

# Exhibit Labels

To assist our guests in exploring the exhibits of the History Museum and inside the Historian's Office, the following pages contain replicas of the labels contained throughout the exhibits.

The labels for the hallway exhibits begin with the 1880 map to the right of the Historian's Office door and continue clockwise around the room.

The labels for the exhibits inside the Historian's Office begin with the ToyFest commemorative toys below the window and continue clockwise around the room.

Please do not hesitate to share suggestions for ways we can improve your tour of the exhibits.

**Kindly remember to return this book when you've completed your tour.**

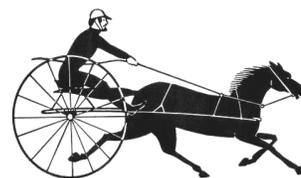
## AURORA HISTORY MUSEUM & OFFICE OF THE HISTORIAN

**Exhibits presented by  
the Aurora Historical Society  
in collaboration with the  
Office of the Historian**



**AURORA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

*East Aurora, New York*



OFFICE OF

**THE HISTORIAN**

*Town of Aurora & Village of East Aurora, New York*

# Hallway Exhibits

The labels for the hallway exhibits begin with the 1880 map to the right of the Historian's Office door and continue clockwise around the room.

# Aurora, 1880

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This map shows the Town of Aurora's property owners in 1880. The lot numbers, beginning in the southeast corner, were designated in the late 1700s, when the Holland Land Co. surveyed Western New York. Land deeds today continue to use these same lot numbers.

*From the Illustrated Historical Atlas  
of Erie County, New-York, 1880,  
published by F.W. Beers & Co.*

# Hotel That Never Was

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The Narenta Springs Hotel was planned for the Jewett property on Grover Road, as an extension of the family's world-famous horse farm and natural mineral springs.

Although East Aurora had become a horse breeding and racing capital, and many hotels prospered in the community as a result, this grand hotel was never built.

*Donated by J. Odell Scott*

# Indoor Racetrack

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The buildings of the Jewett Stock Farm at the corner of Quaker and Grover Roads, circa 1909, including the famed mile-long covered racetrack. The track was completed in three stages over three years, beginning in 1890. When completed it was considered “the only mile racetrack in the world wholly under cover.” It was dismantled in 1917.

***Print by the Buffalo Electric & Engineering Co., featured in the New Century Atlas, Erie County, N.Y., 1909***

# Elm Street

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Elgene E. Godfrey's feed and coal mills operated for decades on Elm Street. The feed mill, shown on the right, was constructed after a fire in 1912 destroyed the original mill. The building still stands 110 years later. The red coal storage building on the far left was destroyed by fire in June 1994. The lot is currently home to the Red Caboose ice cream station.

***Artist: Gerald Arlen Creps (American,  
1939-1999) from Varysburg, N.Y.***

***Donated to the Aurora Historical Society  
by Dr. Donald E. Donovan  
in memory of Jane C. Donovan, 1985.***

# Yeoman's Hotel

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Built as Persons House in 1872, on the present site of the Aurora Theatre. The name changed with various owners. It was known as Hotel Eulalia in the early 1890s, in honor of Spanish royalty who purportedly stayed there. It was renamed Warner House in 1897. Destroyed by fire October 22, 1905.

*Colorized illustration from the  
Illustrated Historical Atlas  
of Erie County, New-York, 1880,  
published by F.W. Beers & Co.*

# Toys of the 1890s

There are no bells and whistles (or digital screens) with these toys. In fact, there's no plastic, either. These belonged to Amy Adams Forden (1893-1978), who grew up in East Aurora and served as Town and Village Historian from 1959-1974.

1. Wooden toy blocks
2. Miniature washboard
3. American Wringer, Horse Shoe Brand, Gem No. 2 toy wringer washer, circa 1890s.
4. The New Game of Tiddledy Winks, with wooden discs, Wink-pot, box and instructions. Circa 1890s. Tiddlywinks was also an adult craze in the 1890s.
5. Amy Adams' favorite doll, Doxey Fling. Hand-drawn face on cloth.  
*Donated by Mary Forden Whitman*
6. Amy Adams' third birthday portrait with Doxey Fling.

*Toy collection donated by Amy Adams Forden*



# Holiday Greetings

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Our volunteers in the Historian's Office have been busy curating a recently donated collection of several hundred postcards that were sent to—and preserved in scrapbooks by—Ada (Burns) Ramen of East Aurora in the 1910s and early 1920s. Here are just a few from the collection that highlight the upcoming holiday. Seasonal postcards from the Ada (Burns) Ramen collection will be exhibited here at the appropriate time for Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's, St. Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, Easter and other holidays, so be sure to check back!

