

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019

Harry L.D. Weldon, Town Historian

(Appointed: July 8, 2009; Officially Sworn-in: July 31, 2009 --- (former: Dryden Village Historian: Nov. 21, 1983 thru March 17, 1992)

Official Address: Town of Dryden, Tompkins County, NY; Town Hall, 93 East Main St., Dryden, NY 13053; Phone: 607.844.8888, ext. 244 --- email (Town): historian@dryden.ny.us (personal: ewhw57@frontier.com).

Monthly hours (generally): 12 @ Town Hall; 10 @ Home working (email replies, etc.); 2 @ In contact with County and/or State Historians; 20 (Occasional @ Elsewhere. — Totally approximately 44 +/- hours per month (2019 totals 528 +/- Hours).

FINANCES: Stipend (\$500.00 for year) Other Financial Benefits - Operating Budget 2019 - Amount, if any – unknown (Any expenses incurred taken out-of-pocket).

RESEARCH and PUBLICATIONS: 1) A weekly column “Anecdotes and Brevities” published 52 out of 52 weeks in the “Finger Lakes Community Newspapers” (a consortium of nine weekly community newspapers). Columns are always about some historical event or incident in central New York history). 2) Compilation of 1831-2018) on site historical records of Dryden (NY) United Methodist Church (now the official Dryden UMC Historian, effective August 17, 2017).

CURRENT “work-in-progress” PROJECTS: 1) Preparation of a copy (in PDF format) for draft of meaningful listing of historical roadside markers in the Town of Dryden in anticipation of distribution (of PDF file) to three local municipalities in the Town for their in-house printing; 2) Joseph Chaplin’s (Dryden’s first settler) impact in 1794-1795 on the Town(ship) of Dryden. 3) History of Dryden United Methodist Church.

PRESENTATIONS: None during 2019

Goals and plans for 2020: To continue current schedule and make more readily available the history of the Town to the general public through public presentations and publications.

PUBLICATIONS: Weekly newspaper column in Finger Lakes Community Newspaper(s) (a.k.a. Dryden Courier, Groton Courier, etc.,)

ATTENDANCE (and/or Participant): 1) Regular weekly office hours at the Dryden Town Hall; 2) At all public meetings of the Dryden Town Historical Society (DTHS).

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: 1) Charter (1981) Trustee / member of Dryden Town Historical Society; 2) Retired as Corresponding Secretary of Dryden Town Historical Society; 3) Senior member of Newark Valley, NY Historical Society; 4) Member of Williamsburg, VA Foundation; 5) Ten year member of Tompkins County Municipal Historians Association.

CONCLUSION: Every minute involved in the position as the Town of Dryden’s historian was a pleasure well spent; looking forward to another successful and worthwhile next year in 2020.

Respectfully submitted,
Harry L.D. Weldon, Official Town Historian

Submitted: September 21, 2020

[2020 stipend (600.00) not received to date; as of yet].