

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

*Queries:* Regarding the Revolutionary War service of Seth Sherwood, Comfort Tyler and John Tillotson, founding members of Scipio Lodge, for a joint program with Stephen Zabriskie to be presented to the DAR meeting in Auburn on April 22.

*Archives:* With AHS President Tracy Leffingwell and Treasurer Ken Larson, I attended a special session of the Aurora Masonic Center Board on March 23 to discuss whether the two historical societies might want to collaborate on shared archival/collections space. Five AMC board members attended in person and two by phone. The AMC Board continued discussion at its annual meeting on March 25. We understand by oral communication that AMC is not exploring this possibility further, but have not yet received written confirmation.

On April 10, the above AHS officers and I were again asked for the space requirements of the Archive and Collection. This information has been furnished to the Village Board several times and I refer you to the documents "Space Requirements: Archives/Collection" and "Village Archives/Collection "Medium Access Storage."

*Research:* Continuing to collect reminiscences of McGordon 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.

*Preservation:* In line with the NYS definition of Historian's duties, and also with the practice of other local Historians and historical societies, I sent out information about upcoming public hearings to an email list of those interested in local history. This also included a significant question raised by a Planning Board member as well as how to access further information from the Clerk. One recipient with a professional interest in preservation shared this information, but not my letter or name, on her social media, where it has received wide distribution.

*Arrangements and Thanks:* Since this is a situation in flux, I request the privilege to present these notes, along with my thanks, orally at the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Schwab, Ph.D.  
Historian, Village of Aurora