

The Preservationist

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we come to the close of another year, I am filled with a deep sense of pride and gratitude for all that the Society has accomplished and the remarkable people who make it all possible. The Newstead Historical Society stands as a testament to the strength of community, the preservation of our rich heritage, and the dedication of those who work tirelessly to protect and share the stories that shape our past.

Over the past year we have continued to grow and evolve, engaging more of our community members and beyond in the important work of keeping history alive. Whether through the KSM and Octagon House, exhibits and programming we have provided meaningful opportunities for learning, reflection, and connection. We have welcomed new members, seen an outpouring of volunteerism, and made strides in preserving key landmarks and artifacts that tell the story of Newstead—from its earliest days to the present.

Looking ahead, we are excited to continue our efforts in preserving the unique character of Newstead, from its historical buildings to the personal stories that define our community. Our upcoming projects promise to engage even more people in our shared history, and we are eager to work alongside all of you to ensure that the legacy of Newstead endures for generations.

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to all our members, donors, and supporters. Your passion and commitment make our work possible. It is through your efforts that continue fostering a deep sense of pride and understanding in our local history. I look forward to the stewardship of our incoming president, Harold Finger.

I encourage you to stay involved, share your stories, and continue to be an integral part of this wonderful Society. Together, we are building a legacy of remembrance and respect for the place we call home.

Thank you

Adam Burg

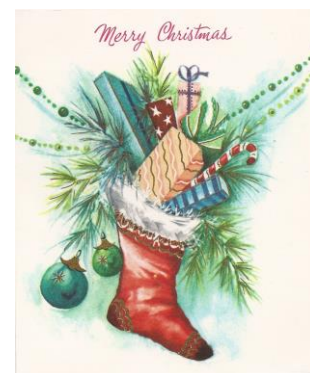


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Rich-Twinn Octagon House

Kate Stapleton Parzych, Director



The Holidays are always fun at the Octagon! We will have our “Highlights of the Octagon” tours the first four Sundays in December from 1pm - 3pm.

On December 1st, Jannette Potera will be creating ornaments for our tree, which has been graciously donated by Dale and Lois Kruschke. While Jannette is working at the dining room table, she'll be talking about the decorating customs of mid-nineteenth century America.

The day of our season, December 22nd, Tessa Metz will be offering Victorian parlor games to visitors, and Hannah Cuthbertson will be performing songs of the season. More Sunday activities may be forthcoming! Be sure to check our Facebook page for updates.

So that visitors may enjoy all the activities during December, our donation price is just \$5 for adults 17years and older. Youth 16 years and younger are free. Stop by to see us multiple times!

Candlelight Evening with Light Up Akron

Saturday, December 14th, the Octagon will be open from 6pm - 8pm. Suggested donation is \$5 for adults. We will have family-friendly beverages and cookies in the canning kitchen, and a tree lighting ceremony throughout the evening. Once again, the Christmas Trolley with Jim and Lynn Asmus as hosts will take visitors back and forth at scheduled times between the Octagon House and the Knight-Sutton Museum. Come see the Octagon candlelit inside and out!

Foundation Update

The limestone foundation, original to the Octagon House, has been repaired, revamped, and restored with many thanks to Brian Daddis of Brian Daddis Heritage Masonry. Brian is no stranger to the NHS as he has also restored some of the gravestones in our local cemeteries. Mr. Daddis removed the parging (plaster) in areas where it had become detached from the stonework while keeping what was solid in place and took great care in mixing the new mortar so that the finished color and amount of aggregate matched the original as closely as possible. The wall next to the receiving room required the most work, and the results are terrific.

