

#### \* Clue for Treasure #4

Find a "Fort Plain Free Library Rocks!" rock at this oversized birdbath and locate the next clue.

#### \* Treasure # 5

You've done great so far!

Unscramble this word to find your next destination.

SOBOK

See the person at the desk for the clue to the real treasure!



Duffy Fountain in Haslett Park



The historic Fort Plain Free Library past & present: The vintage postcard shows one of the Erie Canal lift bridges on River St., left.

#### Some Historical Background:

**Fort Plain** was originally the home of the Native American Mohawks, members of the Iroquois Confederacy. It was settled by Palatine Germans & other European settlers who arrived in the area around 1710. The village took its name from the Revolutionary War post on the outskirts of the village.

The original **Erie Canal**, which opened in 1825, cut through the village in close proximity to the Fort Plain Free Library (see above postcard) until the Barge Canal opened on the Mohawk River in 1918. Vestiges of the original canal can still be seen in the village.

**Montgomery Hall** was built in 1832 as a late-Federal style tavern. The **clock tower**, built in the Queen Anne-style, was added later and still works.

The **Fort Plain Post Office**, above, was built in 1931. Prior to that, it existed in two locations on Canal Street. We were able to see earlier photos of it displayed at the post office. The first was taken after 1872 (date verified because of the presence of Lawrence Glassel's shoe store, which was listed in the 1872 directory and the the Civil War veterans' Grand Army of the Republic Hall above it). The block in which these buildings were located was subsequently destroyed by fire in the mid-1990s. A later photo of the post office shows that it was one of the businesses in the Clock Tower building.

**Haslett Park**, located across the street from the library, was built on the site of a former Fritcher Opera House, the Union Hotel and several other businesses and a warehouse, which were destroyed by fire in 1911. Local businessman Frederick Haslett bought the property and donated it to the village for use as a park. It was later enlarged. The park's **fountain** was constructed in 1914-1915 and dedicated to the memory of John Duffy, who owned a local silk mill with his brother. The original **bandstand** was also constructed around that time.

The **Fort Plain Free Library** was formed in 1885 by the Women's Library Association and local educator Martha Bortle. It was chartered 1894. Located on the corners of Willett and River Streets and directly across from Haslett Park, this was once a home to the Tanner Family, who owned a business in the village. Built in 1836, in a Greek Revival style, it was presented to the association to be used as the Public Library around 1909.

**Sources:** *Historical Resources Survey Village of Fort Plain, Town of Minden, Montgomery County, New York*, Nov. 15, 2010; *Sanborn Fire Maps; Montgomery County*, Kelly Yacobuchi Farquhar, 2004; *The Old Mohawk-Turnpike Book*, <https://fulton.nygenweb.net/Turnpike/FtPlain.html>