

ANNUAL REPORT

for the year

2020

Historian's office works to document COVID pandemic

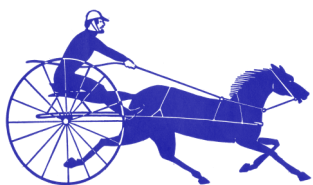
In an effort to document the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Town of Aurora and Village of East Aurora area, the Historian's Office is asking the community to contribute to a special collection in the town and village archives.



Above: Newspaper coverage of the Office of the Historian's Covid-19 community documentation project. (East Aurora Bee)

Center: Volunteers assist with the relocation of the archives and museum to the new Aurora Municipal Center. (Photo courtesy of the Aurora Historical Society)

Below: Documenting the May 18 train derailment.



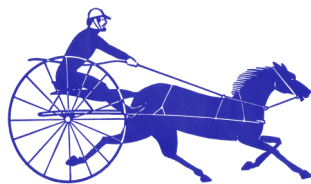
OFFICE OF
THE HISTORIAN

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



ROBERT LOWELL GOLLER
HISTORIAN





OFFICE OF

THE HISTORIAN

Town of Aurora & Village of East Aurora, New York

20th January, 2021

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

Town Supervisor James J. Bach
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 57.07 of the New York State Arts and Cultural Affairs Law, which requires the Historian to file an annual report each January with his or her appointing officer and the State Historian, please find on the following pages my annual report for 2020.

As was the case for everyone, the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic highlighted 2020, and we realigned our goals for the year to ensure that the pandemic and its impact on our community were properly documented. However, 2020 also was highlighted by positive developments: the expansion of hours in the Historian's Office, as well as the relocation to the new Municipal Center on Oakwood Avenue.

Please let me take this opportunity to thank the Town Board for extending additional financial support to the Historian's Office in 2020, as well as for the investment in the office and historical exhibit space. Our ability to share local history and serve the taxpayers has been greatly enhanced thanks to the town's investment.

As always, this annual report serves as a means to share with you (and the community) the activities of the Historian's Office in 2020, 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.

As always, I appreciate our open dialogue throughout the year, so please do not hesitate to contact me if I can ever be of assistance. I never take for granted the privilege of serving as Historian, and I thank you for your continued confidence.

With Kindest Regards,

Robert Lowell Goller
Historian



The Aurora Municipal Center
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Major Projects

Our goals for 2020, outlined in last year's Annual Report, included preparing and completing a smooth relocation of the Historian's Office and museum from the Southside Municipal Center on Glead Avenue to the Aurora Municipal Center on Oakwood Avenue; launching a more formal newspaper digitization plan; and commemorating the centennial of women's suffrage. Although we did accomplish the first goal, the other two abruptly took a back seat to extra-ordinary events that impacted our community, most especially the Covid-19 pandemic. We quickly and necessarily shifted our goals in response to the events.

COVID-19 DOCUMENTATION PROJECT...It quickly became clear early on in the Covid-19 pandemic that this would become a historically significant event. As a result, we launched a Covid-19 documentation project that asked local residents to document and share personal experiences, photographs and videos to be included in a permanent special collection in the Historian's Office archives. (See press release included at the back of this Annual Report).



We have received a number of responses, including journals, photographs, church bulletins, screenshots of local Zoom meetings, etc., that will enable future generations to research what life was like during 2020. In an effort to put current events in perspective, the Historian's Office answered several media inquiries and wrote articles about past pandemics and health emergencies in the community. As the effects of the pandemic continue, the project is ongoing in 2021. In addition, local residents also helped us document the political marches and protests that took place in the village throughout the year.

OFFICE AND MUSEUM RELOCATION...Preparations began a few years ago for the planned relocation of the Historian's Office and museum artifacts. Thanks to the assistance of volunteers in the office and from the Aurora Historical Society, who assisted with both the planning and physical relocation, the move went very smoothly, with only a few unforeseen challenges.

The relocation process included:

—Meeting with town staff and architects in regard to the design of the new museum case in the hallway outside the Historian's Office.

—Expediting our new number-based cataloguing system. In addition to making the archives better organized and more efficient in the long term, during the relocation this ensured that archive materials remained organized and that they landed on the appropriate shelf in the new location.

—Measuring the furniture, shelves and file drawers, and creating layouts of the new office space to ensure everything would fit and that the catalogue system remained sequential in the new office layout.

