



## Wanted Volunteers!

Contact [info@valentown.org](mailto:info@valentown.org)

### The Valentown Archive

by Gary Lehmann,  
Volunteer Curator

Over a year ago at the suggestion of former president Carol Finch, a small group of Valentown volunteers began trying to organize the 10,000 books and approximately 40,000 pieces of historical paper that are part of the Valentown archive.

Steve Schmidt designed a computer program which allows us to enter each book and each piece of historical paper into

a data base which will be on-line so people can do a keyword search from any internet connection.

A project of this scope has to be seen as long-term. In addition to historical paper, we also have a newspaper and musical manuscript collection to organize, the Phelps Gorham papers to organize, and an historical magazine collection to enter into the data base. And that says nothing about the 25,000 objects of the museum which need cataloging.

Preston Pierce, Ontario County Historian, has been volunteering his time. Preston is also Western New York's Regional Archivist for the State Library in Albany, and he graciously agreed to teach some of the volunteers a course in archiving before we got started.

Victor Town Historian



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## Stories from the Front Porch

Submit your favorite stories of historic Valentown, Victor, or Fairport of old. Selected entries will be published in this newsletter.

Is your family's name on the Valentown's ballroom wall? There are names dating back to 1904. Share you families adventures.

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### • Mystery Item of the Month

Can you identify this item?



Submit your guess to Suzanne @valentown.org check next month for the 'winners' and the correct answer.

## Cont.from pg.1

Babette Huber, has been a big help identifying things and supplying thousands of file folders for the project. Professional organizer, Wendy Salmon, helped with establishing basic priorities. Bonnie Waters and Dianne Parks of the Victor Cemetery Association have been very helpful in coordinating genealogical records. Suzanne Sacco and Peggy Wehs organized the teen group to help with filing.

Last spring, the Town of Victor authorized \$3,000 to help hire a grant writer. With this money, Stuart Brown Associates was re-

tained and Wes Pettee helped us write grant application for \$25,000 to help with improving the physical condition of the archive. If this money is granted by the Rochester Area Community Foundation, we will have fire-proof shelving, new file cabinets, recessed lighting, and handicap accessibility into the archive. Wish us luck.

And if you can help, just show up any Thursday 1-4 to lend a hand.



## Opportunities ~ Notices

The Icabod Towne Homestead will be available to rent for small classes or meetings. Please contact [info@valentown.org](mailto:info@valentown.org) for more information and available dates

Valentown Museum will be open to school groups in the spring of 2009 . For available dates and tour information contact [info@valentown.org](mailto:info@valentown.org)

.Volunteers are needed for all areas. Cleaning, organizing, planting, planning, painting, ironing, typing, tours, etc.. You can volunteer 1 hour a month, 1 hour a week or 4 hours in one day! Any and all help is appreciated. As they say '**Many hands make light work**' and it's a lot more fun : ) Please come and share in the joy of working together , it is for a good cause.

## **Destination Victor, NY Marketing Association & The Victor Historical Society Partner in Tourism Marketing for Victor, NY**

*We are proud to announce that we support and are now active members in Desination-VictorNY.com!*

*Did you Tourism in the Finger Lakes Region accounts for 2 1/2 billion dollars each year?*

*\*Ontario County's share is 158 million dollars of that amount!*

*We realize that Victor, NY, needs to benefit from a greater part of these tourism dollars. We recognize Victor as a destination option for tourists coming to the Finger Lakes and*

*Rochester Regions.*

*To this end, we have joined a marketing group called "Destination Victor, NY Marketing Association". The goal is to market the Victor area as a destination and increase the number of customers coming to our unique businesses. Check us out on the site.*

*[www.DestinationVictorNY.com](http://www.DestinationVictorNY.com) [<http://www.destinationvictorny.com/>](http://www.destinationvictorny.com/) . We are listed on [www.visitfingerlakes.org](http://www.visitfingerlakes.org)*

*[<http://www.visitfingerlakes.org/>](http://www.visitfingerlakes.org/) , We of course are also accessible via our own web site [www.valentown.org](http://www.valentown.org)*

# Valentown Garden Club

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Meetings are the 2nd Tuesday of the Month. The next meeting April 21st at 7:00 pm at the Victor Town Hall. Guest Speaker will be John Adams. He is the head gardener at Genesee Country Village Museum in Mumford.