In time for the holidays the Newstead Historical Society has two new fund-raisers that will also make great gifts First are Luminaria Kits to be displayed December 14th, to coincide with Light up Akron 2024. Each kit will include supplies to make 10 luminaries at the cost of \$30.00 per kit. Second is a beautiful ornament of the Octagon House made from metal featuring amazing details. Cost is \$25



November 29th will be the start of the sale at the participating storefronts:

- Martin's Mercantile
- Akron Market on Main
- Grandpa's Country Store
- SMFX

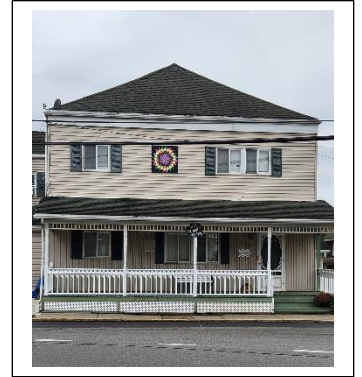
Plus the Knight-Sutton Museum and Rich-Twinn Octagon House during open hours

Cash or check only please! There is no tax.

Union Apartments- Century Landmark #14

Pat Rodrigues

At the Newstead Historical Society's October meeting Mr. Al Thomas was given a Century Landmark plaque for his building, The Union Apartments at 20-22 Mechanic St. This is the 14th building in the Akron/Newstead area to receive a Century Landmark. The apartments, formerly known as The Union Hotel, Silver Sabre, B.J.'s and The Beginning are listed by the town as being built in 1880. The property is first listed as the private residence of J. Clement. The Clements passed it on to their heirs, the Bittermans, who owned it from 1895-1943 through three successive generations and operated it as a hotel. The 1909 map is when it is first listed as The Union Hotel.



The lower end of Main Street was a hotel district in those days, with the American Hotel located on the corner of Main and Buffalo Street, The Altenberg Hotel where the current fire house is, the Akron House where Yogi's is now and the Eckerson House further up on Main Street. The assumption is that some of these places had live entertainment.



The next owners were Mr. Bitterman's son, E.W., and his wife Mary who named it The Hotel Union, a slight variation. In 1920 they passed it on to their son, Earl, who was later joined by Albert Quane as a partner in 1927. They ran it until 1947 when it was taken over by the DeLuzio family. Bernard Rosenecker owned it for a short time and called it B.J.'s and it is believed that is when it made its first appearance as a bar. Tom Cowan purchased it in 1971 as a bar-restaurant, and a part-time hotel for short-term renters. He removed some walls to open it up, introduced live music every Friday night and added chicken wings to the menu. He named it The Silver Sabre, after the Buffalo Sabres.

In 1974 it was sold to Al O'Brien who called it The Beginning. The landmark tavern suffered a serious fire in August of that year when a basement fire burned one inside wall completely through the first and second floors. A charred basement wall still exists. The fire was put out in an hour luckily because a passerby reported it and due to its proximity to the fire department. Mr. O'Brien, asleep upstairs, escaped by a fireman's ladder. Around 1978 it was switched to apartments though there was still room for a tavern with a capacity of 40 people. Thereafter followed a succession of owners until Al Thomas purchased it in 2001. It is now six apartments and has a commanding view of Main Street.

Acquisitions

Jannette Potera, Collections Manager

The Society would like to thank the following people for their generous donations of artifacts and ephemeral:

Brian Perry – Akron Cement Works photo; Pat Rodrigues – school patches, Bank of Akron items, ink bottles, tin lunch pail, and ladle; Joseph Babcock – Akron in Bloom documents; Marlene & Kevin Stone – wedding dress and opera coat; John Babcock – Akron newspapers; Lancaster Historical Society – letters to Martha & Fannie Curtis; Clarence Historical Society – maps of Newstead; David Howe – transcription of Darius Howe diaries; Linda Capan – child's books & toys; John Potera – Strippit mug