# Victorian Hair Art

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In the Victorian era, human hair was used to create wreaths, jewelry and other forms of art as a way to honor the living and the dead. The hair of deceased relatives was used as a memorial. These were called “mourning wreaths” and “mourning jewelry.” But the hair of living family members was used just as often. Sometimes wreaths, jewelry and other items were made from the hair of one person, or a “family wreath” would consist of the hair of multiple family members. Due to the various colors contained in the wreath in this exhibit, it likely contains the hair of multiple people.

# The Birth of Aurora

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New York State legislation divided the Town of Willink into three towns: Aurora, Holland and Wales. (The Town of Colden was later divided from Holland). The bill was signed by Gov. DeWitt Clinton on April 15, 1818, effective the following March 1. The legislation specifically outlined the date and locations of the first town board meetings and the division of funds for the care of the poor.

***Facsimile from original document  
in the New York State Archives.***

# Sun-Diet Sanatorium

Located along Cazenovia Creek, the Sun-Diet Sanatorium attracted people from across the nation who were looking for non-traditional healthcare and a getaway from everyday life. The facility was founded in 1921 as the Sun Cure Sanatorium on the theory that sun treatments could boost immunity and cure ailments. In 1927, proper diet was added to the mission (hence the name *Sun-Diet*). At its height in the late 1920s, the facility on Cazenovia Street housed 80 patients. A swimming pool was constructed in 1935. Ahead of its time, the facility raised eyebrows among some traditional doctors, who frowned upon the new form of medical treatments for ailments such as arthritis and skin diseases. Sun-Diet also published several health-related books, newsletters, pamphlets and recipe cards. After 21 years, the facility closed in early 1942 due to inadequate operating funds. The pool and many of the amenities were removed, but the buildings still stand as apartments.

Pictured above the exhibit case: A view of the backyard of the Sun-Diet Sanatorium on Cazenovia Street, looking north.

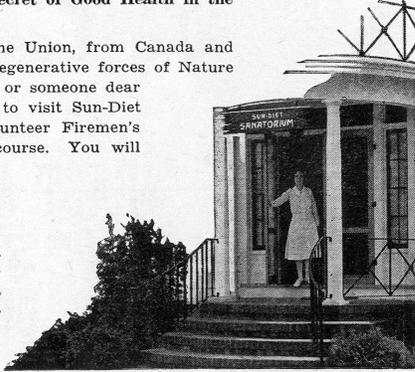
## Health Right at Your Doorstep !

Welcome to East Aurora and Sun-Diet Health Foundation, known the world over as a place where those who are ailing may "Learn the Secret of Good Health in the Atmosphere of a Country Inn."

Yes! Folks come to Sun-Diet from every state in the Union, from Canada and from many foreign lands. Yet—you have the marvelous regenerative forces of Nature expertly marshalled here—right at your doorstep! If you or someone dear to you are not as well as you should be, we invite you to visit Sun-Diet during your attendance at the "Western New York Volunteer Firemen's Association Convention"—entirely without obligation of course. You will be most welcome.

**" DeLuxe Booklet FREE "**

If you are interested in regaining or retaining good health by the simple, natural Sun-Diet system, we want to send you with our compliments our new booklet, "The Sun-Diet Way to Health." Stop in and call for your copy or address



### SUN-DIET HEALTH FOUNDATION

Cazenovia Street near Center East Aurora, New York

1936 Advertisement

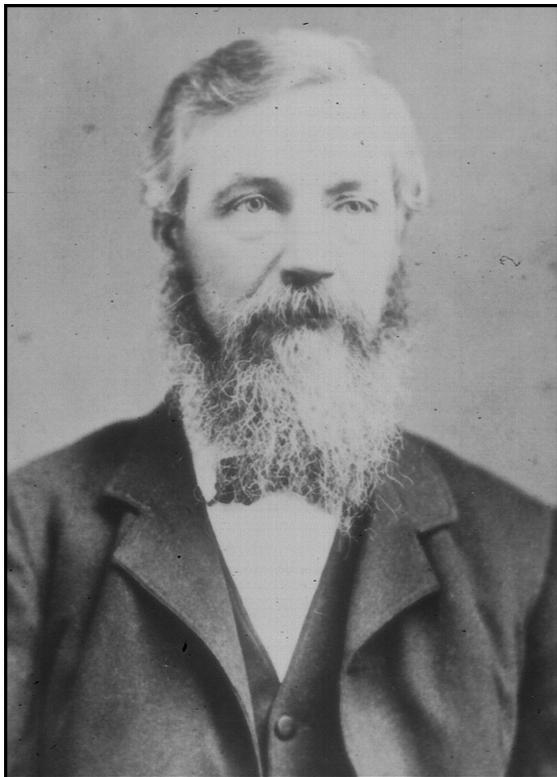
# The Pioneer Settlers

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Native Americans lived here for several thousands of years before the first settlers of European descent arrived in the early 1800s. An agent of the Holland Land Company surveyed the Middle Road, today's Main Street, and opened the area to pioneer settlement in 1803. The following year, Jabez Warren purchased a large tract in what is today the Town of Aurora. After clearing a small portion of the land and building a log cabin, he brought his family to Aurora.

