

LEICESTER TOWN & VILLAGE HISTORIAN ANNUAL REPORT – 2017

2017 Summary :

My first year as Historian has been both interesting and enjoyable. As I continue to study the Historical Records I realize that there still is much to learn. The Village of Moscow fire in 1900 destroyed all Village and Town records which makes research challenging. In many ways the Leicester Historical files are like a giant puzzle with many pieces missing and the goal of the past Leicester Historians and myself has been to discover and collect the missing pieces.

Educational – Conferences :

- County Historian Meetings with the Livingston County Town & Village Historians.
- Government Appointed Historians of WNY (GAHWNY) fall conference.
- New York State Archives Webinar - “Introduction to the LGRMIF Grant Program” (Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund).
- New York State Archives Webinar - “How to write a Superior LGRMIF narrative.”

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 Series at the Mt Morris Dam

- The Impact of WWI on Livingston County
- Suffragists in Every Town and County
- The Burned Over District – 19th Century Religious Revivalism
- Water Powered Milling
- Life in the Land of Letchworth from Native Times to Modern Day
- The Role of Camp Portage and the Erie Railroad in the Civil War

Livingston County Historical Society

- Underground Railroad in Livingston County
- Cemeteries

Other Events

- 2 Livingston County Historian meetings
- Boy Scout Flag Retirement Ceremony
- Canadagua Treaty Day Event - The renewal of the 1794 Treaty between the Six Nations of the Iroquois Confederacy and the United States Government.
- Memorial Day Ceremony
- Wrote “Village of Leicester History” and presented it at the Village Board Meeting.
- Wrote “Leicester Presbyterian Church 200 Years of History” and presented it at the Leicester Presbyterian Church 200th Year Celebration.
- Provided a display of civil war letters from the four Tilton brothers from the Village of Moscow for the Perry School Veterans Display.

Research – Projects:

- On a weekly basis advertisements, events, obituaries, real estate notices, and article concerning Leicester are collected from on-line, newspapers, and other sources and added to the history files.
- Research at the County Historian's Office and on-line

The following are on-going research projects;

- 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 the 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;

- Palermo family information
- Chomyn family history
- Hannon family history
- Phillips family history
- Wheelock family genealogy
- Reverend Fisher Gutelius
- Sarah Churchill/Perkins family
- Richardson family
- Welch family
- Horton family
- history of homes
- military jet crash
- Goose Creek School history
- Boyd Parker History
- Lackwanna Railroad map
- Leicester Church histories

Donations and Acquisitions:

Received this year were:

- Wooster family genealogical records from family Bibles – births, deaths, marriages
- Photographs of Winter Wonderland and Park Concerts from Jim Shaughnessy
- Ledgers from the Brophel Store circa 1870-1885 from Dick Christiano
- Leicester Presbyterian Church records – members and deaths
- Photograph of Chomyn family farm on Dunkley Road and other family photographs
- “Certain Recently Explored New York Mounds and Their Probable Relation to the Hopewell Culture” Rochester Museum of Arts and Sciences circa 1938.

Future Goals:

I intend to enhance and actively use the Town and Village websites to educate and promote Leicester

history. Since researchers and genealogists frequently request where someone lived I would like to develop a data base for Leicester homes that would include an address, photo and also ownership records. Often in Leicester the house deed or abstract is the only existing record of proof that person(s) lived in Leicester. In 2018 I wish to write articles/papers on Leicester History and do more public presentations. I intend to improve record management of the immense history files.

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