

LEICESTER TOWN HISTORIAN 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

2024 Summary:

There continues to be an active public interest in the history of Leicester, and it has been another busy year with opportunities to enhance Leicester history. I receive requests for information by email, correspondence, telephone, and "on the streets". I continue to meet with researchers and genealogists. I continue to restructure the Town history files to make them more concise and save as much space as possible.

The fieldstone building at Boyd Parker Park was built around 1970. The building was damaged by the Mine collapse and the Town demolished the building this year. A gazebo will be installed in the Spring. For years the Torture Tree has not had any maintenance. Galiley Arbor Consulting Was hired to evaluate the tree and develop a maintenance program. The tree has been trimmed.

A few of the Town Historic Markers are in terrible condition. I contacted Darin Everdyke who restores Historic Markers without any expense to the Town. I had the 1926 Boyd Marker located in the Village Park restored.

An archaeological dig was conducted near the intersection of Perry Road and Route 36 in preparation for road improvements. There was not any evidence found of Native American presence.

The Saint Thomas Church Marriage files were loaned to the County Historian Office. The 454 files ranged from 1940-1989, they were organized and digitized. The original files were returned, and a PDF file was created.

Events – Programs:

As the Leicester Town Historian I continue to be involved in history-related activities to ensure that our history is recognized as an important contribution to Livingston County heritage. I attended the following events.

- I serve as a Docent at the Livingston County Historical Museum.
- NYS Webinar – Electronic Records Storage
- Research at the County Historian's Office.
- Attended Liv. Co. Historical Society Program on Anti-Slavery Society
- Attended the Liv. Co. Historical Society Program Dixon Hollow

Research – Projects:

On a weekly basis, advertisements, events, obituaries, real estate notices, and articles concerning Leicester are collected from on-line, newspapers, and other sources and are added to the history files.

- Research on-line
- History of early residents and Native American History
- Continue to consolidate and improve historical records.
- Photograph current changes in Leicester such as buildings, businesses and signs
- Consolidate the obituary records and create a user-friendly database.

Correspondence:

Requests for information on Leicester History by telephone, mail, internet, and “on the streets” are constant. I have met genealogists and researchers. The requests have included:

- Taunton Mill located on Starr Road
- 1916 murder of Paul Dioguardi near the Canning Factory
- Conally Family
- Dale Family
- Guiseppi (Joesph) Micelli an employee of Sterling Mine
- Hasler Home in the Village
- Leicester Amusement Company
- Mary Jemison History
- Information and any photos of a Covington Road farm
- Sterling Mine employees
- Location of Downeys Corners
- Information about the use of fire by Native Americans on wildlands any public stories

Donations and Acquisitions:

- Multiple boxes of historical information - Lisa Stewart
- Drawings of cabins and map of Little Beardstown (from Adam Hubleys Journal)
- Large early framed Map of Cyler - Jimmy Jones
- 1940 newspaper article - dedication of Leicester Recreation Park at Squakie Hill
- 1925 newspaper article - about Chief Little Beard written by a Mt. Morris resident
- 1903 newspaper article - Town of Leicester Anniversary
- 1890 newspaper article - Clark Skunk Farm at Pine Tavern
- Community Dairy advertisements and 1971 photograph
- Community Dairy milk bottle - Amy Alden
- Photographs of 1948 Leicester Train wreck - Erne Shute
- Photograph of Community Dairy Milkman Sign - John Yasso
- Lana Rosa Milk bottle - Amy Neuman
- Copy of Village of Leicester Fire Department Charter - John Yasso

Future Goals:

Records management is a high priority. Continue to complete the Photographic Inventory. Pursue Grant Programs. Continue the organization of the Town records. Write articles concerning Leicester History and hopefully give public presentations. The River Road Historic Marker and the Boyd Parker Historic Marker at the Boyd Parker Park will be restored.

The Leicester Academy was located on South Parkway and was the place where Mary Jemison

came to sell her Gardeau land. I plan to install a Historic Marker about the Academy at the site.

Respectfully Submitted,
Karen A. Roffe
Leicester Town Historian