

# LEICESTER TOWN & VILLAGE HISTORIAN 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

## **2021 Summary:**

The COVID-19 Pandemic continues to limit activities. Conferences, public presentations, and events were cancelled or attended by ZOOM. Interactions with researchers and the public are by telephone or computer.

This year there have been new opportunities to enhance Leicester history. The SUNY Geneseo Center for Local and Municipal History obtained a grant to create a website-digital archives titled " The Indigenous History of Livingston County. I met with Professor Orberg and provided many documents concerning Native American history in the Town of Leicester.

The William G. Pomeroy Foundation Historic Transportation Canal Marker Program is a grant program to provide Historic Markers. The Genesee Valley Canal operated from 1840-1878 and two ports were located in the Town of Leicester. In May I submitted a Letter of Intent to apply for a Moscow Landing Historic Marker. In October I submitted a Letter of Intent to apply for a Historic Marker for Cuylerville Basin. The Pomeroy Foundation have very exacting and rigorous requirements for historic verification. Only primary source documents written at the time will qualify. The Town History files contained very little information about either site. I spent countless hours researching both online and local resources for documentation to meet the Pomeroy Foundation requirements. The Moscow Landing and Cuylerville Basin applications are still under review.

The Livingston County Walls Program will be creating an art mural for each village. I serve on the Leicester Committee and provide information about Leicester history.

The SUNY Geneseo History Department has obtained a grant to provide Interns next year. The Interns are paid by the grant and there would not be any cost to the Town of Leicester. I have requested an Intern to create a photographic Inventory of the Town of Leicester photographs.

The ongoing project to consolidate the Town obituary files is nearly complete. Requests for information as well as donations to the Historical files continue.

## **Educational – Conferences:**

- Photoshop Course
- DPSNY Webinars:  
Assessing the Condition of Your Photographs Collection  
Photographs in the Archives - Photo Album Preservation

## **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.

#### Livingston County Historical Society Programs

- " The 1918 Influenza Pandemic Lecture Series- impact globally and on Livingston County specifically", a five-part series by ZOOM

#### Additional Events

- Docent at the Livingston County Historical Museum
- Livingston County meeting concerning Chenussio: An Indigenous History of Livingston County
- provided a "mini" history article "Samuel Miles Hopkins: Founder of the Village of Moscow

### **Research – Projects:**

On a weekly basis advertisement, 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 on-line
- History of early residents and Native American History
- 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
- Organization and consolidation of the Leicester and Cuylerville Departments records.

### **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:

- Leicester Civil War Monument
- information the mills and their location on Beards Creek
- maps of The Genesee Salt Company
- history of homes
- information about Abner Simon Ensign and Hanna Babcock
- A Park homestead located at St. Helena
- Clark Family
- Sterling Mine Railroad Construction
- Native American history
- Early Leicester Roads
- information about the names on the St. Thomas Church-stained glass windows
- Leicester Casino

### **Donations and Acquisitions:**

- Letters to Lucy – donated by Connie Davidson & daughter's letters by EW Bebee to his wife
- Leicester Civil War Monument photographs-Thomas Reagan
- 1904 newspaper article "Moscow and Cuylerville Canal Towns", 1905 newspaper article

"Leicester in the Early Days", Information on Downeys Corners (information does not currently exist in the files) -Lori Disalvo

- Chapman-Barrett family history from 1830's onward
- 1896 map of Lands at Moscow Landing - Liv. Co. Historian Office
- Phoenix Salt Well map- Bill Kappel USGS shows Phoenix Dairy Company plant site

prior to 1900

- Moscow 1856 map images - Liv. Co. Historic Society
- 1872 Atlas - Village of Moscow and Cuylerville, 1925 Leicester School Districts Map -

John Craft Liv. Co. Highway Department

- 1901 Atlas Town of Leicester, Village of Cuylerville - Liv. Co. Highway Dept.
- Early Cuylerville photographs - Clair and Pam Thompson
- Beebe and Budrow Family history and photographs - donated by Connie Davidson
- 1868 New Gazetteer & Business Directory for Livingston County
- Genesee Valley Canal Map
- 1961 York Central School Graduation Program, 1936 Commencement Program of

Leicester High School - Sue Kelly

- information on Sterling Mine Railroad
- Photograph of Cuylerville Railroad Station - Nancy Lubanski
- framed Diplomas - Eleazar Beebe Schenectady (Schenectady) College, 1867 EW Beebe

Medical Degree- Connie Davidson

- Numerous historic newspaper pages
- Moscow Landing Information - Wyoming Co. Historian

## **Future Goals:**

The dedication of a Little Beards Town Historic Marker will take place when possible. I will continue to document the history and effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic in Leicester. Records management is a high priority. Future potential projects for 2022 will be dependent upon the restrictions of the COVID-19 Pandemic. I intend to write papers such as, " History of Salt Mining in Leicester" as well as other topics.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen A. Roffe

Leicester Town & Village Historian