

Newsletter from the Office of the Wayne County NY Historian

Wayne County History & Genealogy Society

So much is happening; by the time you read this, our first meeting of the Wayne County NY History & Genealogy Society will be history. Tuesday, September 25th, over 20 people showed up to discuss the formation of a Genealogy organization. I also received six regrets from people who wanted to participate but were unavailable on the 25th. The assembled group decided to meet again in October. So, mark your calendar now highlighting Tuesday, October 23rd, at 7 PM at the Old Court House in the same conference room right inside the front door on the right.

I was away at our family cottage for the first day of Fall building a new front porch with the help of many family members, including my daughter, Emily, who is almost 8 months toward a due date of November 5th. She feels very good and it was hard to keep her from over doing, but she could pound nails like all the rest of us. It was a beautiful weekend and the New England color is just beginning to show in the eastern part of NYS.

Lisa Ahrans, County Tourism, came to me today to ask what I thought about the percent color change up near the lake. I told her that everything was still pretty “green” with at most about a 10-15% color change at this time. My Maples and Oaks are still deep perfect green; however, the Chestnuts are very brown now. This will not last long, it was 42 degrees at my house this morning and that is right on the lakeshore, so change will come quickly if this becomes our new pattern.

WHO in Butler on October 3rd

Coming up shortly, we will all be together in Butler. Please take note of our special presentation by Nancy Bryan and her husband, John. Nancy is a Grammy nominated singer/song writer who has works on the Walt Disney Records label. She has just received support from the NYS Council on the Humanities to help defray the costs associated with her services. I hope that Larry Ann Evans will be with us to tell us about the project she organized using Nancy’s song writing and John’s recording services.

Also on October 3rd – I will be the presenter at the Ontario County Genealogical Society meeting at the Ontario County Historical Society in Canandaigua

Archives Month Program on October 19th

You should all have seen the flyer I sent around from Preston Pierce. The program will be at the Pittsford Public Library (is free) bring your own “brown bag” lunch or eat on the town. This is one program I rarely if ever miss. Once again, the agenda sounds excellent. See the flyer attached.

November 1st

November 1st I travel to Albany for the Fall Board of Directors Meeting for the Association of Public Historians of NYS (APHNYS). If anyone has a topic I need to carry to the APHNYS Board, let me know.

November 3rd

This leads directly to the November 3rd Regional Historians Meeting in Penn Yan. Historical Societies - do not automatically close your eyes and ears. The major topic will be heritage trails and Governor Cuomo’s “Path Through History” initiative in particular. I have invited two leading regional tourism professionals to come and discuss the impact of these trails and the Governor’s new PTH initiative. All of this will definitely have direct implications for all historical agencies.

This meeting is being hosted by the Yates County Historical Society and the Yates County Historian. The Historical Society will have a number of their buildings open for free tours during lunch and after the meeting.

Regional Meeting Agenda and Registration form will be available soon.

Breaking News

MANY (Museum Association of New York) and Museumwise (formerly Upstate History Alliance) will be one organization by the end of the year. Museumwise will be the surviving new organization.

Conference Cooperation

In April 2013, both the new Museumwise and the Association of Public Historians of NYS (APHNYS) will be hosting their respective Annual Conferences in Syracuse. There will be a one-day overlap between the two conferences. As I write this, the two organizations are discussing how they might work out a cross registration agreement so that both organizations could attend some sessions and events hosted by the other group. I have been suggesting this idea for years.

One immediate advantage might be the presence of many more industry specific vendors. Many vendors we all purchase from require a certain level of attendance before they will send their conference team to the event. I always spend a lot of time talking to the vendors, usually with specific situations or problems I need help with (which often translates as problems you have told me about).

Governor Cuomo's "Path Through History" initiative

Finally, yet importantly, let me touch again on the Path Through History Program. No one knows how this will play out over the coming year or so. See the attached info sheet from the PTH Conference booklet. Headliner at the conference was that Gov. Cuomo announced an additional \$1 Million dollars to the program. I asked our Finger Lakes PTH Leader, Rich Parker, how we are supposed to spend this money? He told me that the criteria were being prepared and that we would reconvene when we saw the rules. Six sites were nominated to the program from Wayne County. Two were accepted for the initial signage program but more is to come.

I would offer the challenge to each of you to figure out how to link actively with other trail, corridor and path initiatives that are currently expanding across New York State. No one is going to force this down your throats.

Stay tuned,

Peter Evans

County Historian

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