

# Museum News



---

Jamesville Community Museum    November 2019

---

**From the President:**

## **Holiday Happenings**

Again this year, the Jamesville Community Museum will conduct a Holiday Quilt Raffle. This raffle is a tradition at the museum, that has taken place during Light Up Jamesville for several years. Previous year's quilts have quickly become family heirlooms. The opportunity to participate in this year's raffle begins with the tickets that are included in this newsletter and will continue until the night of the drawing. If you need additional tickets, contact us at: jamesvillecommunitymuseum@gmail.com.

This year our raffle will have five drawings. Our prizes will be:

- First Place: Hand Sewn Quilt (See Below. A log cabin design that is hand sewn from Munnsville, NY)
- Second, Third, Fourth & Fifth Place: Your choice of one published museum book

## **Light Up Jamesville & Museum Open House Schedule**

- Saturday, December 7th: 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm **Museum Open House**
  - Christmas Carols
  - Children's Corner Activities
  - Mrs. Santa Claus
- 6:30 pm **Quilt Raffle** (you do not have to be present to win)

After the quilt raffle, the museum will close for the Light Up Jamesville event at the Old Train Station.

## **Other Museum News:**

The Museum Board of Trustees is continuing its efforts to accomplish the necessary improvement projects for our museum home. Two of the three identified projects have been recently completed: 1) The replacement of the aging roof, and 2) The installation of the new handicapped accessible bathroom. The third and final project is the improvement of the museum front entrance.

## **Can you help?**

- 1) We would like to continue to reduce mailing expenses by making greater use of our website and email. Please supply us with your email when renewing your membership for 2020.
- 2) Do you have a suggestion for a future exhibit or activity? We would love to hear about it. You can include it with your membership renewal OR email us at jamesvillecommunitymuseum@gmail.com.
- 3) Now that we have bathroom facilities, our museum space is available for other community uses. If your organization or business is in need of a larger meeting space, email us at jjamesvillecommunitymuseum@gmail.com. OR contact any museum officer, located on our website, for details on usage.



Robert T. Catney, President

## The Chapman Avery House

By Mary Ewing

Our love affair with the Chapman Avery house all began in June, 2010. At that time, we were living in Manlius and I was helping a friend with a DIY project when we decided to take a trip to The Fabric Mill. Going west, we traveled along Route 173. Growing up in DeWitt, I had many high school friends who lived in Jamesville, but until that day I hadn't paid close attention to the buildings or the houses in or around the Hamlet. On that fateful day I saw a for sale sign in front of this beautiful old house. Seeing that my husband Alex and I had just moved back to the area 3 years prior, where we lived in a 1920s brick colonial, we really weren't looking for a new home, but the style of this particular structure caught my eye. We had to stop at 6465 East Seneca Turnpike and take a look. The front porch was adorable and looked like it was recently redone with new flooring, railing, and a fresh crisp paint job. We peeked through the windows and saw the hardwood floors, the long staircase with a beautiful railing, chandeliers, and the gold gilt picture rail in the living room. As we moved around to the west side of the house, where the side porch was, we quickly recognized that the attached barn was huge! That was when I knew I had to show Alex. As it was, our house in Manlius was not the home of our dreams. It was far from the style of house we wanted and we knew we would need a bigger one down the road. June, 2010 was when we both started planning our move into the Chapman Avery House.



*Pictured is Mrs. James Paul with sons Neil and James*

There is a tremendous amount of history that goes with this house. From information gathered from the previous owners J. Michael White and relatives of Dr. James Paul, as well as information from our Jamesville Community Museum books, the following has been composed:

The lot at 6465 East Seneca Turnpike was purchased in 1867 by Chapman Avery from Betsy Sherwood, the widow of Thomas Sherwood. The Sherwoods had lived in the house at 6471 East Seneca Turnpike, just east of the Avery house (currently owned by Patrick and Mary Brown) from 1852 until 1904. Mr. Avery had this house built soon after purchasing the lot. It is not clear of the exact date as to when the house was built, but what we do know is that the Avery house can be seen on the 1874 map from Homer D.L. Sweet's New Atlas of Onondaga County. No house at this location is apparent on the 1860 map from a survey by Homer D.L. Sweet, so we know the house was built sometime between 1867 and 1874.

