



Historian's Bulletin



June 2015

Greetings Municipal Historians!

This newsletter has been a long time in coming and I apologize that I have not been able to get a newsletter out to you. Since our budget cuts a few years ago have left the Department of History & Archives struggling to handle daily tasks and patrons, I have been juggling both my historian duties and records management and haven't really been able to adequately meet with my colleagues.

Great news, though! This year we have been fortunate to add a part-time position to our staff. Kimberly Demitraszek had been assisting me with records management duties so it allowed me time to focus on some other things that need attention. Unfortunately, however, Kim was not with us long as she took a full-time position in another department – we wish her the best as she was a tremendous help for the short time she was with us.

It is with great sadness that we learned of the recent passing of our colleague and friend Anita Smith who served a number of years as the historian for both the Town and Village of St. Johnsville. Anita was a wonderful lady with a great sense of humor and a vast amount of knowledge on local history. She also served as Montgomery County Historian back when Jane Fonda made her surprise visit to the Department of History & Archives in search of her family's roots. Anita deeply loved sharing her passion for local history with everyone she came in contact with, including the scores of students that visited her at the Fort Klock schoolhouse. Although small in stature, Anita left large shoes that will be difficult to fill. God bless, Anita – you will be missed!

I look forward to seeing you all at the next meeting of the Municipal Historians of Montgomery County – details to follow. If you are not able to make the meetings, please schedule a time to meet with me and we can discuss any questions and/or projects. Have a great summer!

Kelly Yacobucci Farquhar
Montgomery County Historian/RMO

Notes from Historians' meeting 5/14/2015 -- Montgomery County Dept. of History & Archives

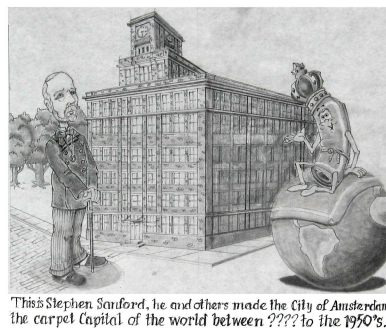
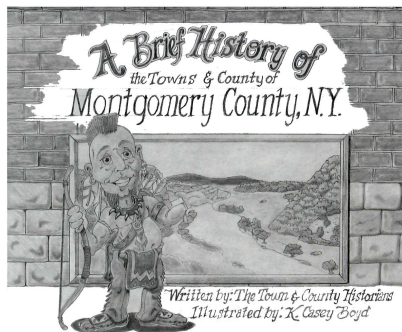
Attended: Dennis Malcolm (Ames), Bill Maring (Root), Lorraine Whiting (Charleston), Earlene Melious (Town of Mohawk), Margaret Schlotzhauer (Town of Palatine), Lestra Vertucci (Town of Amsterdam), Barbara Alkinburgh (Nelliston), Kelly Farquhar (Montgomery County) and Karl Gustafson (representing Montgomery County Executive Matt Ossenfort)

Welcome to the new historians representing various towns in Montgomery County. We discussed duties for the position of a municipal historian. There is a guidebook available for

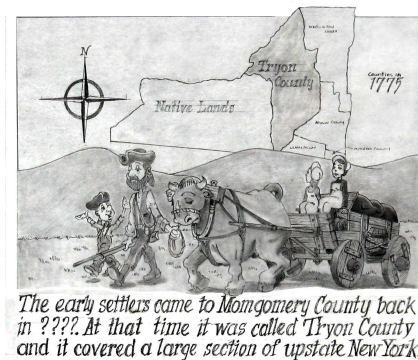
loan at the Dept. of History & Archives that outlines various tasks that historians can carry out in their position. I am always available for questions and our historians' meetings are a great way to meet with your colleagues and share ideas.

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.

Montgomery County Printer (and Cartoonist), Casey Boyd, presented sample pages (see below) for a children's history book that he would like to work on as a collaborative effort with municipal historians. The book would be geared toward children ages 4 to 8 and historians can contribute by providing some facts on area history. There is a possibility that a series of books can be developed. Information can be send either to Casey directly or through the Department of History & Archives.



