

2008 Historian's Report

During my seventh year as Town of Westport Historian, my activities have revolved around the traditional work of an historian—research, the preservation of the history of our town and its people, and the sharing of such.

I received many queries about former families of the hamlets of Wadhams and Westport, most through e-mail, but some through phone calls and U S mail. I researched and responded to inquires about these surnames: Holcomb, Cole, Walker, Coll, James, Sherman, Davis, Smith, Connors, Boyle, Nichols, Frisbie, Wood, Doyle, Curtis, McConley, Nichols, Richards, Flinn, Floyd, Shattuck, DeRonde, Estey, Clark, Ferrell, Ryan, Gough and Lydamore.

I also responded to queries concerning Nichols Pond, the Sisco Furnace, Merriam's Forge, Stillwell's Mills, Westport's "catalog houses", and the Westport Chair.

I researched local veterans from the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, WWI and WWII, the Korean War and the Vietnam War, and made a copy of that research available for perusal at the Heritage House on Heritage Day. That day, I also assembled and displayed materials on one of our famous Westporters, John Eugene Osborne, who became an early Governor of Wyoming

The quarterly newsletter which was started two years ago has been added to the Town Website. It is uploaded in January, April, July and October. Major features this year were: The Barber's Point Lighthouse and the Barber Family; The Fire of 1876 and the Osborne Family; The Westport Inn and the Lee Family, The Westport Hotel and Case Patten. I am working on newsletters for 2009, but none have been uploaded as of yet this year.

On behalf of the Town, I accepted from Diane Lansing, an oil painting of the aforementioned John Eugene Osborne that was done by her mother Evelyn Bender, along with a scrapbook of information collected by Carlin and Ruth Walker. Carlin was a nephew of Mr. Osborne.

I photographed the gravestones in the Hoisington Cemetery and the Veteran's Cemetery and will upload those to the findagrave site. I also photographed all the graves of Veterans in the Black River and Riverside Cemeteries. These will be added to the research notebook I have started on local veterans.

The 2008 scrapbook of newspaper clippings from the Valley News and the Press Republican will soon be finished and added to those in the vault.

Due to my responsibilities as Town Clerk on Election Day, I was unable to attend the APHNYS (Historian's) conference this year which was held in Lake Placid. I do hope to attend the 2009 conference which will be in Albany on April 27-29.

It was a privilege to serve the Town during 2008, and I am looking forward to 2009.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty White
Town Historian