

To: Supervisor and the Town Board Members
From: Donna Hill-Herenden, Town Historian

Re: 2015 Annual Report

Many of the historian's 2015 projects were carry overs from 2014, they are on going and most will continue into 2017. The collection of pictures and the architectural details of historic barns located in our township is one such project. Prior to the start of our work this year, the Farmington Historic Preservation Commission and the town historian hosted a program titled "The History of the English Barn". Two Victor high school students have volunteered to do the field work of collecting the required data. The volunteers are assigned a road, visit the owner of the barn and with the owner's permission take the photos while collecting any architectural information about the barn. Post cards were sent previously to the barn owners explaining the project and notifying them that a volunteer will visit them. Volunteers are identified with name tags. Long range plan is to submit the collected information to Ray Henry, Canandaigua Town Historian, for updating into the Ontario County data bank, making the information accessible to the community. The students may receive school credit for their participation in the project.

The local newspaper continued their program of publishing articles written by local historians. I wrote four articles in 2015 and will continue to do so in 2016. This program is a wonderful way for historians to share their town's history with the community.

I attended many community happenings, town projects and openings for new businesses. I took photos at each event and archived them for preservation. My goal is to place them in albums by decade.

Work continues with the Vietnam War Commemoration through monthly veteran luncheons and fundraising for a veterans memorial. A plaque and pictures of military personnel **actively** serving is now displayed in our town hall lobby. In addition, approximately 100 veteran pictures have been framed and displayed in alphabetical order by surname in the town hall meeting room. More will be added as pictures are received.

I continue to respond to genealogical requests. Requests have increased since 2014. Several people from out of state made appointments with me to do research. Surnames researched are: Thomas, Fountain, Robbins, Herenden, Harrington, Knapp, Gould, Sheffield, Hayne, Rose, Brophy, Kyte, Gardner, Ketchum, Vandenberg, Bullis, Caswell and Mason. The Brophy and Robbin families provided a copy of their family history book for our genealogical library.

When one of our cemeteries was damaged by a tornado, we received a full set of pictures of the headstones in the cemetery. They were taken by Mr. R. Hanley during a research project 15 years ago. The individual read about the tornado and donated the pictures. The pictures aided the resetting of headstones.

During 2015, the increase demand for research has added considerable time to my normal weekly schedule. My time may increase in 2016 as I research women's rights and the Farmington ladies who were the first to vote in 1917 to prepare for the NYS commemoration. I continue to clip newspaper articles for obituaries, human interest stories, elections, business openings etc. Copies of historical photos were provided to a new business for display.

To continue professional improvement, I attended two regional NYS Archives seminars and the annual APHNYS meeting heeld in Seneca Falls. I will attend the APHNYS annual conference held in Syracuse in September 2016 and the regional APHNYS annual meeting. I plan to attend NYS Archive programs that pertain to my position as town historian. I also wish to pursue the opportunity to become a registered historian.

In 2015, a grant was received from the William G. Pomeroy Foundation to purchase a historical marker for the Farmington Quaker Crossroads Historic District (FQCHD). The FQCHD is listed on the National Registry of Historic Places. A dedication ceremony was held on October 10th and was hosted by the Historic Preservation Commission and the town historian. Many of the town officials, the Historical Society, the 1816 Meetinghouse foundation, the Friends Church members and community members attended. The town historian submitted pictures and an article to the local newspaper. I plan to submit a grant request in 2016 to the Pomeroy Foundation for a "Folk Lore" marker to be placed in Pumpkin Hook. It will explain how the area allegedly received its name.

I consider it a honor to have received a personal note from Mr. Robert Weible, State Historian remarking on my work in 2014. I wouldn't be able to accomplish my goals without the support and help from the Town Board, Town Clerk, the deputy town clerks and the Highway Department. The Highway and Parks employees do a great job maintaining our cemeteries. They repainted the cemetery signs and brought me pieces of the ornate iron gate which at one time surrounded the old Payne cemetery. It is a goal to have a section reproduced for display. I appreciate everyone's interest in assisting me in preserving our town history.

Cc: Preston Pierce, Ontario County Historian
New York State Historian