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



There is an online list for local government historians to share and exchange information at NYS-LGH@LISTSERV.NYSED.GOV. You can subscribe to the list by sending an email and put the word 'subscribe' Questions came up on the list recently regarding the maintenance and repainting of historic markers. You can read about the "Guidelines for Maintenance" of State Historic Markers as outlined by the New York State Museum at <http://www.nysm.nysed.gov/services/marker/srvmaintenance.html>.

One historian recounted his experience with repainting the markers – "Some of our repainted signs are showing oxidation coming through. A word to the wise when removing all the paint down to bare metal, (especially on cast iron signs) is that almost immediately (within 24 hours) you must put a coat of primer paint on them to halt the oxidation process which apparently begins immediately but you can't see it with the naked eye. From experience: If signs are stripped of all paint down to bare metal, paint them immediately with a good coat of primer paint and let that dry completely before applying any colored paints."

Legends & Lore Marker Grant Program -- The William G. Pomeroy Foundation has partnered with the New York Folklore Society to launch a new grant program to promote

~ The William G. Pomeroy Foundation ~

Legends & Lore

Marker Grant Program

Partnering with the New York Folklore Society.

New grant program promotes cultural tourism, commemorates legends and folklore as part of New York's history.

Folklore is an expression of our common past, yet it draws attention to what is unique about a community.

Passed from person to person over time, there is often historical truth at the heart of every legend.

Two deadlines offered: June 30, 2015 or October 31, 2015.

Visit the NYS Grant Programs section on our website at www.wgpfoundation.org.

William G. Pomeroy Foundation
For History. For Life.

For more information or to apply:
www.wgpfoundation.org

Paula Miller
315.476.3000 x2576

cultural tourism and commemorate urban legends and folklore as part of the New York's history.

Folklore is an expression of our common past, yet it draws attention to what is unique about our community. Passed from person to person over time, there is often historical truth at the heart of every legend.

Grants are available to 501(c)3 organizations and municipalities within New

York State. The New York Folklore Society fosters the study, promotion, and continuation of folklore and folklife of New York's diverse cultures through education, advocacy, support and outreach

GRANT DEADLINES - Applications available on our website at www.wgpfoundation.org. June 30, 2015 or October 31, 2015

Please contact The William Pomeroy Foundation at info@wgpfoundation.org or 315-476-3000 x2576 with any questions.

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.

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

Next meeting scheduled for Monday, July 27th 2015 at the Ames Museum/Ames Academy Building, 611 Latimer Hill Rd., Ames. The Ames Academy was constructed in 1835 and has been listed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

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.

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Upcoming Events

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• FALL 2015 - Annual meeting of the Association of Public Historians of NYS Region 7 (Montgomery, Herkimer, Fulton, Oneida, Otsego & Schoharie Counties) will be held in Fulton County. Date and details to be announced.

• FALL 2016 - Annual statewide conference for Association of Public Historians of NYS (APHNYS) will be held in Syracuse. Conference details to be announced.

• Sept. 19, 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.

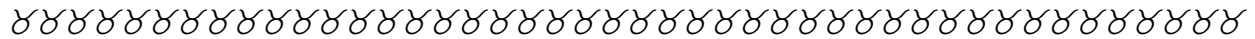
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Dennis Malcolm, historian for Ames, reported that every item in the collection of the Ames Museum has been digitized by a volunteer. This is a great way to inventory collections. Additionally, in the unfortunate event of theft of items, the digitized images can be used to hopefully recoup those items.

Please send me information about the work that you are doing as a public historian in Montgomery County and I’ll include it in upcoming newsletters. We love to share with each other the progress and success of our projects, as well as any difficulties. You can either send me a little note in the mail or by email to kfarquhar@co.montgomery.ny.us.

LENDING LIBRARY – Rob von Hasseln has donated three more books to the Historians’ Lending Library (available for loan at the Dept. of History & Archives). They are:

1. Arnold, John H. History: A Brief Insight, New York: Sterling Publishing (2000)
2. Loewen, James W. Lies Across America: What our Historic Sites Get Wrong, New York: The New Press (1999)
3. Ware, Susan, ed. Forgotten Heroes: Inspiring Portraits from our Leading Historians: New York: The Free Press (1998)



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