Soon, a handful of other families—including Warren's son William Warren—joined him, planting the roots for what flowered into a vibrant community. Within a few years, these families established their own churches, taverns, schools and businesses. Some of those families have never left. Descendants of some of the earliest settlers still call Aurora home.

Following the War of 1812, hundreds more settled in Aurora to take advantage of the relatively inexpensive land, rich soil and quality of life.



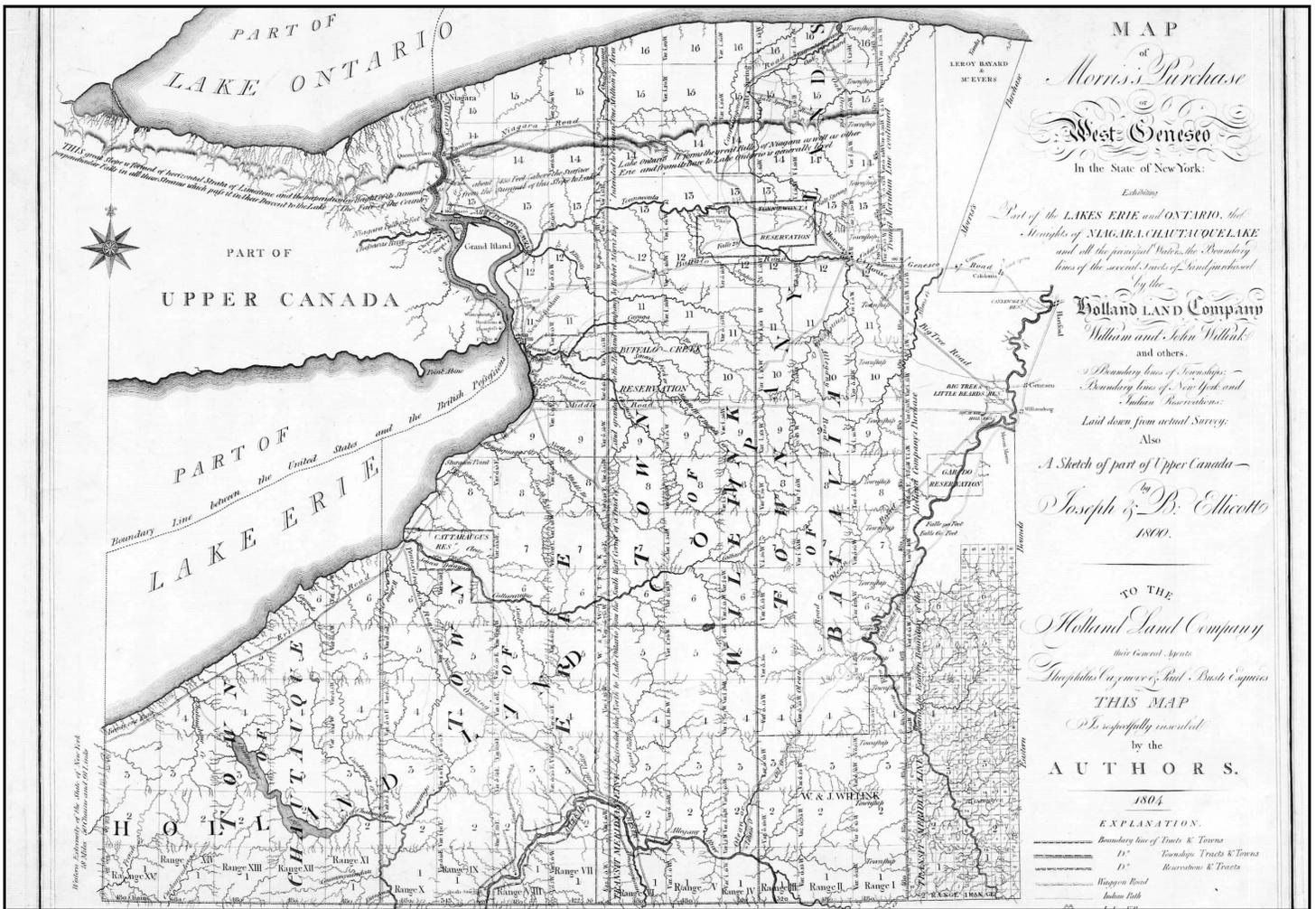
Maj. Gen. William Warren followed his parents, the first settlers, to this community in 1805. He served in the War of 1812 in Buffalo, and his log house, located near the corner of present-day Main and Pine Streets, served as the town's first tavern and schoolhouse beginning in 1806-1807. He also served as clerk of the local Baptist Church. He died in June 1879, two weeks before his 95th birthday. His written recollections have provided insight into the pioneer settlement of our town.

