

**From:** historian@auroranewyork.us  
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**Subject:** February Historian's Report  
**Attachments:** Annual report State Historian.pdf; report acknowledgment.jpeg

### **Historian's Report, February 2023**

*Queries:* Met with a former resident to read through The Cricket for articles by or about his mother. Met with a Wells art professor to examine the photographic resources of the Archives for a class project (also see below).

*Training and Work for Committees:* I attended the webinar by the National Trust for Historic Preservation on the uses of the historic repair tax credit. The National Trust has prepared a new online comparison of tax credits by state, explained its use, and gave several examples of the effectiveness of such programs in community revitalization. Every \$1.00 of tax credit produces \$0.40 in local economic activity: one of the highest returns on investment. I was particularly struck by the impact of a single project in Biddeford, ME, on overall community revitalization. One member of CPP has heard the webinar so far and I believe others will also elect to use it to fulfill part of their annual training requirement. NYS has tax credit programs for primary residences as well as commercial buildings.

In answer to questions from the Chair of CPP, I attended their January meeting for a discussion of evaluating demolition according to criteria in the Zoning Law, how the Uniform Building Code applies to vacant properties, and a brief review of the historic tax credit webinar.

*Planning Events:* Providing time and resources for a Wells class project; coordinating a tour of the Lodge for the same class for this week. Display expected to be open to the public in March.<sup>[SEP]</sup>

*Annual Report to State:* The remainder of my time this month was devoted to preparing my Annual Report to the State Historian, a copy of which is hereby furnished to the Village Board, along with a letter of acknowledgment from the State Historian. Both are attached.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Schwab  
Aurora Village Historian