Pieces Too Short to Save

Pat Rodrigues, Knight Sutton Museum Director



Although officially closed in September, we still welcomed fourth grade Akron Central School students on October 15th and 17th. There were 78 students over two days, broken into four groups of ten each day. At KSM we further divided them into groups of five because part of the tour was of the rotating exhibit, "Fashions from the Collection", housed in a very small side room of the museum and I could not fit them in otherwise. So, the team and I did the presentation eight times each day, which had not occurred to me when I suggested it! Pat Pearce manned the main exhibit room, "Moments in Time" and Thom Dose covered the Research Room and demonstrated the Thomas Edison "Disc Phonograph", which delighted the children. The children were very well-behaved and surprisingly even the boys liked the fashions, and the girls were surprised to learn that when I was in grade school girls only wore dresses and skirts, no pants. I got some rolled eyes on that! Amelia Bloomer would be proud to see how far we have come! Pat Pearce explained how there used to be milk delivery, while showing an old milk box. They couldn't get over that either. In the spring we have invited them to do a walking tour with us of upper Main Street. These tours will be coordinated by Kate Parzych of the Rich-Twinn Octagon House. The students also toured RTOH the same days. Thank you, Kate!

Just a side note, as we closed the season for the year our attendance figures were up over last year, even excluding the student tour figures. This was interesting considering last year was a Bi-Centennial year with high attendance figures.

For the Christmas season we will be open for "Light Up Akron" with an expanded version of

our fashion exhibit so if you have seen it before or have not seen it all please stop in. It has been added to and updated. The date is December 14th from 4-8 p.m. and there is a trolley that will shuttle you back and forth between the Rich-Twinn Octagon House and the Knight Sutton Museum. The RTOH is open from 6-8 p.m. that day and the trolley begins from there, starting at 6:30 p.m. In addition, we will be open all the Sundays in the month of December from 1-3 p.m. to coincide with the Octagon house openings. The Knight-Sutton Museum admission is always free. Please stop by to see the various exhibits, explore the research room, and share your Akron- Newstead memories.

My final thought is a loving remembrance of Flora Leamer, who recently passed away. She was always one of our strongest supporters. I recall fondly my first walking tour, where over 100 people turned out and we did not have enough tour books. She and John had put it on their blog to help promote it. We had a table set up at the RTOH to sell the books and ran out. We took names and phone numbers and took a batch of newly printed booklets to the library for pick up the following week. Flora offered her book back that day. I just thought that was sweet. It was not going to solve the problem, but it was sweet. Through the years she (and John) have been at every event, opening, tour, parade, whatever, for every non-profit you can think of. Even when she was ill, she came to our program meeting last month. She will be deeply missed and the community at large owes she and John a huge debt of gratitude for all their efforts on all our behalf all these years. A life well lived.

A Christmas Tradition.....Gone but not forgotten!

Beverly Summe, Town Historian



In December of 1955, Ford Mason, president of The Kiwanis Club of Akron extended the merriest of “Seasons Greetings” to the community through the purchase of a manger scene purchased by the organization.

It was announced that the scene would be set up in Russel Park for the community to enjoy and it was the hope that it would be well received and become an annual presentation. A rail fence was secured from the Borchert Farm on Carney Road, slabs of wood for the manger were secured from one of the local sawmills and it was assembled in Lloyd Brunings barn. It was the hope of the Kiwanis Club that Christ would be first in Christmas that year and for many years to come.

The manger scene in Russel Park was once a Christmas tradition that was always a reminder that it was Christmas time in Akron. This tradition lasted for a quarter of a century. I could not find any information as to why this stopped, what happened to it or whose decision it was to stop it. I do, however, remember it being there in the mid 70’s and I remember there would be caroling around it by various churches and residents. I remember walking to the park with my children to look at it on a snowy evening to talk about the real reason for Christmas.

It was a beautiful sight to behold, a lovely Christmas tradition for the village and although it is gone, I can assure you it is not forgotten.

PAST PROGRAMS

Michele Asmus



On Thursday September 12th NHS was happy to welcome Greg Kinal who gave a dynamic presentation on the building of the Erie Canal. Even with the impending Bills/Miami game that night there was a large and enthusiastic audience



Bren T. Price, Buffalo Presidential Center Trustee on October 10 gave an engaging presentation on Grover & Francis Folsom Cleveland and their Buffalo Legacy. Mr. Price says he hopes to speak for us again and we hope for that too!



