

Letters, Visits and Phone Calls

E-mails, letters or phone calls from 20 different individuals were researched or answered in 2018. All were either family history (genealogy), local history or local resource inquiries and most were helped by information either from the Town Historian files (now at the Town Office) or from resources at the Kinsey Library/Hartwick Historical Center. A number of requests came through the Town Clerk, from people seeking local Vital Records information for an early period before such civil records were recorded. Most new e-mails resulted in multiple e-mails or phone calls to follow-up with shared information. A number of research visits were made to the Fenimore Research Library or County offices to supplement local information and I have referred people directly to other local historians or resources such as the Fenimore Research Library or Town Clerks of other municipalities.

In addition to the e-mails and letters, there were about 8 phone calls with local history questions to be followed, after research, with phone calls or e-mails and 3-4 for personal visits for family research at the Hartwick Historical Center where most of the historical collection materials are still located. Referrals or exchange of information continued also with the network of local Government Historians.

Some research in 2018, beyond family history, also focused on specific inquiries about early photographs, family homes, military salaries, small cemeteries and school educational projects.

Files

I have continued to clip news articles, advertisements, pictures, obituaries etc. of any Hartwick related local families, organizations and events, from the Daily Star, Freeman Journal, Cooperstown Courier and local Pennysaver. I have also, in 2018 continued to take pictures for a photographic record of Hartwick related events and have added programs / flyers as available. Newsletters, as available from Hartwick,

Otsego County Historical Association and other nearby historical groups are also added to the Historian files.

The family files continue to expand as news clippings on local families are collected, along with contributions from previous correspondents. As we have expressed interest in receiving family information from inquiring researchers, a number of people have done so and this adds to our family files (both at the Historian office and at the Hartwick Historical Center). This becomes a help to other researchers who ask about the same family lines.

Association Memberships and Conferences.

The Town renewed membership for me this past year in the Association of Public Historians of New York State (APHNYS) and as an individual (and as Town Historian) I have memberships in the Central New York Genealogical Society, New York Genealogical and Biographical Society and Tenino Art Museum (formerly New York State Historical Association (NYSHA)). I am also an active member (and Trustee/Historian) of the Hartwick Historical Society and member of the Otsego County Historical Association.

In 2018 I was able to attend the Annual State Conference of APHNYS in Rochester and the Region 7 meeting in Waterville. The training and workshops on local and statewide history and resources were excellent and networking with other Public Historians both within our regional counties and on a statewide level is always both helpful and enjoyable. The State Historian, Devin Lander, was again in attendance at the State Conference and shared plans, goals and valuable resources with us.

In the absence of an Otsego County Historian, the Tenino Research Library again hosted an Open House meeting for Historians from Otsego County. It was good to be able to share local concerns and projects with local Historians and historical organizations. Hopefully another group meeting will be planned in 2019.

Projects and Activities - 2018

In the spring (March) of 2018, the Town Historian made a welcome physical move to office space in the Town Hall, along with Historian family files, Vital Record files, recent organizational / topical files and basic reference resources. Much of the Town's past historical records, gene research purpases, remain with the Hartwick Historical Society Collections in the Kinney Library / Historical Center.

Some slow progress has been made on the assessment survey of the Old Hartwick Village Cemetery (Roberson Cemetery) on Co. R to 11. This is part of the long term preservation project, to identify the detailed extent of repairs / preservation work needed for this early Cemetery which is a designated Historic District with recognition on the National Register of Historic Places. The Cemetery is badly in need of preservation work.

In addition to responses to family history and research inquiries, an updated transcription of Hartwick Village Cemetery gravestones was completed. This is a supplement to update the Hartwick Cemetery Record Book which was originally completed in 1989 by the previous Town Historian.

Work also slowly continues on developing a photographic file of Hartwick Township locations, to show additions and changes through the years in buildings, businesses and some homes. This is a new recording / comparison to earlier pictures and historic records.

As Town Historian and as member of the Otsego County Historical Association (OCHA) participated in the Partners for Preservation Day, sponsored by OCHA and the Milford Historical Group - in Milford. The event was a small local history promotion for the public provided by local historians and historical organizations.

We also joined with OCHA at ^{their exhibit booth at} the Otsego County Fair (where Hartwick Historical contributed shared information and artifacts of some of our early doctors and dentists).

I continue with membership and volunteer work also at the Fenimore

Plans and Proposed Projects for 2019

My plans are:

- ① To continue to actively collect and preserve past and present materials of the Hartwick Township History (news clippings etc) and, along with this, to continue to actively photograph and record current and ongoing local events for historical record and supplement to existing historical files
- ② To continue to respond to all inquiries (e-mails, letters, phone calls, any Town government requests etc) and assist with local history and family research.
- ③ To apply ~~for~~, in coordination with the Town Clerk, for a grant from the W.T. Pomeroy Foundation, for a historic ^{marker} ~~marker~~ for the Hartwick Historic District. This Historic District has been recognized on the National Register of Historic Places and qualifies for a Pomeroy Foundation Historic marker.
- ④ To complete ~~another~~ updated transcriptions of gravestones in other existing, actively used Hartwick Cemeteries (specifically the Hartwick Seminary Cemetery) and complete a new Supplement update to the 1988-89 Hartwick Cemetery Record Book.
- ⑤ To continue close cooperation / sharing with the Hartwick Historical Society re historic collections, resources and projects. More specifically to continue with the cemetery preservation project of the Historic Rabeson Cemetery (by continuing the assessment survey to identify preservation / repair needs on a basis for planning needed fundraising and generate community interest)
- ⑥ To continue to develop a photographic record file of Hartwick Township locations, showing additions and changes to buildings, businesses and homes for historic record and comparison to earlier pictures and records
- ⑦ To consider creation of a new Hartwick photo book, in coordination with the Hartwick Historical Society, to be self published
- ⑧ To continue to network and share with other Public Historians and historical organizations and to participate in local, regional and State historical and family history events
- ⑨ To consider possible research and grant applications for additional historic markers (through Pomeroy Foundation) for other local historic sites, legends or events

Respectfully submitted,

Caryl Goodrich

Town of Hartwick Historian