

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.

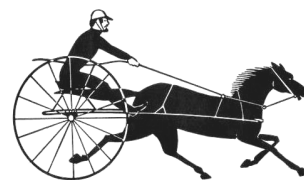
AURORA HISTORY MUSEUM & OFFICE OF THE HISTORIAN

**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

Exhibits Inside the Historian's Office

Open Wednesdays and Thursdays, 1-4 p.m., and by appointment.

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.

Toy Town

From 1987 to 2009, the Toy Town Foundation released a collectible toy that also served as the theme for the annual Toy Fest, a festival that drew thousands to East Aurora during the last weekend of August. Shown here:

2004, Looky Fire Engine

2007, Barky Buddy

1994, Dr. Doodle, special issue,
mid-production

1991, Teddy Bear Parade

1993, Jingle Elephant

1994, Gran'pa Frog

1989, Toot-Toot

1843

Part of the Buffalo Creek American Indian Reservation to be sold to settlers at auction June 15, 1843, in Buffalo. Until this time, the Buffalo Creek Reservation extended over what is today Lackawanna, West Seneca, Elma and Marilla. The portion of this map labelled Aurora became the southern part of the Town of Elma in April 1857.

Nathaniel Currier Lithograph

1829

Erie County, New York, eight years after it was split from Niagara County in 1821. Dated June 5, 1829, this map shows the Buffalo Creek American Indian Reservation, which extended across the county just north of the Town of Aurora.

*Map by David H. Burr ;
Engraving by
Rawdon, Clark & Co., Albany;
and Rawdon, Wright & Co., New York*

1839

Erie County, New York. An updated
reprint of the 1829 map.

*Map by David H. Burr;
Reprint published by Stone & Clark*

1880

The Village of East Aurora, featuring landowners, streets and the eastern line of the former Village of Willink. In 1874, residents voted to extend the boundary of the incorporated Village of Willink to include the eastern side of the community. The name East Aurora was chosen over the name Willink by 19 votes.

*Illustrated Historical Atlas
of Erie County, New-York;
F.W. Beers & Co., New York, publisher*

The Village, Circa 1840

Enjoy this view of East Aurora, but please note that it is “just for fun,” likely produced as a school project. It is not to scale, and not all buildings from the period are depicted. The West End (today’s Circle) is on the right. Note the Liberty Pole at Main and Olean Streets (near which are The Globe Hotel and Millard Fillmore’s House), the plank road along Main and Seneca Streets and the mills along the creek at the West End.

1855

Erie County, New York. After the dissolution of the Buffalo Creek Reservation in 1843, the boundaries of the Towns of Aurora and Lancaster were extended northward and southward, respectively, until the Town of Elma was formed in April 1857.

*Gillette, Matthews & Co.,
Philadelphia, publisher*

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

Abbott S. Griggs

Photographed in his home at 871 Main Street. Mr. Griggs served as mayor of the Village of East Aurora and was co-founder of Griggs & Ball Co., which operated the mill on the northeast corner of Main and Riley Streets. He was also the first president of the First National Bank of East Aurora, later the Erie County Trust Co., until his death in 1917.

Unknown photographer

Mambrino King

Mambrino King, called “the most handsome horse in the world,” sired many record-setting racehorses. Cicero Hamlin purchased him in 1882, and thousands of visitors from around the world came to the Village Farm to admire the famous horse. On December 5, 1899, the 27-year-old dark chestnut was euthanized. His grave is located at North Willow Street and Parkdale Avenue.

Artist: Marlene J. Coles of East Aurora

Donated by Tony & Carol Kubacki

Union School

The East Aurora Union School at Main and North Grove Streets, before 1917, showing the circa 1833 Aurora Academy building (middle); and subsequent Union School additions: south side toward Main Street in 1887 and north side in 1897. All these buildings were later razed and replaced.

