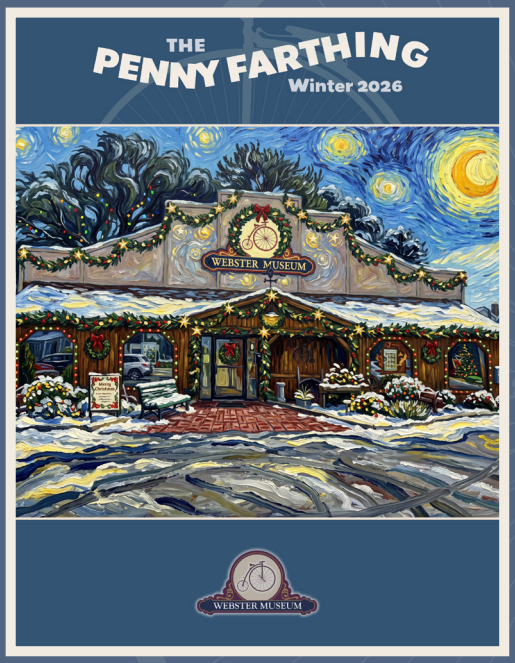
THE PENNY FARTHING

Winter 2026



WEBSTER MUSEUM



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Where Life is Worth Living

A little Winter reminder from the Orlando Visitors Bureau.

Life Members

Just inside the museum's entry, our Life Members & Benefactors Tree greets all visitors to the museum. Alongside the engraved leaves for Life Members, the tree also features engraved apples to honor Benefactors—those whose gifts go well beyond the Life Membership level. A heartfelt thank-you to all who have become Life Members over the years—including our newest 2025–2026 Life Members:



Daniel & Carolyn Corretore
Alice Dunn
Catherine DuBreck
Elizabeth Feor
Jill Malley
Frank & Rebecca Tiberio
Bruce Winslow

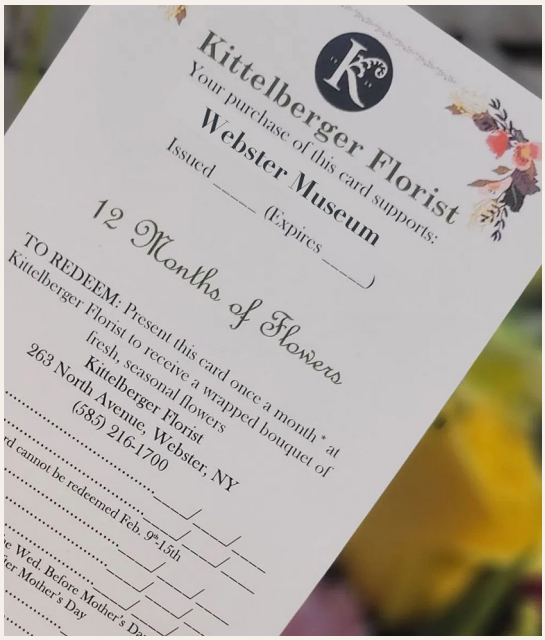
Life Membership - $200
Senior Life Membership (62 years and older) **- $150**
Benefactor - $3000

WEBSTER MUSEUM

The Webster Museum and Historical Society
18 Lapham Park, Webster, New York 14580 | *webstermuseum.org*
Tuesdays | Thursdays | Saturdays 2:00-4:30 pm

Webster Museum

Celebrating History



Kittelberger Flower Cards

November 24 - December 12

The Webster Museum and Historical Society is pleased to again offer **12 Months of Flowers** cards from Kittelberger Florist!

Purchase a 12 Months of Flowers card at the museum for $50 between November 24 and December 12, and receive one bouquet each month, for 12 consecutive months. Bouquets must be picked up each month at Kittelberger Florist, 263 North Ave, Webster

Kittelberger cards can be purchased from any museum volunteer, or during museum open hours: Tuesdays, Thursdays, & Saturdays 2:00 - 4:30 pm and during the Village **Winter Wonderland** celebration on Saturday, December 5 from 2:00 - 6:00 PM.

