



HISTORYWISE

Museum musings, events, and adventures

President's Message - Meg Donegan

They say history repeats itself. I have had the honor of serving as Board President of the Big Springs Museum before, and now I'm back at it. I am especially honored to be following outgoing President Janice Grattan. Under Janice's two terms of leadership, we completed the Shaping a Community Exhibit, provided many programs, and stayed connected during the shutdown. Always an advocate, Janice would begin each program with a welcome and thank you reminding visitors how we rely on their support through membership, program participation, and donations. That support is what "keeps the lights on and the doors open". Let me repeat what Janice has stated and thank you for keeping your museum open and being an important part of the history and future of this community.

I am excited to be working with a creative board, dedicated volunteers, and of course, our Curator, Patty Garrett. All of us are thrilled to be holding programs, fundraisers, and welcoming visitors. We look forward to seeing you, so please come in because the lights are on and the doors are open!

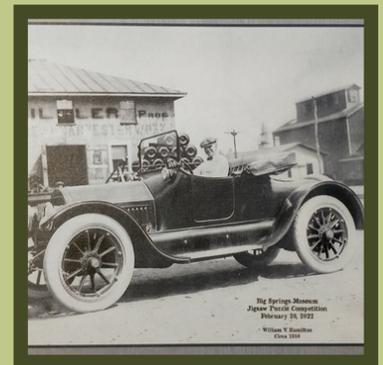


Our Newest Member!

Landon Hardy, grandson of Board Member, Dean Manley, stopped in to check things out at the museum. Now it's his "favorite place to visit in Caledonia!"

3rd annual Jigsaw Puzzle Competition

Fifteen teams of four participated in a *race-to-the-finish* puzzle competition on February 20th. The image was a 1910 black and white photo of William V. Hamilton, owner of the Hamilton Mill that was recently torn down on North Street. The puzzlers worked tirelessly for two hours and still no team had completed the challenging 500 piece puzzle. The competition was extended by 30 minutes and just before the buzzer, the reigning champions placed the final piece! For the third year, Team *Gettin' Jiggy Wit It* was the first to complete their puzzle. Thank you to all of the teams that participated!



2nd Place:
Raiders of the Lost Puzzle



1st Place:
Gettin' Jiggy Wit It



3rd Place:
Livin' on the Edge (Pieces)



Curator's Corner - Patty Garrett

Welcome Spring! It's been a long winter and our volunteers are ready for some new challenges. We came across the *History of Clifton*, written January 10, 1963, by Helen R. (Mrs. Homer) Emens, in our archive and were surprised to learn that this quiet little hamlet was once a very happening place. There were mills, stores, a large nursery, and an apple drying business. We have been gathering information and objects for a small exhibit. Stay tuned - it will be up soon.

I continue to work with our intern, George Macko, from SUNY Geneseo accessioning items from our very large collection. The information then goes into our Past Perfect program making our collections available online. We are presently working with our church collections and also the Annin Hatchery on Spring Street.

Rodger Whitman and Steve McIlwaine have been working on a wool and flax processing exhibit. It will give us a further understanding of the process and make us very happy that we can purchase ready-made clothes.

The Genesee Country Village and Museum have contacted us to learn more about our Black History exhibit. We are going to do a short video to present to them. The interpreters will visit us at the end of April to see our Heritage Shared Exhibit, by Jean Guthrie and Don Pullyblank, and to talk with some of the local people featured in it.

We are excited to have a new Monday volunteer....Priscilla Booth Lynn. Priscilla is a lifelong resident of the Caledonia-Mumford area. Her Great grandfather, Frank Booth, and grandparents Ralph and Hilda Booth were charter members of the Big Springs Historical Society. She recently retired from nursing after 45 years and wanted to volunteer at the museum. With her knowledge of the area, she is a welcome addition. Welcome aboard Priscilla!



Join the Monday Morning Crew from 9-12 or consider becoming a Board member. Stop by the museum, call, or send an email. We would love to have you join us!

Don't miss out! Cruise Raffle Fundraiser



Tickets on sale now from any Big Springs Board Member or at the museum.



