



Rochelle's Place for History

Special Interest

Articles:

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Board of Directors

Janet Stocking, President
Terry Dickow, Vice-President
Matt Hagemann, Treasurer
Bobbie Colbert Recording Secretary
Tom McDermott, Historian

Board Members

Steve Frank, Curator
David Guest
Steve O'Connor
Vicki Snyder-Chura
Arlyn Van Dyke

Jenny Thompson, City
Jackee Ohlinger, Park District

Jan Devore, Director

2024—It's my birthday!

City and Town Hall

We celebrated the 140th birthday of the City and Town Hall building that is now home to the Flagg Township Museum in January.

If you've never visited the museum you've missed just how special this building is. Come in for the exhibits but come in for the tin ceilings, the original jail, the vault, and to hear the stories of how this building has been used for 140 years too.

Freedom of Faith

In February and March we recognize our Freedom of Faith with an exhibit of Rochelle Places of Worship. Our Freedom of Faith is guaranteed by the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights, 133 years old in 2024.

As we continue through the year we'll be highlighting a variety of birthdays.

Upcoming birthdays

In April we plan to celebrate the 28th Birthday of National Poetry Month. On April 9th at 1 pm at the museum it's a family friendly event, Poetry Day, a program in partnership with the library. Create a poem, go on a poetry walk around the museum, and celebrate poetry.

In May it's the 109th birthday of the Iron Fountain and this year it's also Dog Day. There's a special place for dogs to drink from the fountain...also birds, horses, and people! So bring your dog and get a prize!

Is it your birthday?

Anyone over the age of 80, regardless of the date of your birthday, is invited to a party at the museum on July 14th. All the usual fixings...cake & ice cream, party hats and a bit of fun. It's a party just for you!

Chautauqua 2024

Our series this year, to be held on March 25 through March 28, is focusing on birthdays...birthday toys, birthday cakes, a birthday of a local organization, and tips for "Penning Your Past" as a way to celebrate your birthday before forgetting all those special moments in your life.

Historically a chautauqua was a cultural and social movement that started in upstate New York in the 1870s and flourished until the mid 1920s. During this time, hundreds of touring chautauquas presented lectures, dance, music, drama, and other forms of "cultural enrichment".

Our series has always been a way to promote informal learning about historical topics. We hope you'll attend this year at the museum, Monday through Thursday, March 25 to March 28 at 7 pm each evening.

New this year...

Vicki Snyder-Chura

A familiar face to anyone at the high school but new to the board of directors at the museum.

We are pleased to welcome Vicki, elected at the annual meeting in January, and have already benefitted from her many talents and extensive connections in the community.

Her background is in journalism and she was always able to use those skills in her more than 35 years at the high school. The museum board is looking forward to putting

those skills to work even more as a member of our board.

Over the years Vicki has recruited many outstanding student volunteers for the museum as well. This in itself has been a huge help at the museum. Students working toward their Silver Cord hours have completed many projects and there's always a new project for a new volunteer.

Welcome, Vicki!

We'll get your pic at the next board meeting!

Podcasts

We're adding a new idea and hoping to bring a bit more technology into the museum.

How about coming in and doing one for us? We can figure out a topic and get you started and then after it's recorded and we post it, you're out there on YouTube! And helping the museum.

Links to the podcasts that we have completed are listed on our website under the Education tab...and here!

<https://youtu.be/Hjz3Rj2fiRE>

<https://youtu.be/dqgurmoekDs>

Look who visited!

You never know who you're going to meet at the museum!

Going back to last summer, the daughter of Dr. Masters visited the museum and was very interested to see the dental exhibit on the second floor.

Also last summer, Deena Cipolla Guptil brought in some great photos to add to our collection and let us scan a booklet of photos from the 1953 Centennial Parade. One photo from the parade is shown at left. Deena drew the name of one of the winners for our membership renewal incentive in 2023.

In December Jeff Ussery visited the 10,000 year old mastodon molar and jawbone that he found along the Kyte Creek. They are on display in the Jail Room at the museum.

And just this week, on March 1, Adam Parks visited to see the Partin-Palmer that his grandfather, Raymond Nixon, had purchased for \$4,000 in a blind bid when it was in it's original condition, having been stored at Sago's in Frankclay, Missouri since about 1920. Parks remembers seeing the car sitting in storage. The museum solicited donations in order to purchase the car after it had been restored for parade use—not the original black and white paint job!



Mary Louise Reed



Deena Cipolla Guptil
Visiting from Arkansas



Adam Parks & Bethany Payne
Visiting from Missouri



Jeff Ussery



1953 Centennial Parade
Deena, Mom & Dad



Sago's Conoco Station in Frankclay, Missouri
Ca. 1930s

Recently added ...