# Pioneer Possessions

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Many of the objects in this exhibit belonged to the earliest residents of our community, including the Adams family, who settled beginning in 1804. Most were donated to the History Museum by their descendants.

1. Betty lamp, hung for reading
2. Mortar and pestle, used by the Adams family
3. Oxen shoes. The ox has a cloven foot; two shoes for each foot  
*Godfrey Collection*
4. A chisel and rabbet plane to make grooves in wood  
*Sanford Cornwall and George Crook Collections*
5. Slicker, for cleaning hides for leather
6. Pierced tin lantern of Joel Adams, first pioneer settler to spend a winter here  
*Godfrey Collection*
7. A homemade wooden shuttle used to send threads back and forth through looms. Inscription: "She weaves a web of colors gay."
8. Candle-making mold, circa 1800
9. Cast-iron gooseneck kettle
10. Smoking pipe made from bone; and case
11. Hand-forged door key
12. Handmade children's boots, made to fit either foot for longer wear  
*Donated by Mrs. John W. Cook*
13. Fork and spoon, used by the Adams family
14. Wooden bowl (repaired), used by the Adams family
15. Blacksmith-made square iron nails.



An 1804 map of the Holland Land Purchase, from Joseph B. Ellicott's survey.

# Surveying the Land

The Holland Land Company, a group of Dutch investors, purchased much of the land in New York State west of the Genesee River in 1792-1793. In preparation for selling the land to settlers, it embarked on a survey and the building of roads, including the Middle Road through what is today East Aurora. The company dissolved in 1840.

1. Records and receipts of Joseph Stiles, superintendent of the Middle Road for the Holland Land Company, 1823. *Gift of the Library of Congress*
2. Chains used to survey (measure) the land in Western New York in the early 1800s for the Holland Land Company. 100 links = 66 feet.
3. (Left of display case). A stone survey marker.

# East Aurora Fire Dept.

The East Aurora Fire Department consists of four fire companies: Pioneer Hook and Ladder, Cazenovia Fire Co. No. 1, Chemical Engine Co. No. 1, and East End Active Hose. These fire companies were organized in the 1870s and 1880s. (The Roycroft also had its own fire company). Each had their own fire hall until a central fire station was erected on Oakwood Avenue. (You are currently standing in this building, which now serves as the Aurora Municipal Center). A new central fire station was built on Center Street in 2015. The Town of Aurora is also served by the West Falls and South Wales fire companies.

1. Vintage East Aurora Fire Department helmet.
2. Leather bucket used to fight early fires.
3. Fire extinguisher. Found in the old Kelter Automobile dealership, near Kelter Court and Oakwood Avenue. *Donated by Carl DiPietro*



East Aurora Central Fire Station on Oakwood Avenue in the 1960s.

# The First Residents

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It is believed that people lived in this community for thousands of years before the first pioneer-era settlers came to the town in 1804. While artifacts have been found throughout Aurora, one of the most studied locations is at Sinking Ponds, now a wildlife preserve located at the end of Pine Street.

The Sinking Ponds site was first identified by the University at Buffalo Archaeological Survey in the early 1960s. Formal excavations were conducted at the site from 1964 to 1970 under the direction of Joseph Granger, a Ph.D. student at the time. Granger's dissertation on the Sinking Ponds site was published in 1978 and remains the key source of information regarding the Meadowood Culture. According to the University at Buffalo: "Meadowood people are among the first to use many of the plant foods that would later become domesticated and grown as crops. Meadowood stone tools are among the most finely flaked objects in the archaeological record and numerous 'cache blades' were widely traded, perhaps thought of as a form of currency. These items, made of local Onondaga chert from places like Sinking Ponds, are found on archaeological sites all over the Northeastern US."