Museum Raffle

November 1 - December 5

Featuring gifts and vouchers from generous local businesses. Tickets will be available at the museum from Saturday, November 1 until Saturday, December 5 at the Winter Wonderland event. Tickets are 3/$5.00. Winners do not need to be present at the drawing.







THE WEBSTER MUSEUM'S FESTIVAL OF TREES





It's that wonderful time of the year when the Webster Museum is getting ready to welcome you to our **Winter Wonderland Tree Festival**. On **Saturday, December 5th**, the Webster Museum will open the doors to welcome you to our annual Tree Decorating Contest. We will have **19 beautiful trees** decorated by local groups in Webster. There will also be our Memory Tree, where you can add the name of a loved one that you have lost to an angel on the tree. This will be your first chance to see and vote for your favorite tree. The museum will be open from 2:00-6:00 pm.

Live music begins at 4:00 with the **Goodwin Family**, for a good old **Christmas sing-a-along**. And at 5:00 the **Saxophone Therapy Project** will continue the music fun with more holiday favorites.

The museum will also have our holiday raffle of gifts and vouchers, generously donated by local businesses. Your support is greatly appreciated. The **Kittelberger Florist** flower cards for 12 months of flowers will also be available for purchase at the museum from November 24th - December 12th.

We are looking forward to seeing you at the museum, on **Saturday, December 5th** for a wonderful holiday evening for all.

DECEMBER 5th at 2pm



Burkardt Family Creche

The Burkardt Family Crèche will be on display at the Webster Museum and Historical Society during the month of December. This one-of-a-kind crèche was handcrafted in Germany between World War I and World War II, and was gifted to Frieda and Henrick Seaubert of Frankfurt.

The Seauberts safeguarded the crèche during World War II, even as their home was bombed. After the war, the Seauberts sent the crèche to Frieda Seaubert's brother, Rudolph Burkardt, Sr., in Webster. It was shipped across the Atlantic in three boxes, making its way to its new home.

Today, the Burkardt crèche is a treasured piece of history, displayed every December at the museum. The beautifully hand-carved pieces are carefully unwrapped and set within the manger to depict the nativity. After the Christmas season, the pieces are hand-oiled, re-wrapped, and preserved for another year.

Take a break from your busy holiday schedule and stop by to view this amazing work of art.



Frankfurt, Germany in 1920.













BLANCHE HOAGLAND FISHER DIARIES

PIECING TOGETHER THE STORIES OF OUR PAST

BY: EILEEN BROOKINS

Reading the diaries of Blanche Hoagland Fisher I have been able to get a glimpse into the adventurous nature of Blanche and her husband, Arthur. On June 4, 1913, Blanche wrote in her diary: *"Russel Mason demonstrated auto in eve and took us on Lake Road, Sea Breeze, Forest Lawn and back home. Very nice machine, expect to buy."*

The Fishers did indeed purchase a Studebaker from Mr. Mason. On June 8, Blanche noted, *"Have our new Studebaker auto today."*

