

LEICESTER TOWN & VILLAGE HISTORIAN ANNUAL REPORT - 2018

2018 Summary:

A new laptop and printer were purchased this year. This year has been an active one with continuing requests and donations. I had posted a request for donations of Leicester historical information on The Friends of the Village Facebook page and received items as well as greater public publicity.

Educational - Conferences:

- County Historian Meetings with Livingston County Town & Village Historians.
- New York State Archives Webinars.
- Preservation Workshop.

Events - Programs:

As the Leicester Historian I continue to be involved in history related activities to ensure that our history is recognized as contributing to our past County heritage. I attended the following events:

Winter Discovery Program Series at the Mount Morris Dam

- The Psychic Highway: How the Erie Canal Changed America
- 1960's Music Innovation
- From Darkness to Light: In the Flick of a Switch
- Change in the Water
- Alternation, Metamorphosis, Upheaval and Breakthrough
- Technical Genius in the Holly Family: Engineers and Inventors
- What Will They Think of Next? Ten Innovations that changed Small Town Life (1850-1950)

Livingston County Historical Society Programs

- History of Firefighting
- From Geneseo to Glenveagh
- Comparison of Prohibition in Livingston County and Suffolk County
- Oak Openings and Native American Forest Modification
- 19th Century Agriculture: Crops, Livestock, and Farm Implements
- History of Geneseo's Village Clock Tower

Other Events

- Memorial Day Ceremony
- This year I became a Docent at the Livingston County Museum. I have promoted Leicester and local history as well as providing information on donated Leicester items.
- The Museum of Disabilities contacted me concerning a proposed book on the history of Craig Colony which the Museum was going to create and dedicate to Tom Roffe. I collaborated with them on the book and contributed research material and written articles. The book Colony Chronicles was published in December 2018.

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 added to the history files.

The following are on-going research projects;

- 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;

- Richardson family
- Robbins family
- Neff family
- Copeland family
- Slocum family
- Bailey family
- Olmstead family
- history of homes
- photograph of the Leicester Locomotive
- Cuylerville Indian Weather Vane History
- Leicester Cheese Factory
- AZKO Mine Collapse

Donations and Acquisitions:

- Robbins family records
- Neff family records
- Copeland family records
- Slocum family records
- Bailey family records
- Photographs of Memorial Day, Park concerts, brochures and newspaper articles from Jim Shaunessey
- Copy of Abstract of Ownership for Jim Shaunessey home
- Copy of Abstract of Ownership for Brian Park home
- Leicester map from Dave & Barb Galvin
- Books - History of Livingston County by James H. Smith, and Historical and Statistical Gazetteer of New York State 1860. from Joyce Fitzgerald
- Early photographs of Moscow Main Street
- National Hotel Postcard from Wyoming County Historian
- Photographs of Butch's Esso Station in Cuylerville and Kendall Gas Station in Cuylerville from

Gary Moore

- Newspaper articles and historical information from Betty Wooster

Future Goals:

I am currently working on the application process for a Pomeroy Foundation Historical Marker for Little Beard's Town. Records management continues to be a priority. The SUNY Geneseo History Department has proposed a program for history students to work for and with local Historians. I will be exploring this option as well as volunteers to assist with records management. An inventory of the Leicester historical files must be created. The Livingston County Bicentennial will occur in 2020. The Town of Leicester existed prior to the formation of Livingston County and was the first Town in the County. The planning for the celebration has begun and I will be involved in this project.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen A. Roffe

Leicester Town & Village Historian