Please come and help clean up and prepare our gardens for the first annual Garden Tour. Call Kathleen Houser at 742-2293 for work dates.



## VTS: Valentown Teen Society

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This was the first year for our Valentown Teen Society, what began as a group of 2 teens, has grown to a group of 10 teens from 4 different towns. All young people interested in history and preserving the past, community involvement and having fun.

This summer we had our first 'Night in a Haunted Museum' - What is it *really* like to be locked in a haunted museum at night. We had 9 brave souls who attended and each has their own story

to tell.

Our second big activity was a 'field trip' to LeRoy to tour the Jello Museum and Historic Society. Not only did we tour the facility, but we got wonderful ideas for our museum.

VTS is for children ages 11-17 yrs. Programs will include museum tours, guest speakers, field trips to local historic sites, hands-on projects, research projects and fundraising events such as

dances to benefit Historic Valentown Museum. For more information contact [Suzanne@valentown.org](mailto:Suzanne@valentown.org)



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Victor Historical Society  
Letter from the President  
Kathleen T. Houser

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The Board has been hard at work since December in a reorganization effort for 2009. A number of partnerships have been forged including those with the Town of Victor, Victor Central Schools, Victor Chamber of Commerce, the Ontario County Historical Society, Friends of the Railroad, Victor Cemetery Association and Genealogy group and the Valentown Garden Club. We are well on our way to redefining the purpose of the Victor Historical Society!

I am including our 2009 One Year Plan below. Key in implementation is a \$4,500 grant from the Town of Victor "Quality of Life" Task Force for advertising our Educational Programs. A grant of \$500 to assemble educational learning kits for the classroom was also received.

Our new Valentown Garden Club exists solely for the purpose of caring for the heirloom bulb and herb beds initially planted by the Victor Garden Club as well as researching and adding historically accurate plantings throughout the entire grounds. To do so, a fundraiser was held in December to pay for 6 speakers and a Garden Tour will take place during the Grand Re-Opening on Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup>. The Tour will focus on our heirloom and herb gardens at Valentown as well as 7 other gardens in the Victor/Farmington area. A Civic Beautification Grant from the 7<sup>th</sup> District Federated Garden Clubs of NYS of \$300 was just received to purchase heirloom perennials to be added to our spring flowering bulb beds.

I invite anyone interested in getting involved in the Victor Historical Society to contact me and meet the board at our May meeting.

#### **2009 One Year Plan and Timeline:**

**March:** One Year Plan was finalized with budget, programs and projects for the year. Approved were the following:

**Education Programs** including 18 Saturdays of Craft Demonstrations at the Museum (hours have been expanded to Noon – 4:00 on Thursdays and Saturdays); Family Heritage Days ("Victorian Victor" July 11 and "Harvest Fest/Hang Around Victor" Sept. 12); School Programs with learning kits for the classroom and school tours to Museum; Summer Youth History Camp at Valentown through Victor Recreation Dept.; Speaker Series with Dr. Gary Lehmann and Town Historian Babette Huber; Youth Group activities including G.S. support of Val. Garden Club and B.S. Eagle Project.

**Fund Raising Programs** including Ghost Hunts by reservation; a Shopping Bus Tour to Valentown and Eastview; Tea Room open by reservation and for drop-in "Tea and Tour" on Saturdays; Uno's "Dough Raiser" for VHS; Valentown Garden Club Garden Tour; proposal for renovating ballroom to accommodate theatre group in 2010/2011 met with enthusiasm and will be reintroduced in future; partnerships with FORR, the Cemetery Association and Victor Genealogy Society are being explored; not approved for 2009 was "Spooktacular".

**VHS Fundraisers** include Food Booths at Ganondagan, Farmington, Grand Re-Opening and Family Heritage Festivals; Gift Shops in Hall and Homestead; Admission and Tours; Vendor booth fees for Festivals.

We have reorganized and re-defined our **Standing Committees** into 11 Sections and are looking for volunteers to assist them. Our committees comprise of: **Collections** (including archiving and tour docents), **Education** (including the 6 sections above), **Fund Raising**, **Membership**, **Volunteers**, **Finance**, **Grants & Development**, **Marketing & Advertising**, **Building Maintenance**, **Grounds & Gardens**, and **Renovations**.

