



OFFICE OF

THE HISTORIAN

Annual Report

of The Historian for the year

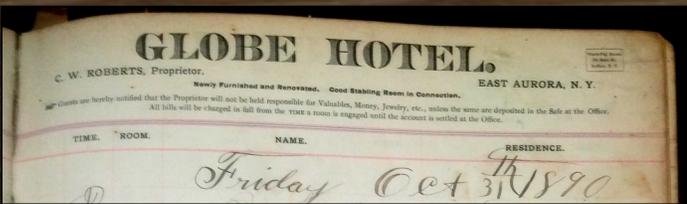
2024

Robert Lowell Goller

Historian



**TOWN OF AURORA & VILLAGE OF EAST AURORA,
ERIE COUNTY, NEW YORK**



From the top: "A History of West Falls" presentation at Aurora Waldorf School in November; the solar eclipse over East Aurora on April 8; "Checking In: The Globe Hotel Guest Registers," an exhibit in commemoration of The Globe's 200th anniversary; the Historian's Office exhibit at the Erie County Fair, a look back at the Village of East Aurora's 1974 Centelebration.



OFFICE OF
THE HISTORIAN

Town of Aurora & Village of East Aurora, New York

22 January 2025

State Historian Devin R. Lander
Office of State History
222 Madison Avenue
Albany, New York 12230

Town Supervisor Charles D. Snyder
The Aurora Municipal Center
575 Oakwood Avenue
East Aurora, New York 14052

Mayor Peter M. Mercurio
Village of East Aurora
585 Oakwood Avenue
East Aurora, New York 14052

Mr. State Historian, Mr. Supervisor and Mr. Mayor:

Pursuant to Section 57.09 of the New York State Arts and Cultural Affairs Law, which requires the Historian to “make an annual report, in the month of January, to the local appointing officer or officers and to the State Historian of the work which has been accomplished during the preceding year,” please find on the following pages my report for 2024.

As always, this annual report serves as a means to share with you (and the community) the activities of the Historian’s Office, including exhibits, presentations and community outreach, as well as the projects and research conducted by community members using the resources of the Historian’s Office. It also serves as a record for future generations.

I am pleased to report that more taxpayers and visitors than ever before are utilizing the resources of the Historian’s Office. We responded to a record number of requests for information in 2024. We also recorded more volunteer hours than ever before. Thanks to the assistance of our volunteers and college interns, we continue to better organize and preserve both the physical and digital archives. Thanks to the Town Board’s recent allocation of American Rescue Plan Act funds for four new, archival-quality shelving units, these efforts will continue in 2025.

2025 was a particularly historic year for the Town of Aurora and Village of East Aurora. Through exhibits, newspaper articles and our participation in special programming in collaboration with the Aurora Historical Society, we commemorated the 150th anniversary of the village. We also helped the Aurora Town Public Library mark the 60th anniversary of the library building, documented the road reconstruction project in the hamlet of West Falls and led a communitywide effort to document for future generations the total solar eclipse on April 8.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if I can ever be of assistance. It remains a privilege to serve as Historian, and I thank you for your continued confidence.

With Sincerest Regards,

Robert Lowell Goller
Historian



The Aurora Municipal Center
575 Oakwood Avenue, East Aurora, Erie County, New York 14052
www.townofaurora.com/departments/historian
historian@townofaurora.com
716-652-7944



Our Mission Remains...

- To document and promote the history and heritage of the Town of Aurora and Village of East Aurora in a transparent, equitable and politically non-partisan manner.
- To advise local officials, boards and residents on issues related to the history of the town and village.
- To collect, preserve and maintain the archives for the use of the public in their own research.
- To curate and present the Aurora History Museum exhibits at the Municipal Center in collaboration with the Aurora Historical Society.

Budget

There are four main areas of the Town Historian's budget, three of which fund the operations of the Historian's Office. The Historian's Office also received additional American Rescue Plan Act funding in 2024:

Office Expense—\$1,000

We once again used a portion of this budget line for acid free, protective sheets and binders, in our ongoing effort to transfer more documents into acid-free binders. We used a large portion of this budget in 2024 to purchase additional storage boxes in order to transfer files to our new archival shelving. We also purchased two dress forms, which will enable the proper display of vintage clothing in the museum in the Municipal Center.

Expense and Travel—\$200

This budget line was used for membership costs and my attendance at the annual meeting of the Government Appointed Historians of Western New York in Perry.

Historian's Salary—\$16,390

Thank you for the town's continued financial support of the Historian's Office. I average 19 to 20 hours per week, which includes my duties as the town webmaster.

ARPA Funding—\$2,461.48

The Town Board's allocation of American Rescue Plan Act funding enabled the Historian's Office to purchase four additional steel shelving units, which will join four identical shelving units purchased with Erie County funding in 2023. This shelving been on our wish list for some time, and it will allow us to better preserve the community's historical archives. In the new year, our wonderful volunteers and interns will continue to assist me in transferring our archival files from old, hand-me-down shelves and drawers to this more appropriate archival shelving.