Closing out our year of programing on Thursday Nov. 14th was Don Shonn, Terry Abrams and Paul Winney who gave a presentation on the challenges the Senecas faced after the Treaty of 1857. This was the 3rd installment of “This Land is Your Land” and like the first two programs was both informative and enlightening.

All three programs have been recorded and are available on the Newstead Historical Society Facebook page.

MEMBERSHIP AND DONATIONS

Activity from August 16 - November 16, 2024:

We are saddened to report the passing of Life members Doris Klinglesmith on September 11th and Flora Leamer on October 16th. We have also been notified of past deaths of Honorary member Dorothy Tyler on 4/22/23 and Life member Dr. John Tuyn on 3/4/2020. We extend our sincerest condolences to their families and friends.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW ANNUAL MEMBERS - Sue & Norm Naab and Andrew C. Roberts

THANK YOU FOR MEMORIAL DONATIONS given

Dennis & Noureen Abraham by Nicholas & Elizabeth Abraham
Nancy Eckerson by The Helen Kraatz Family
Louie Jendresky by Peter & Linda Forrestel
Jeffrey Jones by Laurel Jones
Jeffrey Jones by Mary Jane & Don Shonn
Jeffrey Jones by Sharon & Brian Sullivan
Jeffrey Jones by Barbara Thoma
Jeffrey Jones by Tom & Mary Valentine
Herbert Klawer by Betty Klawer
Richard Komroy by Annette Komroy to be used for the new brick walkway at the Octagon House
Ronald P. Konieczny of the McAndrew Funeral Home by Nancy Konieczny
Flora Leamer by Joe & Linda Capan
Flora Leamer by Patricia Pearce to be used for Octagon chair restoration
Flora Leamer by Don & Mary Jane Shonn
George & Clara Martiny by Frances Martiny
Annamarie Rambach by Richard Rambach
Matt & Anna Rebovich by Bill & Marge Rebovich
Daughter, Jane by Phillip & Arlene Richardson
Jeanette Scheib by Robert Scheib

Kathleen Saylor by Colleen & Marty Salmon
Kelsey & Dorothy Webster, founding members of the NHS by Robert Webster
Doanld Whiting by Delores Whiting

THANK YOU FOR DONATIONS received from:

Robert & Nancy Andrycha, James & Catherine Campbell, Sharon & Mark Catalano, Cold Spring Construction, Veronica Daugherty, David & Karen DeYoung, Elaine Frey, Charles George, Barbara A. Guancial, Jacob Halleck, Brooke R. Kaczmarek, Don & Sandra Kreher, Laura Mattioli, Gretchen & Dean Moore, Mary Printup, Walter & Diane Rosonowski, Kevin & Edna Scherf, Robert Smith, Wally & Cindy Smith, Renny Staples, Barbara Thoma, James Webster IV, Freda Weinreber

THANK YOU TO OUR 2024 CORPORATE SPONSORS!!

This is the final newsletter of 2024; we want to sincerely thank our corporate sponsors for your support this year. It has helped us maintain our two museums, the Rich-Twinn Octagon House and the Knight Sutton Museum – we truly appreciate your generous donations.

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

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 Smokeshop/EJ's Cigars
Ely S. Parker Level - \$500 - \$999
Cold Spring Construction
County Line Stone
I Squared R Element
MGA Research Corporation
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
Letters to become a 2025 Corporate Sponsor have been mailed. Please consider becoming a 2025 sponsor if you have not already done so. If you need a copy of this letter or for more information go to our website: Newsteadhistoricalsociety.org and download the Corporate Sponsorship Application or contact Linda Capan at: membership@newsteadhistoricalsociety.org.

