

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE VICTOR TOWN HISTORIAN
JANUARY 2011 TO DECEMBER 2011

(Report is required to be filed with the State Historian and the Ontario County Historian)

THE TOWN HISTORIAN COLLECTS, PRESERVES, AND INTERPRETS VICTOR HISTORY AND RESPONDS TO REQUESTS. GENERAL CATEGORIES FOR THE HISTORIAN'S ACTIVITIES ARE PRESERVATION, ORGANIZATION, RESEARCH, AND EDUCATION.

The Town Historian is a duly appointed (by the Supervisor) position by requirement of NYS Law 57.13.

2007 was the first year that this Historian also worked as the Village Historian as well as the Town Historian.

TOWN HISTORIAN'S ACTIVITIES:

As required by law, I collected material of historical significance. The inventory of collected material is on file, and an inventory of material acquired during 2011 is attached to this report.

My goals for 2011 included:

- To continue to make the students and adults in Victor community aware of their history and the historic resources in the town through email, my website, programming, written articles;
- To continue an Oral History project;
- To continue with historic house histories for the *Historic Victor* Marker Program;
- To add more programs/presentations on the history of Victor;
- To continue to put additions to the Archives on the database;
- To continue scanning the Archives' photographs;
- To cooperate and assist other historic/service organizations in the community;
- To be the lead for planning a 2012-2013 Town of Victor Bicentennial (Victor was incorporated in 1812 and organized in 1813).

I have responded to over 210 requests for historical information, genealogy and other historian related assistance and had 131 visitors to my office this year (up 30% from 2010).

I have written articles for the Town of Victor Newsletter, the Democrat and Chronicle and the Daily Messenger:

- ❖ "Victor in the Civil War"
- ❖ "William Maltman, Civil War Veteran from Victor"
- ❖ "1911 in Victor and the United States"
- ❖ "Historical Trivia about Victor"
- ❖ "Four Towns, Three Counties Boulder"
- ❖ "2012-2013—Victor Celebrates 200 Years!"
- ❖ "A Gem Unveiled"
- ❖ "Victor's Four Corners, c. 1900"
- ❖ "Maple Avenue is Rich in Victor History"
- ❖ "School Street? Where's the School?"
- ❖ "The Old Victor Hotel"

❖ “Goldfarb’s Historic East Victor Cobblestone Store”

Presentations presented were:

- ❖ “Sarah Bonesteele, Journey Across America”
- ❖ “The Senecas”
- ❖ Film on “Victor—1946”
- ❖ “Time Capsules—How Young People Can Make Their Own”
- ❖ “Cobblestones and Their Uniqueness to Victor”
- ❖ “You’re the Little Old Lady Who Does Wh-a-a-t?”
- ❖ “Victor Yesterday and Today”

Published a 22 page booklet for a walking tour of the Village of Victor as well as a Village Cemetery Tour brochure;

Working with the Historic Advisory Committee to put a plan in place for the Town of Victor’s Bicentennial in 2012-2013 (Town was organized in 1812, but the first Town meeting was not held until 1813)—see attached;

Planned the 1900 Victor Town Hall Cornerstone Rededication;

Worked with Victor students on research for projects for the New York State Archives, History Day, early 1900s Victor, Native American history as well as tours for several student groups;

Worked with a doctoral candidate from Syracuse University on research related to Native American cultures;

Proofread and contributed to two of 20 chapters of a biography of John Norton Loofborough (Circuit Methodist Minister/Millerite from Victor);

As part of the Heritage Lecture series in 2011 I facilitated programs each month with the Victor Historical Society and the Valentown Garden Club;

Finished Phase 1 of an Oral History Project by videotaping 25 older residents of Victor by year’s end—with the goal of a DVD by the end of 2012;

Was a judge for the regional competition for the New York State History Day competition;

Maintained the Local Artist’s Wall in the Town Hall;

Put up two new displays in the Village and Town Halls to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Civil War and its impact on Victor;

I attended and/or participated in the following workshops and/or conferences:

- ❖ Association of Public Historian of NYS conference
- ❖ Local authors symposium for the Rochester Regional Library
- ❖ Ontario County Historian meetings
- ❖ Environmental Protection Fund for writing historic preservation grants

Researched history and provided *Historic Victor* bronze plaques to six Village buildings;

Provided the Planning Board information on:

- ❖ Plastermill Subdivision
- ❖ Historic Valentown District as related to High Point Phase 2
- ❖ Several buildings over 50 years old being demolished

Participated in the Victor Historical Society's "Victorian Victor Day";

Completion of a Barns survey of the Town of Victor;

Worked with the Village Cemetery Committee, Victor Genealogical Society and Victor Historical Society on programs, research and historical advice;

Meetings that I attended were: Historic Advisory Committee (advisor); County Historian meetings; several Town Board, Planning Board and Architectural Review Board meetings; Victor Roundtable meetings; Electronic Records Committee; Department Head meetings; Ganondagan; Victor Historical Society (advisor); the Ontario County Historical Society (Board of Directors and Collections Chair until November, 2011); Village Cemetery Preservation and Restoration Committee (advisor);

Collecting historical information was done by clipping articles and news of interest and obituaries from newspapers; putting new information into the Archives database; taking pictures and slides and indexing them in notebooks; obtaining house and barn histories and gathering genealogy information. Attached is a list of materials donated or bought for the Town of Victor Archives.

The average number of hours that I worked each week was 16.

I continue to appreciate the support of the Town to encourage history and preservation in Victor and to support its Historian who is in her 22th year serving in this capacity.

Respectfully submitted,

Babette M. Huber
Victor Town Historian
January, 2012