



# HISTORYWISE

*Museum musings, events, and adventures*

## President's Message - Meg Donegan

One of my favorite things about Big Springs is watching the reactions of people when they first enter the museum and begin to look around. We often hear *"The last time I was here was for a fourth grade field trip"* or *"My grandfather used to have one of these!"* but the number one response is *"We can't believe how much is here - we need to come back again - this place is so cool!"*

The Big Springs Museum has always been a place for people to see our extensive collections, learn something new, and share information. We are also a community gathering place. We have scheduled programs and events but you don't have to wait for those to visit. If you have a meeting to host and need an interesting space, or you are looking for a different place to have an event, please consider Big Springs Museum.

The Model A Club swung by as part of their tour and utilized the space for their meeting. Turns out the BSM is the perfect setting for the Eagle Scout Ceremony for Scout Troop 4027. Do you need a place to hold a meeting? Host a shower or book club? Would your group like a tour? Think of the great conversations as people try to figure out how to run one of the old washing machines. Maybe you all try to discover your museum doppelganger. Just imagine the possibilities! Big Springs Museum is the perfect place to connect the past with the present. This is *your* museum. Come and enjoy!



**James Kimball,**  
SUNY Geneseo  
Professor

## The History of Livingston County Music



Professor Kimball played music, read from local diaries, and engaged the crowd by sharing photographs and stories of the history of music from the area. At the end of the presentation, area folk musicians joined in an informal singaround.

It was a great program that was well attended and the musicians had such an enjoyable time that they want to make it a regular gathering!

After his presentation, James Kimball presented Big Springs Museum with a violin owned and played by Alexander Lincoln DeNoon, father of William DeNoon, a strong supporter of the museum. The DeNoon Family Orchestra, made up of Alexander, his brother Ulysses S. Grant DeNoon, sisters Clarabelle and Anna are pictured in a circa 1880s photograph also housed in the Big Springs collection. Based on documentation accompanying the violin and his additional research, Kimball surmised that this violin was the one that Alexander played well past the time period that the family orchestra (1885-1895) could be documented.



## Curator's Corner - Patty Garrett

Last year our museum participated in the Livingston County Bicentennial Geocache. Geocaching is an item, typically a container holding a number of other items, that has been hidden at a location whose GPS coordinates have been posted on the internet. Geochachers came from at least 18 states and Canada to find the Livingston County caches. For some finders, one of the Bicentennial Geocaches was their first find. For others, it added to their stats - including the lead finder of geocaches in NY State with well over 130,000 finds! At least a dozen people have found all of the geocaches on this trail and over 215 people have found one or more geocaches on this trail. We will be participating in the trail again this year. If you have not tried geocaching here is your chance. For more information go to Livingston County Bicentennial Geotrail. <https://www.livingstoncounty.us/1396/Geocaching>



Some of the geocachers who placed the cache at Big Springs stopped in for a tour!

## Welcome to CLIFTON!

We now have an exhibit on the early history of Clifton, NY. Who knew what a busy place it once was?



There were grain and saw mills, a blacksmith, a shoemaker, a cooper, an apple drying business, a distillery, a foundry, and a large nursery. Come in and find out what Queen Victoria is reputed to have had from Clifton. Maybe this will be a clue in next year's Scavenger Hunt!

## The Shaping of Letchworth State Park

In late May, Conrad Baker, Outdoor Educator at Letchworth State Park, presented a very interesting, well-attended program. He shared images, anecdotes, and history about what we now know as Letchworth State Park. He explained how hundreds of years of land practices in the Genesee Valley have farmed, logged, and reforested what is now the park we love to visit.





# 4th annual Community Scavenger Hunt

- *Act jubilant at the Jube!*
- *Put all of your team on a slide.*
- *Locate the Perhamus Opera House.*

These are just a few of the 100 clues that teams had to find/complete/act out to gather points and win prizes. Fifteen teams joined us for a great night of history and histeria! Teams found clues, sent photos back to their judges and were (or weren't) awarded points. One of the highlights of the evening was the 10 point opportunity for teams to perform a TikTok Dance! We all had a great night of community building and fun. Please plan to join us next year!



## Park/Rec Scavenger Hunt

A week after the Community Scavenger Hunt, kids from the Caledonia Recreation program joined us at Big Springs for their own scavenger hunt. They had to find voting booths, dog-powered treadmills, a bicycle built for two, and many other fun and informative clues. There were many smiles, lots of laughs, and even a little learning!

## LivCo Walls and the Caledonia Mural Festival

Caledonia and eight other communities in Livingston County have been fortunate to participate in the LivCo Walls program resulting in amazing, creative murals. Here in Caledonia, as late as June 26th, the west wall of the Cozy Kitchen was a blank slate. Just ten days later, with the help of local apprentices, muralist Tim Parsley finished the mural spoke to an overflowing crowd at Big Springs Museum. Following the talk, a community dinner was served by



Cozy Kitchen in the parking lot of the Village Offices, checking off a bucket list item for owner, Chris Green. Hard work by a local committee, including Big Springs' own Dean Manley, Meg Donegan, and Dick Fisher, resulted in a first of it's kind community music festival following Livingston County's mural dedication on July 9th. Fun was had by all!



Big Springs Board Members enjoying the new mural: (l to r) Kelley McClenney, Katrina Hatch, Meg Donegan, & Jeni Milliman



# Don't miss out! Cruise Raffle Fundraiser

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



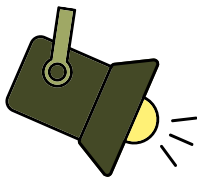
**BIG SPRINGS MUSEUM'S**  
**CRUISE RAFFLE**  
 7 NIGHT, BALCONY CABIN CRUISE FOR 2

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

AAA Royal Caribbean INTERNATIONAL \$10 per ticket or 3 tickets for \$25

DRAWING WILL BE HELD DECEMBER 3, 2022 AT 6 PM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
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## Volunteer Spotlight Peggy Nailos



After retiring from teaching, Peggy wanted to find some place to volunteer. Helen Anderson, a former board member, and volunteer, suggested the Big Springs Museum. Peggy thought that sounded like a good idea. Patty Garrett remembers Peggy as one of the first volunteers and she quickly got them working on being "wrappers". (Our textiles needed padded hangers to protect the shoulders of jackets, dresses, etc.) Over the years Peggy has also worked on school programs, setting up exhibits and programs, doing research. It has always been appreciated that Peggy was willing to take on any tasks put in front of her. She makes great cookies - the leaf cookies being a favorite. You can try them for yourself when you stop in on Monday mornings to volunteer!

## Save the date!

### 2022 Programs & Events

**August** - Museum Open with Clifton Exhibit

**September** - To Be Determined

**October** - To Be Determined

**November 10** - *Perry Grounds, Haudenosaunee Cultural Educator and RIT 2022 Minett Professor - Rethinking Thanksgiving* - at Cal-Mum High School Auditorium



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

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