

It happened, you all and the rest of the world returned from winter hiatus in March. The office was quite quiet during January and February but suddenly everything has exploded. We are currently over 20 research requests in backlog

Suddenly we are in the middle of conference and seminar season. I guess all the organizers plan this for the earliest possible break in the weather.

I will bring five reports from seminars or conferences I will have attended:

- March 18th – I traveled to Colgate University to attend the New York Cultural Heritage Tourism Network (NYCHTN) Workshop
- March 25th – I traveled to Rochester with a large contingent from Pultneyville to the Rochester/Monroe County Library's Grant/Funding Seminar
- April 2nd – It is off to Oswego to attend the War of 1812 Symposium sponsored by the Friends of Fort Ontario
- April 3rd to 6th I will be in Elmira for the Annual APHNYS (Association of Public Historians of NYS) Conference. The special focus will be Civil War and Mark Twain
- April 8th to 10th – It is down the NYS Thruway to Troy for the Capital District UGRR Workshop at Russell Sage College. Judy Wellman and Marj Perez will be presenting on various aspects of their report. I will be acting as a session moderator.
- May 12th – Judy Wellman and I will travel to New York City to attend the Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony for the Preservation League of New York State. The cultural survey report **Uncovering the Underground Railroad, Abolitionism, and African American Life in Wayne County, 1820 - 1880** will be honored by its selection to receive the Preservation League's award for *Excellence in Historic Preservation*. This is really a big deal and great honor for Wayne County. One of the criteria for the award was the collaboration that took place to make the survey and report happen. This is a credit to and recognition of all your efforts to support this important work. All of you who attended the workshops and offered documentation and volunteered your time to perform the background research.

Mid May also opens the festival season in upstate New York with the Lilac Festival in Rochester, Montezuma Audubon Wildlife Festival May 7, and the Apple Blossom Festival in Williamson May 14. Memorial Day marks the time when many of the county historical societies begin formally scheduled open hours.

Many of you are planning programs and events that include Civil War or War of 1812 themes. Keep me informed of these plans. Both Christine Worth, Director of WC Tourism and my office continue to receive inquiries. I am sure this interest will continue through the next 18 months. Please keep us in the loop on these events – thanks. Peter