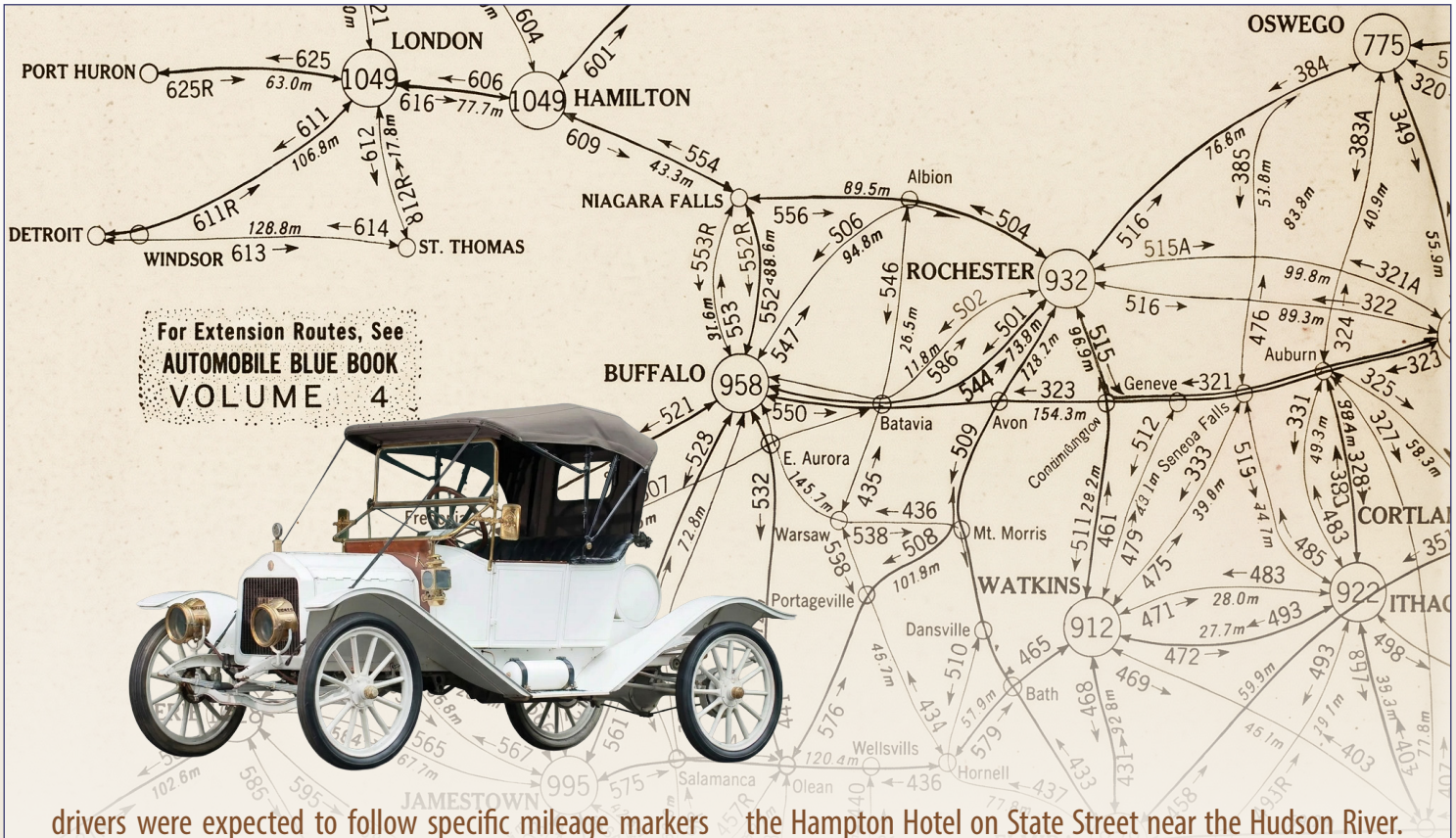
Their vehicle was acquired through a local partnership. In the early 1910s, D. H. Wright and Russel B. Mason partnered to sell E. M. F. 30 and Flanders 20 automobiles from a storehouse on Lapham Park. This company aligned with Studebaker to produce a new, low-priced car to compete directly with the Ford Model T, initially calling it the Flanders 20. By 1913, the vehicles they marketed were known as Studebakers. Coincidentally, this storehouse occupied the same grounds where Webster Museum now stands.

The Fishers thoroughly enjoyed their new automobile, taking evening rides throughout the county. Arthur's siblings lived in Mt. Morris, New York and the couple often drove out to visit them.