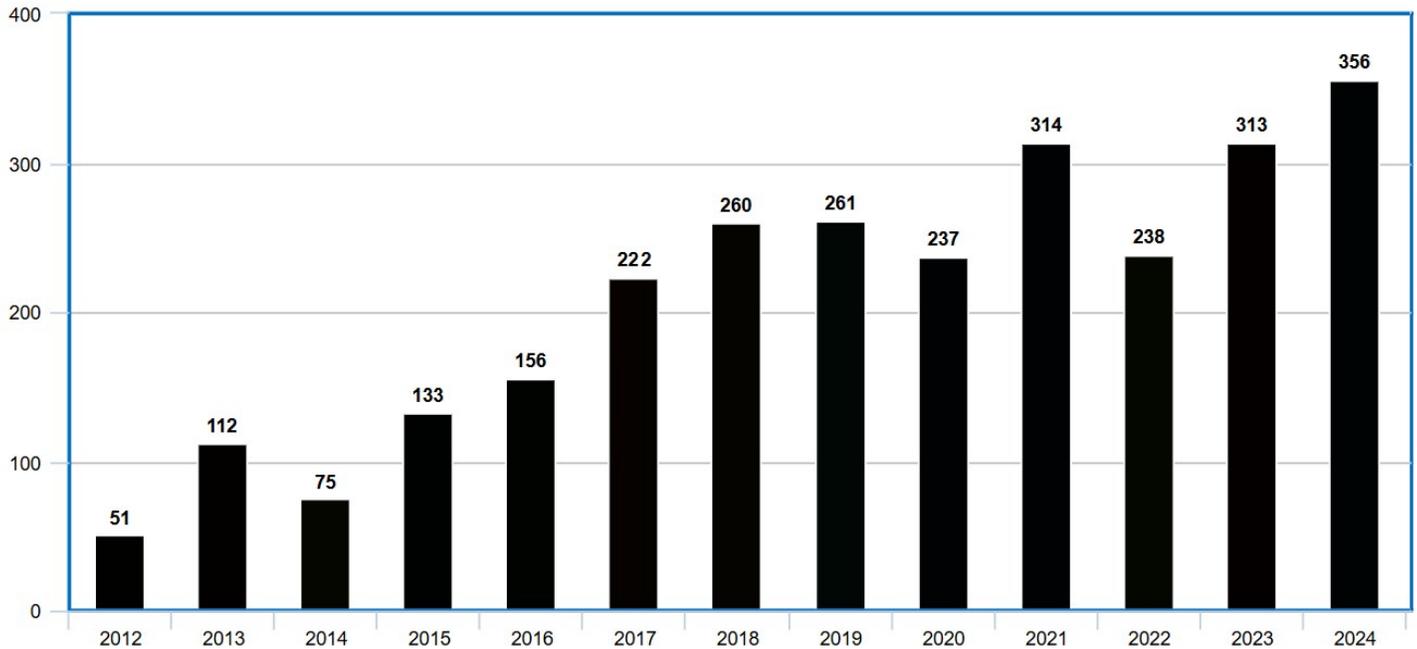
Historical Society Contract—\$3,000

Although included as part of the Town Historian's budget, the \$3,000 in this budget line does not fund the Historian's Office operations and is transferred to the Historical Society to fund the organization's educational efforts and operations at its two museum buildings.

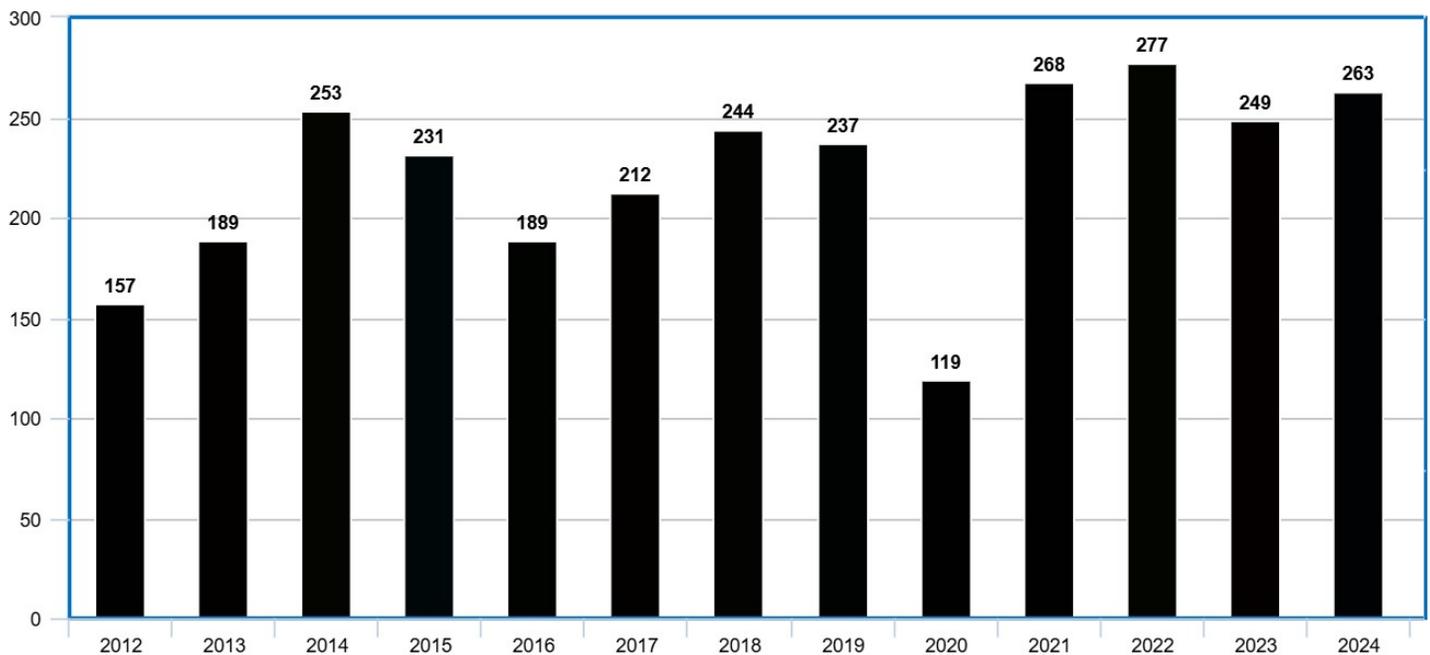
The Archives

The Historian's Office continues to meet its mission to assist taxpayers and guests with their own historical research. The office and archives are open for research Wednesdays and Thursdays, from 1–4 p.m., except holidays, and by special appointment on other days of the week. I am also in the office Wednesday and Thursday mornings and Friday afternoons; these times are generally reserved for volunteers and responding to requests via mail, email and social media.

