

Historian's Report, January 2023

Queries: Continuing query on Aurora's African-American community. On McGordon House and the McGordon family. On why the Dr. Eliza Mosher is buried in Oak Glen Cemetery, and direction to other sources about Dr. Mosher's interesting life..

Work for Committees: Research on affirmative maintenance in the Uniform Building Code.

Planning History Displays, Events: Met with Aurora Historical Society to plan displays and history events for the first half of 2023 in newly refinished Patrick Tavern. Tentative outline: March-April, Highlights from *The Cricket*. May-June: wedding dresses (coordinated by Ginger Johnson in collaboration with Jodi Baldwin; pop-up event plus photo documentation).

Annual Report Preparation: The remainder of my time this month is devoted to preparing my Annual Report to the State Historian, a copy of which will be furnished to the Village Board upon completion.

Members of the Village Board who have not been through this annual cycle (Mayor Orman and Trustees Miller and Zimdahl), as well as those previously serving (Trustees Bianconi and Murphy) who might like a review, should understand that the municipal Historian's job description is given in NYS law: Arts and Cultural Affairs 57.07 and 57.09, attached.

Interpretive guidance is provided by the Office of State History:

<http://www.nysm.nysed.gov/common/nysm/files/duties-functions-local-govenment-historians.pdf>. The Historian, as an employee of a municipality, is "internal" to municipal discussions or meetings relevant to the State job description. With respect to archives and collections, these are under the Records Management Officer (for a Village, the Clerk) but with recognition of the Historian's role in "programs for the management and preservation" of such records and collaboration, through the Historian, with other interested societies and entities.

A Thank You: A public thank you will be offered orally, and I trust with the affirmation of the Village Board.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Schwab
Village Historian