Long-distance travel at this time was rare and difficult. While a few main roads had relatively stable surfaces, secondary roads were usually unimproved dirt or gravel. Maintained only by local communities or individuals, these roadways deteriorated seasonally, becoming mud pits in the spring, snow traps in the winter, and dust bowls in the summer. Mechanical failures were frequent. With little roadside assistance available, drivers depended on their own tools and skills. Following one evening ride, Blanche casually noted that they had a fine trip with only *"one puncture."*

In July 1913, Blanche and Arthur decided to take their new car on a journey to visit family and friends in the Boston area. This was a heavy undertaking. Their preparations likely included packing mechanical tools, shovels, flashlights, blankets, extra food, and spare gasoline.

Major highways did not yet exist; the first cross-country highway, the Lincoln Highway, would not open until 1916. Furthermore, modern road maps were unavailable. Instead, Blanche and Arthur likely relied on the *Official Automobile Blue Book*. This guide provided turn-by-turn directions alongside recommendations for lodging and places to visit. Rather than relying on its basic fold-out reference map,



drivers were expected to follow specific mileage markers and text directions. For example, when leaving Albany for Williamstown, Massachusetts, Blanche and Arthur might have read instructions similar to these from in the 1916 Official Automobile Blue Book:

MILEAGE		
0.0	0.0	Albany: State and Pearl St. Follow Route 67 to
17.0	17.0	Fork: bear right with macadam past wood church.
19.9	2.9	Fork: bear left along the Quackenkill.
22.1	2.2	End of road; turn right avoiding next left.

Traveling this way meant hoping the landmarks like the "wood church" were still standing, and drivers frequently had to stop to ask locals for directions.

The Fishers officially began their journey on July 16, leaving Rochester at 2:15 PM. Their first stop was Syracuse, arriving at 8:30 PM to stay at the Yates Hotel, located opposite Syracuse City Hall. The next morning, they departed Syracuse at 8:30 AM and arrived in Albany by 7:00 PM, checking into the Hampton Hotel on State Street near the Hudson River. Blanche wrote happily in her diary: *"fine day for a ride, enjoyed every minute of it."*

On July 18, the Fishers left Albany at 7:15 AM and headed for Palmer, Massachusetts, arriving at 8:00 PM – a journey today that would take about an hour and a half. Blanche described the day's journey as a *"Fine ride through the Berkshire Hills. Beautiful scenery and almost all good roads."*

The next ten days were filled with visiting family and friends, sightseeing, and driving along the coast. On July 29, they began their journey home. The Fishers retraced their route, spending nights in Albany and Syracuse. Summarizing her days on the road, Blanche wrote: *"had lunch and ate it under a shade tree, Syracuse at 6pm, staid [stayed] at the Yates, fine trip so far, beautiful ride through the Berkshire Hills yesterday."* The Fishers safely arrived back home on August 1.

Blanche and Arthur Fisher's 1913 trek to Boston highlights the true spirit of early American automobilists. In an era dictated by unpredictable dirt roads, sparse navigation tools, and very little roadside support, their successful round-trip journey was a testament to both their personal resourcefulness and the reliability of their new Studebaker.



HISTORIAN'S CORNER

A Winter Snapshot from Main Street

LYNN BARTON WEBSTER HISTORIAN

On a cold, bright day sometime in the late 1920s or 1930s, someone stood on Main Street with a camera and caught two eras passing each other. On the left is a sedan with a driver behind the wheel. In the center, a horse is hauling a wagon.

The photo captures a moment when the village was between worlds. The automobile had arrived, but the horse was far from retired. Anyone who needed to haul coal, milk, ice, feed, or firewood could still count on a sturdy wagon and a good animal.

The street scene depicts the era. On the far right is a low-slung bungalow with a deep, square-columned porch that was popular in the 1910s and 20s. Utility poles show that telephone service (ca. 1901) and electric service (ca. 1912) had already come to the village.

Photos like this are small time machines. They remind us that "Main Street" has always been a place where the old and new share the road, and that today's changes, like new businesses, new traffic, and new technology, are only the latest chapter.