REQUESTS VIA EMAIL, U.S. MAIL AND SOCIAL MEDIA...

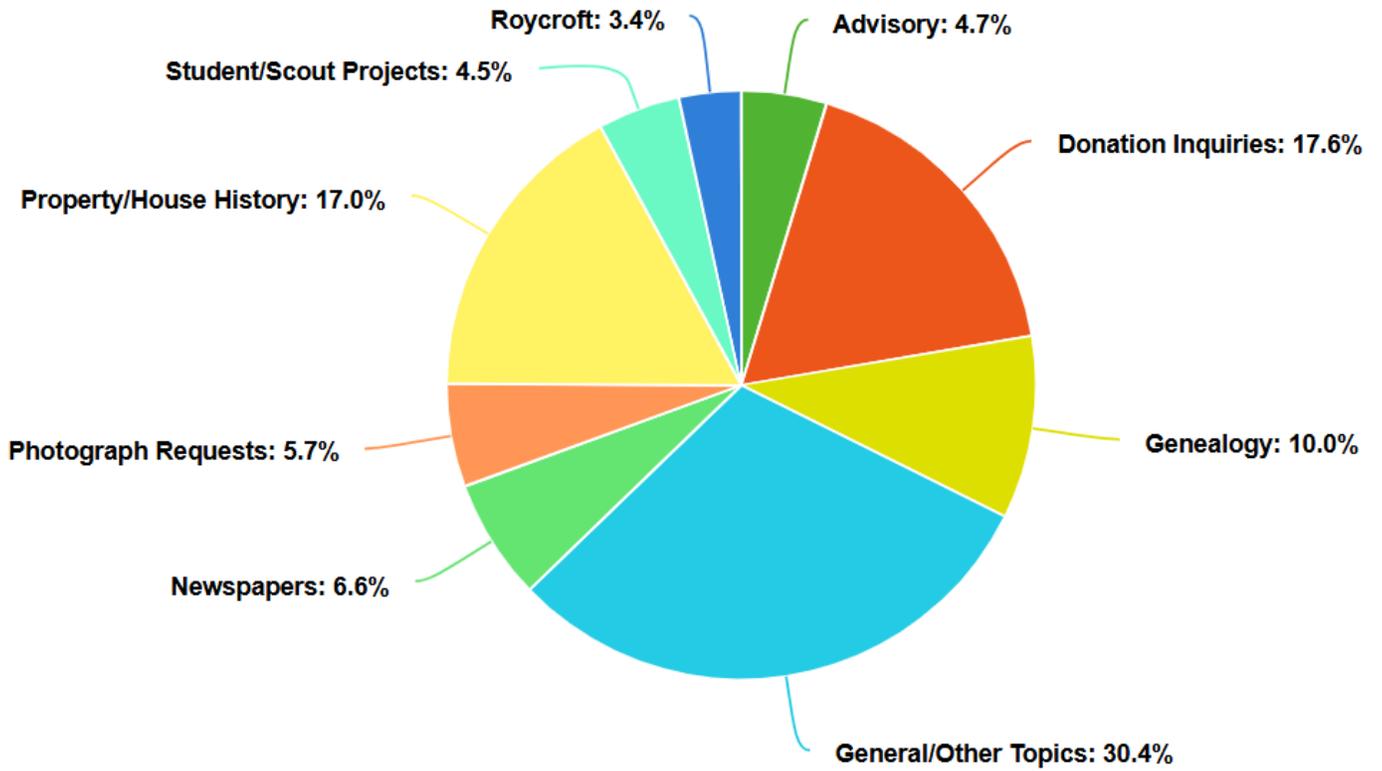


OFFICE VISITS...



