



*Afton Historical Society*  
*2017 Museum Notes*

This has been a busy year so far for the Afton Museum.

We are extremely fortunate to have Kathy Ouimet as our new Town Historian. Originally from the Unadilla area, she has worked with historical societies and in the field of genealogy for many years. She has constructed a website for the Society and museum. You can find us at [www.aftonhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.aftonhistoricalsociety.org), and you can also check out our current activities on Facebook.

Our Past President, Charles Decker, was named Citizen of the Year by the Afton Chamber of Commerce. Everyone enjoyed a wonderful luncheon on June 4<sup>th</sup> in his honor.

Our Armed Forces Day Program this year honored William and Lynn Loomis, two of Afton's WW I veterans. After a brief ceremony at their graves in the North Afton Cemetery, we had a program in the Susquehanna Room. Lynn's grandson, Jamie Baciaska, gave his recollections of the brothers, and Dr. Frasier gave a very interesting talk on the Austro-Hungarian background to WW I. His father had served in the Austrian army, and Dr. Frasier shared some of his father's recollections of the war. This being the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United States' entry into WW I, we plan to make WW I the theme of our 2018 calendar.

The steps to the museum deteriorated so badly over the winter that they have to be replaced. We wanted the new steps to replicate as closely as possible the original 1916 steps made by Frank Lewis. The cost to do this is \$6,500.00. We were fortunate to receive a grant for \$2500.00 from the Community Foundation for South Central New York and a grant for \$1,000.00 from the Community Foundation for Unadilla, New York to help us do this. We will need to use our savings to make up the \$3,000.00 difference, so we will be fund raising for Capital construction funds throughout this year in order to replace the money taken from our savings.

We will be hosting a vintage automobile "Cruise In" on July 22 (rain date July 29), will have an Open House on Aug. 26<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with Afton's "Sidewalk Day", and a program by Kathy Ouimet on how to research your family tree on September 21.

We continue to work with the museum's extensive collection and thanks to a donation for archival storage materials from the Village of Afton, we are working to consolidate and arrange our many historic postcards so that they will be much more accessible to researchers.

We welcome volunteers to work with the collections, and to help with landscaping and maintenance. If you have some time to spare, please let us know. You may e-mail me, Wendy Caldiero, at [wendycaldiero@tds.net](mailto:wendycaldiero@tds.net) or call Society president, Anne Briggs, at (607) 639-1125 or me at (607) 693-1408. We are open on Saturdays from 10:00 to 1:00 through the Columbus Day weekend. Or you can call Anne or me for an appointment.

