

Town Historian's Annual Report (2017) for Boston, Erie Co., N.Y.

Artifacts. All donations to the Boston Historical Society Museum are accepted directly by the Boston Historical Society, which is contracted by the town for preservation. However, they did not secure a contract for the year and consequently I was not provided with a key to their facility.

Budget. The 2017 annual compensation for historian was \$2,550 with an expense account of \$500. Of the latter I used \$7.88 (the least so far out of any year that I have served). The supervisor's office ordered the majority of historian's supplies, thus transferring the expense to that office. But in doing so they were purchased at a more reasonable price, thus reducing the overall expense to the taxpayers.

Correspondence. People are instructed to send snail-mail in order to create a permanent record of all correspondence, including my subsequent reply, which is then placed in the town's scrap-book of history for posterity. Obviously, it would not be feasible to transcribe telephone conversations.

Display. For the months of March, April and May I presented a town bicentennial exhibit in the display cabinet at the Town Hall. I was informed that a picture of it was placed on a (non-governmental) community website for Boston (I have not verified this information). Television news coverage for the bicentennial event on April 5th also included brief footage of the exhibit.

Donations. On Sunday, June 11th I personally donated the following books, pamphlets and assorted papers (in person) to the Boston Historical Society Museum: (1) Aiken, John and Aiken, Richard. *Power, The Gift of Niagara*, Adventures in Western New York History, Buffalo & Erie County Historical Society, Volume X, 1962. (2) *The Complete Map & Guide for Hamburg*, Hamburg Chamber of Commerce, 1982. (3) *A guide to Historic Erie County* (sesquicentennial map), Buffalo, 1971. (4) Heath, Elton R. *Around old Hamburg village at the turn of the century*, Hamburg Historical Society, 1982. (5) *North Boston Volunteer Fire Co. Celebrating 100 Years of Service*, 2004. (6) *Saint Mary's Church East Eden, N.Y. 1835-1985 Going, Growing, Glowing*. (7) *The Sun Anniversary Issue*, October 12, 1995 (note: the Hamburg newspaper was established in 1875). (8) Walter, Francis J. *Grover Cleveland and Buffalo*, Adventures in Western New York History, Buffalo & Erie County Historical Society, Volume XI, 1963. (9) Will, Stephen T. *Fossil finds at 18-Mile Creek*, *The Sun*, May 13, 1993, pp. 1 & 21.

Event Attendance. On April 5th I attended the town's bicentennial observation at the Town Hall, where the town's legislative enactment was read aloud by an actor dressed in period costume and proclamations were read by local government officials. I attended the tail-end of the town's Independence Day fireworks display held at the Town Park on July 4th. I attended the Boston Republican Committee's Annual Summer Barbeque at Chestnut Ridge Park in nearby Orchard Park on July 20th. I attended the town's burial of a time capsule (to be opened in 2117) near the flagpole in front of the Town Hall on October 21st. I donated an old milk bottle from

Charlaps Dairy Farms (a prominent business in town) to the collection. I attended the town's annual Halloween Party at the Town Hall Community Room on October 27th.

Membership in Organizations. Since 2010 I have been a life member of the Boston Historical Society, Inc. and also the Boston Free Library Association, which is part of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library system. Naturally, memberships were purchased with my own money.

Preservation. In June I transported the town's scrapbooks of history (a total of eight covering the years 2004 to [June 30th] 2014) from my private residence to the (more appropriate and secure) climate-controlled vault at the Town Hall. The move was made because my neighborhood has become unsafe.

Research. In January I revised and updated a two-page town timeline flyer highlighting the most important historical dates from 1804 to 2017. It was posted conspicuously at the Town Hall and distributed to interested parties. Likewise, in February I composed a one-page onomatological flyer for Boston (and its hamlets) and also transcribed the town's legislative enactment from April 5, 1817, which I had previously located in a W.P.A. (Works Progress Administration) book on the subject of our town roads, published in 1939. In July I began *All Things BOSTON* (part one), a cumulative series of one-page flyers on the subject of all things associated with the name *Boston*. Part two was completed and circulated in August.

Tally of History. I kept a comprehensive scrapbook of history for the town including all town board meeting minutes, town board meeting agendas, community flyers, etc. and any press coverage published in local newspapers (from the complementary issues and subscriptions made available to me through the supervisor's office). Utilizing my expense account for a subscription to *The Buffalo News* (the town's designated official newspaper) would simply not be cost effective.

Town Board Meetings. I attended the regularly scheduled town board meetings held on April 5th, May 3rd and June 7th. I also attended the special town board meetings held on May 9 and November 20th.

Volunteer Work. Compensation for the office of town historian is so slight that, for me, it is volunteer work.

Respectfully submitted to the New York State Historian on December 11, 2017.

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cc: Boston Town Supervisor Elect Jason A. Keding