

# Museum News

Jamesville Community Museum March 2017



## Letter from the President

Dear Friends,

The Jamesville Community Museum will reopen for visitors on Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

The 2016 calendar year was one of our most positive. At the annual Holiday Party, in addition to our quilt raffle, a formal recognition ceremony was held to honor Mrs. Nancy Strait. Nancy was, for many years, the curator and exhibit coordinator for the museum. Her surviving husband, Dr. Bradley Strait, was in attendance and spoke after a special plaque was dedicated to Nancy.

As in the past years, the museum is closed to visitors during the extreme winter months of January, February, and March. We have used this down time to begin the very important project of bringing water and sewer into the building. This will allow us to have both a bathroom and a separate sink area. Thanks to the skilled work of Marv Bodley, Greg Titus, and Fred Harle, the project is ahead of schedule and under budget.

If you have not yet had an opportunity to renew your museum membership, we would appreciate your continued support.

The Jamesville Museum Board meets at 7:30 p.m. on the third Monday of each month. Our next meeting is scheduled for April 17, 2017. All members are invited to attend.

*Robert T. Catney*  
Museum President

## Scenes from Jamesville's History

On April 15, 1901, the first prisoners were moved by train to Onondaga County's new penitentiary in Jamesville. It was so new, in fact, that it wasn't even finished. These 20 prisoners were transferred early to help work on the project by providing physical labor with tasks such as grading and cleaning up the penitentiary grounds. The penitentiary wouldn't be completed until the fall of 1901 and the remaining prisoners were transferred shortly after. This new penitentiary was needed because the old one had outgrown its capacity considerably.

-- Dan Connors, General Manager of OHA's Ska\*nonh - Great Law of Peace Center



Percy "Angel Face" Geary at the Syracuse Police Station in 1937 after being caught after escaping from Jamesville Penitentiary. Geary had been arrested for his involvement in the July 7, 1933 kidnaping of John O'Connell Jr. of Albany. Photo by Herald Journal photographer Frank Monell.