—Working with volunteers to carefully pack and label the Aurora Historical Society's museum artifacts.

—Working with volunteers to design and install the new museum exhibit space, including the installation of glass shelving. (The exhibits—including labels and signs—will be finalized in early 2021).



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September 23



October 21

—Working with the Aurora Historical Society to arrange for the relocation of the Historical Society-owned, Roycroft-related furniture to a more appropriate exhibit space in the community.

—With the assistance of the Highway Department team, arranging for the surplus and disposition of the 1970s-era display cases that were no longer needed.

—Removing and re-installing the track-style gallery display system along the walls in the Historian's Office and the exhibit space in the hallway.

—Purchasing two new shelving units: one to provide additional archival space and the other for the storage of artifacts not currently on display in the exhibit case.

What do you do when you need to carefully re-locate an entire archive and museum? You ask your friends from the Aurora Historical Society to help, of course! Thank you to the many Historical Society volunteers who assisted with the smooth relocation. In just a few hours on the evening of Sept. 23, they helped move more than 200 boxes and all the museum artifacts from Gleed Avenue to Oakwood Avenue. We absolutely could not have safely moved the contents of the office without their help.

Additionally, thank you to the Town of Aurora for the investment into the history and heritage of our community. The space in the new Historian's Office provides enough room for *all* of our taxpayers and guests to safely access the computers and research areas. We've come a long way since the days of the Historian's Office at the top of steep stairs at the Roycroft Chapel building!

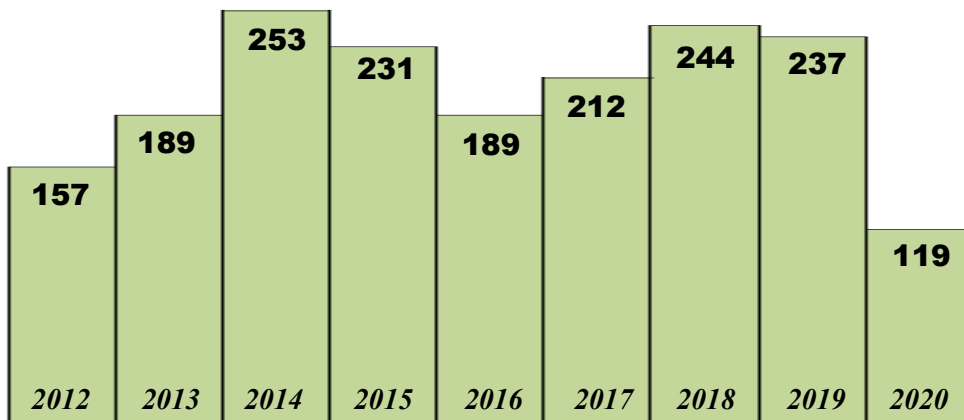
Thanks to the incorporation of the museum display cases into the design of the hallway of the new Municipal Center, the public may view our community's historical collection any time the Municipal Center is open, not just during the limited time that the Historian's Office is open to the public. I am thrilled that the exhibit area—coupled with the Rix Jennings murals in the front hallway of the building—enable the public to so easily experience the history of our community. Even with the expanded exhibit space, there is still not enough room for the rich collection of artifacts. However, we plan to rotate exhibits on a regular basis to give residents something new to see when they visit the Municipal Center.

DOCUMENTING THE TRAIN DERAILMENT...The Historian's Office responded to several media and public inquiries regarding the history of train derailments (there have been many) in our community following the derailment on the evening of May 18. To preserve images and information in the archives, we requested—and received—via social media many photographs and accounts of the 2020 derailment from community members.

