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Clarence Town Board Liaison
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Board Meetings are held the 1st
Thursday of each month.

Meetings begin at 6:30 pm at the Clar-
ence History Museum.

President's Comments

As the summer of 2023 comes to a close, we would like to thank our visitors and members who came to visit us during open hours, at the Clarence Hollow Farmer's Market, and at Bark in the Park. We were very busy this year and we loved every minute of it! We would also like to thank John O'Hare and John Brinkman for organizing Music on the Porch this summer! Be sure to visit them at the Clarence Senior Center when they play each month!

We would like to recognize the Clarence Parks Department for always keeping the building and grounds at the museum in working order for us! We also appreciate the Clarence Highway Department sprucing up our parking lot earlier this year. We appreciate all the support from the Town of Clarence and especially our Town Liaison, Bob Geiger! Bob comes to every meeting, listens, and gets things done for us! We are very lucky to have the support we have within our community!

We will continue to be open the second and fourth Sundays of each month from 1-3pm! Our programs will be the second Tuesdays of the month for September, October, and November! We hope to see you at the Clubhouse to see our great presenters!

A RANSOM NOTE

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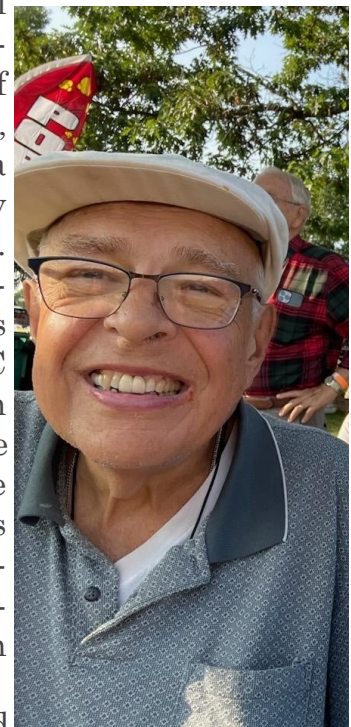
Spring Semester students on the porch of the Landow cabin, imagining what life was like in the early 1800's.



A Tribute To Jon Rothenmeyer

January 23, 1948—August 8, 2023

A lifelong resident of Clarence, NY, Jon was born in Buffalo Children's Hospital on January 23, 1948. He was the first-born son of Herbert ("Bill") Rothenmeyer and Beth Lenore (nee Weinauge) Rothenmeyer. Jon attended the former Parker Elementary School through the sixth grade and graduated from Clarence High School, Class of 1966. After a two-year term at Erie Community College, Jon completed his studies at Rochester Institute of Technology, graduating in 1970 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree. He also attended the former Cincinnati (OH) Bible Seminary for a term where he made several lifelong friends. Jon joined the family's Clarence business, the H.R. Rothenmeyer Co. hardware store which was locally famous until that business closed in the late 1970's. He then pursued a career at Columbus McKinnon Corporation at its original Tonawanda, NY office. After that, he was employed for more than 20 years at the former American Allsafe Company in Tonawanda in customer service and inside sales positions. Jon was very civic minded and was a member of the Clarence Jaycees for many years, holding several officer posts. He served in recent years in the Clarence Hollow Association, the Board of Clarence Fillmore Cemetery, and as an election inspector and Republican Party committee member. Along with being a trustee of the Clarence Historical Society, Jon was a life member, volunteer, and even did a presentation on trains. Jon was enthusiastic and passionate about politics and was a student of political history. He avidly collected campaign material, especially liking US Presidential and Congressional races. He also sought out Canadian political memorabilia from nearby Ontario. Another of Jon's interests was that of railroad history: trains and travel, of the railway station and railroad photography. He was a member since 1977 of the Buffalo Chapter, National Railway Historical Society (today renamed Niagara Frontier Chapter). He also was an active member of the Railroad Station Historical Society. Jon loved to travel to urban centers large and small including New York City, Washington DC and overseas he visited London, England and Paris, France. In all of these places, he sought out historic architecture and railway stations and was an expert photographer of the urban scene. His dozens of close friends and colleagues in his church, railroad historical groups, political memorabilia collector group and many good neighbors of his beloved Clarence will greatly miss him. His warm, kind soul has been stilled, but he will always remain in our hearts.



