



Historian's Bulletin



August 2015

Greetings Municipal Historians!

Autumn is fast approaching and the lazy days of summer will be behind us once again. Kids will be returning to school and for those of us with children in school, the days will fly by even faster.

We have received some wonderful news regarding one of our historic preservation projects - official word will be released in the near future so stay tuned!

Welcome to our newest historian, Matthew Rapacz who has been appointed for the Town and Village of St. Johnsville! We look forward to working with Matt in his new capacity and sharing ideas.

Keep the ideas coming for meeting topics. This next meeting coming up we will be discussing what an historian can do to record local history.

Hope to see you in Root in a couple of weeks! Happy Autumn!

Kelly Yacobucci Farquhar
Montgomery County Historian/RMO

Notes from Historians' meeting 7/27/2015 -- Montgomery County Dept. of History & Archives

Attended: Dennis Malcolm (Ames), Bill Maring (Root), Lorraine Whiting (Charleston), Kelly Farquhar (Montgomery County) and Karl Gustafson (representing Montgomery County Executive Matt Ossenfort)

Thank you to Dennis and Sandy Malcolm for hosting the meeting at the Ames Museum. They, along with their colleague, provided a wonderful assortment of refreshments on a gorgeous summer afternoon!

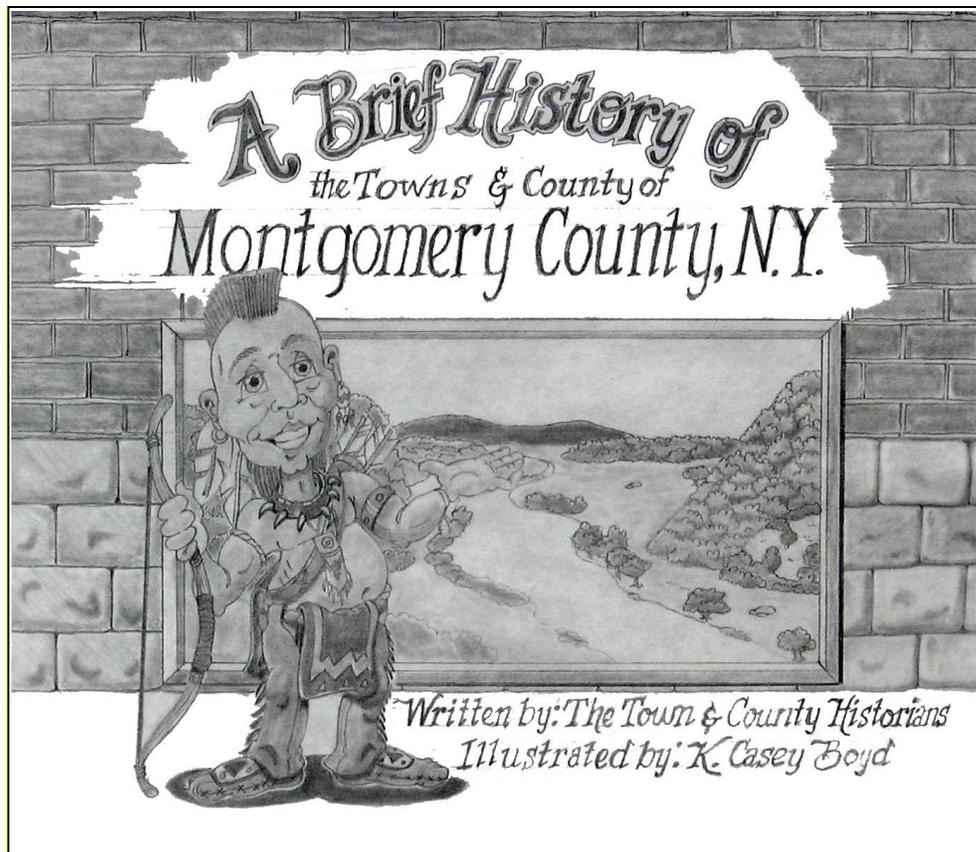
Welcome to the new historians representing various towns in Montgomery County. There is a guidebook available for loan at the Dept. of History & Archives that outlines various tasks that historians can carry out in their position. I am always available for questions and our historians' meetings are a great way to meet with your colleagues and share ideas.