The collection of Andrew Kuster (July 9, 1882-June 26, 1971), a surveyor in this area for nearly 70 years who assisted with the Granger dig, was donated to the Aurora Historical Society in the 1970s. The artifacts in this exhibit represent only a small portion of the collection. (Please note that the portrayals included in this exhibit come from a 1970s perspective of early American Indian life).

Beginning in 2011, researchers from the University at Buffalo revisited the Sinking Ponds site to expand on Granger's original research. In the process, they discovered that humans likely lived in this area for many years longer than previously believed. While the site was probably most active in about 800 B.C., it was likely inhabited every summer for about 4,000 years.

*Donated in memory of Andrew Kuster by Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Spaulding, 1971*

# Pennsylvania Railroad

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After several failed attempts in the mid 1800s to bring the railroad—and associated prosperity—to East Aurora, the community received a welcome Christmas present when the first train traveled along the new tracks on December 25, 1867. Passenger train service from East Aurora ended in 1973, but freight trains continue to travel through the village.

1. Cast-iron Pennsylvania Railroad sign from the East Aurora station.
2. Pennsylvania Railroad track spike.

*Donated by Roger Kline*

# Horse Capital

Thanks to the likes of Cicero Hamlin and the Jewett family, in the late 1800s East Aurora had become a horse breeding and racing capital. Throngs of people from around the world came to East Aurora to see Hamlin's champion horses, including Mambrino King, at the Village Farm, which was located on the north side of Main Street where Hamlin Avenue and North Willow Street are located today. On Grover Road, the Jewett family constructed the world's only mile-long covered racetrack, where racehorses could train during the winter months.

1. Wood fragment from the last Jewett Stock Farm barn on Grover Road, which burned in 1980. The building served as a tavern for many years.
2. Lantern gifted to John Bradburn, superintendent of the Village Farm, for Christmas 1882.

*Donated by Florence Lamb Flanigan*



Mambrino King on Main Street, 1896. Called the "handsomest horse in the world."

# Mail Bag

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Leather mail bag used by mail carrier Arthur Garfield Truesdell along his 27-mile rural route. Note “U.S. Mail” imprinted on the bag. Mr. Truesdell, who retired from the postal service in 1945 after a 28-year career, is pictured along his route circa 1923.

*Bag and photograph donated by Karen Donnor*



# When Doctors Made House Calls

The town doctor was one of the most important people in a growing community. As the Town of Aurora grew, so did the need for more doctors. In Aurora, both men and women filled the role.

1. **Dr. Edward Buffum's** medicine bag, mid-1900s. Country doctors carried all sorts of medications in their bags. In this one, note how most of the pills are labelled with the ailment they treated rather than the name of the pill. Dr. Edward Buffum followed in the footsteps of his father, Dr. Erwin W. Buffum.
2. **Dr. Arthur L. Mitchell's** medicine bag. His practice became so demanding after 1887 that his wife **Allie Long Mitchell**, who had been a teacher at the Aurora Academy, attended U.B. Medical School, from which she graduated in 1898. The Drs. Mitchell lived next to The Roycroft Inn on South Grove Street and also had the first private telephone in town.
3. Wooden mortar and pestle, circa 1800s, used to grind medications into a fine paste or powder. *Donated by the Hoyt Family*
4. Early corrective eyeglasses with carrying case. *Donated by Florence Wallenwein*
5. Medications from Booth's Pharmacy and A.W. Phelps, M.D. of East Aurora.



Dr. Floyd Richardson  
with his horse,  
Cancer, circa 1911.

# Dr. Floyd Richardson

Dr. Floyd Richardson made house calls throughout the East Aurora area with his horse named Cancer. A graduate of East Aurora High School and the University of Buffalo Medical School, Dr. Richardson practiced medicine in East Aurora for the half century between 1904 and 1954. He was born on the family homestead in South Wales in 1882 and died in 1954.

6. Sign from Dr. Richardson's office.
7. Dr. Richardson's certificate for completion of an educational course in medical aspects of atomic explosions.
8. Dr. Richardson's medallion from the American Medical Association
9. Dr. Floyd Richardson was among the many local doctors who dispensed liquid medication in glass bottles. Note the doctors' names on the bottles, including, in addition to Dr. Richardson, Dr. Arthur Mitchell and Dr. H. N. Tanner.
10. Dr. Richardson's mortar and pestle, found in the attic of Meibohm Fine Arts at 478 Main Street, where Dr. Richardson's office was located.

*Donated by Walter Meibohm*

# Dr. Jabez Allen

11. Dr. Jabez Allen, pictured in a wooden frame from his home, was one of Aurora's first physicians. Shortly after earning his degree from Castleton in 1833, he moved to Main Street near Pine Street, where he established a drug store, which is still in business today as Larwood Pharmacy. His practice, with the motto, "No cure, no pay," continued for more than 45 years. Dr. Allen is the subject of a 2020 historical fiction novel, *Bloodletting and Germs*.

