



HISTORYWISE

Museum musings, events, and adventures

President's Message - Meg Donegan

Why is it important to be a member of Big Springs Museum? It's as simple as 1-2-3!

1. This is *your* museum. Don McKay always said that no matter how long you've lived here, you are part of our community's history!
2. It is our mission to interpret the ongoing story of the Caledonia-Mumford community by connecting history to contemporary life. With your support, we are able to promote local history and genealogy through research, collecting, preserving and displaying objects.
3. The vision of the Big Springs Museum to be a vibrant community leader, providing historical, cultural, and educational programs.

The mission and the vision of the Big Springs Museum can only be achieved with your support. Together, we can continue making history an adventure! Please renew your membership for 2023 or consider joining today. Fill out the enclosed form (or go to the website to do it online) and return it to the museum via mail or in person - come for a visit! Thank you for your continued support.

Classic Clifton

What a stroll down memory lane! On Saturday, September 24th, Cliftonites past and present gathered to share stories and reminisce about fond memories such as the Clifton Clippers and the best country carnival ever!

Comments were heard that even life-long residents didn't know about some of the history that is on display.

Mara and Jean Slack made and shared the candy apples their mother used to hand out at Halloween. What a treat! Mara mentioned that when *"...talking to Clifton friends, we felt that when we were children, we had our own little beautiful world...as teenagers we started to feel isolated and even left out. Now that we are adults, we see how wonderful our little town really was and we appreciate how lucky we were"*.

Stop by the museum to see this amazing exhibit for yourself!





Curator's Corner - Patty Garrett

Season's Greetings!

We've been busy organizing and cataloging our firemen's uniforms and hats. We've also done an exhibit on the Garbutt store. We continue to catalog and accession donated items. We just were given the blueprints of the Clark Keith house on Main Street. That includes moldings and other wooden details. It's been a pleasure working with Isabella, and we feel confident we will have all of our military photos digitized and available for the public. One of our next projects will be to evaluate the military clothes. There's always something exciting happening at the museum!

The Monday volunteers, as usual, are busy as ever. Stop in Monday mornings from 9-12 to see what we're up to - and to help out! We are always welcoming new volunteers. Wishing you all a joyous and healthy New Year!

Collections and Connections

The Genesee Country Village and Museum has returned two of our wedding dresses and accessories. They were on display for two years in their wedding exhibit.



Trunk or Treat!

Big Springs Board Members (l to r), Lori Anastasi, Meg Donegan, Katrina Hatch, Jeni Milliman, and Kelley McClenney (seated) participated in the Caledonia-Mumford Elementary School's annual *Trunk or Treat* event on October 15th.

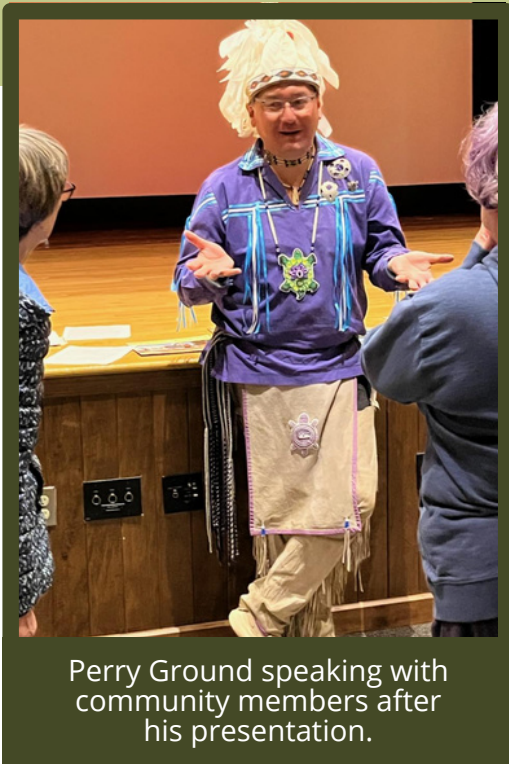
Some young participants were a little skeptical to reach in our steamer trunk amongst the antique mannequin body parts to retrieve the candy - but most loved it! It was the parents, perhaps not so surprisingly, that were creeped out - especially by old dolls.

