

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE VILLAGE OF STILLWATER HISTORIAN

2016

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 the January village board meeting and gave my annual report. This was the only one I attended.

This was the year of the Bicentennial of the village. A committee was formed under the direction of Ellen Vomacka. Plans were made to celebrate the occasion with an event on the actual date of April 17<sup>th</sup>. The committee consisting of Bonnie Minick, Euphrasia VanArnum, Jeff Mahar, Judy Wood-Shaw, Sara Kipp, Tim Campbell, Raylene and Mike Hammond, and Kathy Kinowski. This was well attended by the community and we were pleased to have Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner in attendance. I wrote some articles and had them published in the Express newspaper and on the village website on the history of the village from the beginning. This seemed to be well received by the residents. We are very fortunate to have some wonderful writings of the previous historians namely Mrs. May Edwards who happen to be chosen when the law that each community must have an historian. That was in 1918. She was followed by Mrs. Susan Hayner who served from 1926 to 1971. She was followed by Mrs. Elizabeth Abel who served from 1971 until 1995. That was when I was appointed to take her place.

I try to get to the office from Monday to Thursday and am also available by appointment.

## RESEARCH

I counted the number of requests for information and found that there were at least 27 such requests for property histories, schools, roads, veterans, railroads, cemetery laws and other miscellaneous items. We have visitors from several places to come and do research. This year we had people from Texas and Louisiana along with local residents.

In October, it was Stillwater's turn to honor a deceased veteran. I chose Doris Noonan who was not only a dear friend but a surgical nurse during World War II. She served in both Europe but also in the Philippines. This was the first time a female was honored alone. We were pleased to have her children present for this ceremony.

## SPEECHES

I was requested by the mayor to give a speech at the time of our bicentennial event. I tried to put some humor into the talk as there were some great things that happened in the past 200 years. Stillwater was a booming village at the time of its becoming an official community.

This year, like for the past several years, plans were made to I have planned the service for that tragic event that happened on September 11, 2001. This year we were able to use the Blockhouse Park as the weather cooperated. A large gathering of residents was present and we were pleased to have the Stillwater School Band participate. The clergy of the churches of Stillwater were present to add to the program.

## THANK YOU

Special thanks to Mayor Rick Nelson and the village board for their support. This has been a difficult year for me as my physical health has deteriorated. I thank heaven at least I can type on the computer. Without your help and support this job would be so much more difficult. Special thanks to Mayor Nelson for being my “chauffer” when we attended events out of the village. But most of all a huge thank you to my cohort Linda Palmieri who is the best. If it wasn't for her help and knowledge it would almost impossible to do this job. Linda is the genius behind the Blockhouse Museum and her art work to show the displays that are shown.

I will continue to try my best to serve as your historian and as the No. 1 cheerleader of Stillwater.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Sanders