

ANNUAL REPORT OF MUNICIPAL HISTORIAN

For 2016

Name: Arlene Iuliano

Address: 5103 Route 22, Amenia, NY 12501

Year appointed: 2010

For what area: Town of Amenia, Dutchess County, New York

Date of Report: January 12, 2017

What historic sites or buildings have been marked in the past year and by whom?

An application for an Historic Marker was applied for and a grant awarded in October 2016 by The Pomeroy Foundation of Syracuse, NY to the Town of Amenia. The check was given to the Town Bookkeeper. An application order form was enclosed. I completed it and mailed it to Sewah Studios, 190 Millcreek Road, Marietta Ohio as directed. The marker's content identifies one of Ken Hoadley's Archeological locations known as The Nook in South Amenia, NY. It should be received in January, 2017 according to my conversation with Sewah on January 4, 2017.

What places should be marked in your locality?

A Benson Family homestead built in the 1700's on Poplar Hill Road, Amenia NY has been suggested. This road is on the eastern border of the town heading towards Dover, NY. It has just been renovated, and was recommended by a town member. There are still family members living in the community. I will research it's history and seek the recommendations of the Amenia Historical Society.

What historical celebrations were held in your community last year? Please describe them.

On January 24, 2016 I attended a special event marking the closing of the Amenia Presbyterian Church on North Road/Route 22, Amenia NY. Its history began in 1748 with the formation of Carmel in the Nine Partners. The present building was dedicated in 1867. In the later 1900's a very popular fundraiser began, The Strawberry Fair. But in the 2000's the church began to decline in membership and became costly to run. It discontinued operation in late 2015. The building is now for sale by the Hudson River Presbytery while Gridley Chapel, also a part of the present ownership and located in Wassaic, reverted back to the Union Society and the South Amenia Presbyterian Church, as originally begun. The special ceremony included an organ performance by Will Carter and refreshments after. It was a sad day!!

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On August 7, 2016 I attended the Wassaic Project's 3-day Summer Festival in that hamlet area of the Town and set up a display that included the topic Prohibition and The Lantern Inn in Wassaic. It was an event that featured emerging artists, bands, dance, and food. It is in its 8th year of presentation. I had some display boards and some postcards available and was there from 11:30am-4:30pm. I gave donated money to the Amenia Historical Society.

September 17, 2016 was Indian Rock Community Day. I attended, brought posters and was available to help sell for The Amenia Historical Society. It was from 11am-3pm at the Red Schoolhouse on Old North Road in the hamlet of Amenia. It's an annual event sponsored by the Schoolhouse Association.

December 10, 2016 was the free Annual Holiday of Lights event sponsored by the Town of Amenia. I attended and set up an Arts & Crafts table in the gymnasium at the Amenia Town Hall. The children and their parents participated and took home what they made. It included a parade, a dance recital, awards and food. It was a cold day/evening but the turnout was quite good. I was there from 3pm to 8pm.

Are any historical celebrations planned for the coming year?

Other than the Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony; the Amenia Library Bake & Book Fair (which has replaced the Strawberry Fair); the Wassaic Project Day; Indian Rock Schoolhouse Community Day; and The Holiday of Lights Parade and Festival, an event may be planned by the Town Board depending on their determination. I will seek involvement as indicated.

Have you made a careful inspection of your local records? Please describe their condition and any record management plans currently in use.

The Amenia Historical Society(AHS) membership, as arranged, works on its own records that includes: sorting, copying, arranging, digitization and control of distribution to visitors. It is open to the public from 2-4 pm Tuesdays and Thursdays or, by special appointment. It is a comfortable place to visit. This year the town upgraded its heating system that included the AHS room which is on the second floor and accessible by elevator and stairs.

The Amenia Town Clerk maintains special records in a closet in her office and directs her deputies in their care. The closet is well organized as are the records, which include early ones.

I maintain my own set of records in a special room in my house, and work from there.

What additional records or items relating to your local history have you collected for your municipality this year? Do you have a collections acquisition plan in place?

Most additional records go directly to AHS or the Town Clerk. However, I did receive a scrapbook from a local, long-time resident of 1905 Amenia and gave it to AHS who follow an acquisition plan they have in place.