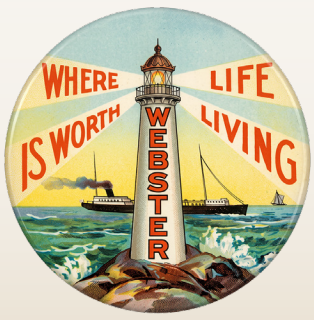
HISTORIC PROPERTIES



699 & 709
FIVE MILE LINE ROAD

The saltbox-style home and barn at 699 Five Mile Line Road and the cider mill at 709 Five Mile Line Road were built in 1835 by Perry Langdon. Donat Mayer and his son bought the property in 1872 and began grinding and pressing their excess apples into cider. The cider mill grew as more people brought their apples to be processed. Harvey Mayer bought the property and later sold the cider mill to the Bower family and the Midnight family in 1962. The Mayer Cider Mill continues to be one of the very few cider mills remaining in Webster.

Beginning in 2008, the Webster Historic Properties Committee has awarded a brass plaque to those properties with known histories, significant architectural detail, and architectural integrity. These properties answer "yes" to the question: "Would the people who first lived here still recognize it?" 699 and 709 Five Mile Line Road were awarded a plaque in 2014.







New Museum items

Visit our website to see the latest available designs.

Albert "Dad" Andrews

April 23rd, 1876 – September 8th, 1956

Albert D. Andrews was one of those lucky people who find their calling early in life. Ten-year-old Albert visited a print shop in 1886 and decided then and there to make printing his life's work. This was no problem in a time devoid of child labor laws. Having finished the eighth grade, Albert began working at his craft at age 13. He became a journeyman at 15 and soon acquired broad experience in print shops in Central and Western New York.

Born in Humphrey, Cattaraugus County, NY, he left the family home for his apprenticeships. In July of 1899, still single and now an experienced printer, he moved to Webster. Albert arrived in Webster with a purpose in mind: to publish a weekly newspaper. He produced the first issue of *The Webster Herald* on September 1, 1899 - the same newspaper we are still reading over 125 years later. His first editorial included his newspaper's motto: "First, last, and always the news."

On April 18, 1906, Albert married Josephine Esther Hart of Penfield. She participated fully in his publishing and printing business: reporting, writing, and editing. Rounding out the family business were their children Frank and Roberta, as well as two of Albert's sisters. By 1930, the family was living at 39 Elm Street, joining the Bonenblusts, Pelletts, and Hawleys as neighbors. He would move to 74 East Main Street by 1940.

The Herald grew as Webster grew in population and complexity of issues. Albert published what the town was facing at any given time, doing his part as a citizen, an editor, and a publisher, to make Webster a thriving community. He advocated for the incorporation of the Village of Webster and the organization of the Webster Volunteer Fire Department. He crusaded for the installation of Webster's water system in 1908 and promoted the civic organizations that preceded the Chamber of Commerce. He was a member of the Webster Masonic Lodge and a charter member of both the Royal Arch and Tall Cedars. His name appears on a plaque in the former Webster High School honoring his support for the "new" school completed in 1925.



In his spare time, Albert took part in amateur theater at the Grange and learned to play the tuba in order to participate in the Webster Military Band he had helped to organize.

Albert published The Webster Herald from his shop on the south side of West Main Street until 1923 when he sold it to the first of several subsequent owners. Albert continued to accept printing work until 1936 when his health declined and he took some time to recover. In 1944, he rejoined The Webster Herald as a printer and worked there part-time until about a year before his death in 1956. His nickname of "Dad" was an honorific tip of the hat to his longevity at the Herald. In his last two years, he occasionally wrote a column for the Herald called "Observations of a Crawfish." Albert and Josephine are buried in West Webster Cemetery.

