

Historian's Report April 2024

Presentation: On Saturday, April 20, at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall, I will be presenting a new edition of “Shaped by the Revolution: Benjamin Ledyard and the Early Settlement Era.” This will include interesting material from a research visit to NYS Historic Site, Lorenzo.

Research: I spent most of the day on April 12th in the Archives and the mansion at Lorenzo State Historic Site in Cazenovia reading documents by and related to Benjamin Ledyard and viewing furnishings that he might have seen and used on his and his wife’s visits to their daughter and son-in-law. A second focus was on the lives of the enslaved children Benjamin gave to his daughter: Caesar, JuliAnn, and Titus.

Queries: A query (see March Report) from George McGraw, who has written extensively on the 111th Volunteer Infantry in the Civil War, resulted in his visit on April 10 to examine resources from Aurora and Ledyard archives. Company K of the 111th Infantry was principally composed of men from Ledyard; other companies were from elsewhere in Cayuga County and Wayne County. Mr. McGraw is funding a monument, currently being crafted in Gettysburg, to be placed in Lyons NY, with events this year and next year. We hope for a collaboration in this interesting event.

Query about a photograph that might represent an early interior view (1920s) in the AA House, then the Aurora Country Club. I studied many campus locations, as well as the AA House itself, to reply with a comparison. It seems most likely that this location is the AA House, by then part of the new Wells College Golf Course. I have not yet found other photographs of approximately that era to confirm.

Work for Committees: Providing historic information, from text, maps, and census data, in response to requests from CPP to assist in its mandated regular survey of Aurora for features worthy of Local Landmark designation. Several studies listed under “Queries” in this and the previous Report help to illuminate the Cherry Ave. and Court St. neighborhoods.

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