

LEICESTER TOWN & VILLAGE HISTORIAN 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

2020 Summary:

The COVID-19 Pandemic has affected nearly every aspect of private and public life. In March restrictions on large gatherings and social distancing resulted in the cancelation of both private and public Leicester events. The Kiwanis Chicken Bar-B-Que, the Boy Scouts Pancake Breakfast and the Boy Scouts Bottle Drive were canceled. The Village Park Concert Series, the Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony as well as the York-Leicester Field Days were not held this year. Graduation ceremonies and parties were postponed. Social Clubs and organizations did not meet. Church services were held by ZOOM if possible and restaurants were closed for “in-person” dining.

The Historian's activities were also impacted. Conferences and programs were canceled or whenever possible were attended by ZOOM. I was unable to continue the “in-person” meetings with researchers and residents. The Little Beard's Town Historic Marker dedication was postponed. I was not able to apply for an Intern to assist with records management. The Village Banner Program theme this year was Hometown Heroes. The banners honored Leicester Military Veterans as well as Volunteer Service. A dedication ceremony of a Memorial Marker honoring Stanley Lubanski was held in the Village Park.

Requests for information as well as donations to the Historical files continue. The highlight of this year's donations was the 1855 Beebe-Budrow Family appliqued baby quilt. The quilt was a wedding gift for the marriage of Lucy Budrow and E.W. Beebe. The women of the Beebe and Budrow families made the quilt and quilted their initials and the date into the quilt. The quilt will be displayed at the Town Hall.

Educational – Conferences:

- County Historian Meeting with Livingston County Town & Village Historians.
- New York State Archives Webinars:

Managing Electronic Records

Inventory of Records

Digital Imaging

Creating File Plans

Introduction to Electronic Records Management

Establishing Records Management Policies and Procedures

- DPSNY Webinars:

Assessing the Condition of Your Photographs Collection

Photographs in the Archives - Arranging and Describing Visual Materials

- APHNYS Conference by ZOOM

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

- Livingston County from the Civil War to the Industrial Revolution
- Harriet Newell Austin Program

Livingston County Historical Society Programs

- In Our Backyard Series

Additional Events

- History of African American Suffrage Program
- Docent at the Livingston County Historical Museum
- Leicester Eagle Scout Ceremony
- provided a “mini” history article “Returning to College” for the Village of Leicester Newsletter

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:

- Beebee Family
- King Family
- photograph of the Boyd Parker Park Torture Tree
- history of homes
- Dutton Family
- O'Dea Family
- Clark Family
- Fourth of July Celebrations in the Village of Leicester
- Leicester historic trees
- Early Leicester Roads
- Cuylerville Gas Station
- Erin Brownell of Gibsonville
- Cuylerville weathervane history
- Leicester Casino

Donations and Acquisitions:

- 1855 Beebe-Budrow baby quilt – donated by Connie Davidson & daughters
- Early Cuylerville photographs, school year books, Van Tyne Photograph Album and other items from Clair and Pam Thompson
- Beebe and Budrow Family genealogy
- O'Dea Family genealogy

Future Goals:

The dedication of the 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, The Livingston County Bicentennial celebration events begin in February 2021 and I will be involved to contribute and highlight Leicester History. Records management continues to be a high priority. I wish to inventory the photographic collection. Future potential projects for 2021 will be dependent upon the restrictions of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

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