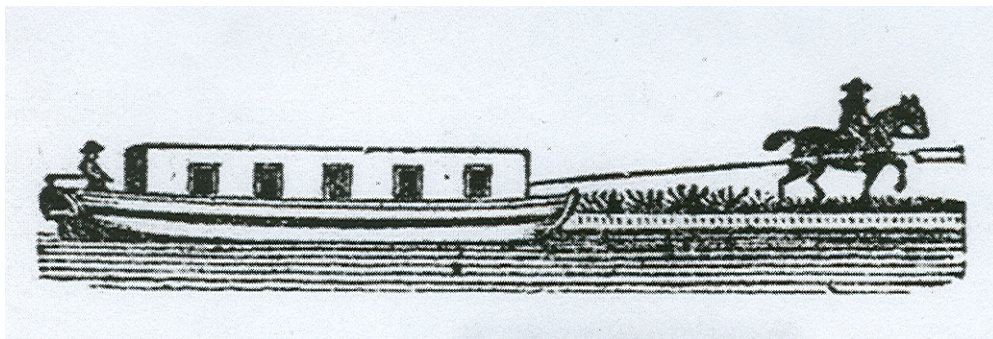


The Teachers' Packet

*A Guide to the Educational Programming at
the History Center of Niagara County*



A Publication of the

Niagara County Historical Society

215 Niagara Street

Lockport, NY 14094

716-434-7433

history11@verizon.net

This Teachers' Packet is made possible by a generous grant from the

A Note to Teachers About This Information Packet...

The History Center of Niagara County (aka the Niagara County Historical Society) was founded in 1921 to preserve and promote the history of this region. Housed in an 1863 brick home, the museum facilities include seven buildings, each interpreting a different aspect of Lockport and Niagara County history.

This guide was developed to introduce teachers and educators to the educational programming that is available at the History Center of Niagara County. We are pleased to be able to offer three distinct venues. The five building Historical Society museum complex at 215 Niagara Street is a traditional, exhibit-based facility. The new and interactive “Erie Canal Discovery Center” at 24 Church Street interprets the history of the Erie Canal. The Colonel William Bond/Jesse Hawley House at 143 Ontario Street is an 1824 National Register property furnished in the mid-19th century style. A tour of one, two or all three of these facilities will give your students an opportunity to be part of a unique learning experience. Included in this guide, you will find information on each of our buildings/areas of the museum complex as well as our two off-site locations. Also, there is a description of each program offered including summer and holiday programs; suggestions for pre-visit classroom activities; information for scheduling a tour and complete contact information.

We want to thank you for your interest in the History Center of Niagara County. We hope to hear from you soon to reserve your class’s spot in the 19th century. Now, all abroad for a ride on “The Teachers’ Packet.”

Niagara County Historical Society
215 Niagara Street

Phone: 716-434-7433
Fax: 716-434-3309

e-mail: history11@verizon.net
website: www.niagarahistory.org

Erie Canal Discovery Center
24 Church Street

Phone: 716-439-0431

e-mail: canaldiscovery@aol.com
website: www.niagarahistory.org

Col. Bond/Jesse Hawley House
143 Ontario Street

Phone: 716-434-7433

e-mail: history11@verizon.net
website: www.niagarahistory.org

Information for Booking a Tour

When scheduling a class field trip with the History Center of Niagara County, ***please call the museum directly*** to arrange for a tour. We still value personal contact with teachers. At the bottom of this page is a list of what we need to know to book your tour properly. We will be asking for this information when you call in to make a tour reservation.

We are asking you to call the museum in an effort to better serve and educate your class. We would also like to encourage you to spend the day at the Historical Society, Erie Canal Discovery Center and/or Col. Bond House. A tour that is not rushed is more enjoyable for the students. We are also now offering more after tour, grade appropriate activities that can be done in the museum or outside (weather permitting). Large groups can be divided into tour and activity groups and then switch so that both groups get to do everything.

Please have the following information ready when you call in for a reservation:

Group Information

Group Name
Address
City, State, Zip
Contact
Phone
Email

Tour Information

Date
Day of Week
Arrival Time
Departure Time*
Age/Grade
of Students
#Adults

Other Information

Visiting Erie Canal Discovery Center?
Visiting Colonel Bond House?
Having Lunch Here?
Going to the Gift Shop?
Any special needs children?
Anything else we need to know?

*We need to know what time the bus has to leave rather than the time your class has to be back at school.

