

BLACK ROCK HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

Review of the activities and events of the Black rock Historical Society serving the communities' of Black Rock, Riverside. Grant Amherst and West Hertel in the northwest section of the City of Buffalo, N.Y.

Annual Report 2014

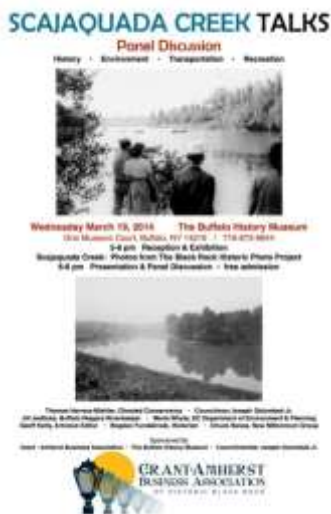
Black Rock Historical Society 2014 Annual Report

Annual Report 2014

This is a brief summary of the activities of the Black Rock Historical Society for the year 2014. Overall this is was a growth year for us. It also was a time of development where we invested our time and energy into building the organizational structures to run a proper organization and represent our name well to our community. We had our first members join us and continued the mission of sharing our history with our community.

Events

Photo exhibit and panel discussion at History Museum- Jan. 8, 2014.



Linens and Lace - May 3 & 4, 2014

Needlework exhibit at Buffalo Religious Arts Center – This was an exhibit showcasing local women and their expertise at needlework and pieces of their personal collections from their families. The exhibit included: Historic & Handmade items, religious needlecrafts, a talk by Veronica Hogle on the history of Irish Lace. 30 participants



Discover Street Festival-June, 2014

Discover Amherst Street is an important local event which brings the communities of Black Rock and Grant Amherst together to celebrate their communities. Part of the festival is a display of historic photos and items from the community acting as a mini history hall for the day. The event is well attended by the community and is an important venue for discussion education and marketing for the museum. We presented our newest educational panels which included the Rail Road and Erie Canal panels. We also had an exhibit of local bowling venues and artifacts and an exhibit with photos from Black Rock Historic Photo Project. 75 participants



Black Rock Lock Painting July 12, 2014

27 artists and photographers from **Painting For Preservation** (a group of artists that meet monthly to record historic architecture of significance) attended this event to record the Lock. Art works were on display and for sale at their open house event on August 17th.



Black Rock Riverside Garden Walk-Aug. 2, 2014

The Black Rock Historical Society participated with a historic tour of the neighborhood conducted by our Councilman who happens to be a history teacher. Highlights of the tour were the neighborhood of the Village of Black Rock and its homes and churches dating back to 1850 – 1890's. 25 participants

Battle of Scajaquada Creek –August 3, 2014

Location was on Scajaquada Creek at a location not far from where the battle is believed to have occurred. Events will be similar to the Stars Along Scajaquada event last year: tent, 3 speakers, re-enactors, horse & buggy rides, food trucks, and museum exhibits were included. 100 participants



Battle of Scajaquada Creek Reenactment Draws a Crowd

by Warren Glover

The sound of a trumpeter playing Reveille pierced the warm, humid air over the campgrounds at the foot of Peter Street on August 3, 2014, soon joined the blast from a period three pounder cannon to start the commemoration marking the beginning of our exact bicen-

tennial recreation of the War of 1812 Battle of Scajaquada Creek Bridge this past Sunday.

Joined by over 100 members of the public, participants from the sponsoring organizations – the Black Rock/Riverside Good Neighbors Planning Alliance Historic Preservation committee and the Black

Rock Historical Society, fully enjoyed spending a beautiful summer afternoon listening to a lecture explaining the battle and its significance by Doug Kohler.

Spectators also marveled at the reenactment of the battle by Canadian and American Boy Scouts under the direction of Scoutmaster Don Hourigan over the disputed mock bridge built by Rob Niemiec of Niemiec Builders Supply.

And, in a solemn closing ceremony, viewed a wreath laying with musket and cannon salute, and the trumpeter playing Taps, to honor those soldiers on both sides who sacrificed much in this battle – an American victory fought entirely in the Village of Black Rock on August 3, 1814, preventing the British from travelling further south to raid Buffalo.

People were also able to enjoy other attractions including: War of 1812 posters, displays and cards



DOUG KOHLER, Erie County Historian mesmerized an audience of approximately 100 with a detailed account of the Battle of Scajaquada Creek Bridge that took place exactly 200 years ago on Sunday. *photo by Max Willig*



CANADIAN AND AMERICAN BOY SCOUTS under Scoutmaster Don Hourigan take position to begin the simulation of the battle. *photo by Max Willig*

provided by Artsphere Studios, a medley of patriotic tunes played on the trumpet by Louis Moscato, learn how the blacksmithing trade was carried out in 1814, take a horse and wagon ride around the grounds as provided by Brooke Stanley and hear the roar of a cannon of the day,

giving counterpoint to the muskets fired by scout soldiers during the course of the model battle, as provided by the 2nd Lincoln Artillery brought from Canada by John Sek.