It was a great community event where we shared information about upcoming programs and events and encouraged families to stop by their museum to browse and to share their own information to add to our growing collection of family folders and genealogical files.



Rethinking Thanksgiving:

a Native American Perspective on the American Holiday



Perry Ground speaking with community members after his presentation.

Perry Ground, Master Storyteller & Cultural Educator, Turtle Clan member of the Onondaga Nation of the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) Confederacy enlightened us all on November 10th with his research and knowledge about the "First Thanksgiving". Many attendees of his talk were skeptical at first, and quickly learned that much of what we knew to be true, was mostly made up. A letter written by Edward Winslow, one of the English settlers, shared conflicting information from what most of us had learned in school. This primary source document had been lost for nearly 200 years! By that time, new ideas and traditions had come to be accepted as the truth.

"...a delightfully interactive experience..."

Mr. Ground presented, according to one participant, "a delightfully interactive experience which encouraged audience participation". In the words of another attendee, "Perry used an engaging Q&A format, along with works of art, to share a wealth of information about Thanksgiving. Fascinating!" In a captivating and humorous way, we learned that the Pilgrims were headed to New Jersey, but landed in Massachusetts because they were out of beer! It was confirmed that yes, the pilgrims did meet the Wampanoag leader, Squanto, but that he was not the only native to be invited to the first Thanksgiving in 1623. In fact, there were, according to Winslow's letter, only 53 pilgrims and more than 90 Native Americans at that feast. We were presented with factual information that made us rethink some of what we thought we knew.

If you'd like to consider an historically-accurate Thanksgiving, skip the tall hats with buckles, turkey decorations, and the excess amounts of side dishes and desserts. In fact, you'll need venison, corn, and stewed pumpkin. Don't feel bad if that doesn't sound so appealing, according to Perry Ground, he's also planning to have turkey!

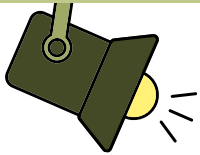


Painting by Karen Rinaldo, *The First Thanksgiving*



With the holiday season upon us (and online purchases all year), Big Springs Museum is asking you to please consider signing up for Amazon Smile. Go to smile.amazon.com and designate *Big Springs Historical Society of Caledonia*. In doing so, Amazon

makes a donation to Big Springs with every one of your purchases. If you're an average Amazon buyer, that can equate to an additional \$50 donation each year to allow your museum to update exhibits, offer more interesting programs, and run fun events! Thank you!



Volunteer Spotlight

Isabella Robles

My name is Isabella, and I'm a psychology major at SUNY Geneseo. In my senior year, I've become interested in pursuing library science after graduation in hopes of becoming an archivist in the future. I began this internship in September, looking for experience. In the time I've been here, I've worked closely with curator Pat Garrett on many projects, including putting together an exhibit on the County Fair. Our big project has been digitizing the museum's collections of local veterans, making it more accessible to the public. While it's been a big undertaking, I think it's worthwhile to honor our veterans and bring people closer with loved ones, if only through photographs. I've enjoyed my time here so far, and I think everyone should give this place a visit!



Save the date!

2022-2023 Programs & Events

February 5th - Annual Meeting

Join us for a recap of the year - 2 PM

February 19th - Piecing Together the Past

4th annual Jigsaw Puzzle Competition - 2PM

March 10th - A Sip & A Song

Local Music and Libations - 7PM

We welcome your ideas for future programs and events!



Museum Hours:
Sundays 1-4PM
Mondays 9AM-12PM

3095 Main Street, Caledonia
(585) 538-9880



bigspringsmuseum@gmail.com



www.bigspringsmuseum.org