

Annual Report for 2012 Office of the County Historian

February 20, 2013

2012 was a year in which we were able to overcome a number of challenges in the Historian's Office:

- **Mid-Year Budget reductions**
- **Further budget cuts in preparing the 2013 Budget**
- **No grant applications completed (traditional grant opportunities were not available in 2012)**
- **Significant research backlog**
- **Revenue shortfall**
- **No Wi-Fi installation in 9 Pearl Street**
- **Access to the 2nd floor remains an issue**

These bullets may seem to paint a picture of “gloom & doom”, however, nothing could be further from the truth. These are just normal challenges faced by government agencies and departments today, to be addressed through planning and action centered projects. In real terms, the Office of the Historian in 2012 served the public and other county departments with an ever increasing volume of reports and research results. Holdings increased dramatically and the percentage of material available through electronic database indexing and document access grew daily.

Here are some highlights of 2012

- **Budget Year 2012 ended more than 10% under revised budget**
- **We continued to serve the public, our towns & villages and many other county departments and agencies**
 1. **Assisted over 442 visitors to the office**
 2. **Responded to 113 letters**
 3. **Answered and assisted with 690 telephone inquiries**
 4. **Received over 8282 emails**
 5. **Over 3000 written email replies**
 6. **Over 7349 hits on our website**
 7. **Collected about \$2430 in service fees**
 8. **Received not one negative comment or complaint from any customer...most expresses amazement by the level and depth of service we able to provide.**

Page 2
Annual Report for 2012

- **Serving the Wayne County History Community**
 - a. **Wrote and distributed six (6) Historian Newsletters in 2012**
 - b. **Organized six (6) Wayne Historian's Organization (WHO) "brown bag" luncheon meetings at locations around Wayne County.**
 - c. **Maintained an up to date events calendar allowing all historians, museums and historical societies to post their events and programs on our Wayne County website.**
 - d. **Attended fifteen (15) seminars, workshops, symposiums and conferences often bringing speakers and presentations, on timely topics, back to the WHO Meetings**
 - e. **By invitation, joined Governor Cuomo's "Path Through History" Program Workgroup under the Finger Lakes Region Economic Development Council and attended the Governor's Path Through History Conference in Albany on August 28th**
 - f. **Facilitated the WHO Network to keep everyone aware of important information and opportunities from around the region and the state**
 - g. **Provided resources and information on topics in Historic Preservation assisting local organizations and individuals prepare applications for State and National Register of Historic Places status**
 - h. **Achieved a goal of being present in and supporting each and every Wayne County Town & Village for at least one event or meeting during the calendar year**
 - i. **Served on the NYS Archives DHP Regional Advisory Board**
 - j. **Attended the Annual APHNYS State Conference on Long Island**
 - k. **Continued to serve on the Board of Trustees of the Association of Public Historians of New York State**
 - l. **Planned and organized a Finger Lakes Region Historians Conference in Penn Yan, NY on November 3rd.**
 - m. **Spoke or made presentations at fifteen (15) organizations or conferences on a wide variety of topics:**
 - **11 presentations within Wayne County**
 - **4 presentation outside of Wayne County**

Page 3
Annual Report for 2012

The Office of the County Historian was open for the public Monday thru Friday from 9 AM to Noon and 1 PM to 5 PM throughout the whole year. Jane Milem, Clerk & Research Assistant, and I attempted to be responsive in a timely fashion to every question or inquiry presented to the office in 2012. Reports were written and submitted to the Government Operations Committee each month. These many activities were accomplished under the approved budget in 2012.

2012 was another successful year.

**Submitted by Peter Evans, County Historian
March 13, 2013**