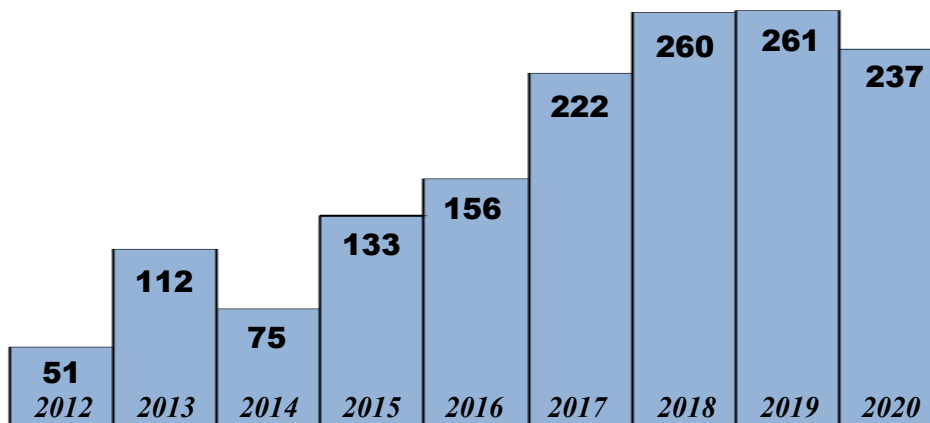
The Archives

A main function of the Historian's Office continues to be assisting taxpayers and guests with historical research and to maintain the archives. Thanks to additional support from the town, beginning in 2020 the office and archives were open an additional afternoon each week, Wednesday *and* Thursday, from 1–4 p.m., and by special appointment. However, as with everything else in 2020, Covid-19 greatly impacted our ability to assist taxpayers and guests in person. The office was closed to the public from March 18 until July 1, at which time we re-opened by appointment only. Thank you to the town for providing Plexiglass desk shields to provide a safe environment for visitors in the office. Additionally, the office closed for a month beginning September 16 and reopening on October 21, on account of the relocation of the Municipal Center from 300 Glead Ave. to 575 Oakwood Ave. However, we continued to respond to email, telephone and social media requests during both office closures. The office was closed to the public, but we continued to serve the public. *(For future historical reference, the office's Covid-19 protocols are included at the end of this Annual Report).*

OFFICE VISITS...We continue to keep a log of the number of visitors and the topics that are researched. The statistics for 2020, not surprisingly, were greatly impacted by the closures related to Covid-19 and the office relocation.



REQUESTS VIA EMAIL, U.S. MAIL AND SOCIAL MEDIA...In addition to in-office visits, we also continue to respond to requests via email, U.S. Mail and social media. Again, the numbers were likely impacted by Covid-19.

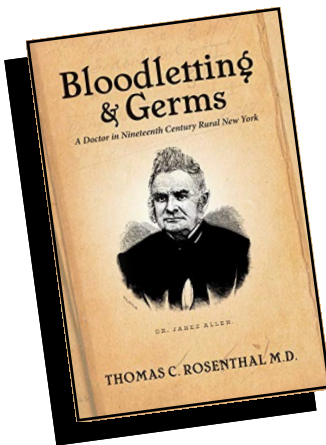


We continue to keep a detailed log of topics in an effort to connect individuals who are researching similar topics. A majority of inquiries continue to relate to genealogy, house and property histories (including inquiries from the Village Historic Preservation Commission), and student history projects. Among the requests for information were several media and other research inquiries about the history of Fisher-Price Toys, which marked its 90th anniversary in 2020, as well as media inquiries related to the May 18 train derailment in the village. I also met with a committee from the Town of Alden that is planning the town's 200th anniversary, and I shared information about Aurora's 2018 bicentennial.



Other highlights of assistance provided by the Historian’s Office in 2020:

- Conducted a telephone interview in June with a reporter from *The Guardian*, an international newspaper, regarding the 90th anniversary of Fisher-Price Toys.
- Provided a digital scan of a 1909 map of the Village of East Aurora that was used in the design of the can for 42 North Brewing Company’s new Craftsman Lager.



Research using the resources of the Historian’s Office in previous years also resulted in the completion of two projects by local residents in 2020:

- Thomas C. Rosenthal, M.D.’s book, *Bloodletting and Germs*, a historical fiction account of the challenges faced by Dr. Jabez Allen, who practiced in Aurora in the mid-1800s. Larwood Pharmacy, still in operation in 2021, traces its roots to Dr. Allen’s medical and pharmacy practice on East Main Street. Thanks to a donation from a family member a few years ago, the Historian’s Office archives include a collection of Dr. Allen’s papers, medical school diploma and other family artifacts, which were used in the author’s research for the book.
- The Historian’s Office provided photographs and research assistance for the restoration of the Civil War monument at Oakwood Cemetery. Thanks to the Sons of Union Veterans Civil War Col. John B. Weber Camp 44 in Lackawanna and Cliff Anderson for spearheading the project and fundraising. The project included replacing the sphere at the top of the monument, which had gone missing.