Other reenactor units involved in the battle scenario were the U.S. *Continued on Page Nine*

100th anniversary of Black Rock Locks-August 17

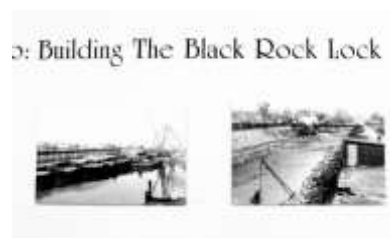
This event was co-sponsored by the Army Corps of Engineers and the Black Rock Historical Society. It included tours of the otherwise restricted site. This site has never been open to the public for open tours.

Included in the day's events were exhibits, a presentation by the Fire Boat Cotter unveiling of our 2 new Black Rock Lock signs and educational tours of the facilities . 150 participants



Photo Exhibit of the Building of the Black Rock Locks-October 2014

This exhibit focused on a set of pictures taken as the locks were built. The exhibit was historic not only for its focus on the lock but also highlighted building techniques and the community people involved in the building activities of the day. 50 participants



Education

This has become an ever increasing focus for us. We are expanding to work with the schools in showcasing our neighborhoods. This year we sponsored an essay contest with a call out to all grade schools.

History in Our Neighborhoods -Essay Contest

Students write on historic events in Black Rock/Riverside, we will supply list, will send to principals of schools, 1st, 2nd, 3rd prizes, will ask for donations from various business and organizations. We had participation from approximately 40 students with awards presented late in 2014. 50 participants



War of 1812 Exhibits

Held at the Buffalo Religious Arts Center, we were asked to exhibit our 4 War of 1812 exhibits (Oct. 22) for the release of the last issue (are 3) of War of 1812 installment by WNY Heritage Magazine.



Black Rock Heritage Trail and Mobile Exhibits –

Additional education and interpretive signs were added to our already existing Black Rock Heritage Trail.

Two 100th Anniversary of the Black Rock Lock interpretive signs were made and installed on Unity Island and 4 mobile exhibits were developed for the Army Corps: Commerce, Community, Engineering, Men who worked to build the lock.



Projects

Coordination with the Black Rock Riverside Alliance to develop a **Scajaquada Historic District** was undertaken and a proposal developed. It was presented to the community but was tabled to a future date.

See Attached Map

Scajaquada Historic District

Community Presentation

Nov 5, 2013



Location for the Black Rock Historical Society Home – 1902 Niagara Street was developed and a lease obtained.

Occupancy anticipated for Spring 2015.



2014



2015

Updating Web Page and creation of Facebook Page

Acquisitions

We have developed an acquisitions policy and an acquisition form which identifies the salient information regarding the item and the provisions under which the gift is given. We will continue to refine these documents.

An example of the type of items we are receiving:

- 3 historical books, ice pick from the Ice House and jacket from the Varsity Club
- Clock from the Osuch Department Store



Operations

The BRRAlliance Inc. continues to be our not for profit parent organization. This has allowed us to concentrate on exhibit and event activities. The fiduciary responsibilities lie with the BRRAlliance Inc. We have Board representation and are a major committee within the organization to assure the historical society best interests are served. We will revisit this arrangement annually.

The continued development of a site and structured meeting activities have been a major focus. We have included a sample agenda to show the overall development of our organization.

Black Rock Historical Society Meeting at 5:00 on Thursday Nov 13 at 1902 Niagara St.

Agenda:

Membership:

Need committee member to recruit and oversee, have brochures
Dues collection and notification, possible newsletter

Volunteers:

Need committee member to recruit and oversee
All help needs to be thanked in writing or by a social

Building Maintenance:

Security-DFT is cheaper than others
Insurance, heat & electric costs
Snow removal
Materials yet needed

Funding report & possible grants

Update by Mary Ann Kedron

Planning of exhibits, showcases & shelving:

Lighting

Collections and Archiving:

Mary Ann has program
Buff State will help

Upcoming exhibits and events:

Revolving portable exhibits to libraries, etc.
Series of exhibits/open houses for each community

Opening event:

Date and time needed

Awards:

In October the BRHS received a certificate from The US Army Corps of Engineers for their participation in the 100th Anniversary of the Building of the Black Rock Lock events.

Financials:

Financials have been incorporated as part of the BRRAlliance annual reporting.