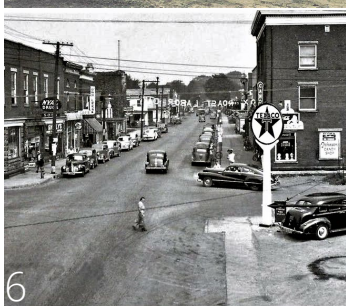
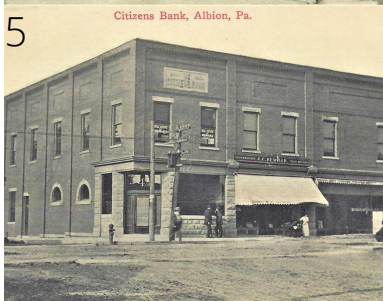
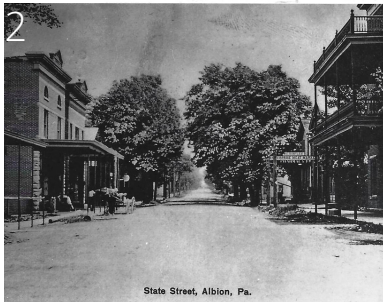


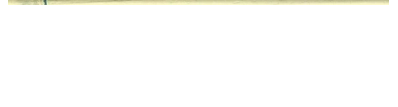
MARCH 2021

ALBION AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY

LOCAL HISTORY NEWSLETTER



This month's focus is the Citizen's Bank Building, on the NE corner of State & Main. Built around 1911, it housed Citizen's Bank on the corner, Barn's Store, the Post Office, Albion Light & Power Co., and Newman's Pharmacy. In November 1923, a fire began in the basement of Newman's Pharmacy (now Anderson's Physical Therapy), and while the origin was never conclusive, the fire was unfortunately fueled by 600 crates of paint stored in the pharmacy basement, and a full coal shipment that had been delivered to the basement of the bank shortly before. As you can see in the photos on the right, the building was nearly completely destroyed, with only portions of the exterior walls still standing. The fire was discovered by two Bessemer Engineers coming home from work at 6:45 am. Fire Chief Sharp & fireman Vern Best were 1st on scene and reported yellow-green smoke, indicating that chemicals were burning. The telephone company was located right next to the Pharmacy, in the top floor of the building where the Main Street Pub is today, and despite the danger and thick smoke filling the room during the blaze, the operators stayed at their posts in case of other emergencies, and to contact assistance if needed. Over 60 firefighters from Conneautville, Girard, Erie, and Conneaut, Ohio came in the 1st hour to help save what they could of Albion's business district. Erie's state of the art pumper laid two lines down N. Main St. to the creek, and Bessemer employees pumped 750 gallons of water per minute into the creek through four 8 inch pipes to keep the water level up and ensure a steady stream of water to stem the blaze. At one point Chief Sharp consulted an explosives expert about the possibility of blowing up the Main St. Pub building to stop the fire from continuing east to the other businesses on that side of the street, but thankfully the fire was knocked down before it was necessary. Afterwards, State Bank officials opened the vault and found the contents undamaged, but the intense heat had made the hinges brittle, and it couldn't be closed again. Two state troopers guarded the vault overnight, and the next day everything was moved to Erie. Within a week, a makeshift bank office was built on the site, and the other businesses set up in temporary quarters elsewhere in town. M.H. Sawdey bought the property in May 1924 for \$9100, and began reconstruction, keeping the door frame on the corner and the portions of wall still standing, all of which remain to this day. Some of the severely twisted steel girders in the building were removed and straightened at Rogers Bros. and used in the rebuild. On December 6th 1924, just over a year later, the new building was finished and reopened to the public, with the old tenants back in their premises, a 5 room apartment, and a large hall which was complete enough to hold a Halloween dance in October of 1924.



MARCH MYSTERY MADNESS!!

This month, our children's* free book program is a mystery!! We have two mystery titles, one for children pre-school age to 2nd or 3rd grade, and one for kids around 3rd to 6th grade. As always, each kit contains a book to keep, a craft to assemble at home, discussion questions about the story, and some suggestions for at home activities! Give us a call or message on our Facebook page, and reserve your copy today!



*There will not be an adult book kit this month, but we'll keep you posted in further months!

Bake Sale Baskets Raffle

This month we are raffling off 7 different baskets, all with a baking theme! A strip of 5 tickets is \$2, or a sheet of 25 tickets is \$5. Winners will be drawn on March 31st! Get your tickets today!!



Apple and Pumpkin Pies Basket
2 Cans Duncan Hines Apple Pie Filling
1 Wegman's Pumpkin Pie Filling
3 Boxes Betty Crocker Pie Crust

Cookie Mixes Basket

Betty Crocker Cookie Mixes (Peanut Butter, White Chip Macadamia Nut, Snickerdoodle, & Oatmeal), and Fudge Brownie Mix, and Pillsbury Funfetti, Chocolate Chip, and Sugar Cppkie Mixes.



All Baskets Donated by the Friends of the Albion Library

Brownie Mixes Basket
Betty Crocker Salted Caramel Brownie Mix, Peanut Butter Cookie Brownie Mix, Pyrex 2 Quart Square Baking Dish



Handmade Rooster Themed Apron and Oven Mitts



Betty Crocker Mixes Basket
1 Chocolate Chip Cookie Mix, 1 Fudge Brownie Mix, 2 Peanut Butter Cookie Mixes, 2 Blueberry Muffin Mixes, 6 Spiced Apple Cider Mixes, & 9 Swiss Miss Hot Chocolate Mixes



Cake Mixes Basket
Betty Crocker Super Moist French Vanilla & German Chocolate Cake Mixes, Butter Cream & Coconut Pecan Frosting, Pyrex 3 Quart Rectangular Baking Dish



Muffin Mixes Basket

No Bake York Peppermint Patty Bites
2 Betty Crocker Blueberry Muffin Mixes & 1 Chocolate Chip Muffin Mix
1 package Wilton Baking Cups & 2 12-cup Muffin Pans