This article was inspired by Kathy Taddeo's biography **Albert "Dad" Andrews** written by and published on the History page of our website. To see more local biographies, visit the Webster. . .Through the Years project at *wtty.webstermuseum.org*









AMERICA 250 CELEBRATION

250 America at the Museum

What a great time we had! On October 3, the museum hosted a "250 America" celebration, honoring the early days of Webster. We had penny candy for sale at Witmer's, and ice cream at the Candy Kitchen. The visitors made a paper friendship quilt and learned a few lessons in a one-room schoolhouse. We made butter and tasted apples. There were old-time toys and old-time music, a children's militia, and a presentation on Webster's military history. We had quilters and an early apothecary. Our grange and dried apple industry were represented. Byron Woodhull made an appearance, giving a rousing talk that was so inspiring, some of the early residents of North Penfield decided to name our new town after him. Even the weather cooperated!



THE CHRISTMAS TREE IN AMERICA

Though evergreen decorations have been recorded as far back as Roman times, the tradition of the Christmas tree developed in the German-speaking regions of what is now France and Germany in the 15th and 16th centuries, eventually making its way to America.

1747: A German Moravian settlement in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, set up wooden pyramids covered with **evergreen branches** and decorated with candles. This is widely regarded as the first documented Christmas tree in America.

1850: Sarah Josepha Hale published a picture of a **Christmas tree** in the magazine *Godey's Lady's Book*, helping popularize the custom in the United States.

1851: Mark Carr, a Catskills woodsman, set up America's first **Christmas tree lot**. He felled trees in the Catskills and transported them to Manhattan by oxcart.

1889: President Benjamin Harrison placed the first known **family Christmas tree** in the White House's second-floor Oval Room and decorated it with candles and toys.

1903: General Electric began selling the first pre-assembled **string lights**, gradually replacing dangerous, fire-prone wax candles.

1923: President Calvin Coolidge started the **National Christmas Tree** lighting ceremony on the Ellipse in Washington, D.C., with a 48-foot balsam fir.

1931: Construction workers erected the first informal **Rockefeller Center** tree in New York City at the height of the Great Depression. The official annual public tree lighting began in 1933.

1950s: Mass-produced **Shiny Brite** glass ornaments (see pg. 14) dominated living rooms, alongside the launch of the futuristic **Evergleam** aluminum tree in 1959.

1965: The animated special ***A Charlie Brown Christmas*** premiered, introducing the Charlie Brown Christmas tree.

1970: **Wilbert's Christmas Tree Farm** opened to the public. Today they are growing over 180,000 trees planted on over 100 acres of land.





The Illustrated London News, December 1848



Godey's Lady's Book, December 1850

Sarah Josepha Hale

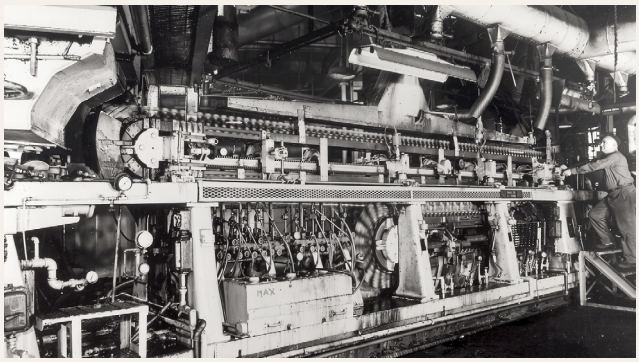
Not only was Sarah Josepha Hale the influential editor of America's most popular periodical of the time, *Godey's Lady's Book* (1837–1877), she was also the author of the well-known nursery rhyme "Mary Had a Little Lamb." After multiple attempts with previous presidents, Hale successfully lobbied Abraham Lincoln to establish Thanksgiving as a national holiday.

Through *Godey's Lady's Book*, she helped popularize the Christmas tree in North America by reimagining an illustration of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert with their Christmas tree at Windsor Castle. The original, first published in *The Illustrated London News* in December 1848, was altered to accommodate an American audience by the removal of Victoria's tiara and Albert's mustache.



