

# TOWN OF BOSTON, ERIE COUNTY, NEW YORK STATE TOWN HISTORIAN'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2010

(December 23, 2010)

**Artifacts and Preservation.** Retrieved numerous artifacts (WWII uniform, picture negatives, lantern, etc.) and old papers. Deposited everything at the Boston Historical Society Museum.

**Budget.** I did not request an increase in my department's budget for 2011. The annual stipend for the town historian is \$2,400 with an expense account of \$1,000. Of the latter I used \$307.62.

**Correspondence.** Responded to all letters and telephone calls, primarily of a genealogical nature. My efforts have been somewhat hindered by unreliable mail service, both incoming and outgoing. Only three people made appointments with me to see our collection at the museum.

**Displays.** For the month of May I presented "The Inside Scoop on Nick Charlap's Ice Cream" in the display cabinet at the Town Hall. This was in recognition of the beginning of the family's 50th year of business in Boston. A picture with accompanying text is on the town's website.

**Historical Markers.** Councilman Jeffrey Genzel recommended placing pictures of our historical markers on the town's website. I took pictures of our seven markers, transcribed the text and added notation where needed. The town webmaster placed everything online. I took this opportunity to assess one other unmarked historical site, far away from any public highway, the Landon Brook Culvert Tunnel (railroad). I was unable to get the Boston Historical Society board to vote on approving payment for a historical marker at the West Boston Cemetery (*see* Research).

**Media.** To promote an interest in Boston's history I wrote and submitted (in person) six articles to *The Sun* newspaper in Hamburg, N.Y., our officially designated newspaper for the Town of Boston. Only one was ever published, even though it would not be an anachronism to publish any of those remaining at anytime in the future, since the past is irrevocable. In February I submitted one of these six articles to *The Buffalo News* but it was never published. I wrote and submitted three articles, about the Polish community in Boston, to the *Am-Pol Eagle* newspaper in Cheektowaga, N.Y. where they were published. The aforementioned articles, whether published or not, are all included in the scrapbook (*see* Tally of History). Some have been posted on the bulletin board at the Town Hall and I have privately mailed copies out to interested persons.

In April, at the request of Councilman Genzel, I appeared with him on Buffalo's Channel 2 Wake Up TV program where we mentioned some of Boston's claims to fame. The event centered around launching the Buffalo Sabres postseason from Boston, N.Y. (declared as "Sabres Country") against the Boston Bruins hockey team from Boston, Mass., which we were named after.

**Membership in Organizations.** My initial appointment in 2010 automatically made me a board member of the Boston Historical Society. I have attended every regularly scheduled meeting

except one, due to illness. At the beginning of the year I purchased a life membership in the Boston Historical Society and the Boston Free Library Association. I attended the annual meeting of the Erie County Historical Federation at the Cheektowaga Senior Center in Cheektowaga, N.Y. on April 17, 2010. I also made it a point to attend most Boston Town Board meetings.

**Presentations.** In April I submitted to our Boston Historical Society President the names and contact information for three professionals willing to give lectures. They were never scheduled.

**Research.** I researched a very old German church and identified the name of its cemetery (West Boston) --which had been lost to antiquity-- in the old assessment records. In July I presented my seven page report to Supervisor Martin Ballowe and filed a copy at the Boston Historical Society Museum. I have begun preliminary research on a mislabeled old cemetery in town, Horton Hill.

**Tally of History.** I have kept a tally of history in a scrapbook, including all articles, legal notices, etc. pertaining to Boston as published in *The Sun* newspaper from Hamburg, N.Y. *The Springville Journal* published in Springville, N.Y. also serves our township. However, since these two newspapers are both owned by Metrogroup, Inc. in Cheektowaga, N.Y. the coverage is usually identical. Therefore I did not consider it cost effective to use the historian's expense account to pay for a subscription to the latter. The scrapbook also includes town board minutes, historical society minutes, community flyers, etc. I consider this old scrapbook format, as used by our past historians, to be very good even in this computer age (it can always be digitized). Although the tally of history was neglected for the years 2004-2009, it may be possible to partially reconstruct it.

Respectfully Submitted to the New York State Historian,

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cc: Boston Town Supervisor Martin Ballowe