THANK YOU AND A BIG WELCOME TO OUR 2025 CORPORATE SPONSORS!!

We are happy to welcome the following businesses as Corporate Sponsors for 2025. Your support is so appreciated and will help to defray the costs of the continual upkeep of our two buildings. *(Members please mention a big "thank you" to these sponsors for their support if you should see them!)*

Jonathan Russell Level - \$1000

and up

Akron Lady Lions Club
Lions Club of Akron
Ely S. Parker Level - \$500 - \$999
Akron Newstead Rotary Club
County Line Stone
I Squared R Element
MGA Research Corporation
Newstead Home & Improvements, I
Renn's Auto Parts & Service, Inc.
Dennis Nolan Level - \$250 - \$499
Brady Insurance Agency
Cold Spring Construction
Fred E. Thomas Agency, Inc.
Jendrowski Landscaping
Jonathan Delano Level - \$100 - \$249
Akron Animal Hospital, PC
Akron House of Spirits, Inc.
Belknap Heating & Cooling, Inc.
Bergman Landscaping LLC
Colvin Draperies, Inc.
Destroyer Park Golf
Kreher Family Farms
Powell's Paving & Maintenance Inc.
It is not too late for your business to join as a Corporate Sponsor for 2025 - just go to our website:

RECIPE CORNER

Jannette Potera

From *English Housewifry* by Elizabeth Moxon dated 1764. The recipe is titled "**To make Chocolate Cream**".

This recipe is much better than modern chocolate pudding.

To make Chocolate Cream

Take four ounces of chocolate, more or less, according as you would have your dish in bigness, grate it and boil it in a pint of cream, then mill it very well with a chocolate stick; take yolks of two eggs and beat them very well, leaving out the strain, put to them three or four spoonfuls of cream, mix them together, set it on the fire, and keep stirring it till it thicken, but do not let it boil; you must sweeten it to your taste, and keep stirring it till it be cold, so put it into your glasses or china dishes, which you please. I use the following modern interpretation:

Chocolate Cream

1 pint cream
3.2 oz. dark unsweetened 92% cacao chocolate*
(* I used Aldi Moser Roth Dark 85% Cocoa – 4 bars of the 5 bar pkg.)
3/4 cup sugar
2 egg yolks, beaten



Mix the cream, chocolate, and sugar in a double boiler to melt the chocolate and dissolve the sugar. Temper the egg yolks by spooning a bit of the cream mixture into them and mixing (to prevent the eggs from cooking prematurely). When the eggs are warm, add to the cream mixture. Transfer to a pot and bring to a boil. The chocolate cream sets as it cools. For best results, refrigerate for a few hours.

SLATE OF OFFICERS 2025

At the November 14, 2024 annual membership meeting, the following slate was accepted:

President: Harold Finger
Vice President: Adam Burg
Recording Secretary: Roxanne Rebmann
Treasurer: Patricia Pearce
Membership Secretary: Linda Capan

Trustee Positions:

2025-2027-Jannette Potera, Marcia Torday, Kevin Scherf
2024-2026-Carolyn Finger, Sharon Koszuta, Betty Tanski
2023-2025- Marlene Gehl, John Asmus

Welcome to our new members: Betty Tanski, Kevin Scherf, and John Asmus

There is still a trustee vacancy available. Anyone interested in joining the board should contact Carolyn Finger or any board member.

KUDOS

The Board extends a huge thank you to David Webster, David Meegan and Kevin Hickey for their years of service to the Newstead Historical Society. Their time and energy on behalf of the society is greatly appreciated. Kudos to you!

FUTURE PROGRAMS

The 2025 Program brochure will be available with the next newsletter. Currently, the presenters are being lined up with a variety of topics. This past year we had a terrific line-up of presenters with an average attendance of 86. Many thanks to all the presenters that informed and enlightened the community on wonderful topics.

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 Torday	Kristen Skeet	Sharon Koszuta

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

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.



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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.