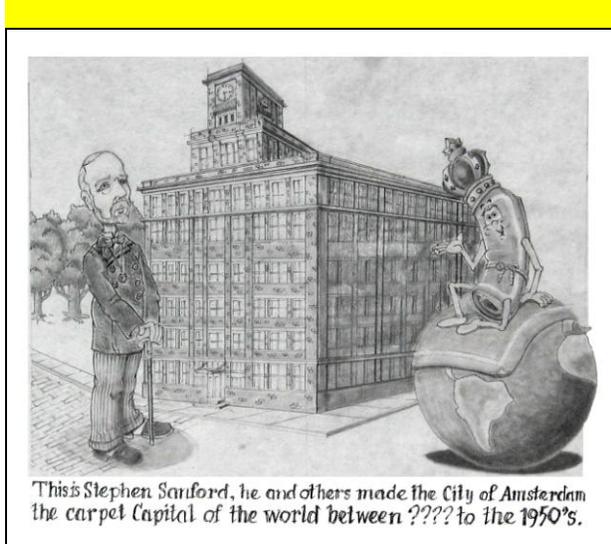
Annual reports are a wonderful opportunity to keep your appointing authority informed of your projects. The State Historian also wants to know the various things that you are

working on so you can send a brief report of your previous year's activities to Kelly and she will forward them on to Albany at the beginning of each year.

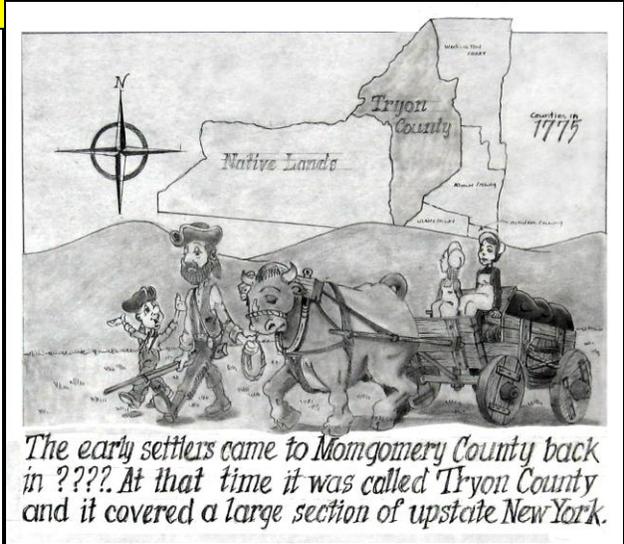
The meeting began with a moment of silence to honor our colleague Anita Smith, historian for the Town/Village of St. Johnsville, who recently passed away. A memorial service was held the day prior to our meeting honoring Anita's life and all of her contributions. Anyone who is interested in making a contribution in Anita's memory to Fort Klock Historic Restoration on behalf of the Municipal Historians of Montgomery County, please send to me at the Dept. of History & Archives or you can give it to me at the next Historians' meeting. I will be forwarding that donation on to Fort Klock in September.

Some of you have gathered together information for the upcoming childrens' book that will be illustrated by Montgomery County Printer Casey Boyd. Please contact me at the Dept. of History & Archives for further details on the childrens' book if you can put together some brief historical information about your area that can be included in the book. See sample pages below.





This is Stephen Sanford, he and others made the City of Amsterdam the carpet capital of the world between ??? to the 1950's.



The early settlers came to Montgomery County back in ????. At that time it was called Tryon County and it covered a large section of upstate New York.

Historic preservation efforts in Montgomery County were a topic of discussion. The Dept. of History & Archives has applied to the Preservation League of New York for grant funds that would allow a cultural resources survey of the rural historic resources within the County. This project would provide a county-wide overview of the historical development and significance of a broad range of its cultural resources within its rural landscape. Knowledge from this project will be used over time to encourage the nomination of historic districts to maintain, improve, and keep historic infrastructure in use and on the landscape in Montgomery County.

Historic resources in large potential districts encompassing farmsteads and more densely settled hamlets are threatened daily by lack of use, neglect, and deterioration. This proposed survey project will serve an important economic development purpose by identifying/inventorying historic resources and thus establishing the basis for historic designation and the availability of tax credits attendant to such designation including repair, rehabilitation and restoration of historic properties.

The Dept. of History & Archives staff is currently working on entering data into a spreadsheet using SHPO historic structure inventory sheets from the 1970s-1980s survey conducted by Anita Smith and others. This information, once compiled, will give us an idea of what historic resources are left from that initial survey, their physical condition, and any new threats to the property. We hope to be able to be more informed when an historic property comes up on the “auction block” and if any proactive steps can be taken before that property can fall into such disrepair that it is beyond saving.

There are a few great ways to publicize any events – 1) through the Fulton/Montgomery Counties Regional Chamber of Commerce “Calendar of Events.” You can either send the information about the event to the Chamber of Commerce, located in Gloversville, or you can submit the information yourself via the website at www.visitmontgomerycountyny.com.

