

Historian's Report, March 2023

Events, queries, accessions: Arranged a tour of Scipio Lodge and scanned photos from the Village archives for a Wells class project (Feb. 16). Display of class photo books is scheduled for March 30-April 12 in the String Room Gallery on the Wells campus.

Corresponded with a Swiss philatelist who asked about the origin of the name "Aurora." He kindly sent me a scan of the 1838 letter postmarked "Aurora," which turned out to be from a student at Brier Cliff School (on Court St.) to her brother in Western, NY (north of Utica).

Discussion and accession of a small but well-organized and significant collection of primary and secondary documents from the Article 78 lawsuit brought by the Aurora Coalition about twenty years ago, including a group of letters by Rick Lord, then of OPRHP. All NYS municipal officers, boards, and citizens need to understand Article 78 actions: what they are and how they may be avoided.

Discussions of archives with area museum and preservation issues with preservation architects, per responsibilities described in NYS law, Arts & Cultural Affairs 57.07 and 57.09.

Accession of "Redemption of the 'Harper's Ferry Cowards:' The Story of the 111th and 126th New York State Volunteer Regiments ant Gettysburg," by R. L. Murray. [L]
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Research: Further research on McGordon House and the McGordon family for required documentation; currently collecting reminiscences of the house in its era as housing for Wells workers. Property research has been extended to prehistoric and early historic land use for material relevant to assessing archaeological significance. Note: the property owner has forbidden access to complete photography for the required documentation.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Schwab, Ph.D.

Historian, Village of Aurora