Tour Packages Available for School Groups

1. ***History Express:*** This includes a tour of the History Center museum complex, a hands-on activity, and a tour of the new Erie Canal Discovery Center including interactive exhibits, orientation film, “night excursion” on the canal, a “find it” quiz and a take home activity booklet. Lunch and Gift Shop facilities are available. Time: 3-4 hours. Admission fee: \$6.00 per student; \$6.00 per accompanying adults; no charge for teachers. Call 716-434-7433 for reservations. Add a 1/2 hour hands-on activity for only \$1.00 more per student.
2. ***Museum Tour Only:*** A tour of the History Center museum complex. Time: 1.5 hours. Lunch and Gift Shop facilities are available. Admission: \$2.00 per student; \$4.00 per accompanying adults; no charge for teachers. Call 716-434-7433 for reservations. Add a 1/2 hour hands-on activity for only \$1.00 more per student.
3. ***Erie Canal Discovery Center Only:*** A tour of the Erie Canal Discovery Center including interactive exhibits, orientation film, “night excursion” on the canal and a “find it” quiz. Gift Shop. Time: 45 minutes to one hour. Admission: \$3.00 per student; \$4.00 per accompanying adults; no charge for teachers. Call 716-439-0431 for reservations.
4. ***Col. William Bond House Only:*** Tour of 1824, fully furnished, National Register home once owned by Jesse Hawley, the man who first proposed the building of the Erie Canal. Admission: \$2.00 per students/all accompanying adults; no charge for teachers. Limit one class per tour. Call 716-434-7433 for reservations.

Other Lockport attractions that offer educational programs and with whom we have a cooperative relationship:

Lockport Locks and Erie Canal Cruises - 210 Market Street, Lockport - 716-433-6155

Towpath Trolley - Trolley leaves from 24 Church Street (at the Erie Canal Discovery Center) - 716-434-7433

Lockport Cave and Underground Boat Ride - 21 Main Street at Pine Street, Lockport - 716-438-0174

Kenan Center - 433 Locust Street, Lockport - 716-433-2617

Available Activities (each activity takes approximately 30 to 45 minutes in addition to the tours)

Grades Pre-K— 1st

- Make paper toys and play 19th century toys and games (Pioneer era)

Grades 2nd—3rd

- Make and decorate a sign advertising a 19th century Erie Canal business (inns, liveries, general goods) in your community
- Learn about 19th century recreation and play games of the period (Victorian Era)

Grades 4th—6th

- Examine artifacts to guess their uses and compare them with similar objects of today (Pioneers)
- Map out the route of the Erie Canal and calculate distances and times between places (Erie Canal)

Grade 7th

- Working in teams, analyze 19th century photographs, maps and other canal related materials in order to answer questions about each of the documents

We can also arrange customized programs upon special request!



The History Center of Niagara County Buildings and Historic Areas

Outwater Home (215 Niagara Street): Red brick Italianate-style home built in 1863 and donated to NCHS in 1953, this building has four permanent and two changing exhibit rooms. The first floor contains a furnished **Victorian Parlor** (c. 1870s). This parlor highlights how people of the Victorian era spent their leisure time and what activities they engaged in. Musical instruments are throughout the room as are samples of Victorian whimsical crafts (hair pictures; dried and wax floral arrangements) and other forms of amusement. The Victorian era in the United States is interpreted in this room. Also on the first floor is a **Historic Pantry**. This room has kitchen implements that were common in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. On the second floor is the **Civil War Room**. This room contains photographs and artifacts from the Civil War, particularly from those men who served from Niagara County. It also contains an exhibit on Ely S. Parker, a Seneca from western New York who served as General Grant's military secretary. There is also the **Old Toy Room**. This room is filled with late 19th and early 20th century toys. Children can examine how toys have evolved over time and how these toys were very gender specific to prepare the children for their roles later in life. **Changing Exhibits** areas are on the first floor and rotate on a quarterly basis.



Kandt House (229 Niagara Street): This home, purchased by the Society in 1998, is devoted to commercial and manufacturing businesses in Niagara County. These companies included Meakins and McKinnan (floor mats for homes); Cowles (aluminum, metals, alloys); Norton Laboratories (products made from chemicals); Simonds Saw and Steel (steel); Hodge Opera House (music and theater); Holly Manufacturing (hydraulic machinery and pumps); Sutherland Sisters (hair tonic); Merchant's Gargling Oil (liniment for animals and people); Corson Manufacturing (printing); Ford Gumball (gumballs and vending); Indurated Fibre (fibre board); Lockport Glass Works (glass vials and bottles); Thatcher Manufacturing (milk bottles); Upson (fibre board and puzzles); and Dr. Fitz-Gerald's Doctor Office. There is also a restored 1930s kitchen.