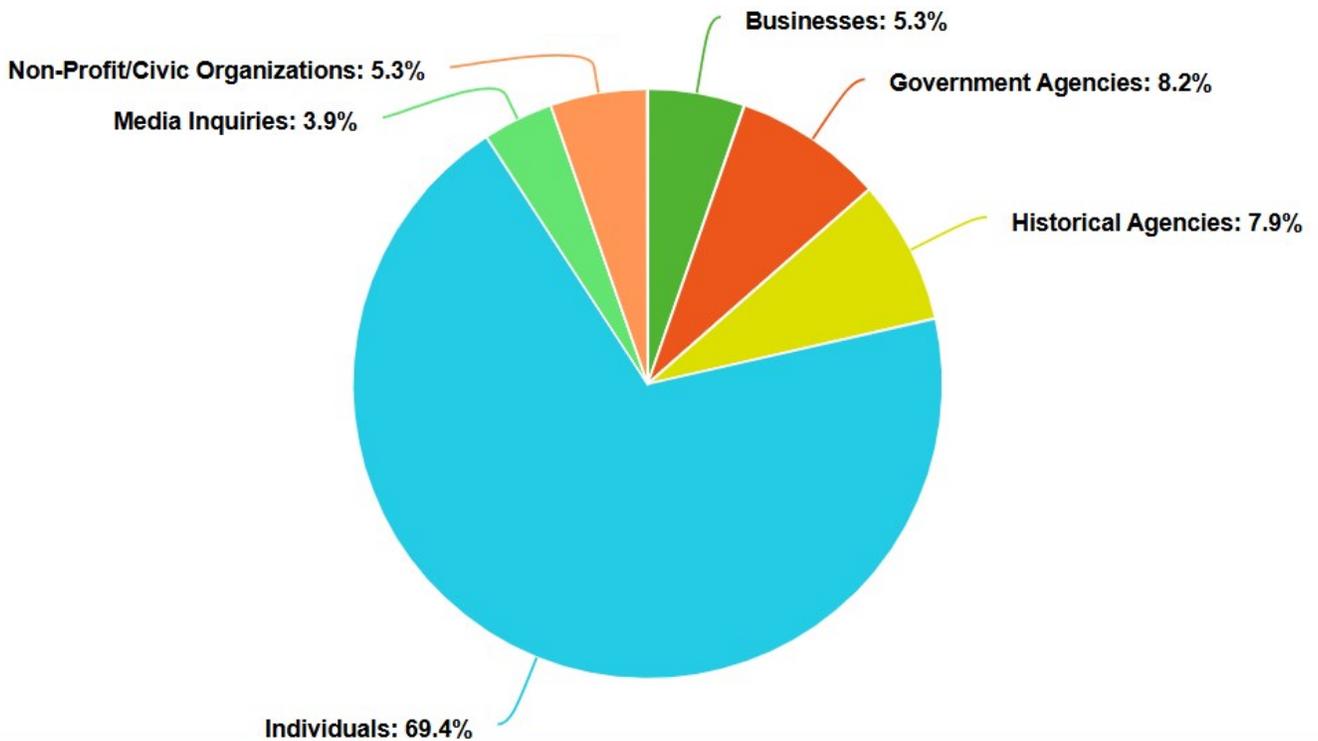
The "Office Visits" statistic only includes the number of people who have visited the Historian's Office during regular office hours and special appointments and does not reflect visitors to the History Museum exhibits in the hallway outside the office, which are open during regular Municipal Center hours.

SUBJECT AREAS OF THE REQUESTS AND OFFICE VISITS...



** Requests under the "Advisory" category included historical agencies and other municipal historians seeking advice regarding operational and archival questions.*

WHO WE ASSISTED...



MEDIA INQUIRIES...

The information requests included 24 media inquiries in 2024. Most of these requests came from the two local weekly newspapers and *The Buffalo News*. These included interviews, providing information on the history of various buildings and houses in the community, confirming dates and providing photographs from the archives to accompany articles. This year, we also provided information for articles related to the village's 150th anniversary.



Black and white paint is shown on a section of the Roycroft Inn in East Aurora. The new paint scheme drew negative comments in the village, prompting developer Douglas Jemal to change course.

Jemal scraps plan to paint Roycroft Inn

East Aurora residents upset by color change

Some East Aurora residents saw red when black and white paint started to go up this week on the historic Roycroft Inn and Restaurant. The 1905 building, which dates to Elbert Hubbard and the founding of the American Arts and Crafts Movement in the late 19th century, is painted in earth-tone colors of green, red and yellow, and the sight of the new hues drew negative comments that caused Monday developer Douglas Jemal to reconsider. "The color's staying the same, exactly how it was," Jemal told *The Buffalo News* on Tuesday afternoon.

Alan Nowicki, program director for the Roycroft Campus, said it was impossible to know if the current colors are original, since there have been layers of paint through the years and old

The Buffalo News

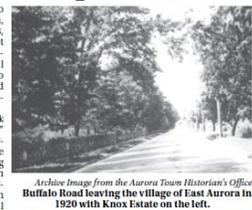


Former Erie County Legislator Jim Malczewski assists Friends of Knox Farm State Park Director Kathleen York with securing \$500,000 to repair portions of the stone wall that lines Seneca Street in East Aurora before his appointment ended. MILLO, the Golden Retriever, looks forward to the work beginning later this year.

Knox Park Plans for Repairs in 2024

It was always on the list of things to do, but repairing the stone wall at Knox Farm State Park along Seneca Street was difficult to justify. "Finding funding for anything is difficult and it's easier to find funding for something that can become a revenue source," Friends of Knox Farm State Park Executive Director Kathleen York said. "The mansion, guest house, stables... we can invest money into those and not only to the park but to the community. Aurora, East Aurora, Elma, Wales, West Falls... Seneca Street is the main thoroughfare and the stone wall is a landmark. It adds so much to the character and we hate to see it crumbling."

The local history book "150 Years in Aurora" says that Seymour Horace Knox I built the stone wall after establishing the Ideal Stock Farm with Daniel Good in the early 1900s. Aurora Town Historian Robert Lowell



Archival image from the Aurora Town Historian's Office Buffalo Road leaving the village of East Aurora in 1920 with Knox Estate on the left.

