

1 January 2013

To: Supervisor Ted Fafinski and the Farmington Town Board

From: Margaret Hartsough, Town Historian

Re: 2012 Annual report from the Town Historian

Mr. Gary Merrill, who operates an antique business in Farmington, donated a ledger to the town. This ledger contained records of town meetings as early as 1797 and up to 1820. It also contains names of early residents and are recorded as they registered earmarks for their livestock with the Town Clerk. This ledger has been digitally copied by the Kirtas Co., Victor, NY. CDs have been made and they will be available online.

Ms. Karen Crandell, who was updating an older book on Cobblestone structures in Western NY came to the Town Hall to examine the information which we have available.

Mr. McGuire of Geneva brought two miniature portraits to us for identification. He believed they were of an early Quaker preacher, who served in Farmington, and his wife. They have not been positively identified.

The Ontario County Historical Society held their annual History Day, a state wide event, on March 10. This competition is for Junior and Senior High Students. Your Historian was interviewed by 3 eighth grade students from Victor Central School. They were all Farmington residents.

Ms. Kristina Braell, a resident of Palmyra and a student at Syracuse University, visited and was seeking information about the Friends (Quaker) Church and their work with the underground railroad. The Town has one area marked and documented as an Underground Railroad site.

An Engineer, Mr. Matthew Geitner, researching the Allen-Padgham Road bridge found the old photographs of the ridge (in the Historian's file) to be very helpful.

A meeting of the Farmington Historical Society was attended this fall where a request was made and approved for funding of the digitization of both the 1976 and 1988 Farmington History Books by the Kirtas Co. in Victor. This has just been completed and we now have CDs which can be added online.

The Historical Society worked with the Historian and the Historic Preservation Committee to submit a grant application for funding towards fencing for the Hathaway Cemetery. Unfortunately, we did not receive this grant from the Genesee Country Antiques Dealers Association. But we do plan to pursue this fencing project in 2013.

Earl in 2012, your Historian, attended an interesting program at RIT. It was presented by APHNYS, the Association of Public Historians of NYS. Your Historian also attended the annual meeting of Ontario County Municipal Historians called by Dr. Preston Pierce, Ontario County Historian. This is always an interesting exchange of information about county wide events.

I wish to thank Donna Herendeen who volunteered to assist me earlier this year and has done an excellent job. I plan to retire in 2013 and will highly recommend Donna to be your next Historian.

The Highway and Parks crew under Mr. Ed McLaughlin deserve a big thank you for their great work in maintaining our four inactive cemeteries.

In addition, I would like to thank Supervisor Ted Fafinski, the Town Board, and the Town Clerk Michelle Finley for their cooperation and support this year.