

To: Town Council
From: Donna Herendeen, Town Historian
Re: Farmington Town Historian Annual Report 2017

THE TOWN HISTORIAN COLLECTS, PRESERVES AND INTERPRETS FARMINGTON HISTORY. GENERAL CATEGORIES FOR THE HISTORIAN'S ACTIVITIES ARE PRESERVATION, EDUCATION, ORGANIZATION AND RESEARCH.

At the 2017 annual Association of Public Historian of New York State conference held in Poughkeepsie, the Farmington town historian was approved and awarded the status of Registered Historian. Registered Historians must show performance in four categories: research & writing, teaching/public displays, historic advocacy and organization/advocacy. There are only five registered historians in Ontario County including myself.

Keynotes of my work in 2017: My role as chairperson to the veterans memorial project committee ended with the dedication of the memorial held in September. The historian displayed a booth of town history and artifacts at the Chamber of Commerce's summer Family Fun Days. I continued to respond to requests for genealogy purposes.... one was as far away as Arkansas! I gave written permission to Nancy Hewitt to publish an image of a photo from the Town's archives. The picture will be found in Ms. Hewitt's book titled *"Radical Friends: The Activist Worlds of Amy Post"*.

Representing Farmington, the historian was actively involved in researching woman suffrage activities within Farmington for the 1917 commemoration. I served as a member of the Ontario County Historical Society suffrage research program which was funded by Humanities of New York. My research uncovered information on Phoebe Hathaway, a little known suffragist, who lived in Farmington. A photo of Ms. Hathaway was discovered by the present owner of the family homestead. We identified her by face recognition against a picture of Phoebe's brother and date of her clothing. My research findings were exhibited at the Ontario County Museum and Farmington Town Hall. In May 2017, I attended the Wayne County Woman Suffrage workshop to help with questions about how our group accomplished our research. During July 2017, I participated in Convention Days at the Seneca Falls Women's Rights National Historical Park and the Flotilla activities in Macedon, NY. As town historian, I served as spokesperson for the Farmington 1816 Quaker Meetinghouse foundation at the Susan B. Anthony Legacy event in Canandaigua that marked the 144th anniversary of the famed suffragist's trial.

I continue to write historical articles for the local newspaper. I attended workshops presented by the New York State archives and meetings/workshops for Wayne and Ontario county historians.

The historian identified 24 books with historical value that were archived in the town vault. With an approved budget from the town board, the books are being scanned, digitalized and

reproduced into working copies. We plan to make them available to the public while archiving the originals in the vault. Integrated Resources in Rochester is contracted to do the work.

The town historian and John Robotello published a booklet titled "Driving Through Historic Farmington". The booklet identifies 33 "stops" of historical interest and denotes GPS coordinates of each. A map of the town is included. Publishing costs were originally covered by the town and replaced by selling the booklets for \$5.00 each.

Plans for 2018 and on: The historian and Historic Preservation Commission continue their work in the historic inactive Hathaway cemetery. In 2017, we began a 5 year project to straighten, fallen and/or cracked headstones funded by the town. Eventually this cemetery will be surrounded by a 4 acre park to be maintained by a new homeowners association while the town continues to maintain the cemetery.

The historian and Historic Preservation Commission, with the support from the town supervisor, town council and Director of Planning and Development, are seeking a grant from the Preservation League of NYS for a Renaissance Level Survey. If approved, the work will be done by Bero Architects in Rochester with help from the Commission and myself.

The historian plans to develop a program schedule for presentations to be held at the town hall and/or included in other programs for the community. Topic ideas are "So Where is Farmington's Town Center?", "Farmington...How Did It Happen?", "Driving Through Historic Farmington", "Why and How to Place Your Building on the National Registry".

As one of the new trustees for the South Farmington Cemetery and Chapel, I plan to find support and help for preserving the historic chapel. I plan to seek a grant to assist with the repairs of headstones that were damaged by a tornado.

As town historian, I am fully aware that much of my success is dependent on the support and approval from the town board and supervisor. I wish to thank them for understanding the importance of preserving our town's history and encouraging me to pursue my projects by approving budget costs. In addition, a special thank you to the town clerk's office and Planning and Development department for responding quickly to my questions during my research efforts. And of course, I can't forget the Highway and Parks departments for the incredible job they do in maintaining our parks and cemeteries and answering my call to "hang something on a wall".