

February 2015 Historian Report for March Board Meetings
Marybelle Beigh, Westfield Historian

Historian Activities during February 2015:

- Attended Westfield Town Board Meeting 2-4-2015 and gave January Historian Report
- Attended Westfield Village Board Meeting 2-17-2015 and gave January Historian Report
- Researched and wrote BeeLines on Martin C Rice, founder of Westfield Republican Newspaper in 1856, published in Westfield Republican 2-12-2015
- Researched the history of breweries in Westfield for a client and provided report to client
- Used the History of Breweries in Westfield research to write BeeLines article, published in Westfield Republican 2-26-2015
- Researching for a client, to locate a Memories of William Rheubottom article or manuscript that was published by the Mayville Sentinel in 1882, and quoted from by Joyce Ferris Swan in her “The Ferris Wheel” column in the Westfield Republican in July 1968. So far no newspaper article or manuscript has been located. William Rheubottom has been located on the 1855 Census, age 11, and the 1865 Census, age 20, living in the Town of Chautauqua.
- Researched a fascinating “history mystery” sent to me by another client, documenting Elliot P Harrington as a resident of Westfield NY in the mid 1800s when he dove for, and recovered, a safe belonging to American Express Company containing about \$35,000 from the shipwrecked side-wheeler steamer, “Atlantic” in Lake Erie, off Long Point across the lake from Barcelona. Report was sent to another local historian who had been contacted regarding this incident, and who requested verification of Harrington as a Westfield resident.
- Used the Harrington, diver/Atlantic shipwreck research to write a BeeLines article that was submitted for publication in this week’s Westfield Republican
- Received a copy of a photograph labeled “Chautauqua County 1945’ depicting 3 persons on a snow bank so high that it reaches the cross bars on a telephone pole. Client would like to have location and persons identified. So far no success on that one. It may be from Sherman.
- Moved ten boxes of historian files and books from storage at the Eason Hall to my house to be sorted, “purged” of redundant materials, and properly labeled and refiled in proper containers. These will be returned to proper storage at the Eason Hall, to be accessible for research by historians, and saved as permanent historical records.

Requests for funding:

- Received newsletter from APHNYS (NY State Historian organization) and registration forms for upcoming NY State Historian three-day conference in April at Corning NY. Conferred with Supervisor and Mayor regarding the conference which is quite expensive (at least \$600 plus mileage), for possible funding to attend.
- However, after due consideration, as well as receiving a newsletter from GAHWNY (the Western NY Historian organization) and registration forms for a much less costly meeting and one-day conference in April at Batavia, and which has more applicable workshops for my historian activities locally, I am requesting funds for the conference (\$30), and dues of \$20 which cover BOTH Town and Village Historian dues! (APHNYS requires separate dues for each position and they are \$35 each!)