*Information courtesy of the Rothenmeyer Family & Shephard Bros Funeral Home

WNY History & Geography Class

By Joe McGreevy

The Western New York History and Geography class ran for a second time this spring. The Clarence Museum was gracious enough to open their doors once again to second semester students. Students enjoyed a tour of the museum, the Landow log cabin and then continued the organizing and analyzing of maps, started by first semester students. Students identified and classified more maps to be cataloged and organized. A few of the maps were quite old and very interesting. The students favorite map was an 1856 map of the United States of America, being analyzed in the picture below.

One of the goals of the course is to expose students to primary sources, artifacts and local stories. The map project was a unique learning opportunity for students. They learned about handling fragile primary sources, preservation and what can be learned from such artifacts. The excitement on their faces when they unrolled a pre-Civil War map from 1856, realizing that many of the states out west hadn't been determined, was priceless. It's one thing to see an image of an 1856 map on a PowerPoint presentation, but quite a different experience holding a map in your hands and realizing many of the western states were still territories.

Students also took a tour of the grounds at the museum. The Landow log cabin is always a favorite on the tour. To stand in the cabin and imagine what life was like on the western edge of civilization in the early 1800's is always fun. Students learn about how difficult life was as an early pioneer in Clarence. The hardships they had to endure just to have a roof over the head and food on the table. In today's world of cell phones, social media and electronic devices consuming much of young people's time and headspace, sometimes it is nice to think about life before electricity.

Students then walked to the new Veteran Memorial to look at some of the heroes of our community. We also looked at the World War I Memorial just to the East of the new memorial. Unfortunately, the course will not run in the Fall of 2023, but I hope it will run in the Fall of 2024.

Michael Schmitt (Clarence Historical Society scholarship winner) and Aubri Fabisewski look closer at an 1856 map of the United States.



From the Desk Of Gabe McGreevy

Can you imagine being a kid in Clarence in the spring of 1824? Your dad asks you to go to the general store in the Clarence Hollow for supplies. You have to walk on muddy roads because it's spring. When you get there, you ask for the following items: tobacco, ½ gallon of whisky, ½ pound of H.J. Tea, ½ gallon of molasses, and cloth. When the clerk, Mr. Richardson, gives you everything, you pay him. You have \$4.10. "Thank God," you say to yourself. The cost was \$4.09. You have a penny to spare for a piece of candy! This was a common thing for kids in the 1800's; buying penny candies. You enjoy your candy on the long walk home.

How do I know of such a story? I was talking to my great-uncle Mike, who used to live in a judge's old house in the Clarence Hollow. While doing repairs to the old house, they found some receipts in the walls. The oldest was from 1823. They also found a note signed by Asa Ransom from 1825. (I'll talk more about him in the next newsletter.) My great-uncle sent me these documents! The receipt I used for the story was from 1824, and actually had these items on it (see below). It is amazing to talk to people about local history and then have them give you such interesting artifacts. The youth membership has grown to three members, and I hope this story will spark the interest of more