VOLUNTEERS...The Historian's Office benefits greatly from the generosity of volunteers, and the success of our efforts can be credited to their dedication. We simply could not do all that we do without them! Three volunteers, Lucas Dana, Justin Jagodzinski and Marian Halperin, once again assisted in the office on a regular basis. After concluding a three-year project to catalogue and preserve our collection of Roycroft materials, Mrs. Halperin began cataloging our vast collection of house and building photographs and surveys. Mr. Dana and Mr. Jagodzinski continue to assist in our efforts to complete a digital (and digitally searchable) card catalogue of documents, books and photographs in the archives, as well as create a digital (and searchable) database of donations dating back to 1951, which have to this point only been logged in a handwritten ledger. Unfortunately, the Covid-19

precautions drastically limited our ability to host in-person volunteers. No volunteer hours were logged during the shut-down between March 18 and July 1. Beginning in July, we spread out the volunteer hours to avoid having too many people in the office at the same time. Volunteer hours once again were limited in November, when our town was placed in the orange restriction zone, which remained through the end of the year.

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 on Facebook.

Over the summer the Historian's Office usually makes arrangements to host a college intern. Unfortunately, Covid-19 restrictions prevented a college internship in 2020. However, we did benefit from the community service hours of East Aurora High School student Lucas Pawlak, who assisted in the cataloging of recently donated 1920s business receipts. He joined us for several weeks before his volunteer time was cut short by the pandemic in March.

CATALOGUING THE ARCHIVES...While the office was closed to the public due to the Covid-19 restrictions in the spring, we took the opportunity to make great progress in updating our cataloging system. Each shelf, drawer and storage box in the archives now has an assigned number, which will enable us to complete the digital card catalogue and more quickly locate materials for researchers (as well as return materials to their proper location within the archives).



DONATIONS...The Historian's Office does not have a budget to acquire documents, photographs, etc. However, generous donors continue to ensure that our collection continues to grow. We once again logged a number of donations to the archives in 2020, including:

—A copy of *Historical Highlights: East Aurora and Vicinity-1940*, donated by an Alden resident. (#2020-01)

—A vintage postcard of Baker Memorial United Methodist Church, donated by a Wisconsin resident. (#2020-02)

—The book, *Out of the Woods: From Deerfield to the Grand Circuit*, by Ellen Williams of Knoxville, Pa., donated by the author. The book includes information about Cicero Hamlin's East Aurora Village Farm, and the Historian's Office provided research assistance to the author. (#2020-04)

In addition, documents and publications were transferred to the Historian’s Office from other agencies, including:

—From the Buffalo History Museum, a signed copy of *Little Journeys to the Home of Roycrofters* by Charles F. Hamilton. (#2020-03)

—From the Village of East Aurora, a transcription of village tax rolls and returns (#2020-05); a register book of physicians, midwives and undertakers in the Village of East Aurora, 1914-1944 (#2020-06); a journal of American Red Cross classes and attendees, 1930-1935 (#2020-07); a journal of American Red Cross classes and attendees, 1938 and 1943 (#2020-08); Red Cross treasurer report book, 1942-1959 (#2020-09); and three Red Cross nursing caps (#2020-10).

Thank you to all the donors for providing these items for the benefit of our community and researchers, and for entrusting the Historian’s Office with the care of these historically significant items. Each of these donations has been logged and acknowledged.

Publications and Research

MONTHLY HISTORY COLUMN...A major, but often overlooked, part of New York State’s mission for municipal historians is conducting and sharing research. In an effort to accomplish this mission, I have continued the monthly “Historian’s Corner” newspaper column, which is featured on Page 2 of the *East Aurora Advertiser* on the last week of each month. The article also is featured on our social media pages and website. As a result of the research conducted for these articles, we continue to uncover new information about the history of several aspects of our community. The Covid pandemic prompted research related to previous epidemics and pandemics in the East Aurora area and how our community reacted to them. When researching the Spanish flu pandemic on the occasion of the 100th anniversary in 2018, I never imagined how relevant it would become just two years later! Research prompted by the current pandemic resulted in the newspaper articles for March, June and November.

