

Town of Canandaigua

5540 Routes 5 & 20 West
Canandaigua, N. Y. 14424
585-394-1120

Established 1789

Canandaigua Town Historian's Report

2009 Activities

1. Continued interviewing long time Town residents, writing oral histories and collecting other Town stories about life in the Town in the first half of the twentieth century:
Interviews accomplished:
 - Rose Marie Brown Pearsall – life on West Lake Road
 - Bill Andrews –dairy farming northeast quadrant
 - Gilbert Smith –religion & life of Rev. John SmithHistory written:
 - Mary Jane Mason
2. Manuscript is now complete for a book on the Natural Science Camp (1890 – 1905) on Tichenor Point. The Town now owns over 200 digitized photos of the camp, personnel and activities. Goal – publish in spring 2010. Private funding being slowly obtained.
3. Maintaining an historical display case with cycling themes on lower level of Town Hall. 2009's consisted of "Steamboats", "Camp Onanda in the 1920's", "Rural Electrification in the Town of Canandaigua", and an "Out and About Town" display that has, and will continue to show various old photos and stories. Assisted on displays in Main Lobby Display Case as requested.
4. Building the Town's collection of historic photos – all are digitized and available for printing. Sources for photos are Town Residents, the Ontario County Historical Museum, and various other interested parties. Ongoing Project.
5. Performed 18 research services for Town residents and other requesters. All were email requests.
6. Continuing research on Cemeteries in the Town and documenting same. A loose leaf notebook now exists for each of the nine cemeteries in the Town, containing photos, deeds, a listing of all known interments, and other documents. Conducting a survey of the remaining stones in Hunn (Woolhouse Rd.) Cemetery and creating a drawing which will be digitized for future reference and research.
7. Continuing to identify all the veterans buried in the Town of Canandaigua Cemeteries, starting with Revolutionary War through to and including Iran and Afghanistan (if any exist). Efforts will be made to assure stones are provided for all.

8. Ongoing contact and cooperation with the Cheshire Community Action Team (CCAT) in their efforts to preserve the history of the hamlet of Cheshire and the old Grange building. Attends CCAT historical meetings.
9. Began research on all of the homes in the hamlet of Cheshire at the request of CCAT. A large three ring binder now exists with combinations of photos of each house (from Assessor's records), histories from various sources, and the start of survey forms for each building. This will be an ongoing project for several years which will result in all information digitized and available to property owners, and researchers.
10. Conducted a training session for interested residents in the hamlet of Cheshire on identifying house styles so that they can participate in the Cheshire home history survey.
11. Completed requirements for and received recognition in April, 2009 as a Registered Public Historian through APHNYS (Association of Public Historians New York State).
12. Assisted Eagle Scout Candidate, Phillip Tyrell with project to have an historical marker re-installed at the Ault farm on Routes 5 & 20 West.
13. Working with Rich Rising to get Historian's webpage on line. Besides various semi permanent features, it will also have a "Whats New" section, which will have new articles on a frequent basis. Articles are being compiled/written or edited by the historian. A listing will be kept for the availability of reprints.
14. County efforts:
 - Wrote historic descriptions of homes on an Ontario County Historical Society Tour. Prints of the booklet are available at the OCHS.
 - Redeveloped a slide presentation entitled "History of Ontario County Street Railway Transportation" (Electric Trolleys). Includes route through the Town of Canandaigua.
 - Wrote an article for Jake Repard on the History of English Barns in Western New York for a "2 cycle engine" publication.
 - Presented a slide presentation for the Town of Victor on the history of English Barns.
 - Prepared slide presentations for 1. History of English Barns, 2. History of Architectural Home Styles found in the Town.

These types of projects usually are applicable to Town of Canandaigua history as well as the County, and allow me to continue meeting and maintaining requirements for Registered Public Historian.
15. Attended all APHNYS Region 11 meetings, and two Rochester Regional Library Council meetings.

2010 Goals To Include:

- a. Cemeteries:
 - Evaluate all 9 for maintenance issues
 - Continue surveying all to obtain digitized diagrams.

Evaluate Hunn Cemetery for recognition as an Historic Site and the subsequent availability of grant funds for preservation/fencing/etc.

- b. Cheshire:
Have walking tour of homes ready for publishing.
- c. Barns:
Complete survey of 100 year old barns in Town of Canandaigua and begin to prepare a booklet about them. This effort is in conjunction with a survey being done on a County level of which I am the manager.
- d. District Schools:
Continue research on all of the district schools (in support of Jake Repard's efforts). Continue efforts to locate class pictures from any, especially West Lake Road, #9. Build on display of photos at West Lake Road. Work with Jim Fletcher on any restoration efforts.
- e. Oral Histories:
Continue interviews and writing of Town residents' history.
- f. Consulting:
Be available as a resource for Town Board, Town Planning Board, Assessor's Office, and Town Residents on an as needed basis.

Respectfully Submitted:

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