East Aurora Advertiser

Village of East Aurora turns 150

On June 2, the Village of East Aurora celebrated its 150th birthday. But the village's history dates back far beyond 150 years, and that story, according to Town of Aurora Historian Robert Lowell Goller, makes the village's anniversary even more significant. In the early 1800s, New York State began allowing other populated hamlets within its boundaries to incorporate as villages, in order to provide services such as sidewalks, street lamps, garbage collection and police departments. The Village of Aurora was incorporated in 1836. The Village of Aurora was incorporated as a State of New York together with the eastern hamlets of what

State and county officials then allowed local residents to decide whether to keep the name Willink or incorporate as East Aurora, the name of the post office on the eastern end since 1850. In an election on June 2, 1874 the residents decided to change the name. The Village of East Aurora won by a 19-vote margin. 122 voted in favor of East Aurora; 103 chose Willink - officially establishing the Village of East Aurora. Goller has spent much of

East Aurora Bee

OPINIONS & IDEAS www.eastauroary.com A11

Saved from the Hellbox

Grant M. Hamilton, Publisher

'Long-Timer's' Shorthand in Use

posted on www.eastauroary.com. Digital archives of the *Advertiser* at the town historian's office are available and searchable. As a community we're lucky to have a town historian who is dedicated to professionalism in his office. Full disclosure, Historian Robert Lowell Goller was once the *Advertiser* editor.



A display honoring the 150th anniversary of the Village of East Aurora is on display at the Aurora Town Historian's office, located in the Aurora Municipal Building on Oakwood Avenue in East Aurora.

Special Historian's Office Exhibit Commemorates Village Anniversary

The Village of East Aurora turns 150 years old in June. The Town Historian's Office commemorates the anniversary with an exhibit at the Municipal Center on Oakwood Avenue in East Aurora. In the early 1800s, New York State began allowing other populated hamlets within town boundaries to incorporate as villages, to provide enhanced government services, such as sidewalks, street lamps, garbage collection and police departments.

month we have received calls from folks interested in donating additional items to the archives, so the exhibit will likely continue to grow.

The post office uses a special postmark in 1874 to commemorate East Aurora turning 100 years old.

My July 30, 2024 social media post in response to public and media inquires related to the painting of the National Historic Landmark Roycroft Inn.



Aurora Town Historian

July 30, 2024 · 🌐

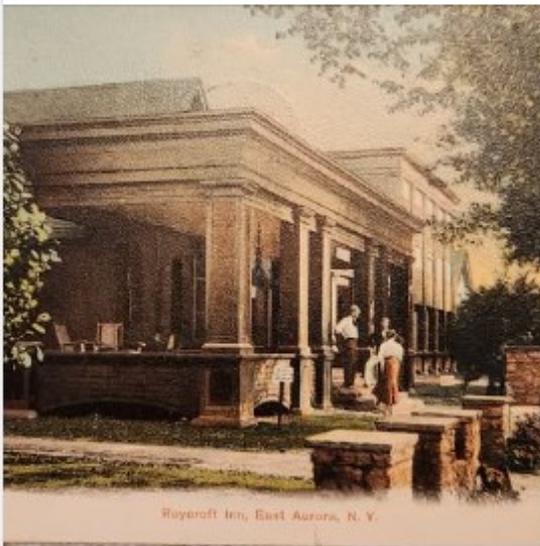


UPDATE: I am very pleased that Mr. Jemal has informed me that he plans to maintain the historic color palette. Thank you to everyone for expressing your concerns about the future of this important community asset.

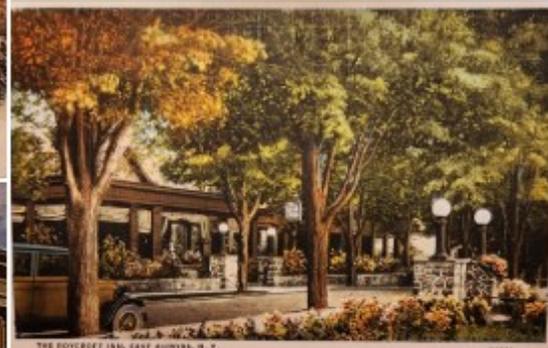
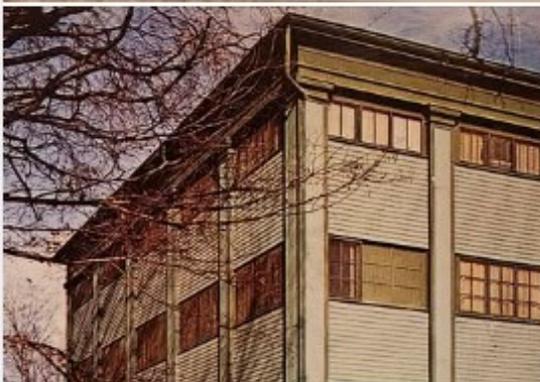
As one can imagine, I have received a number of inquiries since yesterday afternoon regarding the painting of [The Roycroft Inn](#). (To clear up any misconceptions, the Historian has no statutory authority over the paint color of a National Historic Landmark and/or local landmark). However, village officials, including the village's Historic Preservation Commission, are reviewing this matter as it relates to the village's code regarding landmarks. With that said, regardless of the outcome of that review, I would strongly encourage the current caretakers of this National Historic Landmark, one so important to the heritage of this community and region, to consider maintaining a template more in line with the Arts and Crafts history of the Inn and the campus that surrounds it.

-Robert Lowell Goller, Town and Village Historian

(Several inquiries have been made to the Historian's Office regarding historic photographs of the Inn. Here are a few from the archives. Note that many of the postcards were colored, and although the coloring is likely inspired by the actual colors of the time, they might not be an exact match.)



Roycroft Inn, East Aurora, N. Y.



THE ROYCROFT INN, EAST AURORA, N. Y.



+10



Retired East Aurora Police Chief William Nye shares his memories of the East Aurora Police Department during the September meeting of the Aurora Historical Society. Mr. Nye utilized photographs, newspaper clippings and other documents available in the archives of the Historian's Office, but his personal memories were the highlight of the presentation.



