

Afton Historian Monthly Report

By: Mel. Hager Mueller

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ADDRESS

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Afton, NY 13730

TO:

JOHN LAWRENCE

Afton Town Supervisor

PATRICK DEDMAN

Afton Village Mayor

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Dear John & Pat,

Historian Hours

ICE. Thankfully the ice has now passed, and venture outside of the homes is not so concerning. Due to the ice, most of my time as Historian has been spent at home working in the evening hours. This month was a wonderful, yet puzzling month. There have been over 40 hours of historian work done this month from home, 3 hours of Historian work done in Office for a total of over 43 hours. There have been 4 phone calls to the Historian this month.

Activities of the Historian this month.

1. This year is the 200th birthday of my home. This brought to mind "What was life like when my house was built?" Everything from landscape (Were the fields forests? How did they travel the large stones on Main Street? How did they build the homes? Who were the builders? I have 'reused' lumber in my home from a building that burnt down, where did that lumber come from? Who's house burnt down? What other things of the past did they do in the beginnings of our Community that we may have forgotten? Crafts, food storage (before canning and freezing? Etc.) It has been a wonderful yet difficult path to follow.
2. In the early beginnings, these things were not written down or recorded much. The thought of "Where did the Cunahunta Indians bury their dead?" also began a whirl wind of research, even at "who" the Cunahunta Indians were comprised of. Many different sources have many different answers. As Historian, this question and its research proves beyond a doubt that a Historians job of 'interpreting the past' and finding the facts in order to do so, can be quite the daunting task. Thankfully, I love a good mystery.
3. Diary transcriptions continue. One thing to note, people have always complained about the price of eggs. That hasn't changed in 200 years.
4. Learning about grants, and teaching myself the best way to write them for best outcomes continues
5. Transcribing the diary's also brings in researching names mentioned, places mentioned and following that history and trying to find facts, remnants, etc. so that the entire picture is found as best as possible.
6. In regards to America 250. Fund raising seems to be an issue these days with the lack of businesses on Main Street. Other avenues of Fund Raising for the

celebrations are being thought of by the Afton Historical Society, the Historian, and the D.A.R. Hopefully this will expand and other volunteers will announce themselves.

7. A clock repair person for the Town Clock at Hickory and Doc for a re-dedication has been rough. To date, I have only found one person who has the knowledge and is willing, however this person would need to have approval from the Town/Village Officials to proceed.
8. Inquiries have been put into the State and other avenues in order to find information on how and who we contact to get the monuments in the center triangle of town repaired. The bronze on the monuments are beginning to get bronze disease, and if they are not tended to properly and perfectly soon, the bronze disease will be too far to save them. To date, all people contacted have no clue on how to answer this question. The fight to save them and get them tended properly will continue.

Stay safe, stay healthy.

Sincerely, Mel. Hager, Afton Historian.