*Artist: Burt Barnes
(American, 1872-1947)*

Worked as an illustrator at Roycroft

Griggs & Ball

Advertisement for the Griggs & Ball Roller Mill showing the original mill on the northeast corner of Main and Riley Streets, destroyed by fire January 24, 1917. It was replaced by the mill building currently at the site that was later repurposed for restaurants and retail.

*Hayes Lithograph Company,
Buffalo, N.Y.*

The Fastest

Pastel of Belle Hamlin and Justina, harness horses bred on the Village Farm in East Aurora by Cicero J. Hamlin. The team became the fastest on record in Independence, Iowa, on October 24, 1890, driven by their 71-year-old owner, shown at left in a print published in the 1904 Village Farm catalogue. The team reduced their time to a 2:13 mile on October 27, driven by their trainer, W. J. Andrews, who is likely the driver depicted above.

Artist: D. W. Smith

*Donated to the Historian's Office by
the Estate of Ebee James*

Merritt- Riley Wed

Two prominent local families united July 12, 1871, when C. W. Merritt married Mane Riley. The residence of Gen. Aaron Riley, once located on Main Street near Elm Street, was saved from demolition and moved to Oakwood Avenue in 1964.

Pew Purchase

Agreement, dated May 26, 1828, among Gen. Aaron Riley, the First Congregational Society (which later became the First Presbyterian Church) and the First Calvinistick Baptist Society, for the perpetual use of half a pew in the meeting house shared by the two religious organizations. In exchange for \$29, Gen. Riley and his heirs “shall have the quiet and peaceable possession and use” of the half-pew forever.

1833 Land Sale

The sale of a portion of Lot 59 from the Holland Land Co. to Moses Haynes, February 28, 1833. Sale price: \$133.44. Lot 59 is located near the present-day hamlet of Jewettville along Davis Road.

Donated by Anne Pratt Slatin

M&T Bank

At the Aurora Village Shopping Center, Grey Street. Constructed in 1962. Demolished in 2000.

*Artist: Evelyn Notman Underwood
(American, 1898-1983)*

1923 Base Ball

Composite portraits of the 1923 East
Aurora Base Ball Club.

Unknown Photographer

Circle Inn

Harrington's Circle Inn, circa 1950s. Landmark 1870s building destroyed by fire January 28, 1963, after it had become Shore's Circle Inn. Later replaced by Jester's restaurant; current location of McDonald's restaurant.

Unknown Photographer

William Warren

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 built and lived in the house at 107 Pine Street, circa 1810s-1860s.

Sketch from photograph

Artist: Richard W. Christian

Donated by William & Carrie Owens

East Aurora Hunt

Territory of the East Aurora Hunt, circa 1930s. The annual fox hunt took place from the third week in September until the second week in December, and it concluded with the annual East Aurora Hunt Ball. The event was discontinued with the advent of World War II.

Artist: Betty Talbott Zink

*Hand-colored by
Elizabeth Dickerson Blynt*

Elbert G. Hubbard

Founder of the Roycroft (1856-1915)

*Bust No. 31,
Produced by Austin Productions, Inc.
Donated by Nancy Hubbard Brady*

107 Pine St.

Home of former Town and Village
Historian Richard S. Persons, Sr.
Artwork presented to Mr. Persons by
the membership of the Aurora
Historical Society, April 22, 1954, “as
an expression of our deep affection
and sincere gratitude for his interest
in local history.”

Artist: Jack Demler

*Donated to the Historian's Office by
Melinda (Persons) De Wolfe,
May 6, 2011*

The First Historian

Letter from B. Frank Dake, accepting
his appointment as first Aurora
Town Historian, October 15, 1919.

Tri-Qui '93

Logo for the Town of Aurora 175th anniversary, 1993.

Artist: Tom Bojanowski

Elbert G. Hubbard

Roycroft founder (1856-1915)

*Artist: George Dinckel
(American, 1890-1976)*

Aurora Historical Society Collection