

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE VILLAGE HISTORIAN

2015

In accordance with New York State Department of Education section 57.17 of the Arts and Cultural Affairs Law:

“He or she will make an annual report in the month of January to the local appointing officers or officer and to the State Historian of the work accomplished during the preceding year.”

ATTENDANCE

I attended two village board meetings and the swearing in ceremony of the new mayor. I also attended one of the biyearly meetings of the county historian, Lauren Roberts.

This was the first time I missed going to the Association of Public Historians of New York State.

This was the 16th year for the Blockhouse season. We always begin with a memorial service with the militia and the clergy.

I have changed my office hours to Monday to Thursday from 10 AM to 2PM. But I'm usually available to assist anyone by appointment.

RESEARCH

I counted up the number of e mail requests and answers for the office. There were 52 genealogy and 72 historical requests. The genealogy requests are time consuming. I do not research outside the office but will recommend to people where they can possibly get find answers.

I also received calls from people in Iowa, Wisconsin, California, Arizona, and New York State. I usually ask them if they have e mail as I like to have a hard copy in

order to do the research. I do not charge but ask them if they have anything to add to our files.

With the village bicentennial I have been doing a lot of researching and have used some of the writings of my predecessors, May Edwards, Susan Hayner, and Elizabeth Abel. I hope to continue to add to the website and articles in the Express.

In January it was our turn to honor a deceased veteran. I chose Oscar Brundige who served during World War II and was one of the first paratroopers to land in France on D Day. Oscar was also a very active community member as a drive for meals on wheels and also the Earl J. Manning American Legion. He was a wonderful caring neighbor of mine.

We received a request from the mayor to prepare a display for the monthly free breakfast at the United Church. Linda Palmieri, the genius town historian with some help from me made a display showing pictures of previous mayors and town supervisors along with information about our communities. This display was taken to the Ballston Spa National Bank for display and was well received by the residents.

Through the years I have been involved with the Air Force veterans who were stationed at the radar base in Ketchums Corners. They wanted to put a historical marker at the site and asked for our assistance which we gladly gave to them. We were invited to their reunion and I asked the mayor to go with me as my guest.

This being an election year, the village voters elected Ricky W. Nelson as mayor. The village had the longest serving mayor namely Ernest W. Martin. The village honored him in July with a special evening and we prepared a proclamation for him. I'd like to read it to you. "We the Village and Town historians would like to thank you for the years of support, friendship, and dedication and love of our community's history. With your leadership and support we were able to find forever home for the blockhouse within the village. And now we have a beautiful historical park to be proud of where local and worldwide visitors can see and learn about our place in history and our beautiful countryside."

I felt very honored when he appointed me as your historian in 1995.

It doesn't seem possible that next year will be the bicentennial of our great village. A committee has been formed under the leadership of Ellen Vomacka and it includes Annetta DeLano, Bonnie Minick, Euphrasia VanArnum, Jeff Mahar, Judy Wood-Shaw, Sara Kipp, Tim Campbell, Raylene and Mike Hammond and Kathy Klnowski. The mayor and town supervisors are serving as ex-officio members.

A kickoff dinner dance was held on November 14th at the Community Center and was well attended. A video prepared by Bonnie Minick was well received.

We were asked if there were any items to assist the City of Mechanicville as they prepared for their centennial celebration. We did find a couple of items and were given to them. I attended their celebration along with the mayor and his wife.

SPEECHES

The 9/11 program which we hold every year on that date was held at the Community Center. We were honored to have State Senator Kathleen Marchione, and Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner present who addressed us. The local clergy present were Fr. Tom Morette of All Saints on the Hudson, Rev. Aline Russell of the United Church, Rev. Pamela Woodman, of Malta Presbyterian and also a member of the blockhouse Committee, and Rev. Lynne Hardy of the Schaghticoke Presbyterian Church who led us in prayer. We were also honored to have the Stillwater Central School band under the leadership of James Lacktta.

THANK YOU

Special thanks to Mayor Ernest Martin and now Mayor Rick Nelson for their support of this historian. Without your help my work would be a lot harder. I want to include the village board and I want to welcome Frank Tatum and Eunice Travis to the board.

Special thanks to Sheristen Tedesco and Anne Marie Hallum whose support and knowledge was a big help to me and to the people of this village. I hope you out them in for a raise as they certainly deserve it.

To the Department of Public Works a special thanks for the great job you do at the Blockhouse Park. We have received many compliments on how nice everything looks

Finally, an extra special thanks to my partner Linda Palmieri, your deputy who without her I couldn't do all that happens in the office. There are times when I can't get to the office and I work out of my house using my connection with the office.

This is our 199th year of existence. Plans are really moving along with some great times for next year. Put the date of Sunday, April 11th on your calendar and be prepared for a surprise. There's going to be some great adventures so be prepared.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda Sanders," with a comma at the end.

Linda Sanders, Historian