**We are especially in need of individuals to help with grants and development, and as a volunteer coordinator.**

Our website is currently being updated and our Membership Newsletter will be emailed this month informing members of our new initiatives.

**April:** The focus will be on a membership drive, recruitment of volunteers for committees as well as new board members. A letter of intent and resume for potential new Board members are due May 10<sup>th</sup>. Our Nominating Committee will review them and recommend a slate of officers for the May Election.

**May:** Notification to VHS members of slate of officers and annual meeting May 24<sup>th</sup>; Grand Re-Opening May 30<sup>th</sup> with craft demonstrators, antique/craft/specialty food vendors, complimentary tea/cookies in the Homestead, gift shops open and Valentown Garden Club Garden Tour Fundraiser (7 locations in Victor/Farmington including the herb and heirloom gardens at Valentown funded with grants from NYS & 7<sup>th</sup> Dist FGC).

**June:** Saturday Craft demonstrations; Tea Room and Gift Shops open; Educational Programming begins; publication of Newsletter to membership; board training and evaluations; board dinner with Victor and Valentown Garden Clubs June 10<sup>th</sup> at Homestead.

**July:** Saturday demos; gift shops and Tea Room open; "Victorian Victor" Lecture and Family Heritage Day; Youth History Camp.

**August:** Saturday demos; gift shops and Tea Room open; prepare presentation and budget request for Town.

**September:** Saturday demos; gift shops and Tea Room open; Speaker Series with Dr. Gary Lehmann and Babette Huber; "Fall Family Heritage Festival"/"Hang Around Victor Day"; publication of Newsletter to Membership.

**October:** Fall Fundraiser (to be determined).

**November:** End of year evaluations of 2009 activities, events, projects and programs including role of Board members.

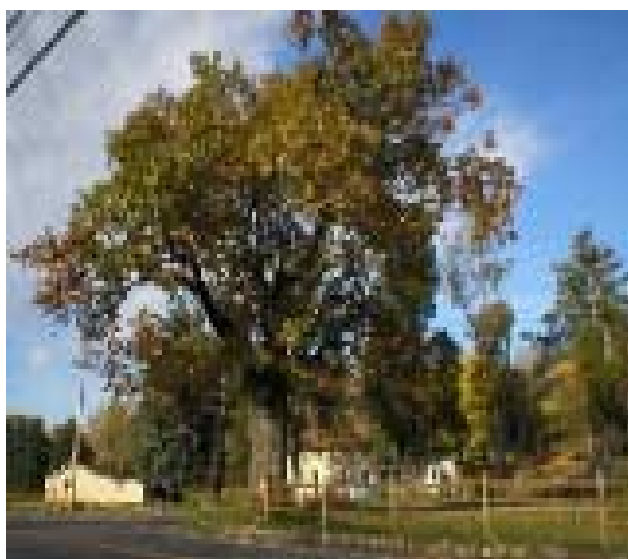
**December:** Holiday Fundraiser; Holiday Party for Board and Committee members; Publication of Newsletter to Membership; planning meetings for 2010.

# COMING THIS SUMMER ~ 2009

## Historic Valentown's Hands on History Day Camp

Spend a week exploring and enjoying life as a child in the 19th Century, at Historic Valentown. Open to boys and girls entering grades 4 through 6 in the 2009-2010 school year.

Children will become 19th century apprentices. They will learn about the lives and craft of the weaver, cobbler, broom maker, harness maker, and baker. Children will learn through, experience-hands on activities, about the daily life of children in our area from over a hundred years ago, and of course time will be spent in school.



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1820  
**SPRINGDALE FARM  
BED & BREAKFAST**



Let the beauty and smells of  
autumn surround!  
Stay 2 nights or more  
starting at  
**\$129** a night for 2 adults.  
[www.springdalefarmbb.com](http://www.springdalefarmbb.com)

Valentown is a intriguing Historical Museum located in Victor, New York. It contains thousands of artifacts, objects and heirlooms that represent the local 19th century history of the Victor and Rochester, New York area.