BIG SPRINGS MUSEUM'S

CRUISE RAFFLE

7 NIGHT, BALCONY CABIN CRUISE FOR 2




Royal Crown Diamond Year-Round Caribbean, Bermuda, Canada, or Alaska. You choose the destination & date.

\$10 per ticket or 3 tickets for \$25

DRAWING WILL BE HELD DECEMBER 3, 2022 AT 6 PM

NAME: _____

PHONE #: _____

EMAIL: _____

A Sip & A Song

Local Music and Libations

Music filled the rooms of the museum as local beer and wine vendors filled our glasses. A great night of local music and local craft beers and wines was enjoyed by visitors on Friday, March 4th. It was wonderful to see people wandering through the museum enjoying our newest exhibit, reconnecting with friends, and discovering our local history. Thank you for supporting YOUR local museum.



Many thanks to our generous vendors: Brindle Haus Brewing Co., Dublin Corners Farm Brewery, East Hill Creamery, Gallery Vineyards, Log Cabin Acres, Strange Design Public House, and Peggy Roll. The night would not have been complete without the enjoyable music shared by local musical groups Not Too Bad, Don Griffin & the Day Drinkers, and SUNY Geneseo Professor James Kimball and his string band.



Photo Credits:
Meg Donegan,
Katrina Hatch,
Judy Mendoza

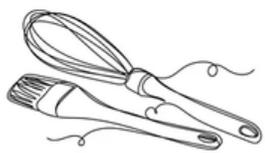
What's the Word?

If you were lucky enough to join us for A Sip & A Song, you may have heard Steve Clary share his rendition of John Hugh McNaughton's "Faded Coat of Blue". Big Springs Museum Volunteer, Marshall Smith, shared that McNaughton's home still stands just a mile or so out of Caledonia on Rt. 5. In our collection at Big Springs we have a 24th edition of "Faded Coat of Blue" in which the lyric is written as "famished", not "Spanish".

The American folk music group The Carter Family recorded a rendition of the song in which they clearly vocalize "Spanish", as do other renditions. Since there is no original writing in McNaughton's hand or even a copy of the original publication of the song (that we know of) the controversy remains: Was this written for the Civil War, or for the Spanish American War, or is the Carter Family's version an example of the Folk Process?



"BABBLE BROOK," home of late "POET" MacNAUGHTON"
On the Caledonia-Avon State Road



We're always cooking up some fun!

Please consider supporting the museum with your purchase from our *Tastefully Simple* fundraiser - running for the month of April. Great easy-to-prepare food to simplify your time in the kitchen. Just browse the site, place an order, and you've supported YOUR local history museum. Doesn't that sound delicious?

Visit this site:

<https://www.tastefullysimple.com/p/11424126>

tastefullysimple



Volunteer of the Year 2021 Katrina deRoos Hatch

Katrina joined the board in 2018. Her contributions to the Big Spring Museum are seemingly endless. Katrina brings creative, fun, and successful ideas for fundraisers and community programs. She was integral in raising funds for "Shaping a Community" exhibit.



FUNdraising events Katrina has brought to the Big Springs Museum include our Puzzle Competition, A Sip and A Song, Murder Mystery Dinner Theater, and the Community Scavenger Hunt. There is no aspect of an event or program that happens at Big Springs that Katrina is not involved with.

Katrina took on the role of creating the Historywise newsletter, and worked with RIT student designers to create our new logo. Her enthusiasm is contagious and her pride in the museum is evident. Katrina wants to share this gem with all of us. She is beyond deserving of the Volunteer of the Year Award.

Save the date!

2022 Programs & Events

April 24 at 2PM - *History of Livingston County Music*
Professor James Kimball, SUNY Geneseo

May 22 at 2PM - *The Shaping of Letchworth State Park through Land Management* - Conrad Baker, Letchworth State Park Outdoor Educator

June - Annual Junk & Funk Sale

July 8th - 4th annual Community Scavenger Hunt

July 9th - Community Mural Festival



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

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www.bigspringsmuseum.org