

**SANBORN AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
NEWS**

**2660 SAUNDERS SETTLEMENT ROAD  
SANBORN, NY 14132  
WWW.SANBORNFARMMUSEUM.COM**

**VOLUME 30 ISSUE 2**

**APRIL 2026**

## **President's Message**

It is great to have winter behind us and to begin our activities for 2026.

On March 21 and 22 the Antique Show with Basket Auction was held. A great job was done by everyone who worked on this event. We hope you were able to attend. Next is our Flea Market on April 11 and 12 and the Car Parts Swap Meet on May 3.

We really need member support to put on the Museum events. We also need Museum Sitters so we can keep the Museum open during planned visiting hours. Please contact any Board Member if you can help (see contact information below).

The hard work by our Board and members is what makes our activities and projects a success. Thanks and let's have another great season this year!



***Bill Read, President***

**VOLUNTEERS ARE CRITICAL  
to keep the Farm running. Please consider  
donating some time to this worthy cause!  
There are many jobs to be done!**

### **Your Board of Trustees**

**Board Meetings** are held at the Museum on the third Tuesday at 3:00 PM in the winter and 7:00 PM the balance of year

President- **Bill Read 716-870-6263**; Vice Pres-**Bonnie Haskell 716-957-4851**;  
Recording Sec-**Ruth Pirinelli 716-471-4677**; Treasurer- **Glenn Wienke 716-731-5982**; Trustees-at-Large-  
**Alisha Almond 716-251-3483, Jon Brown 716-545-5545, Ron Craft 716-818-0360,**  
**Stacey DeWyer 716-868-7737, Jim Ditzel 716-433-7439, Mike Federspiel 716-553-3278,**  
**Gordon Hermanson 716-731-9650, Gwen King 716-297-3255, Kevin Knox 716-628-3909,**  
**Scott McEldowney 716-471-5637, Gary Townsend 716-523-0743**  
Farm Museum Curator - **Bonnie Haskell 716-957-4851**  
Newsletter Publisher—**Ruth Pirinelli 716-471-4677 sanbornhistorical@gmail.com**

March 24—"1950 Dolls" by Carol Buckland

This was a very interesting presentation on dolls from this period and their history.



Antique Show & Basket Auction —3/21 & 3/22

This was a great event. The basket auction was huge, and we received many compliments on it.



Sanborn Area Historical Society Event Calendar 2026

- March 21 & 22 Sat. & Sun. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Antique Show with Basket Auction
- April 11 & 12 Sat. & Sun. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Flea Market
- May 3 Sunday 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Car Parts Swap Meet
- May 16 Saturday 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Pork Loin Dinner
- **July 25 & 26 Sat. & Sun. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Farm Festival**
- Sept. 19 Saturday 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Spaghetti Dinner
- Oct. 17 Saturday 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Ham Dinner
- Dec. 12 & 13 Sat. & Sun. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Christmas at the Farm
- Dec. 19 Saturday 2 p.m. Caroling at Farm

**Helen Fuller Orton, November 1, 1872 – February 16, 1955,  
Resident Author of Children’s Books  
By Janet Hoover Latham**

My great aunt, Helen Fuller Orton, grew up on a farm on Townline Road between Sanborn and Pekin with her parents, Merritt Bond Fuller and Lucy Ann Taylor Fuller, two brothers and my grandmother, Amanda Fuller Dodge. As her parents were both teachers, she was homeschooled until almost eight years old. She later taught elementary school in Lockport before marrying Jessie Orton of Pekin.



They lived in Michigan while he completed his law degree at the University of Michigan and then moved to New York City where they raised their family. She loved the area where she grew up, and her four sons encouraged her to write down the stories she told them all during their early years. Her first book was published in 1921 and the last in 1954. Tailored to young children the early books were about what it was like to grow up on a farm with all the animals. Later she carefully researched and authored historical novels concluding with mystery stories.

My mother told me that when she was writing she would stop to rest for five minutes every hour. Historical novels followed with “Lad of Old Williamsburg,” and “The Gold-Laced Coat” about Old Fort Niagara, required reading in New York schools for many years. “Secret of the Rosewood Box” and “Hoof Beats of Freedom” were also favorites. I looked forward to each new book arriving in the mail. “Knights of the Snowstorm” talked about the Hoover Family farm dairy during a snowstorm. Later she concentrated on mystery stories. During trips to the area, Aunt Helen would visit the local one-room schools, and I felt like a celebrity on the days she came to Wheatfield #7.

Mother and I took the train from Buffalo to New York City when I was eight years old. I loved the dining car and all the different scenery along the route. Aunt Helen introduced me to the Automat where we could insert our coins for a sandwich and possibly a piece of pie. She loved showing me “her” New York – St. Patrick’s Cathedral, the Statue of Liberty, Times Square, and the Flatiron building. We took the subway and safely walked everywhere to and from her Jackson Heights third or fourth-story apartment with no air conditioning. There was a large desk in her bedroom with large, tall windows open in the summer, allowing street noise to be heard at night. We made a trip to Jones Beach where I had a chance to dip my toes into the Atlantic Ocean. As I recall, the water was as cold as Lake Ontario, even in early July.

My favorite photo shows Aunt Helen and Uncle Jesse sitting on a blanket on the sand under an umbrella dressed in their Sunday best, hats included. Aunt Helen could go up and down subway stairs like a teenager into her late 70’s.

She was a busy lady who never forgot her roots in the area where she grew up.

## SANBORN AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE

April 28—5:30 p.m.—Pot Luck Supper—  
7 p.m.— “Life on the Erie Canal” by Laura Czarnota

May 26—7 p.m.— “Music of Ireland” by Don Dwyer

After the May meeting, regular meetings will resume in September.  
The museum reopens on April 29.

Regular Meetings are held at the Farm Museum on the  
4th Tuesday at 7:00 PM (unless otherwise noted).

Sanborn Area Historical Society  
PO Box 172, Sanborn, NY 14132  
**PUBLISHED QTLY**



Visit our website at  
[www.sanbornfarmmuseum.com](http://www.sanbornfarmmuseum.com)

Find us on Facebook at  
Sanborn Farm Museum-Official

**Membership Dues:** Sanborn Area Historical Society  
(Annual Dues are \$15 for Family; \$10 for Individual; \$100 for Patron, Business, Professional)

**DON'T FORGET TO PAY YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES!**

Make checks payable to: Sanborn Area Historical Society, PO Box 172. Sanborn, NY 14132  
We are a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit society. Donations are appreciated in the form  
of cash or artifacts.

Donations are tax deductible in accordance with the law.  
SAHS is an Equal Opportunity Provider