

Historian's Report  
November 2024

*Correspondence:* I added a letter of support to the "Seven to Save" nomination of the Wells College campus by Andrew Roblee of the Preservation Association of Central New York (PACNY). In it, I analyzed the Historic District part of the campus as a "cultural landscape" in the terms of Preservation Brief #36: as "institutional grounds," it shows the features of an "historic designed landscape."

Many letters dealt with buildings but their setting and physical relationships are equally important. Early blueprints, maps, and plans elucidate these relationships and extend to later campus growth. Still more remarkably, this cultural landscape is visible in its entirety both from Main Street and from Cayuga Lake and provides the regionally rare opportunity of an expansive unobstructed view of Cayuga Lake.

In addition, my letter enumerated the timeline of support from the Village of Aurora and the local and national partnerships participating in this effort. Such an outline was requested by Caitlin Meives of PLNYS because of the unusual number of contributors to this large and complex effort.

*Queries:* On Francis Folsom Cleveland as an art patron; on Wells professor William Stokoe whose later work at Gallaudet led to recognition of American Sign Language as a language; on whether there are chestnut trees on campus; on the origin of "Christmas in Aurora;" and on the provenance of a bas-relief of Lincoln discovered in a local home.

*Loan from Archives:* Three shadow-boxes of Sheila Edmunds' clay ornaments created for "Christmas in Aurora" for seasonal display in the Aurora Free Library.

*Display:* The popular exhibit "St. Patrick's Church at 150: A History in Pictures" concluded Nov. 5. More than 115 visitors enjoyed the show, some more than once, and several bringing visiting family members. ***Thank you to all who contributed items for display!***

*Christmas in Aurora:* When the scheduling coordinator printer Robert LoMascolo faced a sudden and serious family emergency, I provided back-up to complete the poster. Rob has picked up the printing and the first stage of publicity will soon be distributed.

While this annual event is by now called "a tradition" it is much more. Unlike Aurorafest, its primary purpose is not a community party (though it's a lot of fun), but rather *support for local small businesses and nonprofits*. With the loss of local commercial space, this event is a lifeline for these entities and should always be recognized as part of the Village's support for local commerce. ***Thank you very much to the Village of Aurora for providing space for twelve such businesses in and around Patrick Tavern!***

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Schwab, PhD  
Village Historian