



Bicentennial Bytes and Updates

-- November 2020 --

WELCOME!

I have been tasked with helping to keep committee members (County and Town), volunteers, and members of the Board of Supervisors apprised of our efforts as we prepare for the Bicentennial celebration on April 11, 2023.

- Patti Holdraker,
Member, Steering & Souvenirs Committee

SUMMARY OF PLANNING EVENTS SO FAR...

- November 2018 – Brainstorming session held
- April 2019 – Gene Bavis & Larry Ann Evans appointed as Co-Chairs by WC Board of Supervisors
- January 2020 – Bicentennial Logos created by Designer, Grace Blondell were approved
- Hoffman Grants applied for and received by WC Historian & WC Historical Society
- Spring 2020 - Over 65 project ideas were discussed and several of them are in various stages of implementation
- April 2020 – Town Supervisors were asked to form local committees
- Spring 2020 – Budget Discussions & projections for 2020-2024
- August 12 - Bicentennial Committee met via Zoom
- **November 4 - NEXT Bicentennial Committee Meeting at 3:30 via Zoom**

TOWN COMMITTEES:

- Several Town Committees have been established and have held meetings
- Old Wolcott (Wolcott, Butler, Huron & Rose) - Rosa Fox, Chair, They have met 4 times.
 - Sodus – Steve Heald, Chair
 - Walworth – Amber Linson, Chair. Have already met and will meet again Nov. 13. Gene will be in attendance.
 - Marion Committee - Jennifer Hunter
 - Macedon - Plan to meet once a month, initially using virtual sessions. Macedon is unique in that they will be celebrating 200 years of the incorporation of the Town of Macedon, along with Wayne County in 2023. In addition to a small group of dedicated volunteers, we are recruiting representatives from local educational, sports, music, social, business and religious organizations. They look forward to utilizing historic buildings in Macedon like the Macedon Academy to put on lectures, concerts and plays. Right now anything is possible!
 - working on committees, are the towns Lyons, Ontario and Williamson

NEW BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- We have recruited new Wayne County Bicentennial

Committee members. They are: Alicia Linzy, Teacher, Lyons Central School; Phil Eynor, Huron Town Supervisor; Theresa Streb, Librarian, Lyons Public Library; James Schuler, Wayne County Youth Advocacy Program; Marygrace Mazzullo, Williamson CSD Superintendent.

PROMOTION, PROMOTION, PROMOTION!

- **STATIC CLING STICKERS (3" x 4")** have been ordered. We will be asking local businesses to begin placing them on their outside windows and glass doors to promote the Bicentennial **MAILING STICKERS** have been ordered and received.

- The Pomeroy Foundation has agreed to work with us on the creation of **TOWN HISTORIC MARKERS** commemorating the founding of each town. Peter Evans reports that this is one project he has taken responsibility for. He feels that some degree of progress is made on 3 of the 4 required sample scripts for signs so there has been some progress made.

- Linda Guest is working with other geocachers to create more **GEOCACHE SITES** in Wayne County particularly at historic sites.

- Dick Lasher has agreed to work on a **BICENTENNIAL FLOAT** with a big birthday cake on it. We hope to have it in as many local parades as possible during 2021-2023.

- We have reached out to artists/photographers to get them involved in projects where we need visuals, especially of pre-photography times.

- A group of volunteers has been discussing the **WAYNE COUNTY NY CHALLENGE**, a program to entice kids (and the young at heart) to explore the Wayne County Historic Sites, many of which are in the online WHO Database (www.waynehistorians.org). Current plan is to have a booklet ready for distribution by the spring of 2021.

- Jim Darnell & the Finger Lakes Stamp Club have agreed to work on special **PICTORIAL POSTAL CANCELLATIONS** and to assist local committees if they want to do them also.

- We now have a WC Bicentennial page on the **WAYNE COUNTY WEBSITE**: <https://web.co.wayne.ny.us/index.php/wayne-county-bicentennial/> More information will be added soon. Please add the link to YOUR website

- The **POWER POINT PRESENTATION** is ready to be viewed by groups who schedule, possibly starting in the Spring. Gene asked to schedule with him.

Rosa Fox reported that their presentation was shown to the Beta Theta educator's sorority. They enjoyed it especially the vast collection of photos and slides. Good feedback given. Gene has created a shorter script that can be done in 20-30 minutes.

