

# TOWN OF BOSTON, ERIE COUNTY, NEW YORK STATE TOWN HISTORIAN'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2011

(December 7, 2011)

**Artifacts and Preservation.** Retrieved all artifacts, literature and pictures, which primarily had been dropped off at the Boston Town Hall, and deposited these items at the Boston Historical Society Museum. Donations are usually made through the Boston Historical Society President.

**Budget.** I did not request an increase in my department's budget for 2012. The 2011 annual stipend for historian was \$2,475 with an expense account of \$1,000. Of the latter I used \$419.85.

**Correspondence.** Responded to all letters and telephone calls, which were primarily of a genealogical nature. My efforts have been somewhat hindered by unreliable postal service.

**Grants.** On December 2, 2011 I mailed a historical marker application to the William G. Pomeroy Foundation in Syracuse, N.Y. If selected, the grant will be awarded in the first quarter of 2012. The marker (valued at \$1,064) would be for the former church site and cemetery in West Boston.

**Historical Marker.** On Saturday, August 6, 2011 a dedication took place for a new historical marker erected at Horton Hill Cemetery in the Town of Boston. Private funds were raised for the marker purchase by a Horton family descendent, of which I contributed \$100. I researched the cemetery and vicinity and ensured that the marker text was historically accurate before I approved it. At the event I conducted tours of the cemetery, gave a brief oration, read a poem and handed out copies of a ten-page comprehensive report, which I had compiled for the occasion.

**Media.** To promote an interest in Boston's history I wrote and submitted five articles to local newspapers, which were all published: *Boston's claims to fame* (Orchard Park Press, Mar. 4, 2011, p. 13), *Wieckowski endorsed by Boston Republicans* (Am-Pol Eagle, Jun. 16, 2011, p. 15), *Horton Hill gets historic marker* (Orchard Park Press, Aug. 19, 2011, p. 9), *Praczkajło is new Boston Historical Society President* (Am-Pol Eagle, Sept. 1, 2011, p. 13) and *Boston Hills' roots of former State Senator Wojtkowiak* (Am-Pol Eagle, Nov. 17, 2011, p. 14). I also contributed two of the aforementioned, along with other material, to our Boston Historical Society newsletters.

**Membership in Organizations.** With my expense account, I purchased an individual annual membership in the Buffalo & Erie County Historical Society, which includes use of their research library. My appointment made me a Boston Historical Society board member. I am a life member since January 2010. I attended all board meetings and special meetings, except one of the latter, which I was never notified of. I attended all Boston Town Board meetings, except two, due to illness. Since January 2010 I have been a life member of the Boston Free Library Association.

**Presentations.** On Tuesday, February 8, 2011 I was one of three people who jointly gave a presentation on Polish genealogy to Boy Scout Troop #583 at the Senior Center in the neighbor-

ing township of Colden, New York. The troop includes many young men of the Town of Boston.

On October 4, 2011 the Boston Historical Society presented a program on genealogy. I arranged for our speaker, wrote a press release for *The Sun* and conducted the program. Also that evening, in observance of Polish-American Heritage Month, I presented their highest ranking official, Councilman Eugene Wieckowski, a plaque I had compiled on his surname's origins and meaning.

**Research.** In 2010 I had begun research on a mislabeled old cemetery, the aforementioned Horton Hill. In 2011 I further researched the cemetery and vicinity and compiled a report covering almost 200 years of history. At the new marker dedication I presented copies to Horton family members, town officials, etc. A copy also was filed at the Boston Historical Society Museum.

**Tally of History.** In 2011 I kept a scrapbook of history for the Town of Boston, including all articles, legal notices, etc., as published in our official weekly newspapers: *The Sun* in Hamburg, N.Y. and the *Springville Journal* in Springville, N.Y. Although formerly I had limited my work, with only a subscription to *The Sun*, in 2011 I expanded the scrapbook with a subscription to the *Orchard Park Press* in Orchard Park, N.Y. A one-year subscription to the *Springville Journal*, beginning on February 10, 2011, was generously paid for by Boston Historical Society Board Member Michael Meyers. The scrapbook also includes town board minutes, historical society minutes and newsletters (I donated my own copies), community flyers, political flyers, etc.

I also retroactively reconstructed a scrapbook of history covering the years 2004 through 2009, which had been neglected by my predecessors. I donated my own relatively complete collection of articles concerning Boston, which I had saved for no apparent reason known to me then. The Boston Historical Society Museum has historian's scrapbooks on our history kept since the 1950s.

**Volunteer Work.** On August 17, 2011, I volunteered for three hours guarding the World Trade Center Travelling Memorial display featured at the Historical Building at the Erie County Fair in Hamburg, New York. The memorial marked the 10th anniversary of the September 11th terrorist attacks. I also participated in one outdoor cleanup at our museum held on October 29, 2011.

Respectfully Submitted to the New York State Historian,

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cc: Boston Town Supervisor Martin Ballowe