Topics of the monthly “Historian’s Corner” column in 2020 included:



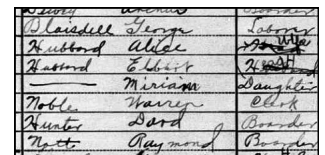
January: Reactions Mixed to Prohibition 100 Years Ago



February: The ‘Three Rs’ of WWII: Reduce, Ration and Recycle



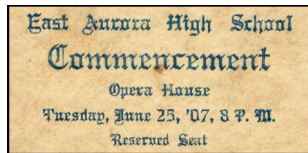
March: ‘Social Distancing’ Has Been No Stranger to Aurora



April: A Visit from the Census Taker Stirred Confusion, Controversy



May: It Took 15 Minutes to Bulldoze West End’s Last Historic Hotel



June: EA Graduation Has Seen Many ‘Firsts’ Since 1887



July: Olive Green as EA’s School Color? It Almost Happened!



August: EA Decided Fate of Sunday Baseball and Movies in 1922



September: ‘Strangers’ Drew Suspicion at Aurora’s 1896 Election



October: First Women Elected in EA Five Decades After Suffrage



November: In Years of Darkness, EA Brought Light to Christmas



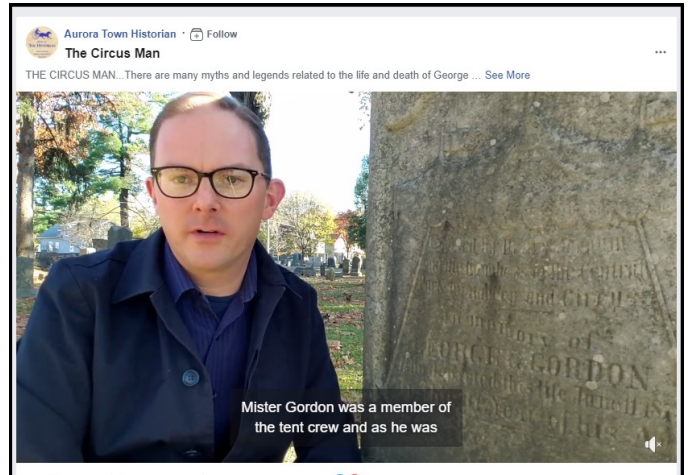
December: Theatre Marquee Made Its Flashy Debut 70 Years Ago

Community Projects & Outreach

FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM AND THE INTRODUCTION OF VIDEOS...The Town Historian's Facebook page ("Aurora Town Historian") continues to be a great way to share photographs, old newspaper articles and other tidbits of local history with a much broader audience. A daily posting, which we started in 2016, features an interesting newspaper clipping, photograph or artifact. Photographs and other items from the archives are also regularly featured on the "You Know You're from East Aurora, NY If You Remember..." Facebook page. The posts reach a few thousand people on Facebook each day, as well as on Instagram. The posts are a great way to share with the community the vast amount of history contained in the drawers and boxes and on the shelves of the Historian's Office. The social media posts have become even more popular during the Covid-19 restrictions, when physical visits to the office and museum were limited.

On a whim in the spring, I began recording videos for the social media pages as a way to connect with the community during the Covid-19 shutdown. Because residents could not physically visit the Historian's Office and museum, the videos took viewers on an admittedly low-tech virtual tour of some of the artifacts of the Aurora History Museum. Video topics also included the historical benefits of journaling and a trip to Oakwood Cemetery to visit the circus-themed gravesite of George G. Gordon. All the videos remain on the "Aurora Town Historian" Facebook page.

PRESENTATIONS...I have continued to offer presentations about historical topics, as well as meet with local civic groups to discuss a variety of subjects. Due to Covid-19, many of these presentations were cancelled or postponed, but one was held successfully via livestream and another outside at Hamlin Park for the Recreation Department's summer day camp participants. Specific presentations, events and meetings are included in the "Historian's Events of 2020" section of this report.



Budget

There are three main areas of the Town Historian's budget:

Office Expense—\$500 (+)

In 2020, we once again used a large portion of this budget line for acid free, protective sheets and binders, in our ongoing efforts to transfer more and more documents into acid-free binders. We also used part of the budget to purchase new shelving units and signage for office and exhibit space in the new Municipal Center.

Expense and Travel—\$200 (-)

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, all in-person events and training, including the annual conference of the Government Appointed Historian's of Western New York, were cancelled. A large portion of these funds in 2020 were transferred to the Office Expense line to purchase additional supplies and equipment for the new office space.