The Barn (behind 215 Niagara Street): The **Barn** houses the **Lockport Fire Department** exhibit. This contains equipment used in early firefighting in the Lockport area (mid to late 19th century) including leather buckets, two hand pumpers and a fire hydrant made by the Holly Manufacturing Company which developed the first pressurized fire hydrant system in the world. The remainder of the **Barn** contains exhibits highlighting trades that were essential for living & working in Niagara County in the 19th century. These trades include a blacksmith, a cooper, a carpenter and a cobbler. Also in the **Barn** are exhibits devoted to agriculture and farming.

Pioneer Building (behind 215 Niagara Street): This building contains three different exhibit areas. The **Native American** area includes information on the Iroquois Confederacy, the clans, beadwork, and games. A diorama of an Iroquois village illustrates how Native Americans lived and worked using and respecting the natural resources around them. Another exhibit highlights Native American dress and artwork and their use of corn husks in making many different items. On the second floor of the building, is the recreated **Pioneer Cabin**. This area is set-up to illustrate what would have been found in a log dwelling in western New York in the early 19th century. Interesting artifacts include candle molds, a foot warmer, a knitty-knotty, dried herbs, a bathtub and rope and trundle beds. The students can get a feel for what life was like when this area was just a wilderness.



In the first floor rear of the building is the ***Transportation Room***. A scale model of the “Flight of Five” Locks give students the opportunity to see that the locks were dug out of solid rock and how they originally looked and operated in the 19th and early 20th centuries. It was this prominent feature of the canal that gave Lockport its name. This area also includes maps, photographs and artifacts from the early Erie Canal era. Also in this room are two automobiles with connections to the Harrison Radiator Plant in Lockport. The 1923 “Junior R” was built at Harrison and is an all aluminum body car. The 1954 Pontiac Star Chief was the first car with factory installed air conditioning made by General Motors based on Harrison Radiator technology.

The Washington Hunt Law Office (next to 215 Niagara Street): An original 1835 building moved to the museum grounds in 1955. Formerly located on Market Street in Lockport, the building is restored to a c.1835 ***law and surveyor’s office***. In the front portion of the building,



surveying equipment owned by Jesse Haines, an early surveyor in the Lockport area, is on exhibit. He developed the first maps of Lockport and leased and sold land in the area. Above the fireplace in the surveyor’s office is a painting of Belva Ann Bennett McNall Lockwood, the first woman ever to run for the Presidency of the United States. She was born in Gasport (Town of Royalton) and spent most of her life teaching and working for women’s suffrage. She was nominated for the Presidency in 1884 and 1888 by the Equal Rights’ Party. The back portion of the building is the ***Washington Hunt Law***

Office. Washington Hunt came to Lockport in 1828 and opened a law office on Market Street in 1835. He was the first judge of Niagara County, served three terms in Congress and was elected to one term as Governor of New York State in 1850. He returned to Lockport and settled into his home, Wyndham Lawn. The room is furnished as a typical law office of the mid 19th century.

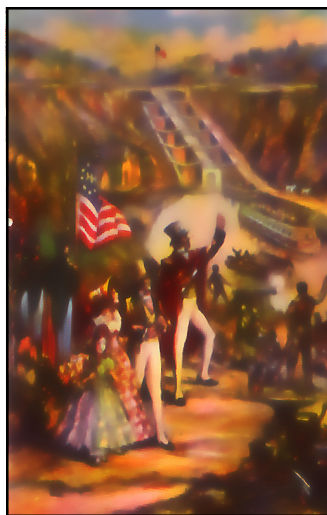
The Colonel William Bond/Jesse Hawley House (143 Ontario Street, one block from Niagara Street): A



National Register Home built in 1824 by Colonel William Bond was the first brick home in Lockport. Occupied over the years by various owners, including Jesse Hawley, the home came in to the possession of the Chase family in 1887 and remained in that family until 1968. The Chase family were relatives of Salmon P. Chase, Abraham Lincoln’s Secretary of the Treasury and later Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. The house is furnished primarily in the 1820s—1860s period. Since this house is fully furnished and space is limited, special arrangements must be made if your

class wishes to tour this home. Space is limited to only one class (about 25 students) at a time.

