

LEICESTER TOWN HISTORIAN 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

2023 Summary:

This year the Village of Leicester has decided to abolish the Village Historian position. There continues to be an active public interest in the history of Leicester, and it has been another busy year with opportunities to enhance Leicester history. I receive requests for information by email, correspondence, telephone, and " on the streets". I continue to meet with researchers and genealogists. The granddaughter of former Historian Velma Mahoney has donated five Banker boxes of historic information and photographs. The items concerning Leicester History were incorporated into the Town files. The items concerning the Towns of York and Perry are given to the respective Historians.

I continue to restructure the Town history files in order to make them more concise and save as much space as possible. The limited file storage space continues to be a challenge. The marriage records of St. Thomas Church are on a short-term loan to the County Historian. The Historian Office will digitize the records. The Town of Leicester will receive a digitized file and the original records will be returned.

Educational – Conferences:

- DPSNY Webinar Photographs in the Archives - digitizing your photographic collections.

Events – Programs:

As the Leicester Town Historian I continue to be involved in history-related activities to ensure that our history is recognized as an important contribution to Livingston County heritage. I have attended the following events.

- I serve as a Docent at the Livingston County Historical Museum.
- Historian Meeting at Lorenz Park.
- Research at the County Historian's Office.
- Attended Liv. Co. Historical Society Programs on Shakers and Craig Colony
- Attended the Livingston County Agricultural Tour
- Attended Memorial Day Ceremonies.
- Created a Leicester History Trivia Quiz for the York Leicester Towner's bus tour.
- Wrote a history article "Out of the Darkness" for the Village Newsletter.

Research – Projects:

On a weekly basis, advertisements, events, obituaries, real estate notices, and articles concerning Leicester are collected from on-line, newspapers, and other sources and are added to the history files.

- Research on-line
- History of early residents and Native American History
- Continue to consolidate and improve historical records.
- Photograph current changes in Leicester such as, buildings, businesses and signs

- Consolidate the obituary records and create a user-friendly database.
- Organization and consolidation of the Leicester and Cuylerville Departments records.

Correspondence:

Requests for information on Leicester History by telephone, mail, internet, and “on the streets” are constant. I have met with genealogists and researchers. The requests have included:

- Civil War Veteran Monument
- Gibsonville history including maps
- Andrews Family
- Richards Family
- Slocum Family
- Austen/Heen farm
- Al Lorenz photograph to be used at Al Lorenz Park display - from the County Historian
- Craig Colony photographs - from the County Historian
- Duffy Family
- Benton Family
- Strong Family
- Leach Family
- Kingston Family
- Hopkins Family
- Leicester School

Donations and Acquisitions:

- Photograph of Andrews Family of Gibsonville
- Photograph of 1929 Duffy Family reunion
- Sterling Mine newspaper articles - Dot Sliker
- Photographs from the County Historian
- Five Banker boxes of history - Velma Mahoney estate
- Book "Two Parks Small in Size Big in History"
- Book "Boyd and Parker Heroes of the American Revolution" by Lockwood Doty
- Church cookbook "Aunt Fannies Cookbook"

Future Goals:

Records management is a high priority. Continue to complete the Photographic Inventory. Pursue Grant Programs. Continue the organization of the Town records. Write articles concerning Leicester History and hopefully give public presentations. I have discovered to my surprise that people are unaware of Leicester history such as the existence of the Sterling Salt Mine, Horatio Jones, Mary Jemison's life in Leicester.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Karen A. Roffe
 Leicester Town & Village Historian