



Historians' Bulletin



May 2010

2nd issue

Greetings Municipal Historians!

I hope that you all enjoy the upcoming holiday and this warm weather we have been having lately. Summer events will getting in full swing

Minutes from Historians' meeting 4-9-2010

Attended: Rob von Hasseln (City of Amsterdam), Bill Maring (Root), Lorraine Whiting (Charleston), Ryan Weitz (Fultonville), David Manclow (Palatine & Minden), Barbara Alkinburgh (Nelliston), Kelly Farquhar (Montgomery County)

Minutes from the last meeting were ok. Everyone seemed to like the historians' newsletter and suggestions were made to send it to APHNYS as well as the press, including Bob Cudmore.

Lending Library -

- LL will be a "pooling of efforts" as historians to assist each other with various research topics and/or training tools, i.e. professional development
- LL available only to Montgomery County municipal historians - books kept in possession of Montgomery County Historian's office
- Rob von Hasseln donated 5 books to start off LL -
 - Aaronovitch, David. Voodoo Histories: The Role of the Conspiracy Theory in Shaping Modern History (2010)
 - Ambrose, Stephen E. To America: Personal Reflections of an Historian (2002)
 - Henriksson, Anders, ed. Non Campus Mentis: World History according to College Students (2001)
 - Linenthal, Edward T. and Tom Engelhardt, eds. History Wars: The Enola Gay and Other Battles for the American Past (1996)
 - Tuchman, Barbara. Practicing History: Selected Essays (1981)
- County Historian will be ultimate authority for deciding what will go into LL and what gets weeded out; books/leaflets may be borrowed for period of one month

State of economy - what does it mean for public historians?

- Historians area "core function of government" to maintain an historical record of that government
- It is necessary for historians to look for cost savings and efficiencies - present costs/savings simply (e.g. in terms of percentage of overall budget)
- Historians need to conduct a PR campaign on what they do (e.g. go door-to-door, establish relationships/rapport with members of press, etc.) - bottom line: MAKE THINGS INTERESTING FOR PEOPLE

Annual Reports

- Each historian is supposed to compile an annual report for their appointing authority as well as NYS Historian.

- You can send a copy to County Historian who will forward them to the State Historian in Albany by Feb. or March of each year

Next meeting scheduled for Friday, June 11th 2010 at Dept. of History & Archives - 1pm. 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.

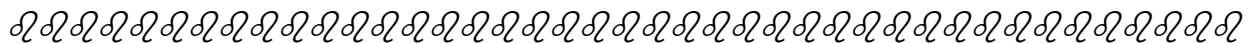
Upcoming Events

June 3rd – 5th 2010 – Ithaca College, Ithaca – *31st Conference on New York State History*. www.nysha.org for details.

May 24th 2010 – 10am-4pm -- Fort Klock Historic Restoration, St. Johnsville – *Opening Day. An encampment of Tryon County Militia and colonial crafts demonstrations*. Call (518) 568-7779 for details.

June 19th 2010 – 12 noon – Rebecca Guptel room, Auriesville Shrine -- *year end picnic for Heritage & Genealogical Society*. Following picnic, tentatively scheduled unveiling for Montgomery County Poorhouse marker on Route 5S at the Montgomery County Public Safety facility. Call (518) 853-8186 for details.

County Historian Kelly Farquhar has been working on a survey of African American life in Montgomery County during the 19th century. Researching the lives of the African Americans who lived here through church records, abolitionist or anti-slavery activity, newspaper accounts, and land records, she has applied for funding through the Preservation League of New York to hire a professional consultant for research and compiling the information for online access. Additional sources include the Richard & Rebecca Evans Foundation and the Heritage & Genealogical Society who have both committed to funding the project.



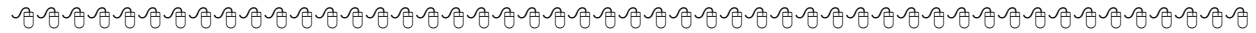
Dave Manclow, historian for the Towns of Minden and Palatine, has scanned the Myron Saltsman collection of slides and giving presentations to various local organizations as well as our Historians' meeting in June. He brought to the April meeting framed 1868 & 1905 maps of the Town of Minden showing school districts within the town. He also brought along to show an envelope with a stamp advertising the Intermediate Landing Field that used to be located outside of Fort Plain.

Lorraine Whiting, historian for the Town of Charleston, has been busy working on the restoration of the schoolhouse at the junction of Corbin Hill Road and NYS Route 162. Work is coming along nicely.

Ryan Weitz, Fultonville Village Historian, has been working with others in the cleanup of the Hoff-Shelp cemetery in the Mill Point area on the line of the towns of Glen and Florida. He also ordered a new gravestone for the Donaldson family in the Old Fultonville Cemetery. Ryan has gotten a new ledger book and has been entering data from the stones in that cemetery. He has been locating other cemeteries in Glen and identifying them with GPS coordinates. Additionally, he procured a gravestone plaque

through the Veterans' Administration for the grave of Revolutionary War veteran Frederick Visscher and his wife Gazena in the Old Caughnawaga cemetery in Fonda. It was reported at the meeting that Congressman Tonko's office has the form for congressional assistance to look at WWII service records.

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.



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