

Town of Canandaigua

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Canandaigua, N. Y. 14424
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Established 1789

January 12, 2016

2015 Historian's Report

In keeping with the guidelines outlined for the N.Y. State's Registered Historian performance, I endeavor each year to pattern my activities accordingly: to reach the public and school children, to publish, speak, collect, preserve, and protect the Town of Canandaigua's history and heritage, through the categories of Research & Writing; Teaching and Public Presentations; and Historic Advocacy. The following, therefore, represents my efforts for 2015.

Research & Writing

- Barns: The ongoing survey of historic barns in the Town of Canandaigua. After digitizing them, with the help of Town Resident Lew Smith, they have been installed on "ONCOR", the Ontario County fiber-optic ring as an Online Historic Barns Inventory available for public review. This should be a useful tool for "planners".
The initial survey has been a part of a project being done on a County-wide level for which I am the manager.
- Responded to 44 research requests from Town residents and others interested in the history of the Town of Canandaigua and/or its early settlers. These were primarily email requests. In addition, many phone calls requesting information were handled on a weekly basis.
- Maintained Office hours at the Town Hall for 95% of all Tuesdays (8am to 4pm) and Wednesdays (8am to 12 noon). Also was available by appointment. I also attended most Town Board meetings.
- Replaced the historical display of miscellaneous Town of Canandaigua District Schools in the lower level display case with "Recent Finds": pictures of recently discovered steam tunnels of the old brickyard on the Brickyard Road and a display of pictures of a recently found boat at the bottom of Canandaigua Lake which may be a steamboat of old. Replaced the "then and now" pictures of places of interest in the Town of Canandaigua in the

main floor case with a display celebrating the 100th birthday of the Cheshire Union School. (This will be followed by or intermingled with the Town of Canandaigua's celebration of their 225th anniversary)

- Researched, printed and framed a collection of former and current Canandaigua Town Justices and displayed them in the Town's Court Room at the request of the Town Justices

Teaching & Public Presentations

- Developed and presented the following Power Point Programs to Town residents as well as other members of the public:

Steamboats of Canandaigua Lake -

- Canandaigua Kiwanis Club - April 21st
- East Bloomfield Historical Society -- June 18th
- Wayne Drumlins - Penfield Country Club -
- October 18th
- Iroquois Sail & Power Squadron - "back Nine
Restaurant - Penfield - November 4th

Performing "Oral Histories", a how-to presentation - Happiness House -
June 15th

Performed a follow-up meeting with 4 residents - Happiness House -
June 25th

History of the Tours of Barns & Farms of Ontario County - Wood Library -
November 19th

History of English Barns - Farmington Town Hall - May 7th

The Natural Science Camp of Tichenor Point - Wood Library- March 26th

- Throughout the year I wrote 4 Historic articles for the Canandaigua Daily Messenger:
 1. The Onnalinda - Queen of the Canandaigua Steamboats ;
 2. Summers on the Lake - The Depression Years;
 3. American Naval Fighting Ships - The Canandaigua (4);
 4. The Old Cheshire School - A Century of fond memories.
- For the past three years I have been mentoring Carol Truesdale, a first-time author, on a new book on the History of Camp Onanda. Carol is a retired teacher from the Churchville-Chili School District and a past Councilor at the

Camp. I have written the Forward for the book, which was published this year, 2015.

Historic Advocacy

- This year we started the first of a 5 year plan to perform the majority of work required to bring all of the Town of Canandaigua cemeteries for which we are responsible up to an appropriate standard for headstone and footstone replacement/repair. A Request For Quotes was sent out to three contractors, with Peter Ellison of Ellison Conservation providing the lowest bid at \$4500. Our evaluation projected that an increase of the cemetery maintenance budget (for headstone work only) to \$5000 per year for the next 5 years would achieve our goal. Thus this amount was proposed and approved for the 2015 Budget and repeated for the 2016 Budget.
- On February 5th, I participated in the production of a historical video for the Ontario County Historical Society's presentation on Facebook and other media distributions. The topic was the "Ice Storms of 1936 & 1991".
- I attended the APHNYS Annual Meeting: Annual NYS Conference in Corning, N.Y.- April 10th, 11th, & 12th, 2015.

Organization & Advocacy

- For the 6th consecutive year, I judged the regional Junior and Senior High School Web Page Entries for National History Day on March 13th, 2015 at the Ontario County Historical Museum.
- On Saturday, May 16th, 2015 at the Town's request, and with the Town Historian's assistance, the Ontario County Historical Society hosted a "Canandaigua Day at the Museum" with free exhibits and tours of the Archives for all Town Residents. The Program included Free Antique Appraisals by Michael Mrozinski; A talk about the ONCOR Historic Barn program by Sheri Norton and Ray Henry; and a Presentation on the "Cheshire Meeting Hall Project" by Fred and Nancy Goodnow.
- On December 5th I participated in a book sale and signing with 8 other authors at the Wood Library.

Respectfully Submitted,

Raymond W. Henry
Town Historian