

Town of Canandaigua

5540 Routes 5 & 20 West
Canandaigua, N. Y. 14424
585-394-1120

Established 1789

January 12, 2017

2016 Historian's Report

To continue to reinforce my keeping of the guidelines outlined for the N.Y. State's Registered Historian performance, I will again 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; Historic and Organizational Advocacy. The following, therefore, represents my efforts for 2016.

Research & Writing

- Historic Barns: After digitizing the surveys and photographs of all of the historic barns in the Town of Canandaigua, and installing them on "ONCOR", the Ontario County fiber-optic ring, we have begun showing the results for public review. This should be a useful tool for "planners".
The intent of this work is to encourage this project on a County-wide level.
- Responded to approximately 35 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 90 - 95% of all Tuesdays (8am to 4pm) and Wednesdays (8am to 12 noon). Also was available by appointment. Attended majority of Town Board meetings.
- Replaced the historical display in the main floor case with a display celebrating the 100th birthday of the Cheshire Union School and with miscellaneous photos of various events, sponsored by the "Special Events Committee" of the Town of Canandaigua's celebration of their 225th anniversary.

Teaching & Public Presentations

- Developed and presented the following Power Point Programs to Town residents as well as other members of the public:
 1. The History of the Rochester and Eastern Rapid Railway - Red Jacket Rotary Club - January 5th
 2. Where is Kanandargue? **and** The Natural Science Camp of Tichenor Point at Canandaigiua Town Hall for Centerfield Homemakers - January 14th
 3. The History of Gorham's Barns - Mill Restaurant for Gorham Historical Society's Annual Dinner - January 19th
 4. The History of Farmington's Barns - Farmington Town Hall - January 31st
 5. Where is Kanandarque? - United Church of Bristol - March 2nd
 6. Training Presentation for Historic Barns - Farmington Town Hall - April 7th
 7. Steamboats of Canandaigua Lake -Clark Meadows - April 14th
 8. Historical & Cultural Sites in Canandaigua - Ferris Hills - May 12th
 9. The English Barn: A Tutorial - Town of Bristol - June 23rd
 10. West Lake Legacy - Road to Onanda - Yacht Club - August 28th
 11. History of Tour of Barns - West Bloomfield Historical Society - Sept 6th
 12. Preview of 2016 Tour of Barns - Rotary Club Canandaigua - Sept 22
 13. Who is Sibley Nott w/ Lew Smith - Clark Meadows - Nov 17th
 14. History of Victor & Farmington Barns - seniors' Group at Mertensia Park, Farm. - Dec. 19th

*******I would appreciate the Town Board Members letting others know that I am willing to make these and other presentations.*******

- Throughout the year I wrote 4 Historic articles for the Canandaigua Daily Messenger:

1. The New York Hydraulic Pressed Brick Company of Brickyard Road - February 7, 2016
2. The Town of Canandaigua's Early History - 225th Anniversary - April 24, 2016
2. The Cobblestones of Canandaigua - July 3, 2016
3. The Demise of the English Working Barn - August 21, 2016

Historic Advocacy

- This year was the second year 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 for the second consecutive year 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.
- In addition, Dennis Brewer, the Canandaigua Town Director of Parks and Recreation, Peter Ellison of Ellison Conservation and I surveyed all the cemeteries to assess the amount of maintenance work (i.e. tree trimming, headstone straightening, etc.) that the Parks and Recreation Personnel could reasonably accomplish.

Organization & Advocacy

- For the 7th consecutive year, I judged the regional Junior and Senior High School Web Page Entries for National History Day on March 18th, 2016 at the Ontario County Historical Museum. This year all the Web Page entries were in the Junior High School category consisting of 3 individual presentations and 2 group presentations.
- On Saturday, May 14th, 2016, 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 8th Annual Historic Barn Tour to be hosted in honor of Jake Repard by Ray Henry; and a Presentation on the "Auburn Trail" by Richard Palmer.

- I chaired the Ontario County Historical Society's 2016 biennial Tour of Barns held within the Town and City of Canandaigua, in memory of Jake Repard, one time code enforcement officer and building inspector for the Town of Canandaigua as well as my partner on the past 7 Tours of Barns. As chair, I performed a substantial number of functions in its planning and implementation. Among those functions were:
 - a. Site selection: included field evaluations, owner interviews, historical research, and OCHS Board of Trustee presentations for approval.
 - b. In depth research: after Board approval, old photographs, histories and newspaper articles were researched and a short history of each site written for the Tour Booklet.
 - c. Photographic excursions were made for booklet presentations.
 - d. Visitations were carried out to plan most efficient and educational Tour Route throughout each site.
 - e. Field evaluations were made to determine parking and travel considerations.
 - f. Training sessions for nearly 50 guides were conducted.
 - g. Made an introductory slide show at the Canandaigua Rotary Club and the West Bloomfield Historical Society.
 - h. Wrote, produced the lay-out, and, with Ed Varno coordinated the printing of the Official Booklet.

This was the eighth biennial tour of barns that I have managed for the Ontario County Historical Society. I wanted it to be in memory of Jake not only because of a close friendship, but also to recognize the tremendous amount of historical and research work he did for the Town of Canandaigua and his willingness and dedication in assisting me in the survey of 100 year old barns of Ontario County.

Miscellaneous

In addition, I served on the Special Events Committee in setting up and preparing several programs/presentations including:

1. The First Town Board Meeting in 1791 with General Israel Chapin as the first Town Supervisor;
2. The Fourth of July Parade;
3. A Historical Display at the Ontario County Fair;
4. A Town sponsored Square Dance at the Cheshire Fire Department; and
5. A Halloween Party for children and adults at Onanda Park.

Also, a small committee, including Lisa Barnum, Joy Daggett, Dory Romanowski, Oksana Fuller, and I, prepared a two-day event celebrating, with a host of help, the 100th birthday of the Cheshire Union School.

The Town also accepted a few artifacts which I am hoping will stay in the Town Hall :

1. A farm display built by Jake Repard and donated by the Repard family;
2. A quilt donated by Lisa Wemett which depicts all the Homes that were toured on the 2011 OCHS Tour of Homes along West Lake Road; and
3. An early 1900's camera tri-pod belonging to Mr. Bertram Outhouse and donated by the Outhouse Family.

All in all this was a much busier than expected year!

Respectfully Submitted,

Raymond W. Henry
Town Historian