*Frame donated by Michalann Hobson,  
great-great-granddaughter of Dr. Allen*

12. Dr. Allen's medical degree from Castleton, with written translation certified by the Erie County Clerk's Office.
13. Dr. Jabez Allen's buggy box. Pasted on the inside of the lid is an advertisement for the doctor's son, Jabez Allen, Jr., who was a drug salesman in East Aurora. "Mrs. Dr. Allen" shipped the box via American Express to family members in Kansas, likely just before or after the doctor's death in July 1885. The box remained with the family until 2021, when it was donated to the museum.

*Donated in honor of Curtis and Deloran S. Allen, Jr.,  
by the family of Suzie Allen Meyer*

## **Drs. Gilmore**

Early doctors' offices would have had a collection of medical books like these, from the collection of Drs. Stephen J. and Margaret Penfold Gilmore.

Married in 1914, the couple practiced osteopathy together in Missouri and Iowa before moving to East Aurora with their two children in 1930.



# Joel Adams Musket

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Gun belonging to Joel Adams, who was one of Aurora's first settlers. Mr. Adams, who served in the Revolutionary War, and his three sons were the first pioneer settlers to spend a winter in what later became the Town of Aurora. Before the musket was donated to the History Museum, it had been in the family farmhouse on Olean Road, where generations of the Adams family have lived since 1804. The musket ball mold is on the shelf at right.

*Donated by the Adams Family, March 2014*

# John C. Pratt Rifle

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Rifle with bayonet belonging to Town of Aurora Civil War veteran John C. Pratt. He enlisted at the age of 21 in Buffalo and joined the 21st New York infantry on May 20, 1861. He became a corporal on July 1, and a sergeant on November 1. He fought in the battle of Bull Run (Manassas) in Virginia, and on September 17, 1862, he was wounded at the Battle of Antietam in Maryland. After President Lincoln's assassination, Sgt. Pratt served guard duty at the home of convicted conspirator Mary Surratt. The Pratt family is one of the oldest in East Aurora. The Joslyn model rifle was breech loaded (from the rear) and used .56-50 Spencer ammunition.

*Donated by Allen D. Carpenter*

# William J. Bork Sword

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Ceremonial sword of William J. Bork, a lieutenant in the U.S. Naval Reserve Force during and after World War I. Manufactured by Browning King & Co., New York, including leather and brass sheath and leather belt. Lt. Bork lived at 461 Girard Avenue. A book of his military records and correspondence is on the shelf at right.

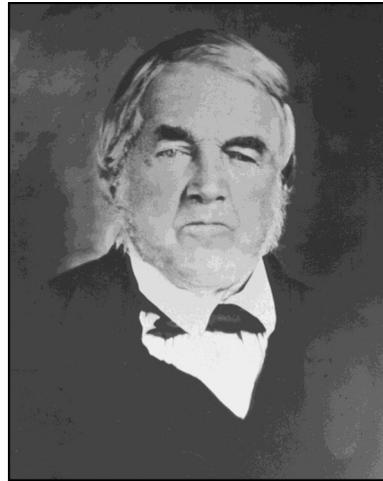
*Donated by the William J. Bork Estate*

# 1805 Saddle

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Side saddle used by Martha Adams in 1805, when she came from Brookfield, Mass., to join her husband, Enos. She carried her infant daughter, Relief, while riding on this saddle. Pictured later in life, they were among Aurora's first settlers.

*Saddle donated by Edward Godfrey*



# Town Hall Barber

This unique wooden pole hung outside the barbershop of Harry R. Hennessey, who as Town Clerk conducted official business from his barbershop on the north side of Main Street near The Circle. You could get a marriage license and haircut at the same time! A pair of Mr. Hennessey's scissors are below.

Mr. Hennessey previously served as Deputy Town Clerk under John D. Bradburn, who also operated the Town Clerk's Office out of the barbershop. Mr. Hennessey, who had been Mr. Bradburn's apprentice, became Town Clerk when Mr. Bradburn was struck and killed by a car in 1939. The barbershop continued to double as the Town Clerk's Office until 1958, when the Town Hall moved into the former Roycroft Chapel at Main and South Grove Streets. The barbershop building was later torn down along with other buildings to make room for a supermarket parking lot.

The wooden pole can be partially seen on the far right of this photograph from the late 1940s. Mr. Hennessey might be the man giving a haircut in the window.