Submitted Image

Yeomans House, 688 East Main Street, south façade. The Queen Anne-style mansion of Geoffrey and Karen Hintz features character-defining windows, decorative gable ends and chimneys, mansard roof leading to the 75-foot square tower. Yeomans House was recently added to the National and State Registers of Historic Places, as well as the Village of East Aurora designation as a Landmark.

East Main Street Home Placed on Historic Registries

The Yeomans House at 866 East Main Street was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The owners spent countless hours researching the property in preparation for their application, including research in the archives of the Aurora Town Historian's Office.

Headline from the December 19, 2024 East Aurora Advertiser

Volunteers & Interns

As always, the Historian's Office benefited greatly from the generosity of volunteers and college interns, and the success of our efforts can be credited to their dedication.

In 2024, our volunteers logged 746.5 hours, more than ever before.

I am pleased to report that we revitalized our college internship program, which was suspended during the Covid-19 pandemic. Two students completed formal college internships in 2024, Tori Kohler with Buffalo State University and Olive Blair with Wells College in Aurora, N.Y. Mrs. Kohler, who has continued to volunteer in the Historian's Office following the completion of her formal internship, provided invaluable assistance with the organization of our archives as we transferred files from outdated file drawers to new archival shelving. Miss Blair focused on the preservation of our collection of photographs and negatives. We greatly appreciated her expertise in this area.

Two volunteers, Lucas Dana and Marian Halperin, continued to assist us on a weekly basis, helping with exhibits, photograph and document scanning, organizing files and maintaining computer databases. We also were pleased to welcome a new volunteer, Danielle Chassy, who in addition to assisting with the organization of the archives, began transcribing some of our hand-written diaries.

We also are grateful for college student Isabella Ebling's volunteer assistance over the summer. We also hosted students from East Aurora High School as they completed their community service hours.

In addition, Joseph "Potts" Stapleton continues to visit the office on a weekly basis and has digitally scanned a number of photographs and articles from the collection, many of which continue to be well received in his many posts on Facebook.

Donations

In 2024, more than 35 generous donors contributed photographs, family papers, books and other materials to the Historian's Office archives. As always, all of our donations were logged, numbered and acknowledged. Due to space constraints, the Historian's Office is only able to accept materials related to the history of the Town of Aurora, Village of East Aurora and surrounding area. We do not generally accept "three-dimensional" artifacts (furniture, etc.), but are happy to refer donors to the Aurora Historical Society or another organization in the community that consider these types of donations for their museum exhibits. The donations to the Historian's Office this year included several copies of East Aurora High School yearbooks and reunion booklets; Roycroft books, magazines and publications; various photographs and ephemera from the early years of the East Aurora Boys' Club; photographs and materials related to local sports teams; posters from community events; and family photographs, diaries and papers related to the following families: Shed, Schrader, Schneckenberger, Minsker, Rosen, Barber and Wiggins.

Some of the other donations are highlighted below:



—"Centelebration" costumes made for the 1974 village centennial, designed and sewn by Johanna Lorah and donated by her family to be included in the Historian's Office exhibit at the 2024 Erie County Fair. They will soon be put on display in the museum outside the Historian's Office at the Municipal Center.

—A banker's box containing records of the East Aurora Bird Club, 1958-2020.

—Two large photograph prints of the groundbreaking at South Side Elementary School on February 5, 1951.

—A batch of recipe cards from the Sun-Diet Sanatorium on Cazenovia Street.

—A scrapbook related to the life of district school superintendent W. E. Pierce.

—Three undated photographs of the Foss farm, Mill and Bech roads.

—Various Roycroft-related books, magazines and other publications from the collection of the late Roycroft enthusiast Linda Ulrich-Hagner.

—Four-volume set of *Municipality of Buffalo: A History*.

—A wooden plank and a portion of brick road preserved from Route 240 in West Falls by Conor Schneider during the recent reconstruction project. These will be featured in an upcoming exhibit at the Municipal Center.

Historian's Office Seeks Eclipse-Related Artifacts

On April 8, local residents looked to the sky to experience East Aurora's first totality of a solar eclipse in 99 years. For many in the East Aurora area, the thick clouds parted just in time to see the moon cover the sun.

The Aurora Town Historian's Office has already begun to collect local artifacts from the historic day to preserve for future generations, particularly for those who

will be living here the next time our area is in the path of totality in 2144.

The Historian's Office is accepting photographs, videos, personal written descriptions and East Aurora-related eclipse souvenirs to preserve in the Historian's Office archives at the Aurora Municipal Center.

To contribute to this special archival collection, email items to TownandVillage@historian.org

Historian Robert Lowell Goller at historian@townofaurora.com; stop by the Historian's Office at the Municipal Center, 575 Oakwood Avenue, Wednesday or Thursdays afternoons, from 1 to 4 p.m. or email for an appointment to stop in at another time.

For more information about the Historian's Office and Aurora History Museum, visit www.townofaurora.com/departments/historian.

Eclipse Donations

The Historian's Office solicited from the community artifacts and diary entries related to the April 8 eclipse. As a result we received several written accounts of the event from local residents; a number of photographs and videos, including two professional photographs of the event from Lewis Road; an eclipse-themed tote bag; and posters and other items from the EAclipse event at Knox Farm State Park.

The Historian's 2024 Events, Speaking Engagements & Activities

FEBRUARY 12... Attended the Orchard Park Historical Society meeting, at which Don Vidler presented a program on the history of Vidler's 5&10.

MARCH 14... Prepared a program of political parody as "President Millard Fillmore" and the secret singing guest at the Aurora Historical Society's annual fundraiser at The Columns Banquets.



APRIL 3... Accepted a proclamation from Erie County Legislator Lindsay Lorigo recognizing the Village of East Aurora's 150th anniversary.

