

Town of Canandaigua

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

Established 1789

Canandaigua Town Historian's Report

2010 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 in contemplation of producing a second book on the subject:

Interviews accomplished:

- Tom Mees – history of Mentieth Manor
- Sue Raymond – President, Canandaigua Yacht Club

Draft History Written

- Bill Andrews –dairy farming northeast quadrant

History written:

- Rose Marie Brown Pearsall – life on West Lake Road
- Canandaigua Yacht Club/Major Chamberlain/Frank Beecher Estate

These oral histories bring to seven the number of potential chapters for a sequel to the first book, "Memories of the Heart"

2. Published a book entitled "The Natural Science Camp at Tichenor Point, Canandaigua Lake – 1890 to 1905". Private funding was obtained with all proceeds to benefit the Ontario County Historical Society.
3. At the request of the Ontario County Planning Board I developed a list of culturally significant sites in the Town for consideration in a project being undertaken by the Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council to develop an inventory of cultural landscapes through the Unified Planning Work Program of the Genesee Transportation Council. Of the five sites I identified, three were approved by the Ontario County Planning Board for submission to the Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council – being the Owasco Stockaded Village on West Avenue Extension, the West Lake Road School, and the Academy Grange in Cheshire.
4. Served as an Ex-Officio member of the Citizens' Advisory Committee for the Town's Comprehensive Plan Update. As such I proposed the inclusion of identified historically significant sites within the Town and subsequently developed a list and map of such sites for inclusion in the Plan.

5. Continued maintaining an historical display case with cycling themes on lower level of Town Hall. 2010's consisted of "Rural Electrification in the Town of Canandaigua", an "Out and About Town" display and, for the last few months, a display on the history of the dairy industry in the Town of Canandaigua. I provide historical data and artifacts for the main Lobby Display Case as requested.
6. Participated as a speaker at the Memorial Day ceremony at the Pine Bank Cemetery in Cheshire.
7. Responded to 25 research requests from Town residents and others interested in the history of the Town of Canandaigua and/or its early settlers. All were email requests.
8. Continued restoration efforts on the Hunn/Woolhouse/VanNorman Cemetery. This year 7 marble head stones were repaired. Work in 2011 should complete this cemetery and efforts will be moved to the Remington Cemetery at Nott and Middle Cheshire Roads. This will be appropriate as there are several veterans of the War of 1812 buried in that cemetery.
9. Continued identifying all the veterans buried in the Town of Canandaigua Cemeteries, starting with Revolutionary War through, to and including Iraq and Afghanistan (if any exist). Efforts will be made to assure stones are provided for all.
10. 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.
11. Continued development of Historian's page of the Town's website. Updated and corrected a section titled "General Town History" including corrections to Town Cemeteries and Canandaigua Lake Steamboat history. Various semi permanent features have been added including "Veterans Burials" as well as a frequently updated section called "Whats New". A listing will be kept for the availability of reprints.
12. Attended the Landmark Society's Conference on Preservation issues in Palmyra on April 24, 2010.
13. County efforts:
 - Chaired a "Tour of Barns" for the Ontario County Historical Society, including researching, writing, and producing a booklet. Prints of the booklet are available at the OCHS.
 - Prepared slide presentations for 1.) History of English Barns and 2.) History of Architectural Home Styles found in the Town.
 - Presented a slide presentation for the Village of Clifton Springs, the Town of Seneca, Town of Hopewell, the Canandaigua Rotary Club and two for the Ontario County Historical Society on the history of English Barns.

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 NYS Registered Public Historian.

- Attended all APHNYS Region 11 meetings, two Rochester Regional Library Council Meetings and three meetings of the Ontario County Municipal Historians.
- Participated as a presenter in a roundtable panel at Genesee Country Museum for the Rochester Regional Library Council on "Doing More With Less" discussing my experiences in publishing two books.
- Served as a judge of computer presentations for National History Day at Canandaigua Academy on February 13th and State Historic Presentation at the Hyatt Regency on May 7th. The presenters were made up of Junior and Senior High School students.

2011 Goals To Include:

- a. Cemeteries:
 - Evaluate remaining 8 cemeteries (in addition to Hunn) 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 limited publication.
- 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.
 - Assist Ginny Schroeder, Town of East Bloomfield Historian in finishing their 100 year old barn survey in preparation for a "Tour of Barns" in 2012, that I plan on coordinating for OCHS in the Towns of East and West Bloomfield .
- 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 of the District Schools, 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. Prepare outline for another "Memories of the Heart" book with a 2012 publication goal. Prepared slide presentations for 1. History of English Barns, 2. History of Architectural Home Styles found in the Town.
 - Prepared slide presentations for 1. History of English Barns, 2. History of Architectural Home Styles found in the Town.

- f. Consulting:
 - Be available as a resource for Town Board, Town Planning Board, Assessor's Office, and Town Residents on an as needed basis.

- g. Participate as a reference and committeeperson for OCHS Tour of Homes tentatively planned for West Lake Road in 2011.

Respectfully Submitted:

Ray Henry,
Town of Canandaigua Historian
rgbhenry@frontiernet.net
rhenry@townofcanandaigua.org
January 19, 2011