We talked about creating thematic/topical presentations for historical societies. We have a lot of material. There is

quite a bit of potential here! Even virtually. We talked about polling WHO members to see what topics they think their historical societies may be interested in. Gene announced that his next task is to finish up the shorty shorty video to post on the Bicentennial website and share on social media. We need to write a script. Tom Lightfoot has agreed to narrate.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY BOOK - Caryn Devlin is drawing up a list of ideas for the project but is counting on the towns to tell her what they would like to emphasize. She spoke about this at the last WHO meeting and followed up with a letter to the historians/historical societies.

BOOKS

A brainstorming book meeting was held. Loreen Jorgensen and Chris have compiled a list of books about Wayne County that have already been done. Sandi Hamilton did as well. We will be discussing what gaps we might want to fill on the list. Amber Linson from Walworth, on the Books Committee, has met with the Wayne Writers Guild. They have done some brainstorming and came up with a few options they would like to see. The committee would like to see more detail in what has already been written and would also like to see more recent history included in it as well. Another option is a new book written on the evolution of Wayne County government.

They hope to gather researchers, writers, and sources of information who can work together to make this project successful. And, as we are in the beginning stages, suggestions are welcome! Amber noted that she personally would like to see a collection of memoirs.

BICENTENNIAL MINUTES

Bruce Farrington has completed 27 BICENTENNIAL MINUTES, as of 10/20/20

27 Bicentennial Minutes Complete

1 Bicentennial Minute awaiting approval

24 Bicentennial Minutes to go

Five Towns still need to be in contact with:

Macedon, Ontario, Palmyra, Rose and Savannah.

WORKING TOWARDS POSSIBLE EVENTS

The Towpath Volunteers Fife & Drum Corps will be hosting an international gathering of fife and drum corps in 2023 and wants to work with us.

• A Torch Relay Committee meeting met in September. The group is very excited and looking forward to making this an event to remember. Mapping out a 200-mile route through Wayne County will be one of our major tasks.

VETERAN'S PARTICIPATION.

Jerry Lamb of the Ontario American Legion has been discussing with Veterans Organizations the possibility of bringing the Vietnam Wall Replica to Wayne County during 2023. Jerry discussed with Brian Mankelow and will be meeting after the Election in regards to this. Have also talked to David Borland, Commander of the American

Legion in Palmyra. He will be talking with the leadership within the Town as to their possible involvement as well. He has been working on healing some of the wounds from past individuals from what I am told. Have discussed this at the Wayne County American Legion's meetings and they are onboard as well. Further discussions will be held as well as contacting the Legion in Ontario County, Canandaigua to be specific.

BICENTENNIAL MURAL

Several of the Bicentennial Committee members: (Steve Heald, Bruce Farrington, Sandy Hopkins, Tom Lightfoot, and Sandi Hamilton) went through Steve's collection of vintage post cards to find images of the township of Sodus to be used for the various projects. They have to meet again to finish the hamlets of Joy, Alton, and Wallington. They are planning to do so in the next couple of weeks. They are looking for a location for the Wayne County Bicentennial mural along the Route 104 corridor.

FUNDRAISING:

• PHOTO QUILT:

Bob Mogray has agreed to work on a PHOTO QUILT of Wayne County similar to the one he created for the Walworth Historical Society, but in vertical format so that it can also be made into a poster. The Quilt will be raffled and the poster will be sold as a fundraiser. More than 300 photos have been taken for us to consider. Others may be requested to fill in gaps.

• 2-YEAR BICENTENNIAL CALENDAR has been revised slightly. The 2022 part will focus on events prior to 1923 and the 2023 part on events since 1923. Williamson Town Historian Perry Howland has submitted over 75 people, places, organization and group specific dates to Loreen Jorgensen and Chris Davis, coordinators of the two-year Wayne County Bicentennial Calendar project. This project seeks to recognize significant 'firsts', in some cases, for all 15 towns in Wayne County.

• T SHIRT SALES - At some point, we will order t-shirts to sell at "events" (when they return), and that will allow up to collect some funds to order more souvenir items.

MORE.....

Gene will be meeting with Wayne County Library Directors via Zoom on November 10 to bring them up to speed on what's going on AND to discuss cooperative ventures with them.

GOOGLE DRIVE/GOOGLE DOCS

Hoping to have Jim Paprocki instruct several of us in the use of google docs and the google drive so that as we move forward materials can be saved.

Bruce Farrington and Sandi Hamilton submitted a list of Town of Sodus historic sites along with their corresponding numbers from the Historic sites site to be used in the Wayne County Bicentennial Challenge.

Our next step is to coordinate our calendars so that we can meet.