues News of Akron/Newstead; Lynn Laschinger - 2 wedding dresses, photos, newspaper article and Bank of Akron loan payment book; Kevin Hickey - Holland Land Co book, books and paper ephemera; Laurie Baldwin - tools used in restoration of RTOH, stereo cards and photos of work on Octagon House; Al Thomas - Quasi-Centennial ephemera; Merry Lou Dembrow - photo album from turn of 20th century; Pat Rodrigues & Kate Parzych - Whiting water bottle and stress ball; Lancaster Historical Society - Teachers Institute Pamphlet; Akron Community Band - Akron Band uniform; Janice Murphy - items from Borchert family; Sharon Beyer - American Heritage magazines; Flora Leamer – Clarence books by Doug Kohler; and Marcy Roddie - Bank of Akron wooden nickels

Farewell to a beautiful old church

Beverly Summe, Town Historian

On August 13th, 2024, a brief prayer service was held in front of the old Trinity Lutheran Church on South Newstead Road by Pastor Rick Mollenkopf-Grill. The lovely old church was to be demolished at 8:00 am the following morning and prayers for what was, and what will be, were offered asking for guidance and grace.

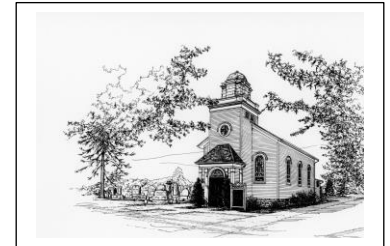
Trinity was organized as a congregation on November 6, 1871. It was called the "German Evangelical Lutheran Church of Akron\Newstead. The first pastor was Ernest Heydler and he served from 1872-73. Services were held every two weeks with about 44 members. It began as a German Speaking people church offering services in the German Language for the first 80 to 90 years right up to the 1960's. The church was built in 1876. The horse and buggy sheds were added in 1885 and the church tower in 1931. In 1949, it was remodeled for Sunday School rooms.



In 2017, St. John's Lutheran church closed, and Trinity welcomed the people to their new home. Some of St. John's traditions and keepsakes, especially beautiful organ console still lives on in the sanctuary of Trinity. In the fall of 2021 Trinity celebrated 150 years as a congregation. Their rich history is still being written. They invite everyone to join them and add to what was, is, and will be. This wonderful history was given to us by The Trinity Lutheran Church.

I am sure it was a sad day for the congregation to see this historical church demolished. Many of their ancestors were most likely remembered on that day. As a Historian, I am always saddened whenever a historical structure is lost to time and becomes only a memory.

The drawings are courtesy of The Trinity Lutheran Church and the photograph of the church as it appeared the day before demolition is courtesy of Bob Andrycha.



PAST PROGRAMS



On Thursday, June 13th the Newstead Historical Society welcomed Jeannette Kreher-Heberling who gave a lively presentation about her family business, Kreher Farms. A large crowd enjoyed learning about the history of this third and fourth generation farm which is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. There was a great question and answer session following the talk. For anyone unable to attend we were able to record the entire presentation, and it is available on the Newstead Historical Society Facebook page. Pictured here is Jeannette with her father Don who assisted with the presentation.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Summer has flown by and September pulls us into the remaining programs for 2024.

September 12 will feature Greg Kinal, a favorite presenter. He will discuss the early ideas for an Erie Canal and all the problems faced at the time. The Erie Canal will celebrate its bicentennial in 2025 so stock up on some history before the big event next year.

October 10 will focus on Grover and Frances Folsom Cleveland. Did you know Grover Cleveland owned property in Akron? Learn about this past president when Bren T. Price, Buffalo Presidential Center Trustee, shares his findings.

Rounding out the year will be our three favorite speakers: Don Shonn, Terry Abrams and Paul Winney, who have educated and inspired us for the last two years on "This Land is your Land Part III". This last edition will continue the discussion on the challenges the Senecas faced after the treaties. The last two programs were well received, so join the discussion and learn about the preservation of their ancestral land.

All programs are open to the public and are located at Newstead Town Hall at 7:00 PM. Doors open at 6:30 PM.

RECIPE CORNER

Jannette Potera

From *The American Frugal Housewife* by Mrs. Child dated 1833. The recipe is titled "Raspberry Shrub" and I like to call it a 19th century Gatorade. I make this recipe quite often with raspberries as they ripen and with other types of fruit. I have used blueberries, peaches and oranges, but the raspberry and blueberry have been the best so far.



RASPBERRY SHRUB.

Raspberry shrub mixed with water is a pure, delicious drink for summer ; and in a country where raspberries are abundant, it is good economy to make it answer instead of Port and Catalonia wine. Put raspberries in a pan, and scarcely cover them with strong vinegar. Add a pint of sugar to a pint of juice ; (of this you can judge by first trying your pan to see how much it holds;) scald it, skim it, and bottle it when cold.

I use a similar recipe I learned from a friend. This makes a concentrate in case you are concerned about the amount of sugar. I put my berries in a large glass jar and just cover them with apple cider vinegar. I put them on the counter in a cool spot and leave them for at least a day (I have left them for the better part of a month at times). Strain the juice into a measuring cup – I strain it through cheesecloth and squeeze as much of the juice out as I possibly can. Measure an equal amount of sugar (1 cup juice needs 1 cup of sugar, etc.). Pour your juice and sugar into a pot and heat it enough to dissolve the sugar. Scum it and when it's cold store it in a bottle. I store it in the refrigerator. A tablespoon or more, to taste, in a glass of water is very refreshing on a hot day.

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.

MEMBERSHIP & DONATIONS

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Activity from May 16, 2024 – August 15, 2024

We are saddened to report the passing of annual members Jeffrey Jones on May 21st and Nancy Eckerson on June 13th. Both these members have been a great help to the Society over the years and will be greatly missed. Also passing on July 5th was honorary Member, Marion Green. We also wish to acknowledge the passing of Life Member Beverly Fish on March 8th and annual member Fred Weinreber on March 9th. (These were inadvertently omitted in the last newsletter.) We extend our deepest sympathies to their family and friends

PLEASE WELCOME NEW ANNUAL MEMBERS:

Connor Borchert Family, Marilyn Plateau, Salvatore & Jennifer Russo Family and Kim Vanice.

THANK YOU FOR MEMORIAL DONATIONS given for:

Jeffery Jones by Patricia Pearce
Jeffrey Jones by Mike and Marybeth Whiting

THANK YOU FOR DONATIONS received from

Rodger & Diane Brown, Dawn Borchert, Debbie Kuhn and Flora & John Leamer.

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

2024 NHS Executive Board

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

Trustees

Trustees: 2022-2024	Trustees: 2023-2025	Trustees: 2024-2026
Kevin Hickey	Marlene Gehl	Harold Finger
Jannette Potera	David Meegan	Carolyn Finger
Marcia Tordy	Kristen Skeet	Sharon Koszuta

Directors and Committees

Museum Coordinator	Kate Stapleton Parzych
Rich-Twinn Octagon House Director	Pat Rodrigues
Knight-Sutton Museum Director	Jannette Potera
Collections Manager	Michele Asmus
Publicity	Michele Asmus/Patty Buckley
Website	
Sales	
Century Homes & Landmarks	Pat Rodrigues
Newsletter	Michele Asmus/Julie Brady
Town and Village Historian	Beverly Summe

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.



Renn's Auto Parts & Service, Inc.
(716)542-2888



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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.