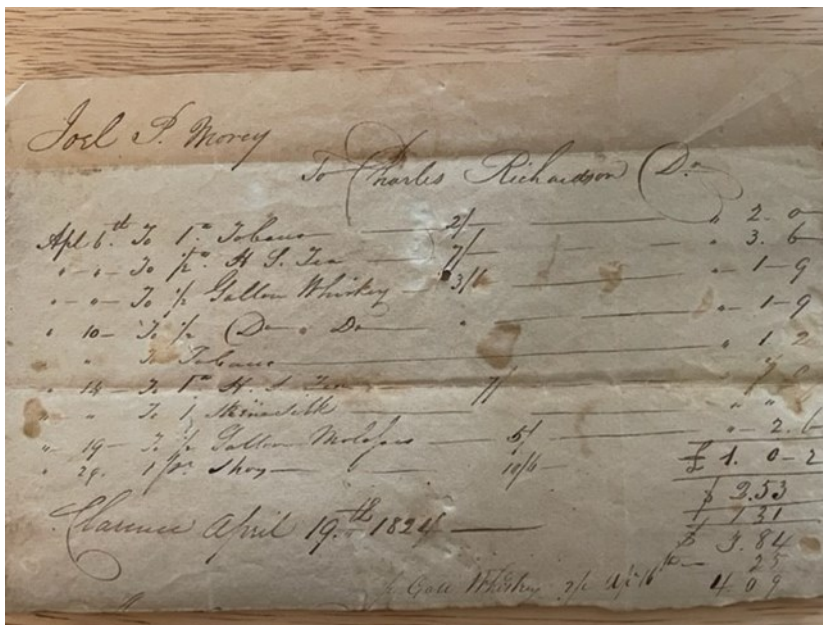
kids around Clarence.

Joel P. Morey to Charles Richardson

April 6th (date of transaction)

Clarence April 19th 1824
(Recipe Written)

\$4.09 (Bill Total)



MEMBERSHIP CORNER

We would like to welcome our new student member,
Tessa Metz!

We would also like to welcome our new life member,
Mr. Kevin Hickey!

We have a new business membership from STEM Automotive!
You can renew your membership or become a new member on our
website or in person.

We have different tiers to choose from:

Student Under 18—\$5

Individual—\$15

Couples—\$25

Family—\$30

Business—\$50

Individual Life Member—\$150

You can also notate if you would like to volunteer by helping during
open hours, giving tours, working on exhibits, and office help! We
can always use an extra pair of hands!

We 
our
MEMBERS!

SPOOKY WORDSEARCH

H P U M P K I N O W S I B T G O K
 E A B A R C I H N N O R D L U A C
 N P P L K I E A E H O I L L S T I
 C U D S I R L U O O H S P E L L R
 H G O T U T K N M T P T H E J T N
 A E R O E I C T H O A T H A T A E
 N T R O R U A M O H I C C O D E E
 T D D B L A C K C A T K E N O R W
 E R L A S S Y P O T I O N S M T O
 D F U W P N B E W E G A P N E S L
 I H N B R O O R A N G E E N C U S L
 G U A T O W I T C H L Y A N S A A
 E C P W R U W O H L A N T E R N H
 M E G R E D I P S D A L I H C N E

ORANGE	TREAT	POTIONS
SPIDER	SPELL	CAULDRON
WEB	HAT	WITCH
HALLOWEEN	BOOTS	BLACKCAT
PUMPKIN	BOO	SPOOKY
JACK	CACKLE	HAUNT
LANTERN	OWL	ENCHANTED
HERBS	HOOT	WAND
TRICK	ICK	BROOM

2023 Program Schedule

Free and Open to the Public

All programs are held at the Town Park

Clubhouse - 10405 Main Street, Clarence

Doors Open at 630pm—Program starts at 7pm

Tuesday September 12, 2023

“The Erie Canal”

Presented by Greg Kinal

Tuesday October 10, 2023

“The Historic & Influential People from
Buffalo and WNY—The Early 1800’s”

Presented by Rick Falkowski

Tuesday November 14, 2023

“Post Erie Canal In Clarence”

Presented by John O’Hare P.E.



HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE TOWN OF CLARENCE

Founded in 1954

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www.clarencelhistory.org

Facebook: Historical Society of the Town
of Clarence

“To collect, preserve, and share the history and heritage of the Town of Clarence”

The Historical Society of the Town of Clarence Inc is formed for the following purposes:

- To identify, preserve, and display materials of historical significance of Clarence
- To encourage historical research, analysis, and study for the publication of historical papers, articles
- To educate the community through lectures, tours, online resources, school field trips and research opportunities



The Historical Society of the Town of Clarence deeply appreciates the support of the County of Erie, the Town of Clarence, our members and the community as a whole.