Historian's Salary—\$15,000


Thank you for the town's continued financial support of the Historian's Office. I extend particular appreciation for the additional support beginning in 2020, which allowed us to open to the public one additional day per week, as well as enable us to properly coordinate the relocation and expand our preservation and archiving efforts. On average, I spend 15 to 20 hours per week on Historian-related duties.

The Historian's Events of 2020

FEBRUARY 20...Presented the program, "Battle Over the Ballot, East Aurora's Journey Through Women's Suffrage," at the Aurora Senior Center as part of the Town of Aurora Winterfest.

FEBRUARY 26...Once again had the honor of providing the political satire, as "President Fillmore" and "a surprise singing guest," at the Aurora Historical Society's Annual Dinner, a fundraiser at The Roycroft Inn sponsored by the Aurora Historical Society for the Millard Fillmore Presidential Site in East Aurora.

Robert Lowell Goller, Town Historian:
Becoming Your Own Historian—
Online Via GoToMeeting!



Thursday
June 18, 2020
6:30pm

Join from your computer, tablet or smartphone:
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/954783109>

You can also dial in using your phone:
 United States: +1 (971) 317-3122
 Access Code: 954-783-109

New to GoToMeeting? Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts:
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/install/954783109>

Online registration is required for this free virtual program for adults, 17+ at <https://buffalolib.local.com/event/636283>

Sponsored by the Friends of the Aurora Town Public Library

Aurora Town Public Library
 550 Main St.
 East Aurora, NY 14052
 Phone: 652-4440

Every family, every home and every community has a story, but we all struggle to curate the massive number of papers, photographs and other items piled unorganized in boxes in our attics, closets and basements. Learn how to collect, curate and preserve the history of your family, home and community, and how to document and preserve your own story for future generations.

This talk will be led by Robert Lowell Goller, Town Historian

Buffalo & Erie County Public LIBRARY

← **JUNE 18...**Presented the program, "Becoming Your Own Historian," as part of the Friends of the Aurora Town Public Library's educational programs. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the program was presented virtually. The program discussed ways to better curate and preserve family history and personal documents and artifacts.



Photo courtesy of the Aurora Parks and Recreation Department

AUGUST 6...Was invited to → spend the morning at the Recreation Department's Hamlin Park Summer Day Camp sharing photographs and the history of Hamlin Park with the young participants. To remain socially distanced, we presented two sessions outside under the shelter. The youth showed great enthusiasm for our great park and its history, and they had lots of questions and stories to share!



← **AUGUST-DECEMBER...**With the impending relocation of the Aurora History Museum to the new Municipal Center on Oakwood Avenue, and with the volunteers busy packing up the exhibits, the Aurora Town Public Library invited us to temporarily relocate one of the exhibits, "Taking Shape," to the library's lobby display case. The exhibit highlights the history of "the circle" at the west end of our village. Spoiler alert: It hasn't always been a circle! (Special thanks once again to the Aurora Town Public Library for inviting us to share local history!)

Goals for 2021

DIGITIZATION OF NEWSPAPER AND AUDIO FILES...Due to Covid-19, this goal was not accomplished in 2020, so it's now a goal for 2021. Thanks to generous monetary donations, we plan to complete the digitization of the *Advertiser*, as well as digitize other newspapers, including the *Aurora Standard* from the 1830s, the *Weekly Times* from the 1880s, *The Orbit* from the 1960s, and begin digitizing the *Shopping Guides* from the 1930s-1970s. With additional hours afforded to the Historian's Office, we plan to focus on collaborative efforts and grant opportunities to begin digitizing the audio cassette tapes of interviews conducted with local residents and community leaders in the mid 20th Century. (Digitizing photographs remains an ongoing project).

BICENTENNIAL OF ERIE COUNTY...Due to the office relocation and other priorities, I have not been able to join a regional effort to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the formation of Erie County. However, in consultation with other groups, we are investigating ways to ensure that Aurora is represented in the countywide commemoration.

DOCUMENTING HISTORY OUTSIDE THE HISTORIAN'S OFFICE...Although the Historian's Office maintains a vast collection of documents, photographs, maps and other material related to the history of the Town of Aurora and Village of East Aurora, it is certainly not the only repository for local history. Many civic clubs, religious organizations, veterans groups and other entities in our community have vast collections of their own. A goal in 2021 will be to bring together these organizations to catalogue the archival resources that exist in our community, assist these organizations in preserving their collections, and—for those interested in participating—developing a master list of these resources.