The “Erie Canal Discovery Center” (at 24 Church Street)



This new, multi-media interactive museum transports visitors back to the early days of the Erie Canal. Utilizing the Raphael Beck mural “The Opening of the Erie Canal” as a focal point, students can “meet” characters from the mural at computer kiosks stationed in front of the painting. The center also offers a state-of-the-art theater highlighting the history and construction of the canal. A simulated night excursion in a packet boat lets visitors explore how canal locks work. Hands-on exhibits, with themes such as geology, engineering and “canawlers,” (people who lived and worked on the canal) complete the experience and offer visitors an opportunity to learn first hand what impact the Erie Canal had on Lockport, New York State and the United States. The Erie Canal Discovery Center is handicapped accessible and includes the City of Lockport Visitor Center, a Gift Shop and the Erie Canal National Heritage Corridor Exhibit, sponsored by the National Park Service.

Suggestions for Pre-Visit Questions and Activities on the Topics Covered at the Museum and at the “Erie Canal Discovery Center”

Native Americans of Western New York



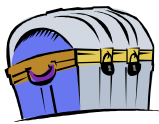
Prior to settlement by whites from New England and Europe, Western New York was home and hunting grounds for various Native American tribes. The last two tribes to inhabit this area (and now have reservations here) were the Seneca and Tuscarora Nations, part of the Iroquois Confederacy. There are nine maternal clans in the Iroquois tribes. They are the land clans (deer, bear, wolf), the sky clans (snipe, heron, hawk) and the water clans (turtle, eel and beaver). **Activity:** Have the students research one or more of the clans to determine why that particular animal would have been an important part of Iroquois life and culture.

Early Settlement of Western New York



Prior to 1800, very few white people lived in Western New York. The area was covered with huge trees, large swamps, many waterways, rich soil and plenty of animals. Why would people from New England and Europe want to leave their homes and move to Western New York? What hardships might they have faced on their trip to this area before the Erie Canal was built? What types of things do you think they brought with them? **Role Play Activity:** Have several students play settlers moving to a new area. Give them a certain amount of “money.” Other students can play land agents, merchants, wagon masters, etc. Have the settlers “negotiate” with the others until they have all of their provisions or run out of money.

Erie Canal



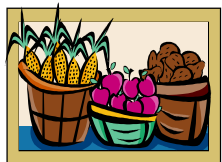
The Erie Canal opened on October 26, 1825 connecting the Hudson River to Lake Erie over a 360 mile route. This cut travel time by more than half and lowered shipping and passenger rates substantially. **Map Activity and Questions:** If available, examine an old and a new topographical map of New York State. Have the students locate the route of the Erie Canal (Albany, Rome, Syracuse, Rochester, Lockport, Buffalo). What natural waterways were used in the route of the canal? What natural obstacles had to be overcome? Why did “The Flight of Five” Locks at Lockport have to be built? What alternative routes could have been used or constructed for a canal? Economically, why was the canal so important to the people of both the eastern *and* western states? Why was Buffalo once called “the stepping off point of the continent?”

Erie Canal (Bonus Math Question)



If a canal boat traveled 4 miles an hour (being pulled by mules) for ten hours a day, how long would it take to get from Albany to Buffalo (360 miles)? Check the mileage and time for these other locations: Lockport to Syracuse; Rome to Rochester; Tonawanda to Utica.

Agriculture in Western New York



After the Erie Canal opened, people moved into Western New York to take advantage of the land, the lumber and the new transportation network to get their products to market. Farming was the number one industry in Western New York until the middle of the 20th century. What kinds of crops grow well in this area? Why do think that agriculture was so important in the United States in the 19th century? Why are there so few family farms today? What has happened to all the farmland? **Map/Photo Activity:** Have students examine an old map or atlas of their area to see where farms were once located. Then use a modern roadmap to see what has replaced the farms. In the same way, use old photos of the area to see what was there in the 19th century. If possible, photograph the same place today and discuss how the area has changed and what factors might have brought about those changes.

Pre-Visit Activities Continued...

The Victorian Era in Western New York



The Victorian Era was named after Queen Victoria of England (1819-1901) who reigned from 1837-1901. It was marked by a revolution in transportation, industry, communication and cheap manufactured goods, which for the first time, created a middle class in America. It was a time of excessive ornamentation in homes, furniture, clothing and many other items. People moved off the farms and into the cities to work in factories that paid regular wages. Jobs were plentiful but working conditions and wages were often poor. People had more money than they had on the farms but also had more expenses and more access to manufactured goods. What were the good things about working on a farm? What were the bad things? What were the good things about working in factory? What were the bad things? Where would you rather work, farm or factory?

