

The Town History Corner

By Harry L.D. Weldon, Town Historian

Official Address: Town Hall, 93 East Main St., Dryden, NY 13053
Phone: 607.844.8888 email: historian@dryden.ny.us
Appointed: July 8, 2009 Officially Sworn-in: July 31, 2009
(former Dryden Village Historian: Nov. 21, 1983 thru March 17, 1992)

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2009:

RESOURCES Provided: Office space, desk (Sic. large table), mail box, postage, stationary, Photocopy machine, internet access. (NOT provided: office phone, computer, travel funds, student intern, office staff, volunteers).

Weekly office hours: Generally one mid-week morning (9'ish am to 1:00 pm or so) averaging 4 hours per week, plus 2 to 5 hours at home (email replies, etc.) and 3 to 4 hours per week (research, etc.) at other places (e.g. local Historical Society). In addition: Chair of Town History Committee (three Town Board appointed members) meeting once a month (approx. 3 hours each month).

RESEARCH and PUBLICATIONS: "Town Historian's Corner" printed in Town Newsletter once a month and a weekly column "Anecdotes and Brevities" (always about some historical event or incident in local Dryden or central New York history) in the "Finger Lakes Community Newspapers" (a consortium of eleven weekly community newspapers).

PUBLISHED: 52 (Jan. thru Dec.) Newspaper columns and 3 (Jul. thru Dec.) Town History Corners.

CURRENT "work-in-progress" PROJECTS: Identifying location of all cemeteries (current and abandoned) and creating a meaningful listing of historical roadside markers in the Town of Dryden.

ATTENDANCE at public gatherings (in audience): The presentation of historic plaque (Bethel Grove Community Center) and the presentation of a Historic Place plaque (Eight Square School House).

ATTENDANCE at professional meetings (as a member): Two of three meetings (July thru December) of the Municipal Historians of Tompkins County and (as Chair) three of three meetings of the Town History Committee.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Member of 1) Municipal Historians of Tompkins County, 2) Dryden Town Historical Society, 3) (*pending enrollment Feb. 1, 2010*) Association of Public Historians of New York State.

CONCLUSION

Major accomplishment during the past current term of office was to establish myself as the recognized "official" Town Historian. Goals and plans for 2010 are to continue chairing the Dryden Town History Committee and better make available the history of the Town to the general public through public presentations and publications.