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What other services have you provided for your community over the past year?

I am a member of the Conservation Advisory Committee (CAC), a Town appointed committee, and attended 6 of their regular monthly meetings and, 2 of the Amenia Town Board's monthly meetings. I also attended 3 of the Quarterly meetings of the AHS, 1 Special Meeting, and their Annual Meeting. I am a member of AHS and have been for over 30 years.

I have also continued to support the simplification of the DeLavernge Hill oversight area, which was finally accomplished this year by Silo Ridge, current owners. I have a display area in the Town Hall hallway that has been left in place to identify its history and how the view from the hill has been maintained. There is now a pull-in area to park and a place to sit and walk.

And I am now assisting a Town Councilman with an Archeological site historical review (of an area explored by the late Kenneth Hoadley), as it is being planned for mining by the present owner. This will continue into 2017.

Did you attend or partake in any county, state, or federal programs over the past year? Please list them.

*March 14-attended Dutchess County Historical Society's *Decoding the Past* presentation at Locust Grove. Betsy Strauss of AHS was a speaker. She presented "HATS", a Winchester Family business in the town in the 1700's. A 12noon - 1pm Program.

*March 29-attended a refresher program at Millbrook's Farm & Home Center on *Boards of a Town*. It was from 6:30pm-8:30pm.

*April 20-attended the Annual Meeting of the Dutchess County Historical Society at the FDR Library in Hyde Park. Included a presentation on *The 8th Wonder of the World: The Mount Beacon Incline Railway*. It was from 5:30pm-7pm.

May 1-attended and set up a display table at Locust Grove for the 2nd *Annual Hudson Valley Heritage Fair* with the theme "hidden spaces". I presented the "story" of the Amenia Jail during the American Revolution. Was there from 11:30am-4:00pm.

*May 5-attended National Travel & Tourism Week Brochure Exchange at The Grandview in Poughkeepsie.

*June 13-Attended Dutchess County Historical Society Event *Decoding the Past* presentation at Locust Grove from 12noon-1pm. The topic was: "Patriotic Memorabilia".

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Please make recommendations for improving local history services and report any other activities of note not covered above

I attend as many AHS meetings as I am able and continue to support their community efforts. They are active and under a new President, Julian Strauss. They keep minutes of their meetings and report on all of their activities, such as their genealogical research and committee activities. Their minutes are a real resource of information. Their room on the second floor in the Amenia Town Hall has also been a big benefit

I will support the Dutchess County Historian's initiatives for 2017, to the best of my ability

Other activities that I have been involved in:

- * Included encouraging the final printing of a new pamphlet for the town. It is titled Amenia and gives specific information as well as some pictures. It was done by Victoria Perotti, Supervisor, and I brought it, along with the Wassaic pamphlet, to the Tourism Exchange.

- * Visiting the Hyde Park Culinary Library to view their Dutch Food Exhibit.

- * Visiting the Lantern Inn in Wassaic to promote the theme of Prohibition and meeting with the manager Jeff Barnett-Winsley who is "into" history. I'll keep promoting that theme as it is one for 2017-the Dutchess County Historic Tavern Trail.

- * Writing an article for the 2016 Dutchess County Yearbook about the Civil War and the Borden Milk Factory in Wassaic, especially Gail Borden. It was published in the Part 11 printing and is being distributed now.

- * Continuing to write for the Millerton News under the title "On History's Path". This year included a special edition to which I also contributed.

- * I have discontinued my displays at the banks for the time being to reassess. The two banks M&T and the Salisbury Bank have been very cooperative. And,

- * I wish to take this opportunity to especially thank Stanley Whitehead, Amenia Highway Superintendant, Stephen Gill Traffic Engineer, DC Dept. Public Works and their staffs for their assistance on the Historic Marker Project; as well as Robert Mead of the Union Society of South Amenia; Lucianne Lavin, PHD of the Institute of American Indian Studies in Washington, Ct.; and Ken Hoadley's two daughters as well as Dave Reagon of the Amenia CAC.

It was a good year. The Town enjoys history, and so do I. Arlene

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