Belva Lockwood, First Woman Candidate for President

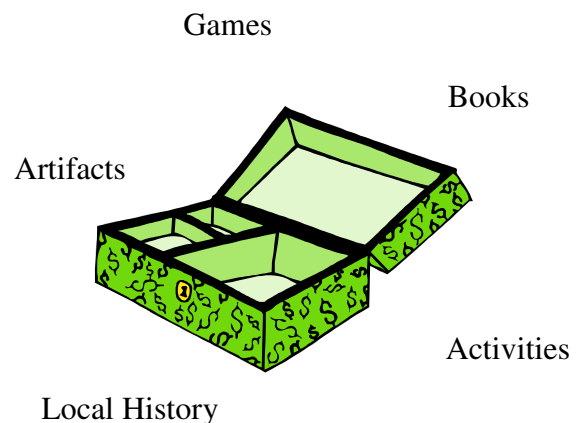


Belva Lockwood was born in a log cabin in Gasport (Town of Royalton), Niagara County, NY in 1830. She was educated as a teacher and later become a lawyer. She was also active in the suffrage (women's voting rights) movement. In 1884 she was nominated by the Equal Rights Party as their Presidential candidate. She received 4,149 votes out of 10 million. She ran again in 1888. In 1891 Mrs. Lockwood argued a legal case for the Cherokee Indians in the United States Supreme Court and won them a 5 million dollar settlement. She died in 1917 at the age of 86 years old. One year later, in 1918 women won the right to vote. Why do you think that women were not allowed to vote until 1918? Who made the laws in the United States at that time? When were African-American men given the right to vote? Do you think that Belva Lockwood was foolish to run for president (as many people at the time thought) or do you think she was courageous? Do you think you would have done the same thing? **Activity:** Make a list of women in the United States (past and present) who have held political office or who have taken an active role in politics. Research one of these women to find out how they started their interest in public service.

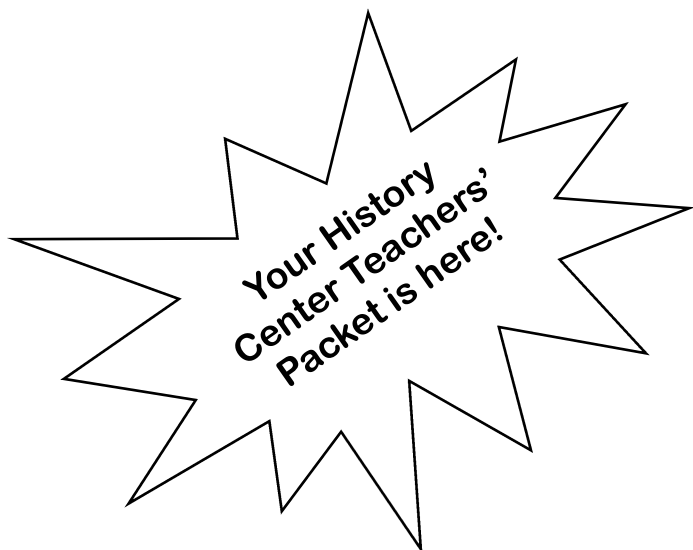
“Teaching Boxes” Available at the Niagara County Historical Society

We would like to remind teachers that the museum has a number of “Teaching Boxes” available for loan which highlight particular areas of local history using artifacts, books, games and other activities. These boxes were created as tangible links with the past to aid educators in the teaching of local and American history. It is the responsibility of the teacher to pick-up and return the boxes to the museum. The following boxes can be borrowed for two weeks at no charge by calling the museum at 716-434-7433:

Iroquois Life
Pioneer Life
Civil War
Victorian Age
One Room Schoolhouses
Old Time Toys and Games
“Treasure in the Little Trunk”
Transportation in Niagara County
Historic House Sites in Niagara County
“The Gold Lace Coat”



The History Center of Niagara County
215 Niagara Street
Lockport, NY 14094



***Summer and School Holiday Youth Programs at the
History Center of Niagara County***

One Day Summer Youth Programs

Six all day programs throughout the summer!

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Open to children ages 7 – 12

\$20.00 per day

Bring a bag lunch; snacks provided

Reservations are required. Call 716-434-7433 for more information.

School Holiday Programs

Four programs throughout the year:

Columbus Day, Veterans' Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Presidents' Day

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Open to children ages 7 - 12

\$10.00 per program

Snacks provided

Reservations are required. Call 716-434-7433 for more information