VALENTOWN MUSEUM

7173 Valentown Square  
Victor, NY 14564

Phone: 585-924-9456  
Fax: 555-555-5555  
E-mail: Valentown.org

*Valentown Gazette*

Valentown was originally built in 1879 as a shopping plaza and community center by Levi Valentine. Today it stands as a monument to his inspiration for building a town on top of his own family farm land.

Levi Valentine had built Valentown next to land where a railroad was supposed to arrive. Unfortunately, the company that was building the railroad ran out of funds and tracks before they could reach Valentown. Eventually Valentown was vacated and left untouched. In 1940 historian J. Sheldon Fisher and later turned Valentown into a Historical Museum.

**Museum open Thursdays and Saturdays and by appointment  
May 2009 - September 2009**

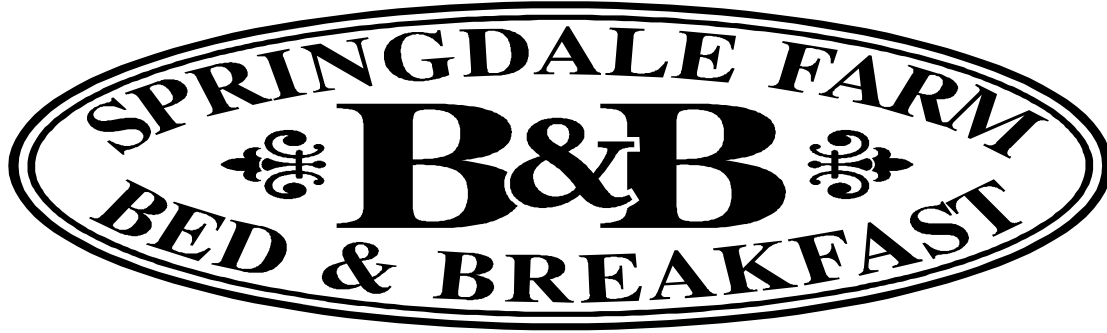
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### Ghost Hunts

Fridays and  
Saturdays by  
Appointment  
go To  
Valentown.org  
For more info

**Grandma Hatties Tea Room**, at the Valentown Museum in Victor, NY, in the 1830's era Greek Revival farmhouse build by Ichabod Town next to the Valentown Museum. The buildings and grounds were purchased by the Victor Historical Society in 1998 and the Homestead was renovated for the Tea Room in February, 2008. It is run by Kathleen Houser of "Grandma Hattie's Tea Party Garden Accessories" who offers Luncheon, Afternoon and Specialty Tea Parties by reservation as well as a Gift Shop on the first floor. For more information go to [www.GrandmaHattiesTeaParty.com](http://www.GrandmaHattiesTeaParty.com) or email [info@Grandmahattiesteparty.com](mailto:info@Grandmahattiesteparty.com).



*Blue Bird Nesting Event at  
1820 Springdale Farm Bed & Breakfast with  
A homey Farm Fresh Breakfast  
June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009 @ 8:30am (guided tour) Breakfast at 9:30 am  
Cost \$18.00 per person*

Spend a morning observing the beautiful Blue Bird with Victor's Parks and Recreation guide (Ken Waters) at the Mary Frances Nature Preserve County Rd. 9 Victor, NY.

Stroll across the street to 1820 Springdale Farm Bed & Breakfast and enjoy a tasteful Farm Fresh breakfast at the Inn. Afterwards relax outside while sitting in one of our Adirondack chairs or enjoy a stroll on the property and explore 40 or more acres' of hiking trails just a step or two from the Inn.



Homestlye Breakfast Includes: fresh local farm grown products. Fruit, eggs, sausage, blue berry pancakes, homemade breads whole grain breads, juices, coffee.  
Price: per person 18.00  
Contact Victor Town Recreation Department at 585-742-0140

Once declining in population, Bluebirds are making a comeback. Due in part to the bird watching public placing bird houses to attract these sky blue beauties.

You might find it interesting to know that the bluebird was once as common as the American Robin. Numbers declined in part, from nest competition with House Sparrows and the European Starling. Loss of habitat is another factor. Through the efforts of the North American Bluebird Society and individual bird-watchers, bluebirds are beginning to thrive.