

Historian's Report, Jan 2024

Research and Presentation; On January 11, I presented “*Shaped by the Revolution: Benjamin Ledyard and the Early Settlement Era,*” in which I explored the experiences of Benjamin Ledyard, the first Cayuga County Clerk, for whom the Town of Ledyard would later be named: his association with the radical “Sons of Liberty” merchants of New York City, his wartime experiences, his family and household (including the enslaved), and his close association with fellow veterans, including Aaron Burr. This presentation was part of the Martha Shaw Harvesting History Series at the Ward O’Hara Agricultural and Country Life Museum.

Queries: On the idiosyncratic naming of houses and related problems with reliance solely on the CRIS system in evaluating contributing structures to the Historic District, by an owner. On the history of the College Farm and dating of the house thereon, part of which might have been built in the Daniel Avery era (ca. 1800-1820). On Isaac Mekeel, who owned property in Aurora, in the Town of Ledyard, and in eastern NYS, and his role in sorghum growing in the 19th century.

Respectfully submitted,
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Historian, Village of Aurora