

SPRING 2021

ECHOS OF ELMA

Volume XXII issue 4 quarterly newsletter of the Elma Historical Society, Inc.

A 501(c)3 corporation under the auspices of the New York State Board of Regents

ELMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

IMPORTANT **Member Meeting**

Monday

April 12, 2021

6:30 p.m.

at

Elma Town Hall
1600 Bowen Rd.

(If the Senior Center opens for us to meet there, we will send out an e-mail to let you know, but plan on coming to the Town Hall.)

See you there April 12th
at 6:30p.m.

Please attend as we need you to be there to discuss the Erie County 200 Bicentennial and your help with manning the activities we are planning. Bring your thinking caps, also.

Remember to wear a mask and social distance will be maintained.

Hope to see you there!

Thank you for your support of our great organization.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mark your calendar for April 12th at 6:30 p.m. to meet at the Elma Town Hall. We will kick off our taking part in the celebration of Erie County's 200th anniversary.

A reading of a Land Acknowledgement will open our celebration of being a town since 1846. Chief Big Kettle, a descendant of the first Chief Big Kettle will attend for the reading. The first Chief Big Kettle replaced Chief Red Jacket when he died, and Chief Big Kettle lived in Elma.

It's been a long, boring and quiet year and everyone is looking to get back doing things.

We have joined 35 other museums and societies in towns of Erie County to celebrate Erie County's 200th anniversary. Visitors will be provided with a passport which will be stamped at each museum that they visit. Museums in Buffalo will have a separate program. Erie County is paying for the passports and some advertising. Be mindful, we will follow any Covid restrictions that come up.

Our charter with the Regents Dept. / NYS Parks Dept. requires that we be open the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month. By being part of this celebration, we have an excellent chance of getting visitors to our museum complex.

Each month will have a theme and we need ideas as to how we can take part. Kathy Markowski heads the program chair, so she is turning to all of you for your input. The themes will be provided at our meeting.

I've attached the EC200 logo and what Alden put in for their advertising. Our page hasn't been completed yet.

Because Elma wasn't here in 1821, but the Native Americans were, we will hopefully be able to have them help us with programs, too.

Please mark your calendar and join us at the Elma Town Hall on April 12th at 6:30 p.m.



We are looking forward to a fun summer.

*Marlene Baumgartner,
President*

SUNSHINE

This winter we unfortunately lost three longtime members of our Society.

Joan Martin, who worked tirelessly for so many years at the Museum with artifacts, keeping records and fundraising.

Dennis Funseth, member who attended and supported our fundraisers.

Walter Nicoloff, onetime East Aurora Mayor and brother of members Helen Smith and George Nicoloff.

And member Gene Stevenson, former Elma Water Department Supervisor.

Our sympathies were sent out to their families.

It is time to look forward and positively to a spring and summer that will bring better days in 2021.

Margaret Maciejewski, Sunshine

SUPPORT YOUR SOCIETY WITH A GIFT FROM OUR MUSEUM STORE

Elm Tree Charm: \$80 for 14k gold (right); \$35 silver.
Available at Elma Town Hall.

1st Elma history book ***History Of The Town Of Elma NY 1620–1901*** by Jackman; contains much of what we know about Old Elma; price at Museum: \$30.

2nd Elma history book has been reprinted for gift buying, ***Centuries In Elma 1906–1957***: \$37.

3rd Elma history book, ***Chronicles of Elma, New York 1957–2014***: \$30.

To ship a hardcover book as a gift to someone in USA add \$5 for USPS Media Mail, or add \$13 for Priority Mail 2-Day.

The complete list of gifts can be found on **www.ElmaNYHistory.com/Museum-Store**.

15% off prices for veterans and active members of the military.



SAWMILL

During the winter months it's been slow going with updates and bringing the building up to code. With a lot of help from one of our newer members, Ed Eschner, we were able to pull up flooring in the locations where additional foundations are to be added.

This deck removal will allow for the excavation and placement of the piers.

To help lower the water level under the mill, and make it easier to install foundations, the Elma Water Department was able to excavate to rock the raceway between Bowen Rd and the mill. This project helped a lot and we owe them a big thank you.

We are still in the process of getting estimates from contractors for the updates.

Fred Streif, Mill Operation

WEBSITE REPORT

No major work was performed on the website during this last period save adding the 1956 Elma history book reprint to the Museum Store webpage.

Searches in old New York State newspapers for Northrup Mill info were started to assist with the 2021 historical marker project. The details have been fine-tuned for future searches. Based on previous experience with marker projects, the William G. Pomeroy Foundation may require newspaper articles for proof of the information proposed to be placed on a new marker, that is, what they refer to as first source documentation. This can be difficult or downright impossible to obtain. The Elma history books may not be acceptable sources, depending on who reviews the application.

If anyone would like to assist with scanning old documents please contact Brian (805-0102). A computer is not necessarily required, but would help. A spare scanner is available. It can be boring work.

Brian Szafranski, webmaster
webmaster@ElmaNYHistory.com

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The Society is grateful, and a sincere thank you, to all of our members and others who took the time to send donations. Your help in maintaining our museum complex in these trying times is most appreciated.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

- New Membership
- Renewal Membership

Individual annual membership \$10 (minimum donation): _____

Family annual membership \$15 (minimum donation): _____

(Father, mother, children in same household)

Lifetime membership \$150
(minimum donation): _____

Name: _____

Telephone _____

Street: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

E-Mail: _____

Mail to: Elma Historical Society Membership
P.O. Box 84
Elma, NY 14059-0084