APRIL 5... Presented my program, "Who Were the Roycrofters" for residents of Fox Run retirement community in Orchard Park.

APRIL 8... Documented the eclipse.

APRIL 18... In commemoration of the Aurora Town Public Library building's 60th anniversary, hosted a "Library Trivia" night in the library's community room.



Illumination Nights

A speaker series to enlighten attendees with a subject matter of relevance to the region.

Tuesday, April 23rd 7:00 PM

Why is East Aurora called "East Aurora"?

APRIL 23... At the invitation of 42 North, led a discussion of the history of East Aurora as part of the Illumination Night series.



APRIL 25... Jason and I were invited to be among the models of 1870s clothing for the Aurora Historical Society's monthly speaker series, featuring the work of Aurora Players costume designer Nancy Sheehan Johnson. The event's 1870s theme celebrated the anniversary of the Village of East Aurora's founding in 1874.

JUNE 15... Attended the annual Community Fair at the South Wales Community Hall and was invited to spend the morning in the Heritage Tent answering questions about the history of South Wales.

JUNE 22... Attended a ceremony at Vidler's 5&10 in recognition of the store's entry into the Historic Business Preservation Registry by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.



JULY 3... Participated once again, with the assistance of my nieces and nephews, in the Town of Aurora Independence Day parade along Main and South Grove Streets.

JULY 10... Documented and responded to inquiries following the tornado in West Falls. (Although there is evidence that this wasn't the first time a tornado touched down in the Town of Aurora, it was the first one since government agencies began confirming and recording them in 1950.)

JULY 16... Presented a historical program and fielded numerous great questions from the young campers at the Recreation Department's Summer Day Camp at JP Nicely West Falls Park.

JULY 23... Presented a historical program and fielded numerous great questions from the young campers at the Recreation Department's Summer Day Camp at Hamlin Park.

JULY 24... Attended an exhibition preview at Meibohm Fine Arts of a collection of work by Roycroft artist Alexis Fournier (1865-1948). This was a rare opportunity for the community to see so many of Fournier's works in one exhibition.

JULY 30... Answered numerous media and citizen inquiries, and met briefly with Roycroft Inn owner Douglas Jemal, after work crews began painting the historic building white with black trim. Mr. Jemal ultimately agreed to maintain the historic green colors of the inn.

AUGUST 7-18... Planned and executed our annual exhibit in the Historical Building at the Erie County Fair. The exhibit, "Centelebration," which was previously featured in the museum outside the Historian's Office at the Aurora Municipal Center, took a look back at the Village of East Aurora's 100th anniversary celebration 50 years ago, in 1974.

SEPTEMBER 21... Attended the annual conference of the Government Appointed Historians of Western New York at the East Hill Creamery in Perry. GAHWNY represents government and Seneca Nation historians from the 11 counties in Western New York. The programming this year focused on archival and photograph preservation, which was particularly helpful as we focus on ways to better preserve and present the archives in the Aurora Town Historian's Office. Attendees also heard an update from New York State Historian Devin Lander.

OCTOBER 7... At the invitation of teacher Kirk Schrantz, visited the local history class at East Aurora High School to discuss the presidency and legacy of Millard Fillmore.



NOVEMBER 9... Attended the Aurora Historical Society's dedication of the Millard Fillmore sculpture at the home of the 13th president on Shearer Avenue.

NOVEMBER 21... Presented my program, "The History of West Falls," at the Waldorf School, as part of the Aurora Historical Society's monthly speaker series.

Website and Social Media

We continue to share documents, newspaper articles and photographs from the archives on our Facebook (“Aurora Town Historian”) and Instagram (auroratownhistorian) pages. A daily posting, which we started in 2016, features an interesting newspaper clipping, photograph or artifact, or an update about what’s available in the archives. Photographs and other items from the archives continue to be regularly featured on the “*You Know You’re from East Aurora, NY If You Remember...*”, “*I Love East Aurora History*” and “*I Love West Falls History*” Facebook pages. We also continue to expand the information and resources available on the Historian’s department page within the town’s website.

History Museum Exhibits



Part of the mission of the Aurora Town Historian’s Office is to present the Aurora History Museum at the Municipal Center in collaboration with the Aurora Historical Society, which owns most of the three-dimensional artifacts. The Historian’s Office is open Wednesdays and Thursday afternoons, and by appointment, however the historical exhibits may be viewed any time the Municipal Center is open. Our guest book shows visitors in 2024 not only from East Aurora and Western New York, but also from across the United States and Europe, including the United Kingdom; Dayton, Ohio; and Ontario, Canada. We continue to notice that most visitors do not initially intend to visit the historical museum but stop for awhile to look at the exhibits while conducting other business in the Municipal Center.

FEATURED EXHIBITS...

In addition to maintaining the permanent exhibits outside the Historian’s Office at the Aurora Municipal Center, we continue to display temporary “Featured Exhibits” to highlight artifacts and documents in our collections, as well as unique aspects of our community’s history. We also had two opportunities to take exhibits “on the road.” The Featured Exhibits of 2024 are highlighted below:

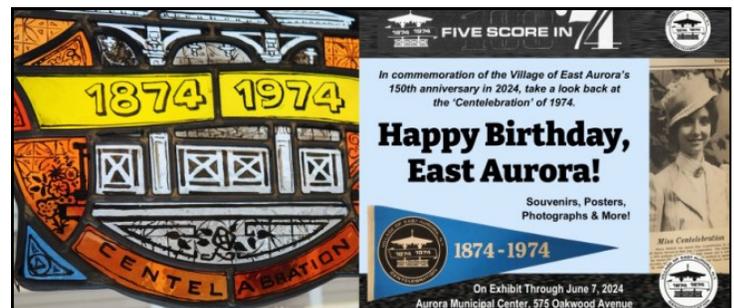
Happy Birthday, East Aurora!