Sarah Josepha Buell Hale (October 24, 1788 – April 30, 1879)





A ribbon machine at Corning's Wellsboro, Pennsylvania factory.



Corning also produced Christmas bulbs under its own name and for other companies.

SHINY BRITE®

Shiny Brite ornaments trace their roots to the town of Lauscha, Germany where glass Christmas decorations have been produced since the mid-19th century. Artisan glassblowers created hand-blown ornaments in the shapes of fruit, nuts, and other forms, often silvered inside with a compound containing silver nitrate to give them a reflective sheen. These items were eventually exported widely, including to the United States, where retailers such as F.W. Woolworth popularized them in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Max and Ernst Eckardt grew up in Lauscha and opened a hand-decorated glass ornament factory in nearby Oberlind in 1926. They also established a presence in New York. Max Eckardt emigrated to the United States in the late 1920s and continued to import ornaments from Germany.

Anticipating that rising tensions in Europe would disrupt the supply of German glassware, Eckardt founded the Shiny Brite Company in the U.S. in 1937. The name reflected the bright, reflective quality achieved by lining the interiors of the ornaments with silver nitrate. He partnered with Corning Glass Works in Wellsboro, Pennsylvania, which adapted its high-speed ribbon machines—originally designed for producing light bulbs—to manufacture clear glass ornament blanks. These blanks were shipped to Eckardt's factories, primarily in New Jersey, for silvering, lacquering, and decoration. With a large commitment from Woolworth's, the first machine-made Shiny Brite ornaments reached stores in December 1939 and sold for just a few cents each.

World War II validated Eckardt's foresight. Imports from Germany halted, and American-made Shiny Brite ornaments filled the gap. The fact that they were produced in the United States became a strong selling point. Corning scaled up dramatically, producing hundreds of thousands of blanks daily at peak wartime output.

The 1950s marked the company's heyday, with multiple factories operating to meet demand and machine-assisted decoration increasing efficiency. Shiny Brite ornaments became a familiar feature of American Christmas trees.

By the late 1950s and 1960s, cheaper and more durable plastic ornaments gained popularity, reducing demand for glass. The company changed hands—sold in the mid-1950s and later acquired by Poloron—and production gradually wound down, ending in the early 1980s. Eckardt himself died in 1961. Vintage Shiny Brite ornaments remained cherished by collectors for their nostalgic appeal and historical connection to mid-century American holidays. In the late 1990s and early 2000s, designer Christopher Radko acquired the rights and began producing new glass ornaments inspired by the classic designs, helping keep the name alive for contemporary audiences.

zoe@webstersviridarium.com

Time Well Spent

by Gwen Hoffman



Are you looking for ways to give back to our community?

Here are 6 great volunteer opportunities to consider.

The Webster Museum

Join our volunteers to help staff visitor hours, educate the public, and assist community archives. You can also help setting up exhibits, helping with publicity or other writing tasks. You can definitely help out on Nov.16th when we set up our 20 Christmas Trees for our event on Dec. 5th. | *webstermuseum.org*

Bella's Bumbas

Volunteers help pack miniature wheelchairs for children with a wide variety of mobility issues, write "kids cards" for the chair recipients, and help to clean up the workshop. | *bellasbumbas.com*

Friends of Webster Trails

Assist in planning and promoting recreational trails as well as trail maintenance on work days. | *webstertrails.org*

Jack Foundation

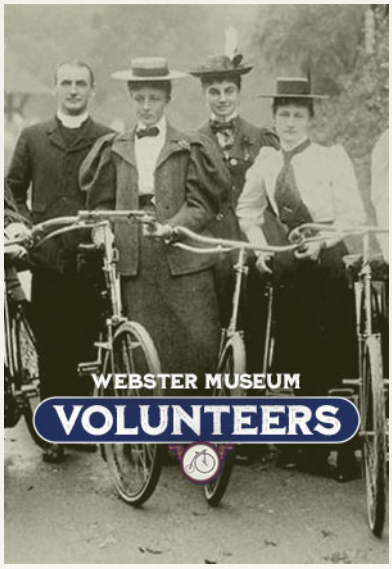
Get involved by doing random acts of kindness, in memory of Jack James Heiligman, and donate towards the construction of dinosaur themed playgrounds.

