

TOWN OF BOSTON, ERIE COUNTY, NEW YORK STATE
TOWN HISTORIAN'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2012
(December 5, 2012)

Artifacts and Preservation. Retrieved all artifacts, literature, pictures, etc. which had been dropped off at the Town Hall. Deposited these items at the Boston Historical Society Museum.

Budget. I did not request an increase in my department's budget for 2013. The 2012 annual stipend for historian was \$2,550 with an expense account of \$1,000. Of the latter I used \$201.93.

Correspondence. Replied to all letters, which were primarily of a genealogical nature. Also replied to all telephone calls. Since midyear researchers are now instructed to send written correspondence, so as to generate a hard copy of all inquiries for the town's scrapbook of history.

Displays. On April 11th I assisted Boston Town Councilman Lawrence Murtha in constructing the framework for a new display for our curator at the Boston Historical Society Museum.

Donations. At the February 7th Boston Historical Society board meeting, I donated the following books to their museum: (1) *The Town of Alden 1823-1973 County of Erie - New York State A History*. (2) Larkin, Daniel I. *John D. Larkin: A Business Pioneer*, Amherst, New York, 1998. (3) Meyer, Brian; Meyer, Pamela; Choinski, Thomas. *Buffalo: A Bull's Eye View*, 1987. (4) Young, Sue Miller. *A History of the Town of Amherst, New York*, Amherst, New York, 1965.

Grants. On December 2, 2011 I had mailed a historical marker grant application to the William G. Pomeroy Foundation in Syracuse, New York. In March we were awarded a grant for \$1,064.

Historical Marker. With the grant money secured by my office, a new marker was ordered for the West Boston Cemetery on April 24, 2012. I had revisited this (2010) research project in 2011, and composed the marker text. On July 18th Parks Department workers erected the new marker.

Media. I wrote and contributed the following articles to our Boston Historical Society (BHS) newsletter: (1) *Boston Hills' roots of former State Senator Wojtkowiak* (1st Quarter 2012, p. 2 [also *Am-Pol Eagle*, Nov. 17, 2011, p. 14]). (2) *Town of Boston benefits from Poles serving the people* (1st Quarter, p. 2 [*Am-Pol Eagle*, Jan. 19th, p. 5]). (3) *Gardening & Herbs presentation takes root* (2nd Quarter, p. 2 [reporting on BHS May 15th event]). (4) *Origins and meanings of Germans surnames in our town* (2nd Quarter, pp. 3-4). (5) *All the news from Boston, Hills that is* (only in the *Am-Pol Eagle*, July 12th, p. 12). (6) *Historical Society's town spirit on July 4th* (3rd Quarter, p. 2 [reporting]). (7) *Historical Society at its best at Boston Hills BBQ Fest* (3rd Quarter, p. 2 [reporting on June 23rd & 24th event]). (8) *Origins & Meanings of German surnames in our town* (3rd Quarter, pp. 3-4). (9) *Local artist Josephine Krencik, 92* (3rd Quarter, p. 4). (10) *Old Quaker Cemetery* (submitted on Oct. 31st for the 4th Quarter). (11) *Our neat and trim museum* (likewise Oct. 31st). I also contributed several unauthored newsbites, one unauthored article, one article transcribed from an old newspaper (1875) and proofread every issue of the newsletter.

Membership in Organizations. Since January 2010 I have been a life member of the Boston Historical Society and the Boston Free Library Association. My annual appointment as historian also makes me a Boston Historical Society board member. I attended all board meetings along with a special town contract meeting at the Town Hall on Thursday, March 1st and a docents training meeting at the Boston Historical Society Museum on Sunday, April 22nd. I also attended most Boston Town Board meetings. I discontinued my annual individual membership in the Buffalo & Erie County Historical Society. It was simply not cost effective for the taxpayers.

Presentations. On Friday, Jan. 20th I presented a lecture entitled *Genealogy in the Town of Boston* to the Boston Seniors club at the Town Hall Community Room. There were approximately fifty people in attendance. My lecture presented a synopsis of basic research principals followed by a list of town-specific resources. It was concluded by a question and answer period and a reading of a poem entitled *The Genealogist*, which I had composed. A four-page preprinted transcript of the lecture (and poem) was available upon its conclusion. It now serves as a ready-made brochure, which can be printed and mailed in response to general research inquiries.

Research. Researched our Old Quaker Cemetery and compiled the information into an eight-page report (Oct. 2nd), which was presented to all town officials and other interested parties.

Tally of History. I kept a comprehensive scrapbook of history for the town including all press coverage, advertisements, legal notices, etc. as published in our official weekly newspaper, the *Orchard Park Press* (the newspaper's last issue was July 6th) in Orchard Park, N.Y. The scrapbook also includes everything found in *The Sun* (our official newspaper since July) in Hamburg, N.Y.; the *Springville Journal* in Springville, N.Y. and the *Am-Pol Eagle* in Cheektowaga, N.Y. The scrapbook also includes town board minutes, historical society minutes, historical society newsletters (I donated my own copies), historian's reports, community flyers, political flyers, etc.

Volunteer Work. In addition to the aforementioned events, that I volunteered at and reported on, I participated in the following: the Spring indoor/outdoor cleanup at the Boston Historical Society Museum on Sat., April 14th; the final preparations on May 1st, 12th and 13th for the museum's grand reopening on Sun., May 13th (I also made a few small repairs at the museum on my own on various dates), and the museum's Fall indoor cleanup on Sat. and Sun., October 27th and 28th.

Respectfully Submitted to the New York State Historian,

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cc: Boston Town Supervisor Martin Ballowe, et al.