

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE VILLAGE HISTORIAN 2012

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

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

### ATTENDANCE

This year I attended only one village board meeting and that was to give my annual report in the month of January.

I attended the annual conference of the Association of Public Historians of New York State aka APHNYS. This year it was held in Long Island and we took a bus down as it made much more accessible to the hotel where we stayed. I brought many brochures with me and they were gone in nothing flat! This was quite interesting as I had not been to Long Island in quite a few years. To learn the history of the different areas of the state is very educational and several of the sessions pertained to this history.

I also attended two of the meetings that the Saratoga County Historian Lauren Roberts calls for all the historians. I enjoy meeting many of my friends and continue to “brainstorm” with them on the different events taking place in their communities.

I am a member of Region Five of APHNYS and our conference was held at the New York State Military Museum in Saratoga Springs. Kris Saddlemier, Village of Schuylerville Historian along with Mary Ann Fitzgerald, Historian for the City of Saratoga Springs are the co-coordinators and planned several great speakers along with a tour of the museum. We were honored to have Supervisor Joanne Yepsen from the City of Saratoga Springs along with State Historian Robert Weible as speakers. Dr. Weible gave a report on the status of the state and the history department.

I attended an all day conference presented by Heritage Hunters which is a genealogy group of which I am a charter member. The speaker gave us much help in doing research on genealogy and where the best sources are.

## PROJECTS AND RESEARCH

This year I assisted the reunion for the 656<sup>th</sup> Radar Air Force Base which was located in Ketchum's Corners in the Town of Stillwater. I read an article in the Gazette about plans were being made for this reunion. I contacted the person in charge and volunteered to assist them if need be. Needless to say, I was taken up on the offer. I did some of their publicity and research of the property. I along with Supervisor Kinowski were invited to attend the breakfast they held at the Holiday Inn in Saratoga Springs. I met with a few of the former "residents" and also a couple of the Stillwater girls that married some of these boys. It was a joy to be there and assist them with their reunion.

I spent many hours researching the Congregational and Baptist Churches as it was 250 years ago that they first came to Stillwater. It was also the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Church when it went from the Federated under three jurisdictions to under the Presbyterians. I with the assistance of Linda Palmieri and Tim Campbell did a power point presentation of all the different churches of Stillwater. Back in the earlier days Stillwater was known as the "Village of Churches."

There were more than 20 requests for genealogy. The bulk of them were handled by Linda Palmieri while I was out after having surgery. We do not charge for coping but we ask for any items that can be added to our files and a smile. We find that the majority are very cooperative with our requests, especially the smile!

I was asked to bring an exhibit to the Yellow Ribbon Event that was held at the Wilton Elks. This I did gladly. I met with several people and had great conversations about this wonderful community called Stillwater. I told them especially to go to the Village of Stillwater Website as it is great! I have been told by many how much they enjoy it especially the pictures of the different events held at the blockhouse.

As in every year since 9/11/01 a service is held at the blockhouse park and I have been in charge of it for several years. There is usually a large attendance along with the support of the community.

We have many visitors to the office and average at least two or more per day. They come either to assist us or we to assist them. We are open five days a week and are very busy.

My hours as village historian are from 10AM to 2PM but usually it's longer than that.

## THANK YOU

This has been quite a year for your historian. What I thought would be just a knee replacement and I'd be back on the job in about a month. Well, it didn't work that way! I had quite an "adventure."

I especially like to thank all who visited, sent card, or e-mail or phone call. It meant so much to me knowing that people really do care. I've said that always about Stillwater.

To the Village board I wish to thank you for your support and I do promise to see you more often than I did last year. To the highway department without your tireless work to keep the blockhouse grounds mowed and manicured we would be in deep trouble. You were always there especially before a big event to make sure we looked just great.

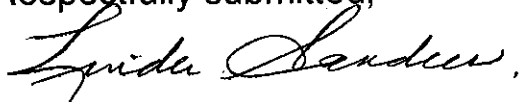
Most of all a huge thank you to Linda Palmieri my cohort. She had much on her plate this summer with me being unavailable. We work so well together and all the care she shows is very obvious if you ever see the inside of the blockhouse and especially the office.

There is one person that is vital to our well being and that is Tim Campbell. He has taught us so much about the computer and set up many of the programs. He's a great photographer and you can see much of his work in the office.

This is the 196<sup>th</sup> year of our existence. So be sure and set the date of April 17, 2016 aside as that will be the bicentennial of our village. Now, I'm giving you plenty of time to mark your calendars. By the way, it's a Sunday.

Every year I try to have a motto for the following year. With the help of my friend Bea Girard we decided it will be "Thing will be keen in 2013!"

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda Sanders".

Linda Sanders, Historian