Recent Acquisitions

The museum is grateful to the following donors for artifacts donated to the museum since mid May 2023.

Anonymous, Debra Argetsinger, Gretchen Bain, Russell Bennet, Dale Bergeson, Jim & Laura Bunger, Mary Carney, City of Rochelle, Ron Duval, Sue Engbretson, Mary Erdman, Estate of Bill Stocking, Diane Charnock Fischer, Dave Friestad, Jeff Glenn & Central Bank, Mark Griffith, Deena Cipolla Guptil, Ron Harms, Cass Headon, John Howard, Daniel Ihnen, Lois Johnson, Carmel Klein, Martha Klobertanz, Tom McDermott, Barbara Manning, Lisa & Gary Mason, Ann O'Brien, Tim O'Dell, Ogle County Historical Society via Matt Hagemann,

Quinn's Jewelry, Chuck Roberts, Sally Sawicki, Sue Sawicki, Dave Schabacker, Jill Schwartz, Vici Snyder-Chura, Dawn Somers, Bill Stocking, Janet Stocking, Dana Williams, VFW Post 3878, and Betty Wilmarth,

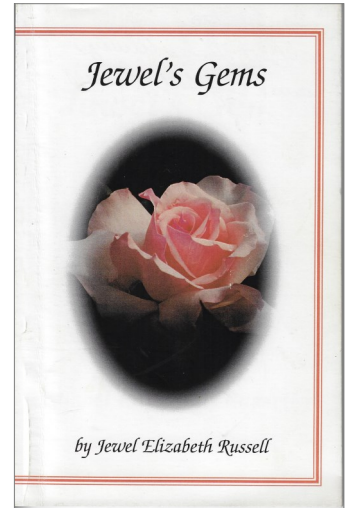
Donors to date in 2024 include Jeannie O'Dell Boeck, Kimberly Ekes, Kathy Erickson, Kris Gilbert, Doris Gruben, Christie Hawkins, Wendy Horn, Lisa & Gary Mason, Ann O'Brien, Jeff & Shirley Reif, Lisa Russell, Sally Sawicki, Rene Swartz, Dawn Somers, Roxanne Weber.

Jewel's Gems will be featured in the Cabinet of Curiosities in April of this year. Watch for more about National Poetry Month...it's having a birthday!

... acquisition is defined as the discovery, preliminary evaluation, taking physical and legal custody of, and acknowledging receipt of materials and objects.



Vagabond Resort Patch
Gift of Kathy Erickson



Jewel's Gems
Gift of Lisa Russell

Special thanks to...

Lisa Russell who answered our request posted on facebook for Jewel's Gems and even brought in more treasured artifacts from her mother-in-law Jewel Russell and her late husband Danny who also was a talented poet. Poetry will be featured at the museum in April.

Board President Janet Stocking for being a good sport and playing our game—Pin the Date on Our Building. Visitors can still try pinning the date—come try it!

Board members Tom McDermott and Matt Hagemann for climbing the ladder and readjusting the flag.



Volunteer Alberto for climbing a ladder inside to hang a very large artwork on our new picture rail.



FLAGG TOWNSHIP MUSEUM

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E-MAIL:
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Museum Hours

Thursday – Sunday
11 am to 4 pm

*Group tours available by
appointment*

www.flaggtownshipmuseumrochelle.org

Like us on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/RochelleFlaggTownshipMuseum>

About Our Organization...

The Mission of the Flagg Township Historical Society and Museum is to stimulate interest in Flagg Township history through education, research, collection and preservation of information for the benefit of the public of today and in the future.

Request a Presentation...

Contact the museum to request a presentation to your club, organization, or school by museum personnel. Presentations support the museum's mission to stimulate interest in Flagg Township history.

Thanks also ...

to the Rochelle Area Community Foundation for funding our new exhibit on the second floor, *Getting down to business in Rochelle*. This first chapter is the beginning of an extensive history of business in Rochelle and covers the years 1853 to 1875. More chapters are being developed with the goal of eventually highlighting today's business community.

The video presentation is available when visiting the museum and can also be purchased in the museum gift shop for \$10.00.

Museum Events 2024

In the works...

March 25-28: Chautauqua at the Museum, 7 pm

March 31: Closed

April: 50/50 Raffle begins, Tree Planting with Girl Scouts

April 9: Poetry Day, 1 pm in partnership with the library

May 4: Dog Day at the Iron Fountain

May 18-19: Railroad Days Activities

June: Cut the Square, Date TBD

August 16-18: Heritage Festival

October 31: Trick or Treat at the Museum

November 10: Veteran's Day Event, The History of the VFW

November 30: Decorate the Museum

December 6: Santa at the Museum, 4-7 pm

December: 50/50 Raffle Drawing, Date TBD; Holiday Tea, Date TBD