Click on “Events Calendar,” then “Submit Event,” and fill out the appropriate fields. You can also sign up to receive a list of events that will be sent to your email each week. Charleston Historical Society has benefitted very well from submitting their events to this Calendar and have seen an increase in the number of visitors; 2) through the *Path Through History* Calendar of Events. Send event information to Marcie at the Oneida County Chamber of Commerce Marcie@oneidacountytourism.com. It must be a history related event or activity. Pictures are important so please remember to include a photo that Marcie can upload along with the event information.

New York State Archives has different webinars that are available on their website at www.archives.nysed.gov/workshops/schedule. The free webinars and/or workshops focus on topics related to government records and are very useful in determining the nature of records, whether they are historical, how to store them, etc.

There was a discussion on access to abandoned cemeteries. Bill described a situation in which he was assisting a family researcher recently. They were nearly prohibited from accessing the abandoned family cemetery thought to be on private property. Although the situation was resolved, Bill provided information on the legislation from Virginia where access is granted to family descendants and property owners are exempt from liability. We will be setting up a meeting with representatives from Senator Amedore’s and Assemblyman Santabarbara’s offices to see what can be done about getting the same kind of legislation passed in New York State.

Kelly discussed the collections and the available resources at the Department of History & Archives in Fonda. The department has been collection records on local history and genealogy for the last 80 years and the collections continue to grow. From church records, cemetery records, original court records (dating back to the 1700s), census, county and local histories, published and unpublished genealogies, family files, the list goes on and on. We have a wonderful collection of newspapers from Canajoharie, Amsterdam, St. Johnsville, and Fonda. The catalog, which lists all of the records on our shelves, is searchable by keyword on our website. Also available is our database of the archival collection, also searchable on the website.

As always, we welcome the input and comments of Karl Gustafson who has represented County Executive Matt Ossenfort at our last meeting.

After the meeting, Dennis Malcolm graciously showed us around the Ames Museum and we had the opportunity to see the extraordinary exhibits on display – what a treasure for the Village of Ames and the surrounding area!

Next meeting scheduled for Monday, September 14th 2015 at the Root Historical Society, 1067 Carlisle Rd., (Flat Creek) Sprakers, NY. Root Historical Society opened its doors with a grand opening in September 2013. What a great time to see their wonderful array of artifacts!

If you've never been to an historians' meeting before, we would love to see you there! Please RSVP to (518) 853-8186 or email kfarquhar@co.montgomery.ny.us.

Upcoming Events

Sept. 10th, 2015 -- 2015 Fall Lecture Series consists of four presenters on various topics of the 18th century and the American Revolution. On Thursday, September 10, 2015, at 6:30 PM, John C. Proud, an 18th century reproduction hornworker & muzzleloading gunbuilder will give a presentation on the Rufus Grider Powder Horn Drawings. The presentations start at 6:30 PM and there is a modest donation request of \$5. All presentations are held at the Museum located on **389 Canal Street in Fort Plain**. Included in the \$5 donation is a self guided tour of the Museum. The Museum Shop and Book Store will be open during these events. All proceeds will go towards future Museum programming. For more information on the Lecture series, see the website at www.fortplainmuseum.com

Sept. 19th, 2015 – Community date at Ames. Museum will be open, bake sales and other activities. Anyone interested in being involved with group or organization contact Dennis Malcolm at (518) 673-5820.

Oct. 1st, 2015 -- NEW YORK'S WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE CENTENNIAL CONFERENCE - 1917-2017
-- **Thursday, October 1, 2015 – 9:00 am to 4:00 pm**, Holiday Inn – Waterloo/Seneca Falls, 2468 NYS Route 414, Waterloo, NY 13165, Sponsored by the New York Cultural Heritage Tourism Network, In conjunction with its Women's Rights & Suffrage Committee. A conference to provide awareness, stimulate interest and nurture partnerships in preparation for the Centennial Celebration of women's right to vote in New York State & to explore cultural heritage tourism opportunities for 2017. **Contact:** info@NYCHTN.com or **(315) 521-3985**

Oct. 2nd, 2015 – Annual meeting of the Association of Public Historians of NYS Region 7 (Montgomery, Herkimer, Fulton, Oneida, Otsego & Schoharie Counties) will be held in Johnstown at the Fulton County Courthouse, 9:30am-3pm. Discussion topics include: Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Johnstown during the American Revolution, available records for Fulton County history, baseball and sports history in Fulton County, and collecting copies of documents and images for your public. Lunch available. Further details on lunch cost to follow.

Oct. 17th, 2015 – Minden History Day, 10am-2pm. Minden Town Historian Rob Carter presents 1st annual Minden History Day at the Minden Town Office Building, 134 State Hwy. 80, Fort Plain, NY. Free and open to the public – come and share with everyone!



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