In the late 1800s, Italianate style houses were elegant, like an Italian villa, with vertical lines, many windows, wide roof soffits with decorative corbels, and a shallow hip roof. The house had all the modern conveniences, although there were no fireplaces, as they were too dirty, drafty, and inefficient. Back then, the house had modern coal or wood pot bellied stoves vented through half chimneys (probably four or five throughout the house to keep each room warm during the cold winter months). The house was built using balloon frame construction, meaning that the shell of the house from base plate to roof was built first and then floors and walls were filled in once the shell was complete. The foundation consisted of limestone blocks, approximately 16 inches thick, from the local quarry. The solid limestone carriage block and limestone hitching posts adorning the front of the house were added a short time later. The carriage block dated 1878 would assist ladies stepping into their buggies while horses were tied to the hitching post.

Chapman W. Avery was a Canal Superintendent in the late 1860s and became a prosperous local business man, purchasing Asa Cadogan's hotel from Joel Kinney in 1867 at the corner of South Street and Seneca Turnpike next to the Jamesville Community Museum (formerly St. Mark's Episcopal Church) and owning a plaster mill at the junction of Rust Creek and Butternut Creek (south of Seneca Turnpike and east of South Street). For years, this became known Avery block. Tragically, the hotel burned in the fire of 1877, but was rebuilt by Timothy M. Avery.

## The Chapman Avery House, con't

In 1904, Dr. James H. Paul and his wife Susan purchased the house from the Avery family and it remained in the Paul family until 1980. Many Jamesville residents often refer to the house as Doc Paul's house, mainly because it remained in the Paul family for so many years. During those years, Dr. Paul not only lived in the house with his wife and four children (James, Neil, Susan and Rosemary), but also served as resident doctor for those living in Jamesville and the surrounding area. His office and waiting room are what is now our kitchen. After James and Susan Paul's passing, the house was then owned and occupied by his daughters Susan and Rosemary. In speaking to Sandy Baker (daughter of Neil Paul) and Jim Paul V, they expressed fond memories of their time in the house. Everyone and anyone was always welcome and it was a comfortable place for anyone who walked in. Dr. Paul's office was located on the east side of the home and the kitchen was situated in the back north side corner. It was small with not enough room to accommodate the family for eating. In speaking to Paul family relatives, one thing they always remembered was spending extensive time on the back porch (now our mud room). That screened in back porch was where all gathered for eating a large table and even sleeping during hot summer nights to avoid the sweltering upstairs heat. After Susan and then Rosemary's passing, the long owned Paul home changed hands.

In 1980, the house was sold to J Michael White and his wife, Linda. They would go on to own the house for nearly 30 years. The Whites fell in love with the home the first time they set eyes on it, though many updates were needed on the interior, as they recognized and appreciated the charm and history. The Whites spent countless hours reconstructing the house (with much help from Jamesville resident Jim Grubb) forever keeping the history and style of the house in mind. Projects included, recreating a safe and not so steep staircase leading to the bedrooms upstairs, renovating the once office of Doc Paul into a functional kitchen, reconfiguring the hip roof above Doc Paul's office to accommodate a bedroom, adding a fireplace in what is now our TV room, and removing layers and layers of wallpaper from the walls and ceiling of the former parlor (now our living room). In 1991, the screened in porch that the Paul family held so many family gatherings on was converted into an office for Michael White as he wanted a space that was bright, open and looked out into the spacious backyard. Each time a new project was started, time and effort was taken to be true to the late 1800s matching original fixtures and woodwork, so it would appear to be part of the original house, yet appropriately accommodate a family of the twenty-first century. One example of this was recreating the siding of the house, trim, crown molding and corbels with the addition of bedroom space.

Continued on page four



Pictured is Dr. James H. Paul in front of the office where he started the practice of medicine, about 1900.

*"When Dr. James H. Paul practiced (1898 - 1936), his transportation was by a team of horses and buggy or sleigh. Many of his calls took him as far as LaFayette and Pompey. ... There were many severe infections in those days, both medical and surgical, due to apathy of the part of the patient; not thinking they were serious enough to to treat. Many serious cases of pneumonia occurred, especially following the influenza epidemic of 1918. More than half the village was affected by the disease which was particularly virulent, and followed in many cases by pneumonia. There were no antibiotics to combat this and the treatment was mainly supportive. Many village residents died as a result of complications."*

-Notes by Neil M. Paul, M.D.  
From *Water, Wheels and Stone*, pg.91

## The Chapman Avery House, con't.

The house was filled with antiques and hosted many family gatherings during the holidays and although the Whites found themselves moving across the country to Washington state for a job opportunity in 1997, they didn't sell the house right away, thinking they would keep it in the family after all the work and memories created in raising their three daughters there (Meghann, Katie and Bree). Before selling, they rented the house for several years, finally coming to terms with the fact that they were not coming back to the Jamesville area. Clearly, the house held a special place in their hearts and it became even more obvious when Alex and I started to get to know them during the selling and buying process.