HIGH SCHOOL HISTORY CLASS...A new elective course on local history has been launched during the spring 2021 semester at East Aurora High School. The teacher has reached out to the Historian's Office and we plan several collaborative efforts, which will include the students using the resources of the Historian's Office archives in the course of their research projects.

COMMEMORATING THE CENTENNIAL OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE...2020 marked the 100th anniversary of nationwide women's suffrage. Presentations and exhibits (including an exhibit for the Historical Building at the Erie County Fair) were cancelled due to the pandemic. We will shift these efforts to 2021, once the pandemic emergency subsides. A particular effort will be made to further discuss the history of the women's suffrage movement (and the anti-suffrage movement) in our town.



Postcards from the archives of the Aurora Town Historian's Office



7th April 2020

Historian's Office Asks Community to Help Document Local Impact of COVID-19

In an effort to document the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Town of Aurora and Village of East Aurora area, the Historian's Office is asking the community to contribute to a special collection in the town and village archives.

"Our perspective of today's events will be invaluable to future generations and researchers," Town and Village Historian Robert Lowell Goller said. "There's no doubt that people living 100 years from now will be very interested in what was happening—or not happening—in East Aurora in the spring of 2020."

The Historian's Office has been documenting the local impact in recent weeks through photographs and video, and with the preservation of documents and newspapers, but a broader perspective will enable future generations to have a better view of our community during this historic time and to help them learn from our experiences. "We are putting together a time capsule of sorts," Goller said. "Please save items that will help us tell our story to future generations."

Items that may be contributed:

--**Photographs and/or videos** that you have taken that depict life at this time in our community. Be sure to include the location and date of the photograph, as well as other identifying information, including the name of the photographer.

--**Documents** related to "social distancing" and the impact of COVID-19 on East Aurora. Everyday documents such as advertisements, cancellation notices, signs and church bulletins offer insight into how much COVID-19 has impacted daily life in our community.

--**Diaries.** There is no better time than now to begin keeping a journal. Future generations will want to know what we were thinking in real-time. Thanks to several diaries and journals kept and preserved by residents of our community, some as far back as the mid-1800s, we have insight into the past that we would not otherwise have. Diaries always are an important way to document history, but they are especially important during times of historical significance. How you are spending your time during "social distancing," your feelings about it, and how you may personally be impacted by the COVID-19 virus will be of great benefit to future researchers. Nothing is too mundane or unimportant to include. Even the weather is important! The more people we have documenting life in 2020, the more perspectives we will be able to share with future generations.

Digital contributions may be emailed at any time to historian@townofaurora.com. Physical documents should be retained until a later date, when they will be collected at drop-off locations in the community. There is no deadline for contributions.

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



The Southside Municipal Center, 300 Glead Avenue, East Aurora, New York 14052
www.townofaurora.com/departments/historian
historian@townofaurora.com
716-652-7944





UPDATED: 10 June, 2020

Historian's Office Re-Opening July 1

The archives of the Aurora Town Historian's Office will resume regular hours on Wednesday, July 1. The archives will be open Wednesdays and Thursdays, 1-4 p.m. However, we request the public's cooperation with a few important changes to our protocols, which will be in effect throughout the summer:

—To maintain social distancing, only one researcher at a time will be allowed in the office. Researchers are highly encouraged to call or email ahead to schedule an appointment to avoid a long wait upon arrival: 716-652-7944, historian@townofaurora.com. Visitors with appointments will be given priority.

—Visitors will be asked to remain at the research desk, which will be located near the entrance. A computer containing the digital newspaper collection and other digital files will be available at the research desk. Requested materials from the archives will be brought to the research desk, which will be equipped with a Plexiglas shield. To maintain social distancing, members of the public will not be allowed to enter the archive storage area.

—Volunteers will be invited to resume their important and much-appreciated work in the office on July 1, however, only one volunteer will work in the office at a time, and they will work at designated work stations.

—While in the building, volunteers and researchers will be required to wear masks while traveling to and from their work stations. Hand sanitizer is available throughout the building and in the Historian's Office.

—All work areas will be disinfected between visitors, and out of an abundance of caution, all research materials will be quarantined for 72 hours after each use.

—As always, we will continue to respond to requests for records and information via email and telephone. Anyone who does not wish to visit the office in person during this time is more than welcome to call or e-mail requests for information: 716-652-7944 or historian@townofaurora.com.