

Fort Edwards Gazette

The Newsletter of the Fort Edwards Foundation Inc. + Volume 19 Issue 3 + Septembet 2015

Highlights

- A note from the Foundation President
- Mrs. Edwards - Invitation to Tea
- Raise High the Roof Beam

A note from president Robert Flanagan at the onset of autumn:

At the time of this writing, I am honored with the office of president of The Fort Edwards Foundation, Inc. It is my intent to offer my resignation at the next Board of Directors' monthly meeting on September 14. Health issues interfere greatly with my ability to perform the necessary duties of office; and though recent treatment has mitigated some of these debilitating issues, others remain which continue to hamper my usefulness. The intent is that this early resignation will provide a two-month period of consideration and reflection on the part of the voting Board members to prepare for new elections. Continuity is assured in the meantime by the solid leadership of a strong Vice President, David Pancake. Dave has expressed his willingness to step up to the presidential tasks in the interim before annual elections, scheduled now to occur on November 9, 2015.

At the heart of these health issues, the severe loss of vision hampers my ability to write, edit and lay out this newsletter — *The Gazette* — and I have asked to be relieved of that task. John Lister has volunteered to take on those responsibilities. John is a detail-oriented individual who serves us well as our foundation Treasurer; he is the best opportunity for the editorship and will “do us proud.” John will continue to accept articles and notes, submitted by Board and general members for publication and membership-wide distribution. E-mail John at <jlister3@verizon.net>.

With approval of the Board of Directors and the officers of the foundation, I will continue to serve on the Board and the Executive Committee; I will continue in my appointed role as Director of the Visitor Center Museum Store and book shop; and will continue as lead docent, responsible for docent training and update and maintenance of the Docent Manual. And I will continue to work on the new video presentation, which is now under production. Some other smaller issues with which I've been identified may have to be relegated to new persons; those decisions will be the province of the newly elected coalition of officers after November, 2015.

It has been my privilege and great satisfaction to serve as your president for a total of seven years (three as President Pro-Tem while in the role of Vice President). We have together accomplished many satisfying goals with the establishment and maintenance of our many programs and projects; the growth of our exhibits; and I am particularly proud of what we have done in building a remarkable outlet for sales of books, maps, CDs and art prints in the book shop segment of our Museum Store.

Board of Directors

The current Board of Directors of the Fort Edwards Foundation, Inc., are tenured through November of the year shown in parenthesis.

Jeanne Barb (2016)
Clyde DeWitt (2017) *
Judith DeWitt (2017)
Chris Duckworth (2017)
Julia Flanagan (2016)
Robert Flanagan (2016) *
Mark Jones (2017) *
John Lister (2016) *
MaryAnne Lister (2016)
David Pancake (Tenure open; *
Appointed, Hampshire County
Commission)
Timothy Reese (Tenure open;
Appointed, town of Capon Bridge)
Mark Tooley (2016)
Charles Hall (Board Member
Emeritus)
* [Executive Committee member]

Officers for 2015

President: Robert Flanagan
Vice President: Dave Pancake
Secretary: Mark Jones
Treasurer: John Lister

Committee Chairs

Grants/Funding: Mark Tooley
Grounds: Dave Pancake
Hospitality: Judith & Clyde DeWitt
Junior Docents: MaryAnne Lister
Kitchen Garden: Julia Flanagan
Membership/Data: John Lister
Newsletter: John Lister
Research/Pubs: Charles Hall
Visitor Center: Robert Flanagan
Webmaster: Charles Hall

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www.fortedwards.org

Presidents Message contined

My personal accomplishments could only have been possible by the supportive actions of our membership who have always responded positively to our efforts for fund-raising and attendance at our public functions; the critical hosting of our fund-raiser Wine & Cheese events by Roberta and Dick Munske, Lynn and Bill Golemon, Merrie and John Hammond (for 10 years), and Lee Anna and Rolf Mielzarek the last two years; and the munificent and timely support of The Freas Foundation, Inc., who has been our financial backstop for some nine or ten years now. My grateful acknowledgments to all these wonderful "keepers of the faith."

I look forward to the exciting, innovative new directions in which new officers may take us, and ask all you reading this to make yourselves heard by sending your input to us; or better yet, attend monthly Board meetings and voice your ideas and interests.

