

## August Historian's Newsletter

So far, it has been a magnificent summer here. I have had the pleasure of sitting on Williamson Town Historian, Chester Peters, front porch many evenings talking about the latest issues or queries I've received in the office.

Some of note worth include:

- How did the Town of Huron come by its name? According to Town Historian, Carol Flint, the name was changed from Port Bay to Huron in 1826. Looking in the town records and Board Meeting Minutes there is no mention of how the name was selected. Carol believes it was the result of a band of Huron families living there at one time. We are both looking for some documentation to substantiate that thought. I think "the Huron" belonged to the same family grouping as the Iroquois but were not part of the 5/6 Nations Confederacy here in New York.
- Palmyra Historian, Beth Hoad, asked me to identify the number of stone tunnels that went under the railroad bed allowing livestock to pass from field to field on either side of the tracks. She tells me there is one on or near her farm that is still used but she has not been able to find any others. I have sent inquiries to my contacts at the Genesee Railroad Museum but haven't heard a reply yet.
- Jayme Breschard, Senior Planner – Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council has accepted the list of "new" culturally significant sites I shared with you in my last letter in June. Jayme came out to the office on the 27<sup>th</sup> to gather more information on each site. As you may recall, Lakeview Cemetery in Pultneyville is one of the earliest organized cemeteries in the county. However, I nominated Lakeview not because it was pretty old but rather because it contains the first Civil War Monument erected in New York State and perhaps the first monument in the whole country. Naturally Jayme had many questions about the cemetery so the correct person to consult with is Chester Peters. It is really nice that he has such a great space for all this consulting work. I think if he had a nickel for every minute of consulting time on that porch, he could buy and sell all of New York State many times over. Seriously, pull out that list of new sites and see if you have any insights on any of them that would help Jayme do justice to each one.

On other matters of interest to everyone:

1. Spike Herzig will be with us at WHO in August to share. Spike has been the mover behind the New York Cultural Heritage Tourism Network. He has done a great job getting the whole northern Finger Lakes Region on board. He is currently working on a Heritage Tourism Conference in collaboration with Colgate University. I think you will be very interested in what he has to share.
2. I have also been in contact with Teresa Mitchell, Director, Seaway Trail Association. Joan Carey, President of Williamson-Pultneyville Historical Society has been asking me for assistance in finding funding opportunities for War of 1812 events, activities and promotion. The local business community had

- approached Joan and the W-PHS Board wanting to collaborate on 1812 events and programs. Yes, the war had direct impact on Sodus and Williamson but really involved every town and village in the county. Militia units were formed throughout the county and I think every town has 1812 veterans buried in their cemeteries.
3. Restoration of the Hotchkiss Building moves forward. I think they have selected a time period around 1890 for the restoration. If anyone one has pictures or post cards from that period please let me know. We would like to assemble as many records of the building from that period as possible. Every picture potentially captures a different detail.
  4. Barb "BJ" Meeks of Newark was recently elected President of the Ontario County Genealogical Society at the Ontario County Historical Society down in Canandaigua. BJ gave me a one page summary on finding "Naturalization Records". If anyone is interested in a copy just zip me an email and I'll send it along to you.
  5. On August 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> the U.S. Census Bureau will be conducting "FREE" seminars on how to use the 2010 Census information for fund raising programs. See the flyer attached.
  6. Gail Fischer, Regional Advisory Officer, NYS Archives, presented the workshop: "Introduction to Historical Records" yesterday at the Wayne County Court House. The workshop was well attended with groups from Walworth, Wolcott and Palmyra among others. Gail is very good at allowing the group to direct the discussion focusing on topics of particular interest. When we got into topics of paper and its "keeping qualities" we had a mini-discussion on Kirtas Technologies. I had brought over a Sanborn Insurance Map Book to assist with the discussion. One key point Gail made was – "a file" is a piece of information not a piece of paper. Our goal is to identify, organize and store information not to identify, organize and store media like newspaper clippings. Today's newsprint, as an example, is so poor and so acid laden that it not only will quickly disintegrate itself but will contaminate and destroy other materials that it comes in contact with or is stored around. Since most copier paper today is nearly neutral on an acid-base pH scale, one approach is to copy all newspaper articles or clippings you may want to hold or add to your file. These NYS Archives workshops are offered at no cost to you and Gail always supplies excellent refreshments as an added incentive. The course and workshop schedule for Fall 2010 is just now being posted on the NYS Archives website. You can always contact Gail Fischer at (585) 241-2827 or at [gfischer@mail.nysed.gov](mailto:gfischer@mail.nysed.gov) Oh, Gail is also available to review your archives operation. Remember, her area of focus is on official government records; where our Regional DHP, Preston Pierce's focus is on non-official non-government records.
  7. War of 1812 Bicentennial Celebration plans. Please keep me informed of any plans you may hear about....maybe we ought to talk about a county wide plan instead of leaving it all to each town or society. I know that the business group in Pultneyville approached the Historical Society hoping for a collaborative event or celebration of some sort. Everyone seems to agree that no matter when specific events took place, the major kick off or celebration ought to be in 2012 when

- everyone expects it....so what if the Battle of Sodus Point wasn't until 1813 or that the invasion of Pultneyville took place in 1814.
8. A couple of weeks ago I received a call from Nancy Younglove of Savannah. Nancy was seeking advice and help organizing and preparing a State and National Register nomination for the Savannah Congregational United Church of Christ. Of course, I immediately put her in contact with Nancy Todd at Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. I suspect that the church hopes to be successful so they can then apply for a Sacred Sites Grant.
  9. Wayne County and NY State Fair are both coming very soon. Have any of you taken an info booth at either fair? I am not pushing that idea....just asking the question. Many of you know that I sit on the Steering Committee of the 1816 Quaker Meeting House Restoration down in Farmington. Their Board just decided to take a booth at the State Fair because they wanted to raise their state wide and regional awareness and recognition. It will be interesting to see what happens...if anything.

As usual, a great deal is happening around Wayne County with all the parades, concerts, open houses, fund raising events and festivals. As always, do plan to share what you learn....some things work well and others don't seem to.

All the best,

Peter