

Curator Report April-May 2021

Collections

- Our last report had a total of 8,568 items in Past Perfect. Since then, our total is now 8,983. Thus, we have added 415 more items into our catalog software.
- We have received many donations in the past month, including: 19th century indoor portable toilet belonging to the Hostert family, 1990s village newsletters, village and local business souvenir glasses, old photographs and portraits, American Legion membership cards, business advertisements, Arnold family scrapbook, Schmaedeke internment certificate, and an 1890s wedding dress.
- A new volunteer (college student wanting to study museum studies) started May 12th and is processing and cataloging recent donations.
- Volunteer is working on housing a large collection of negatives and slides donated to the museum from a retired reporter

Exhibits

- Next exhibit planned is “In Sickness and In Health,” which will talk about medicine and health in rural America. The exhibit opening will be in conjunction with program, “The 1918 Spanish Flu Pandemic.” This opens at the end of June.

Programs

- Two programs ran in April. “Death of our President” had 7 people and brought in \$70. Expense was \$125, so -\$55. “War in the South Pacific” had 31 people and brought in \$425. Expense was \$286, so +\$139.
- Two programs ran in May. “Public Enemy No 1” had 14 people and brought in \$140. Expense was \$250, so -\$110. The cemetery tour had 5 people and brought it \$35. There was no expense and was all profit.
- There are two more programs at the end of the month, “Afternoon Tea on the Farm” and “Blacksmith 101.” The tea program was sold out at 25 and I increased the number to 40 to allow more people to register. Due to its popularity, we will be doing an “Afternoon Cider on the Farm” program in September.
- People seem to like the programs we will be having this summer! People have been registering and calling about them. Our first ever summer camp, American Girl Doll, was sold out at 10 and I increased the number to 15 to allow more kids to register. If this is sold out, we will likely offer a second camp.

- Working on Fall programs

Memberships

- Memberships have remained steady...renewals and purchases. I just completed 8 thank you letters and sent out the members' new cards.
- Stellwagen program pricing hopefully will encourage people to get a museum membership. The pricing has been \$10 museum member, \$15 resident, \$20 non-resident for upcoming programs.

Other

- Will begin to work on the museum's next newsletter next month. The newsletter will be sent out and available in mid to end July.
- Hired a historic preservation company and structural engineer to come to Stellwagen to look at the farmhouse. The company will be creating an interior structural stability assessment so we know what to do to make the house stable and have occupancy for visitors.