

# Afton Historian Monthly Report

**By: Mel. Hager Mueller**

**OCTOBER / NOVEMBER, 2024**

## **ADDRESS**

204A County Road 39  
Afton, NY 13730

## **TO:**

**JOHN LAWRENCE**

Afton Town Supervisor

**PATRICK DEDMAN**

Afton Village Mayor

## **PHONE**

607-242-8180

## **EMAIL**

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Dear John & Pat,

I hope this finds you well. The last 2 months have been a bit crazy with the closing of the bookstore. Schedules have been wonky to say the least. However, Historian work was still able to be done in the midnight hours from home thankfully. Due to the Bookstore closing, many folks came to the bookstore specifically to find out "Where is the Historian going now?" It has been again shown that a great many people do not know that the Historian is a separate entity from the Historical Society, and those that do know that difference, do not know that there is an office for the Historian. It was a unique pleasure to know that people at least knew where to find me at the Bookstore, and there is full dedication to making sure that folks know where the Historian is now that the bookstore location has moved.

### Historian Hours

Since my last report, I have spent 4 hours in the office. There have been an additional 17 hours of Historian duties completed outside of the Historian Office for a total of 21 hours.

### Afton Historical Society

October also brought the finalization of the exterior construction needs for the Afton Historical Society Roof to ensure that the leaks were repaired and sealed up. There was an additional 13 hours dedicated to ensuring that exterior completion. In regards to the Afton Historical Society, the Board of Directors are still facing the need to raise money for the interior repairs of damage caused by the leaks that had been running into the interior for years. Because of the interior construction, the Afton Historical Society is going to be open only by appointment, and only at times where construction inside the Afton Historical Society is at a point where there is no safety concerns to guests. At this current point, due to the time required to move the Bookstore, interior construction has not began yet, but is in the works to begin soon. At this point in time, we can only speculate at what damage we may or may not find within the walls.

### Recent Activities of the Historian

1. The Election has boosted the sale of the America 250 Bumper Stickers. Additional items will be posted for sale to create more funding for the America 250 festivities.

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2. A lovely visit was had with a man who grew up in the house that once stood where the Afton Community Building is now. Plans to meet again, multiple times, to ensure that all information he has about the home, and his knowledge of Afton at the time, is recorded. He is greatly looking forward to this endeavor as am I.
  3. The end of November also brings the renewal of dues for the APHNYS. I will be in contact with Sandy / Ann regarding these.
  4. I have begun classes on the digitalization of documents. There will be equipment that I will be desiring to purchase for the Historian's Office to facilitate this endeavor.
  5. More stories from Patricia Stafford have been recorded.
  6. Bolster's Barn Dance research has begun.
  7. Street name changes database has been created.
  8. Other past research items continue as information can be obtained.
  9. There is a current glitch with the Facebook page as it will only allow me to post with the "Only Me." Privacy setting with no option to change the privacy setting back to public. This has been investigated and all settings are as they should be for the Facebook page to post publicly. This requires deeper nerding and will be posting again 'publicly' as soon as the issue can be found and fixed.
  10. I have also begun to delve into the geological history of Afton. This proved to be a very deep (pun intended) research project. The finding of a shell fossil from when our location was under water began the desire to look at more than just 'people and places'. History of our area began long before the name "Afton" was chosen.

#### Contacts

1. There have been 4 emails in October
2. No Facebook messages for October or November.
3. Bookstore Walk-Ins for October and November - 11
4. 2 Phone calls were had, one in each month.

As always, I seem to forget something that should be in this report. Part of my enjoyment about the decision to move the bookstore and go 90% online with it, is the fact that I am much more flexible and can commit many more hours to the Historians Office and the research projects. I look forward to the new changes in life that this decision is bringing forward.

Sincerely, Mel. Hager, Afton Historian.

