

Report from the Town of Macedon Historian's Office Yearly Report 2020

January 16, 2021

Submitted by Linda A. Braun, Town Historian

2020 marked the 197th year of the existence of the Town of Macedon which was incorporated in 1823. This report includes the information on the people, projects and time spent in the role as Historian of the Town of Macedon. In addition to requests from members of our community I have been actively involved as secretary of the Macedon Historical Society and the preservation of the Macedon Academy building. I have logged 320 hours over the year 2020.

Projects that I would like assistance with, from the town include:

- Repair the sidewalks in Macedon Center, so that the Academy and Grange are easier to walk to.
- Add a Historian site to the Town of Macedon website.
- When the sewage treatment plant is demolished, repurpose a stairway to the Academy as a fire escape. We could use help transporting and installing the staircase.

Highlights included:

- Collecting artifacts related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Began a committee for our Bicentennial Celebration.
- Macedon Historical Society: I continued to serve as secretary documenting minutes, agendas and correspondence. We look forward to continuing to preserve the building and share this beautiful asset with our community. Support of this historic place and the artifacts that it contains is vital to the preservation of our community history.
 - We won a grant that allowed us to purchase computer equipment and a specialized archiving software called Past Perfect from the Pomeroy Foundation and MANY – Museum Association of NY.
 - Won a grant for \$10,000 from the Bullis Foundation to help make the Academy more handicapped accessible with the addition of an ADA compliant restroom and fire escape. The money is not matching, and the check was received in January 2021.
 - Won two Hoffman Grants: total of \$1083 for archiving supplies and displays.
 - Lowes Corporation donated more than \$4000 worth of supplies to MHS.
- In 2019 I worked with the NYS DOT on a trailhead marker at the O'Neil Rd bridge. This was delayed and should be installed in 2021.
- Member of the Wayne Historical Organizations (WHO). Created 2 videos that will be aired during the lead up to our Bicentennial in 2023. Participated in Zoom meetings with local historians.
- Maintained the Information Box located in front of the old Village Hall
- Glenna Larson – Presentation of the DAR to MHS.

Visitors

Especially with the COVID-19 Pandemic visits to my office has been reduced. Most contacts were made with my office were primarily by e-mail, these contacts are noted on the attached spreadsheet. While in the office people would stop by to say hello. Total contacts for the year were approximately 210.

Exhibits/Presentations: No presentations due to the pandemic

- Newspaper Articles:
 - What is Happening in Macedon Center
 - Memorial Day

- Flag Day
- MHS Who we are
- Academy Performance-Heartstrings
- MHS Clean up
- **MHS Exhibits**
 - Gananda

Open Projects

- Waiting for NYS DOT – Trailhead Marker for O’Neil Rd bridge design completed
- Continue to support of Macedon Historical Society as Secretary.
- Bicentennial
- World War I memorial
- New: Historical Markers to pursue: Ideas include Lock 61, Wayneport, Lapham home
- Work with Dave Maul to create a Historian’s page on the town website.

Work in the Historian’s Office

Access to the historian and the office’s materials was available on Thursdays from 4:30 – 6:30 or by appointment. A notice is on the office door with my hours and my personal cell phone, should people wish to contact me directly. During the pandemic, the library was closed most of the year. Sharing ideas through social media (Macedon NY History) and Newspapers became more of a priority.

Queries

The following queries were, or are being researched on the following topics:

1st Qtr:

1. Gardner – Layne Turbine Pump Label from Lock 61
2. Eric Van Slander – NARA.gov regarding WWI records
3. Carl Hausman – Lovejoy family, Brown Rd
4. Kevin Jackson / Dave Heckman– Property on canal
5. K. Hodges- Question on the Quaker Cemetery
6. J. Mazza – Questions about the Bickford family home on Center St.

2nd Qtr: COVID-19 Pandemic – Offices closed

1. Jim Smith – Palmer article in magazine
2. Caitlin Meives – Landmark Society
3. Mike Newcomb- Service Station display
4. Morrisons – request for stone
5. Deys- Sandman Co.: Discussion about fire escape

3rd Qtr:

1. Mert Bartels
2. Jeff Bechenbach – pictures donated
3. APHNYS – Assoc. Public Historians New York State: Covid-19 Survey
4. Al Plumb
5. Reagan Stearns of Alabama – George N. Card
6. Amber Linson, Rand Darrow – Bullis Play/Open House
7. Robert Salmon – Turkey Town inquiry
8. S Beckwith - George Beckwith family

4th Qtr:

1. Sue Wood – Nolan Family
2. A. Plumb – Bullis Family
3. J. Bills -
4. Marlene LeMoyne – John Zimmer research
5. Kristen Ferguson
6. J. Folt – NYS Archives

Respectfully submitted,

Linda A. Braun
Town of Macedon Historian