*Barber pole on loan from Paul Kron*

*Scissors donated by the Aurora Town Clerk's Office*

*Photograph from the archives of  
the Aurora Town Historian's Office*



# Darbee- Cleveland

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Attendees of the Darbee-Cleveland family's annual reunion at the Creekside Park off South Street, August 29, 1925.

*Donated by Arthur Heck*

# Wooden Water Main

The last of the wooden water mains in the Village of East Aurora were taken out of service in the mid-1950s. This article appeared in a Buffalo newspaper in August 1953. Wooden pipes were replaced over time by cast iron. Although many of the wooden pipes remained in working condition, the strap-iron binders rusted out. Many of the wooden pipes were never dug up and still remain under ground. Many have been re-discovered during modern road construction projects. This abandoned section of pipe was removed from underneath The Circle at the West End. Other wooden mains also were removed from underneath Oakwood Avenue during the 2019-2020 reconstruction project.

## East Aurora's Wooden Mains on Way Out

By JAMES E. HIGBY

East Aurora's wooden water mains have just about reached the end of the line. The wood itself is in good shape but the strap-iron binders are rusting out.

Foreman Edward Sherlock and the Water Department this week will begin replacing with cast-iron pipe about 2,000 feet of the 4-inch wooden main in Buffalo Rd. That will leave only one long stretch of wooden pipe in the village, an 8-inch main on the south side of Main St. from Elm to Elmwood, a distance of about 3,000 feet.

All things considered, the wooden mains have served East Aurora well. City Engineer Edward Maurer's records show they were put down more than 60 years ago, when the village

first began delivering water to its residents.

Maurer, Sherlock and the Water Department will leave most of the wooden conduit in the ground, laying the cast-iron replacement alongside. But at least one length will be dug up. The Buffalo Water Department wants it as a souvenir.

Years ago, the village had a whole "wood-log" system, in 4-, 6- and 8-inch mains. The hollowed-out logs are wound with metal bands and coated with a tar preparation.

Aside from the frailty of the bands, the pipe has one other weakness — knotholes. Even now, a half-century after they were laid, the pipe pressure occasionally blows a knot and creates a leak.

"Fixing something like that is work

for a cabinet-maker, not a plumber," said Maurer. "A man goes down with a chisel, hammer and jackknife and whittles for a while. Then he hammers away, like putting a bung in a barrel, and the leak is fixed."

Sherlock, who has been with the department 25 years, naturally is the most skillful knothole plugger. He also helped replace a great deal of the old wood-log system, particularly during WPA days when wood-en-pipe removal was a major village project.

Maurer figures wood is a less efficient water carrier than cast-iron because the passage of water carves grooves in it. This produces friction. But, Maurer said, wood does not seem to become encrusted with lime and other mineral deposits like cast-iron does.

# Early Fence Wire

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Barbed wire was so effective at keeping animals contained that it allowed farmers to increase the size of their herds. According to *Encyclopedia Britannica*, "The first patents on barbed wire were taken out in the U.S. in 1867, but it was not until 1874, when Joseph Glidden of De Kalb, Ill., invented a practical machine for its manufacture, that the innovation became widespread."

*Donated by Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence S. Spaulding  
as part of the Andrew S. Kuster Collection, 1971*

# Late 1800s Fashion

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1. Women's shoes, circa late 1800s.
2. Victorian-era mourning bonnet.



Mrs. English's millinery store, purveyor of hats and other women's fashions, on East Main Street, circa 1905.

# Card Table Advertising

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Local businesses found a unique way to advertise to folks participating in card parties, which were popular fundraisers in the mid-1900s. This particular card table is from the 1950s.

*On Loan from the Thrasher Family*



*East Aurora Advertiser, November 25, 1954*

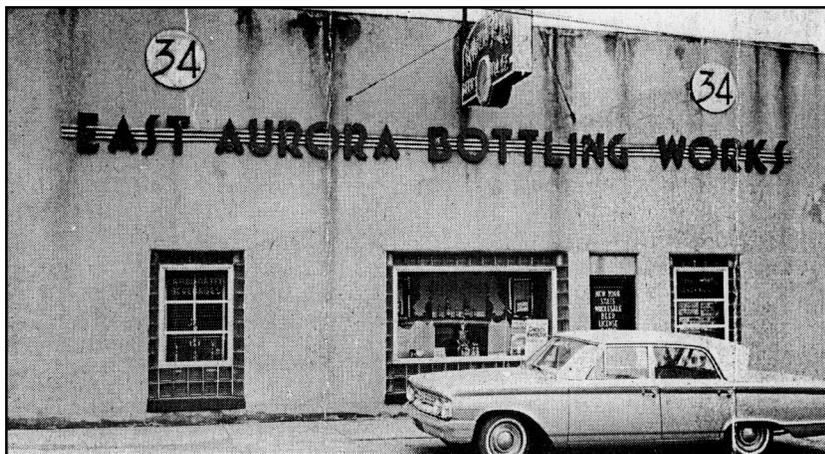
# Bottling Works

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The East Aurora Bottling Works produced soft drinks and beer at 34 Elm Street, the current location of the Book Worm book store. After decades in business, it closed in the early 1980s.