In May, 2011 we signed the papers to purchase the house with 5 year old James, 3 year old Andrew, and our third child the way. It was an exciting time in our lives and we couldn't wait to start making our very own memories. Even before the birth of our daughter Lauren in July 2011, we were busy making the house a home. Since then, we have literally painted every room in the house (after stripping some rooms of wallpaper), updated the kitchen and all three bathrooms, poured a large concrete patio in the backyard and much more. Like the Whites, we have tried hard to stay true to the original fixtures of the house. Many times throughout the year, our extended family and friends gather to celebrate loved ones or get together just because. We love the history that this house holds and now know after talking with previous owners and relatives that this house has had one thing in common after all these years; it's a house that is a home. It is a welcoming and comfortable place where people gather to make memories.

NOTE: Should you read this article and see any error about dates or any other facts, please contact us. We would welcome anything that will help us best keep the history of our town as factual as possible.

Thank you to Michael White, Sandy Baker and Jim Paul V for your memories and input that helped put this article together.

"Water Wheels and Stone: Heritage of the Little Village by the Creek, Jamesville, NY" was also a great source in writing this article. This book, as well as other Jamesville Community Museums book are available to purchase. Contact us at: [jamesvillecommunitymuseum@gmail.com](mailto:jamesvillecommunitymuseum@gmail.com)



On Sunday, September 8th, the Jamesville Community Museum hosted a wool seminar featuring Brooklyn Tweed, a knitwear design and yarn company. The event was sponsored by Susan Miller, owner of the Yarn Cupboard. The seminar was given by Jamie McCarthy, a Community Outreach Director from Portland, Oregon. There were 30 people in attendance. Those that attended, enjoyed the program and refreshments. Below are pictures from the event.



## Cousins' Destination: Jamesville Community Museum!

by Joyce Burke, with photos by Margaret Munson

Life tends to spread us apart, so it's always good to get together with cousins, to reminisce, enjoy each other's company, and share new adventures. Two years ago, the destination was a park near my home in Hamburg, NY (near Buffalo), to celebrate a high school graduation. A good time was had by all and we decided to try to keep it up, gathering every two years. We set the next destination before we parted, deciding to meet where all our parent siblings were raised – in Jamesville, New York. Once again, a great time was had by all, and we'd like to especially thank Greg Titus and the Jamesville Community Museum for the part they played in our memorable day. My father described his siblings as a 'yours, mine and ours' mix. As children, my sisters and I spent many a car ride home from family reunions in Highland Forest trying to sort it all out, but the common thread was always my grandfather Marshall Frank Nye (1886-1950), a Jamesville farmer. We may meet back at Highland Forest another time, but this past Labor Day we steeped ourselves in the Jamesville community, starting with a picnic at Jamesville Beach, a stop by the Walnut Grove Cemetery to pay our respects, then our final destination for the day: the Jamesville Community Museum.

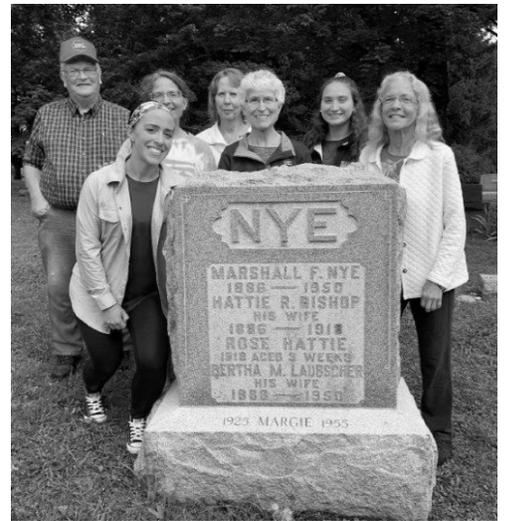
Appreciating, enjoying and volunteering at community museums seems to be in our blood. I understand my late cousin Frank Nye was instrumental in founding the Jamesville Community Museum. His daughter Kelly continues his work to keep our common history alive. My cousin Patty Garrett, who joined us for the day from Caledonia, New York, is the curator at the Caledonia Big Springs Museum, a three-story brick building that used to be part of the old school. The museum is just a few hours from Jamesville, and she invites you all to pay it a visit. If you are up for a longer trip, consider an overnight trip to the Benjamin Nye Homestead and Museum, home of our 12-great grandfather, in East Sandwich, Massachusetts. Several of the cousins participating in our local reunion, plus a few more gathered there just a few weeks ago, plan to celebrate the annual nationwide Nye Reunion.