My very sincere appreciation for all your support, for me and for our Fort Edwards foundation./Bob

An Invitation

*Mrs Joseph Edwards
Requests the honor of your company
For afternoon tea
The Fourth of October
From Two to Four
At The Fort Edwards Visitors Center*

To celebrate another successful year at the Fort Edwards Visitors Center and to further our aim of increasing the number of Foundation members, we are holding a tea party at the Visitor's Center on Sunday afternoon, October 4, 2015. Please come and enjoy delicious treats prepared from colonial era recipes and chat with Mrs. Edwards (our own lovely Judy DeWitt) about life on the Frontier.

There will be no admission cost and everyone is encouraged to get in the spirit of the event by donning 18th Century attire. Questions and RSVP please contact MaryAnne Lister, at mamlister@verizon.net.

Raise High the Roofbeam, Carpenters

Forgive the theft of the title from J.D. Salinger's fourth book, but the inference seems ready-made. We may not raise the roof beam, as such, but the roof fascia boards have to go, to be replaced due to rot. Much of the south and north walls of Fort Edwards's Visitor Center building must be replaced. Work is imperative on the back porch rails, the pavilion roof structures and the Kitchen Garden north fence and raised beds framing. And if this is just now coming to you as news, it is "business-as-usual" with the officers and Board of the foundation.

Built in 2000, the Visitor Center has, in our view, held up very well. Only once before, some 4-5 years ago, did we indulge ourselves with a new coating of paint (a *wash* actually; a kind of thin stain to allow knot holes in the siding to be visible as a part of the charm of the representative structure), and that was made possible by volunteer labor by Vic Mathias and Jay Turner of the Capon Bridge Ruritan Club. Many thanks, guys; it's carried us on this far.

No significant repairs have ever been made. But now, along with the structural repairs, the entire building will be power-washed and it will be given two coats of paint. New face for an old idea.

We anticipate beginning this work in the spring of 2016, when contractors deem it most weather-compliant; and we anticipate the work will be completed well before opening day for 2016.

In addition, work is anticipated on the "old house" which stands at the site of the original fort-and-domicile. Age, weather and insufficient upkeep have contributed to a dangerous and debilitating condition of collapse on the northeast corner, due to some structural changes implemented an unknown number of years ago. We are contracting to perform enough work on that element to prevent further collapse; this is not a project of restoration.

And, as has been "in the works" for some years now, we are again attempting to move forward with completion (however far that is deemed to be on a work-in-progress) of the fort mock-up (the so-called "faux fort") in our eastern field. Gun ports to be cut; firing platforms to be implemented; cleared of grass and brush about the wall to allow foot traffic of visitors, and whatever other additions/modifications deemed practicable, will be implement this autumn and carry over as long as needed in 2016.

Anyone with contributing ideas, physical labor and/or donated funds are welcome.

Frontier Day - 2016

In an effort to reduce conflicts with other events and promote attendance of Hampshire Family Frontier Day the schedule for 2016 will be a week earlier, the third Saturday in June, the 18th. Anyone with contributing other ideas will be welcomed.

The Fort Edwards Foundation, .

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Capon Bridge, WV 26711



MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name

Street Address or PO Box number

City, State and ZIP code

Telephone number, including are code

E-mail address

- Lifetime membership dues: \$500.00
 Individual annual dues: \$20.00
 Family annual dues: \$30.00
(Include names of spouse and children)

- Additional donation (tax deductible)

Cut out form and mail with check to address above.

Readings on the French and Indian War

The Fort Edwards Foundation, at the Visitor Center, maintains an extensive selection of books on the F&I War, the Colonial period and a few major historical figures. The following are some recommended and favorite titles, all reviewable on our website at the tab "Bibliography" on www.fortedwards.org

Crucible of War, Fred Anderson, best F&I book
Blooding at Great Meadows, Alan Axelrod; the young Geo. Washington learning his trade
New France and New England, John Fiske
Montcalm and Wolfe, Frances Parkman
Hampshire County Crisis, Terry Gruber
Joseph Edwards, M. Quisenberry, R. Munske
General Braddock's Defeat, Charles Hall (Ed)
Trans-Allegheny Pioneers, John P. Hale
Braddock Road Chronicles, Andrew J. Wahl
The Hunting Pioneers, Robert & Donna Holden
Washington's Expeditions, James Hadden
Braddock's Road, Norman Baker

Review 250 more books, maps, and other works of history and culture on our website.