1. Glass bottles and wooden carrying crates for pint- and liter-sized bottles.
2. Promotional playing cards advertising Simon Pure Beer bottled at the Bottling Works.

*Donated by Matt Sweet*



# **‘Feel Clean Within’**

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After the Roycroft closed in 1938, the campus buildings were used for a variety of purposes. Toxolem was marketed by the New Health Products Company on the Roycroft Campus and claimed to help with digestive problems. A broad marketing campaign, including advertisements in national health magazines, promised that Toxolem would make you “feel clean within.”

This wasn't East Aurora's only foray into laxatives, however. In the 1930s, Oline E. Wright of Church Street was a local distributor of Joseph Muller's Excellent Laxative, a bottle of which is in the center of this exhibit.

# Aurora Seminary

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Advertisement for the autumn 1834 term in the Female Department at Aurora Seminary. The private school was founded in 1832, and a building was erected at the corner of Main and North Grove Street the following year. The name was changed to Aurora Academy in 1838. The property was later incorporated into the public school system and is now the location of the Middle School.

*Salisbury's Print,  
Buffalo, N.Y.*

# Moog

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Moog was launched in William C. Moog's home at 370 Linden Avenue in the Village of East Aurora. The company is now located at Seneca Street and Jamison Road.

According to Mr. Moog's August 1997 obituary in *The New York Times*: "An inventor and entrepreneur who was born in Jersey City on Aug. 15, 1915, Mr. Moog developed the flight-control device, the servovalve, in 1951 while he was working at Cornell Aeronautical Laboratory in Cheektowaga, N.Y. Because the lab's role was limited to product research and development, Mr. Moog was given permission to produce and market the valve on his own, which prompted him to create Moog Inc."

# Milk Bottles

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Through the mid 20th Century, the Town of Aurora was home to several dairy farms. Milk came in glass bottles, which often featured the name of the dairy. The following local dairies are represented here:

1. Fillmore Dairy
2. Elmwood Place Dairy
3. Noel Farms Dairy
4. Graoc Dairy
5. Broadacres
6. Helen Mary Farm Dairy
7. Haid Brothers
8. W. S. Lydle

# East Aurora Advertiser

## 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Time Capsule

This time capsule was created on the occasion of the *East Aurora Advertiser's* 150th anniversary, August 2022. To be opened on the 200th anniversary in 2072.

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*Letters to the Future* 

## Bicentennial Time Capsule

This time capsule contains personal letters from Town of Aurora residents in the year 2019 to their counterparts 50 years in the future.

Time capsule sealed March 1, 2019,  
as part of the Town of Aurora's  
200th anniversary commemoration.

**To be opened April 15, 2068,**  
the 250th anniversary of the town's charter.

*Most time capsules contain things;  
this one contains thoughts.*

# Erie County Trust Co. Lobby Clock

## **Seth Thomas Hall Clock No. 27, Thomaston, Conn., circa 1902.**

The First National Bank of East Aurora, chartered by the federal government under the National Banking Act, was built at the corner of Main and Church Streets in 1911-1912. It became the Erie County Trust Co. in May 1916, which it remained until 1961, when it was consolidated with Liberty Bank of Buffalo. After that, the bank changed names along with subsequent buyouts/mergers of Liberty Bank, which included Norstar, Fleet and Bank of America.

The clock located just inside the Historian's Office graced the lobby of the bank for many decades. It is pictured below in the bank at Christmas 1958. According to a family member, the clock originated at the East Main Street home of Abbott S. Griggs, who served as the bank's first president until his death in 1917, and it was

moved to the bank lobby after the death of his wife Evelyn Riley Griggs in 1956.

The clock was donated to the Aurora Historical Society in 2021, when the Bank of America closed its East Aurora branch.

The Seth Thomas Clock Co. was founded by Seth Thomas (1785-1859) in Connecticut in 1813. One of the most recognized and long-lived clock companies, it remained in business until 2001.

This clock is No. 27 in a series of "hall clocks" manufactured by the company at the turn of the 20th Century.

It chimes each quarter-hour. Take a listen!



*Donated by Bank of America*