

JUNE NEWSLETTER OF THE ATTICA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Memorial Day has passed as well as “Founder’s Day”, a good sign that summer is here. Once again we would encourage anyone with emails who would like to receive their newsletter via email please contact the museum at the address above or at our email address at staff@atticamuseum.org.

The museum has been a beehive of activity for the past few months as we have had Jim Kimball and two instrumentalists entertain us with music and stories from our area. We enjoyed a wonderful concert on the 1853 Dean Richmond piano by Dennis Mellander. Dennis concluded his program by disassembling the piano and discussing its’ inter-workings.

On May 17th a large crowd was entertained by the “Fraterigo Family” as Stacy (Thornton) Frateriggo and her children played and sang many old and new favorites.



All of our programs are videotaped so they are available for viewing on DVD at any time the museum is open.

Founder's Day was very successful as we had a chance to "tell the story of the Attica Historical Society" to many people. We sold many tickets on the quilt donated by Linda (Hall) Peterson, and had many people sign up for a copy of our book; "Attica: Then and Now". Also the program on June 13th by Sue Hengelsberg and Mitzi Collins is a very nice way to spend a Friday night.

We are still encouraging any veteran to call the museum to schedule an interview for our "Remembering our Veterans" program. Videos of all previous interviews are also available at the museum.

Of course we are always looking for volunteers. We still need help continuing to sort the donated collection of the Odd Fellows, collation of our cookbook, (which, by the way, we are setting a deadline of August 31st for submissions) so it will be completed and ready for sale in time for Christmas, and over-all work at the museum. Even one day a month or whatever is convenient; all help is greatly appreciated.

In addition to our weekly volunteers, Maddy Spencer and Andrea Halsey, Maddie Almeter has been working with us as a volunteer from GCC. Maddie will soon graduate from Attica High School, and is taking a history course at GCC before attending The University of Buffalo in the fall at the school of pharmacy.

Our Junior members have completed another successful year thanks to Janice Hempel and Beth Russell. Their concluding program was "The one roomed school" as they invited teachers/students who attended or taught in a one room school.

Our Easter basket raffle was also very successful. We made over \$100.00 from the donated candy. Barb Helack won the basket.

Presently we are having a raffle of a beautiful red, white, and blue quilt donated by Linda (Hall) Peterson. Tickets are available at the museum @ \$2.00. Please stop in to see this quilt, for which we are very grateful to Linda.

We have had many recent donations in memory of Orma Welker. Orma was a long time member of the historical society as well as the Historian of the Town of Attica. The list of donors at this date include: Betty Snyder, Alberta

Bray, Joe and Arlene Wolak, Jerilyn Clark, Ron and Macy Merle, "Doc" and Sue Spink, Stuart and Janice Hempel, Mary Jane Pearce, Arnie Sprague, Tom and Louise Shiltze, Jack and Ann Motz, and Jean Pause.

Because other museums, as well as ourselves, have had items stolen in the past, we have recently rekeyed the museum locks. We also will have a new camera surveillance system in place soon. We have a real jewel in the county and we want to protect it all we can.

Your Board of Trustees, as well as The Board of Trustees from the Steven's Memorial Library recently hosted Mr. Robert C. Stevens and his family to a very nice reception at the museum and the library. We had a wonderful brunch catered by Sharon Bey from "The Prospector". Your board presented Mr. Stevens with a certificate of appreciation for his (and his family's) very generous financial support through the years. Nancy Burns discussed the



expansion plans of the library as well as the gift the library is giving to Mr. Stevens, a tree to be planted on the historical society grounds sometime in the future. Following this, the group proceeded to Jeff and Betty Clark's house at 140 Main Street. This was a Steven's house at one time, and since it was built in 1870 it has had only four different owners. Jeff and Betty were gracious hosts as they led a tour through their downstairs. A video of the day is available at the museum. We are continuing to discuss expansion plans also. Hopefully by the next newsletter we will have more details available.

We have just finished updating our By-Laws to bring them more into line with 2014. We also are continuing to work on our 3 year plan of 19 goals. These are available to view at the museum also. Along this theme, the museum will host the Attica Village Board of Trustees on June 17th. We hope to make this an annual event.

Please spread the word of our "Pig/Turkey Roast" at the museum on July 19th. Watch the "PennySaver" for details. The museum is very grateful to Mrs. Sarah Czacanski, a Middle School

teacher in Attica, for requiring her students to tour the museum. They must attend a tour for a minimum of one half hour. This is a great way to encourage an interest in history in addition to being amazed at our collection.

We have recently played host to Attica's 1st and 4th graders.

Again this year we will be awarding a \$500.00 gift to a deserving history student from Attica. This award is based on

history teachers' recommendation. As of this writing no name has yet been forthcoming.

We are planning programs for the fall, and would like especially to have programs that correspond with some of our

collections i.e someone who has knowledge of old farm implements, or old weapons, or fashions of another time period. We would encourage anyone to come forward with a presentation.



THE PUTNAM-SPRAGUE COTTAGE

Tonawanda Creek, Market Street, Attica, N.Y.

The above picture, courtesy of Evelyn Bey was taken in the early 1900s by her father, the founder of Sam Bey's famous clown band.

This cottage was located at the rear of 104 Market Street. It was built in the 1800s to serve as servant's quarters for the Putnam Mansion at 82 Market Street. The acreage of the Putnam Estate extended along the Tonawanda Creek bank behind other houses fronting on Market Street.

Harvey Putnam and his son James were lawyers and politicians. The story of Putnam-Blom Mansion was previously featured in another landmark article. The ownership of the Putnam property changed hands several times since the cottage was built. In 1909 Lucy H. Case was the owner of the property. She advertised this cottage and some acreage for sale at a bargain price in a Buffalo newspaper. George Sprague, a business entrepreneur in Buffalo, spotted her advertisement and took the next train to Attica. He arranged to purchase the cottage and returned to Buffalo on the evening train. Shortly thereafter he moved his family into the cottage and prepared the acreage for truck gardening. He peddled garden produce and fruit from door to door and sold nursery stock and did landscaping. Many of the large evergreen trees that surround Attica homes today were planted by George Sprague in the early 1900s. He also operated a homemade popcorn and candy business.

When Albert Johnson came to Attica from Chicago, to work at the Westinghouse Stoker Plant, George Sprague sold Mr. Johnson this cottage. The Johnson Family lived in this cottage for a number of years. The Johnsons later purchased the larger home at 104 Market Street which adjoined their acreage. They then converted their humble, little old cottage into a chicken house.

Quite a number of years ago this landmark cottage-chicken house was dismantled, but thanks to Evelyn Bey it's memory will be preserved in the archives of the Attica Historical Society.

Article submitted by the Attica Landmark Preservation Society

Arnie's Trivia Corner

Tidbits from Arnie's vast knowledge of Attica...

This issues Trivia Question is:

Where in Attica was the Dr. Orin Davis sanitarium?

The answer is in the corner of Exchange and Main Street where today's Post Office is.