Everyone in our group, including spouses and adult children, found the Jamesville Community Museum to be a wonderful way to spend an afternoon. We commend and thank all the volunteers for their efforts. Everyone had their favorites during our visit. Patty picked up on the museum's use of its free-standing walls as storage, and is inspired to try something similar at her museum, noting that storage is always an issue in small museums. My sisters Margaret and Jan really enjoyed learning about the local quarry, remembering stories from our father of friends and family who worked there. My local cousin Roy's son Eric got a kick out of looking through the giant old book of statistics, seeing what mattered enough back then to be counted. I was pleasantly surprised by how hands-on the museum was. Being able to actually page through old school books was a real treat. When Greg responded to a question I had regarding the free-standing Weasel with "Go ahead, pick it up and tip it upside down so you can see for yourself what makes it pop", I was a very happy museum-goer!



After picnicking at the Jamesville Reservoir earlier that day, the pictorial history of cutting ice from the reservoir was easy to imagine and we all learned a lot from that display. Having the museum right next to the cornerstone of the old Jamesville High School was also a great surprise and very meaningful, as each of us remembered parent stories of their high school days, including walking to school in the winter with a warm baked potato in each hand.

Again, thank you all for a great museum and a great day, with a special thanks to Greg Titus for hosting us. We all wish you the best and hope to be back soon.



### Lone Ranger Cookies

- |                        |                           |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 cup butter           | 2 cups flour              |
| 1 cup brown sugar      | 1 tsp. baking soda        |
| 1 cup granulated sugar | ½ tsp baking powder       |
| 2 eggs                 | ½ tsp. salt               |
| 1 tsp. vanilla         | 1 cups quick cooking oats |
|                        | 1 cup coconut             |

Cream sugar, butter and eggs. Add and mix all ingredients together. Bake until lightly browned, 12-14 minutes, at 350°.

*“My great grandfather, Marcena Nye, was born in Fabius, New York in 1858. As a young man, he moved to Jamesville, where he married Addie Burgess. They had two sons, Marshall and Lee. In the last years of Marcena’s life, he lived with my grandfather, Marshall, and that is where I first remember meeting “Great Grandpa.” To know him as I did was wonderful, for he always had time to read to me, tell me stories and share a glass of cold milk and a plate of Lone Ranger Cookies.”*

- Frank Nye, from A Jamesville Heritage Cookbook, pg.28



*Marcena Nye, father of Marshall Frank Nye, in his garden*

JAMESVILLE COMMUNITY MUSEUM

Post Office Box 76

Jamesville, New York 13078-0076

Phone: 492-4890



### Museum Hours

• May through December  
*Sundays 1-4 p.m.*

• March through April  
*Sundays 2-4 p.m.*

The museum is open anytime by appointment.  
Please call Greg Titus at 469-6681.

NOTE: Your membership is current for December 31st of the year shown on the mailing label.

We would like to reduce mailing expenses by making greater use of our website and email. Please supply us with your email address when renewing your membership.

## Membership Application 2020

Jamesville Community Museum

P. O. Box 76

Jamesville, New York 13078-0076

Supporting	\$50
Family	\$25
Individual	\$15

Patron	\$150
*Sustaining	\$ 75
*Benefactor	\$100
<i>*Suitable for Corporate Members</i>	

*Membership runs from January 1st, 2020 through December 31st, 2020*

Please make your check payable to: Jamesville Community Museum. Your contribution is tax-deductible.

Check here if Membership cards are desired.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

(As you would like it to appear on museum list)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in:

helping with Memorial Day parade activities

planning exhibits for coming year

planning children's activities

(field trips from the elementary school and/or kids' corner)

helping with cataloguing and record keeping

serving as host/greeter on Saturday and Sunday afternoons

planning a special program for next year

landscaping and gardening

helping with refreshments

telephoning

publicity

carpentry, exhibit setup, etc

Your response will help the museum plan for the future exhibits and programs. Thank you!