

Historian's Report, May 2023

Presentation: Stephen Zabriskie and I presented a joint program on founding members of Scipio Lodge who were Revolutionary War veterans to the Cayuga-Owasco DAR meeting in Auburn on April 22.

Queries: From CPP on reasons for which a property greater than 50 years old might be designated "not eligible" for historic designation by SHPO. Followed up by correspondence with National Register analyst for our region James Carter. Also discussed current practice in National Register designation generally.

Correspondence: With State Historian Devin Lander on duties and functions of local government historians with special attention to their role in encouraging historic preservation. Letter available upon request.

Research: Survey of prehistoric and early historic land use for material relevant to assessing archaeological significance; will follow up with area SHPO archaeologist Bradley Russell. After considerable pressure, especially from indigenous Nations, Gov. Hochul is expected to sign a bill providing protections of unmarked burial sites on private property. With her veto of the Unmarked Graves Act in January 2023, New York became one of only four states to deny such protections. This reversal is a welcome change.

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