

Town of Pompey
Historian Report
2022

Last year was an interesting year of history requests. I worked with authors, real estate agents, property owners, residents, and out of state researchers.

Stub Estey son of Emily Estey (Town Clerk from 1945-1955) wrote

OXCART
GOLD RUSH
From
Pompey Center, N.Y.
to
Sacramento - and Back
The Diary of Daniel W. Holbrook 1845-1850
With Additional Historical Narrative

Log Cabin Books
Hamilton, N.Y.
2022

It is worth a read and gives a good perspective of what life was like for Daniel Holbrook before, during, and for five years after the California Gold Rush. Daniel was born here and married in Pompey Center. He moved his family west in 1845. Daniel left his family and went on the 1849 Gold Rush. As for most, Daniel did not strike it rich. He died five years after his return to his family in Michigan.

His wife and children returned with his body to Pompey Center. After his burial in the Pompey Center Cemetery, his family remained here.

John McCarthy continues researching his Irish ancestors the Burke brothers of Burke Rd. and Gates Rd. He has photographed the Keck windows at the Catholic Church at Pompey Hill donated by Irish farm families during the Great Depression of 1929. John wants his book to be about the early Irish settlers of Central New York State.

John for the Town of Pompey Historical Society did digital photography of more of the Clapp and Lyon glass negatives. Plus he did some of John Calvin Perry's sketches and sketch books at John McCarthy's Finger Lakes Photography.

You can view these images on the NYHERITAGE.org site. This was made possible by a Central New York Library Resource Council Grant. That P.H.S. President , Anne Shelly is good at writing grants.

A CNY Arts Grant helped pay for the Don and Nancy Edwards Exhibit and speaker expenses. The Edwards Exhibit was part of the Cazenovia Art Trail.

There was a good attendance at the White Rock dedication meeting at the Town of Pompey Historical Society Campus. Author Jerry Antil was here and several characters of the Pompey Hollow Book Club were in the crowd. They had their picture taken by the White Rock. Some of them are in their eighties.

The Randy Nash barn dating and styles of barns meeting was held in the Craig Dennis barn. In this barn Randy could point out the different styles and how this barn was changed from a small one story harvest barn to two levels. The lower level was the stable and the upper level was for the storage of hay and grain. It was well attended on a hot summer evening. There was a breeze.

The gift of an 1830s Pompey coverlet sent to the P.H.S. led to some interesting research. The Allen family were early settlers in Delphi Falls. The gift of a deed from the Myrna Benedict estate provided an earlier owner's name and I was able to track the owners back to 1850 and before.

Some visitors come to locate their ancestors graves, homes, or family information that we may have in our records. It is always a learning experience and a method of increasing the family files at the museum.

Lein Walser and the boys scouts cleaned and repaired some of the tools in the Heritage Center under Jim Hartnett's supervision for the P.H.S. You could now sit down and sharpen tools using the grinding stone wheel.

I did the region 9 historian meetings by computer. I went to the Lincoln Forum in November in Gettysburg, PA.

I would like to attend the state historian meeting this fall. What are the present town requirements?

Remember 2026 The Declaration of Independence will be 250 years old. It is time to think about forming a committee.

Ruth E. Holaling