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Local Government Historian's Annual Report: Submission #1011

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Submission information

Annual Report for the Year
<p>year Wed, 01/01/2025 - 00:00</p>

Date Report Prepared (mm/dd/yyyy)
Date

2026-02-13

Name of Historian

Linda Schwab

Phone Number (xxx-xxx-xxxx)

315-246-1130

Email Address

lschwab.glebefarm@gmail.com

Date Appointed Historian (mm/dd/yyyy)

Date

2012-06-01

Name of Municipality

Village of Aurora

County

Cayuga

Estimated Population

250

Website/Social Media

auroranewyork.us

Office Hours

By appointment

Total Hours Per Week

15-20

Address

PO Box 24

Aurora, New York. 113026

Annual Salary

\$1500

Total Budget (Excluding Salary)

\$1750

Number of Office Visits (estimated)

6

Number of Phone/Email Inquiries Received/Answered

50+

Number of Municipal Meetings Attended

ca. 18

Exhibits

"From Main to the Kicking Tree: Daily Walks in Aurora, ca. 1905"

School Classroom Lectures/Presentations

Assisted Travis Conway, student at Ithaca College, with a short documentary film on how Aurora might move forward after the closure of Wells College: 2 interviews on Aurora history.

Public Lectures/Presentations

"Before Paul Jones: The Story of an Early Aurora House and Its People" at the Wells College Association's "Learning by the Lake" series (Zoom and YouTube) on September 10. The talk spanned 1795 (the house's probable building) to 1950 and covered why, when and how the house was built, a few of those who lived in it (representing the settlement era, becoming a community, immigration, and "town and gown" as well as how it was saved.

Short Presentations at two Village Board meetings on:

The History of the Wells College Water Plant that Serves the Village of Aurora, May 2025

Preserving the Walter Wood Law Office/Post Office, August 2020 (recap of presentation to the Community Preservation Panel)

Historical Research

On the 1795 Walter Wood Law Office/ Post Office

On a ca. 1795 house known as "the Pauline Jones House"

On The property of Maj. Edward Paine, a portion of which has been purchased and given to the Village as the "Gateway park."

On early historic resources, prior to the founding of Wells College in 1868, held in the Wells College Archives

On property deeds by Henry Wells to Wells College

Historical Publication

Research was presented orally; see above.

Historical Events/Celebrations

I provided readings and served as chaplain at Aurora Ledyard Memorial Day Observance at Evergreen Cemetery in the Town of Ledyard, May 30

I participated in the Reading of the Declaration of Independence on July 4 at the Ledyard Town Hall; assisted with publicity for this event and for the printing event at Robert LoMascolo's press, including the important placement in Tour Cayuga's Independence Day materials.

Organization of the part of the annual event involving participation of historic crafts at "Christmas in Aurora," December 2025

Historic Preservation Projects

Walter Wood 1795 Law Office/Post Office

Patrick Tavern Porch; Patrick Tavern was built 1793 (settlement: first era of significance) and a porch added late 19th or very early 20th century (second era of significance, growth of surrounding "neighborhood" with workers' homes (Irish, English, and African-American)

The designation of the Wells Campus as one of PLNYS' "Seven to Save" is a vital step in providing resources and advocacy. I was particularly gratified that my work on the Boathouse/Glen Park Lawn as a Cultural Landscape was used in a significant way in the designation.

Worked with Community Preservation Panel on preservation practice applied to the Patrick Tavern porch project; in reviewing and discussing revisions to Article VII of the new Zoning Law; provided documentation on the Walter Wood Law Office and on Demolition by Neglect; and on the meaning of "replacement in kind" as understood in the Secretary of the Interior's Standards (to simplify the permit application process.

Heritage Tourism Projects

Preliminary work on Heritage Tourism opportunities for Gateway Park, including connections to Blueways Trail on Village-owned Public Lake Access.

Conference/Workshops Attended

Attended lectures at adjacent historical societies.

Though not workshops per se, my many on-site meetings with a preservation contractor and a preservation architect added to my technical knowledge in these fields and practice in applying it.

Other

In continuing fallout from the closure of Wells College - cited by many as "how not to close a college" - I spent significant time, literally too many hours to count, in the attempt to keep materials relevant to Aurora history in Aurora. Many of these archival holdings long predate the 1868 founding of Wells College, with the earliest dating to the late 18th century. These efforts were summed up

in a lengthy Affidavit to the NYS Attorney General's Office.

In addition to the above, I worked with colleagues to plan, have built, and monitor the climate performance of a Village Archives room, which is performing as hoped and expected.