At the Municipal Center: February 5 - June 7, 2024

At the Erie County Fair: August 7 - 18, 2024

The Village of East Aurora turned 150 years old in 2024. With artifacts, newspapers and documents from the archives of the Aurora Town Historian’s Office, this exhibit took a look back at the “Centelebration” held 50 years ago,

in 1974, to commemorate the Village of East Aurora’s 100th anniversary. A giant parade, beard-growing contest, carnival, Miss Centelebration contest and other special events were held to celebrate “Five Score in ‘74.”



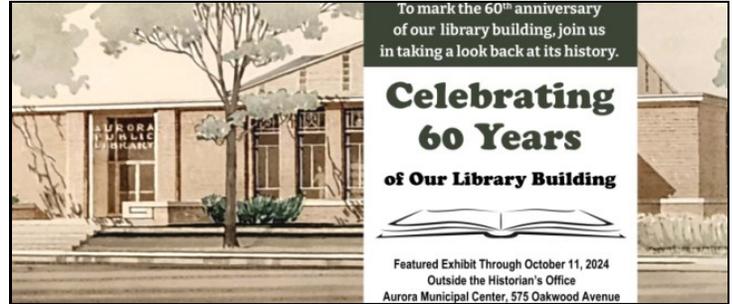
FEATURED EXHIBITS, continued...

Celebrating 60 Years of Our Library Building

At the Library: March 1 - April 3, 2024

At the Municipal Center: June 17 - October 11, 2024

On April 20, 1964, the doors to the current Aurora Town Public Library building opened to the public. The library had outgrown its previous home, a house that had stood on the site since the 1830s, and the Aurora Town Board agreed that a new, more modern building was necessary. In commemoration of the 60th anniversary of our community's library building, the Aurora Town Historian's Office gathered photographs and newspaper articles from our archives.



Presidential Pins

October 14 - November 8, 2024

A variety of political buttons worn by local residents over the years have been donated to the archives of the Aurora Town Historian's Office. With the approach of Election Day, we put some of the "presidential pins" from our collection on exhibit.



Checking In: The Globe Hotel Guest Registers

October 21, 2024 - January 31, 2025

The Globe Hotel on East Aurora's Main Street opened its doors 200 years ago, in 1824. Thousands of visitors stayed there in the years since. Five volumes of guest registers from between 1890 and 1926 are among items from the hotel preserved in the archives of the Aurora Town Historian's Office. In commemoration of The Globe's bicentennial, the Historian's Office put them on public display for the very first time.



Goals for 2025

The volunteers and I have set two specific goals for 2025:

FINALIZING THE TRANSFER OF PHYSICAL ARCHIVES... Thanks to the Town Board's allocation of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding at the end of 2024, four new archival shelving units will allow us to finalize our transfer of the physical archives from outdated file drawers to more protective archival shelves and boxes. The volunteers and I aim to complete the transfer during the first half of 2025.

COMMEMORATING THE 100th ANNIVERSARIES OF THE KIWANIS CLUB, EMERY PARK AND THE AURORA THEATRE, AND THE 200th ANNIVERSARY OF THE ERIE CANAL... 1925 was a particularly historic year for the Town of Aurora. Through exhibits, presentations and newspaper articles, the Historian's Office will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the East Aurora Kiwanis Club, Emery Park and the Aurora Theatre, all of which were founded in 1925. We will also join efforts to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Erie County and its impact on the East Aurora and Town of Aurora.

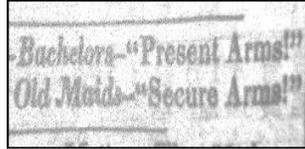
Outside Historical Activities

RESEARCH AND LIVESTREAM PROJECT...Outside of my duties as Town and Village Historian, I continue writing, historical research and consulting projects. My weekly livestream, “Local History Live,” which I launched in October 2022, continues. The discussions can be accessed on my Facebook and YouTube pages. As a result of my research, in 2025 I am scheduled to publish the first in a series of books.

MONTHLY NEWSPAPER COLUMN...As part of my research projects, I have continued a monthly “Historian’s Corner” newspaper column, generally published the last week of each month in the *East Aurora Advertiser*. Events, both expected (the eclipse, and the milestone anniversaries of the village and library building) and unexpected (the July tornado) presented opportunities for timely topics.



January:
Drivers Struggled to Grasp Concept of ‘Right on Red’



February:
A Leap Year Warning: ‘Bachelors Be Careful’



March:
Total Solar Eclipse of 1925 Failed to Live Up to the Hype



April:
Opening Day for New Library (Finally) Arrived in April 1964



May:
Auroraville: The Local Village Lost to History



June:
Couples Raced to the Altar to Dodge Blood Test Law



July:
Who Says Tornadoes Don’t Happen Here?



August:
ZIP Codes Delivered Controversy in 1963



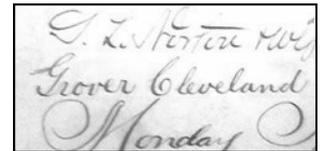
September:
Sept. 24, 1950: The Day Daylight Disappeared Over East Aurora



October:
‘Unpatriotic’ German Classes Banned by the School Board



November:
In Village’s 5&10 Rivalry, Vidler’s Emerged Victorious



December:
A Presidential Mystery at The Globe Hotel