Never Say Never Stables

A non-profit providing life enriching horse-related experiences for children and teens facing long-term illnesses, special needs, or major life challenges. Volunteers are trained to act as support staff, monitor an activity and offer encouragement to the participants. | *neversayneverstables.com*

Webster Comfort Care

A compassionate end-of-life care facility, relying on volunteers for resident companionship, facility support, and community event fundraising. | *webstercomfortcare.org*



VOLUNTEERS

New volunteers are always welcome!

It takes a variety of skills to run a small museum.

Are you thinking about volunteering? There are many ways to get involved, from giving tours and greeting visitors to helping with historic research and writing grants.

If you have a few hours available in your schedule, we would enjoy discussing how you can get involved. We promise, you'll have fun!

E-Mail wliwl@*webstermuseum.org* to learn more.



MEMBERSHIPS & CONTRIBUTIONS

JOIN, RENEW, or DONATE ONLINE

(or fill out the attached form)

Without the financial support of the Webster community, there would be no Webster Museum.

There is no admission charge to visit the museum and we have no paid staff. We are a 100% volunteer organization dedicated to preserving, researching, and sharing the history of Webster and its residents.

Your support is greatly appreciated!



DONATE TO OUR COLLECTION

Have a historic Webster related item?

We are always interested in unique items that help document the story of Webster and enhance its presentation to the public. That said, we are a small museum with limited storage space which forces us to be very selective in what we add to our collection. If you have an item you would like us to consider, please tell us about it.

Our collections team is usually available **Monday mornings** between 9:00 am and noon. Give us a call (**585 265-3308**) or drop us a line to let us know you will be stopping in.











Visit the Webster Museum

Did you ever wonder how people lived, worked and played over 100 years ago?



Come to the Webster Museum and travel through time.....



- Discover evidence that Mammoths wandered your neighborhood 1000's of years ago
- Experience math and reading lessons in an actual one room school house
- See stone tools and weapons designed by Native Americans that could have camped in your backyard
- Stroll down a typical main street featuring businesses of the early 1900s
- Visit multiple displays and observe how our daily living has changed, but our needs for survival remain the same



Teachers, Parents, and Scout Leaders, guided group tours are provided on request. We are prepared to meet your curriculum goals and adjust our tour to meet your needs.

Please visit our website (*webstermuseum.org*) to find more specific information on all our museum has to offer. Read excerpts of actual diaries from children growing up in rural America! See examples of our exhibits!



Remember our exhibits change seasonally and rotate to reflect current events, so stop in often to the Webster Museum where we work to become a valuable resource to your community.

To schedule a tour, please contact:

School & Scout Tours: Jill Kraft 585-507-1908

Adult Tours: Sharon Pratt 585-766-7101

WEBSTER MUSEUM

The Webster Museum and Historical Society

18 Lapham Park, Webster, New York 14580 | *webstermuseum.org*



MEMBERSHIPS & CONTRIBUTIONS

The dedicated volunteers at the Webster Museum work to preserve and share our rich local history. The museum provides seasonal exhibits, guest lectures and tours open to anyone with an interest in history. We continually strive to enrich the educational resources we provide at the museum and online. (Join online at *www.webstermuseum.org.*)

Your support is greatly appreciated!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

☐	**Individual or Family**	$25 yearly
☐	Senior (62 & older)	$15 yearly
☐	Life	$200 or more
☐	Senior Life (62 & older)	$150 or more
☐	**Donation**	$ _____
☐	Business	$ _____

Membership dues and donations are tax deductible.
Please make checks payable to: Webster Museum and Historical Society

The Webster Museum and Historical Society
18 Lapham Park, Webster, New York 14580