

LEICESTER TOWN & VILLAGE HISTORIAN 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

2019 Summary:

Many requests for information have been received this year and there have been wonderful donations to the Historical files. Countless hours were spent on an application for a Pomeroy Foundation grant for a Historical marker for Little Beards Town. Unfortunately the required primary source documentation for Little Beards Town does not exist therefore I withdrew the application and the marker will be purchased.

One of the most rewarding events this year was helping a family that came to Leicester knowing only a name and that He was reported to have lived in Leicester. They discovered that their ancestor was one of the earliest settlers and was hired by the Wadsworth's to clear the land of Little Beards Town for sale. They also were unaware that He had served in the War of 1812. I was able to show them the family graves in the Cemetery as well as the house that He had built.

Educational – Conferences:

- County Historian Meetings with Livingston County Town & Village Historians.
- New York State Archives Webinars
- SUNY Geneseo Historian Meeting
- GAHWNY Conference

Events – Programs:

As the Leicester Historian I continue to be involved in history related activities to ensure that our history is recognized as an important contribution to Livingston County heritage. I have attended the following events:

Winter Discovery Program Series at the Mount Morris Dam

- County Bicentennial
- Letchworth Park CCC Days

Livingston County Historical Society Programs

- History of the Wadsworth Homestead
- Big Tree Exhibit
- History of Salt Mining
- History of the Livingston County Sheriff Department

Additional Events

- Memorial Day Ceremony
- Docent at the Livingston County Historical Museum
- provided a “mini” history article about the Tilton Family for the Village of Leicester Newsletter

Research – Projects:

On a weekly basis advertisements, events, obituaries, real estate notices, and articles concerning Leicester are collected from on-line, newspapers, and other sources and are added to the history files.

- Research at the County Historian's Office and on-line
- 1900 Village of Moscow Fire
- History of early residents and Native American History
- Interviews with Leicester residents to record history before it is lost
- Continue to consolidate and improve historical records
- Photograph current changes in Leicester such as, buildings, businesses and signs
- Consolidate the obituary records and create a user friendly data base

Correspondence:

Requests for information on Leicester History by telephone, mail, internet, and “on the streets” are constant. I have met with genealogists and researchers. The requests have included:

- Beebee Family
- Hulbert Family
- photograph of La Delpha's
- history of homes
- Chomyn Family
- Bigelow Family
- Goodell Family
- Slocum Family
- Bailey Family
- Village of Moscow
- Budrow Family

Donations and Acquisitions:

- photograph of the June 22, 1913 train accident in Cylerville – donated by George S. Searle
- photographs and the book Pioneer History of the Holland Land Purchase – donated by James Shaunessey
- photographs of the Chomyn farm – donated by Pamela Chomyn
- Leicester photographs – donated by Mark Roffe
- Goodell Family History
- Mt. Morris Enterprise newspapers – donated by Andrea Farruggia
- early photographs of Main Street Moscow, early parade, Austen Farm – donated by Marica Austen Pratt
- 1929 program of the One Hundred Fiftieth Anniversary of the Sullivan-Clinton Campaign, Official Instructions to Participants – donated by George S. Searle

Future Goals:

The dedication of the Little Beards Town Historic Marker will take place next year. The Livingston County Bicentennial Celebration will begin in 2020 and there are numerous events that will take place. The Town of Leicester is older than the County and was the first Town to join the new County. The many contributions of the Town of Leicester will be highlighted. Records management continues to be a priority.

Respectfully Submitted,
Karen A. Roffe
Leicester Town & Village Historian