

Annual Historian's Report for 2014

Cuba Town and Village

As the year 2014 opened in Western New York a massive cold air front from the Arctic swept over the upper two-thirds of the country during the first week of January bringing extremely cold weather with wind-chill factors into the minus 20 and 30 range for Cuba. The cold air continued throughout most of the month of January and residents were exposed to unprecedented temperatures in the zero and below range. Sub zero temperatures continued through February and March with colder than normal temperatures continuing through April.

Changes in Town Government: Steven Nease, former Town of Cuba Highway Superintendant was appointed in March by the Town Board to fill a vacancy created by the resignation of Councilman Lynnford Sweet who resigned his position in February. Mr. Nease had retired from the Highway Supt. position in 2013 and Chad Smith was named Superintendent to succeed him until the elections in the Fall of 2014 at which time he was elected to a full term as Highway Superintendent. In December Councilman Jeff Dahill resigned his board seat due to the fact that he has moved out of the township. The board appointed Jerry Scott to fill the position until the November 2015 election.

Cuba Rushford Central School District sold the annex building (once a school bus garage) to the Town of Cuba to be used as a town hall with the court room, police dept. supervisors and assessors offices to be located therein. As the year ended renovation work on the building was still in progress and it is expected that offices will be moving into the newly remodeled space in the early Spring of 2015

The **Seneca Indian Nation** Gaming and Entertainment Corporation announced in April that the Seneca Nation will open a new Class II gaming facility in July at the Oil Spring Territory at the Southwestern end of Cuba Lake. On Friday, July 4th the new casino opened its doors for the first time. This forth facility joins the Seneca Nation's Niagara Falls, Buffalo and Salamanca locations. The site sits on the Oil Springs Territory, a one-square-mile area on the southwest shore of Cuba Lake. The 90x50 foot building neighbors the Seneca One Stop store where gasoline and tobacco products are sold by the Seneca Nation.

The **Empire City Farms (Block Barn)** was featured in a story in the U.S. Trotting Association's official publication HOOF BEATS. The magazine is read worldwide by those who love standard bred horses. Owner Bonnie Blair was approached for information on the famed building and offered the author a wealth of information, including photographs of the barn.

Citizen of the Year: Michael Doyle, president of the Cuba Friends of Architecture, was named Citizen of the Year by the Cuba Chamber of commerce at their annual awards banquet on March 1st. The Chamber marked its 100th Anniversary in 2014, having been founded in 1914. To mark the anniversary year, several events, including a Centennial Celebration and Grand Opening reception and ribbon cutting for their new office located at 5 West Main Street was held on May 8, 2014. The new Main Street location is the first permanent office for the Chamber. Plans call for a complete renovation of the second and

third floors of the building for apartments. Present officers are: Lee James, President; Betty Edwards, Vice president, Christopher P Saunders, Treasurer and James Sherrard, Secretary. Other board members include Jeffrey Bradley, Adam Buzzard, Michele Conklin, Marlene Doyle, Michael Doyle, Kevin Erickson, Melodie Farwell, Steve Hollowell, Rick Kerr, Brian Loucks, Joseph P Miller and Leah Vooyo.

Main Street Renaissance: Several new Main Street businesses were opened during the year. **Attorney Joseph Miller** opened his new Law office on East Main Street and across the street at #30 E. Main, ***Back in Tyme***, a new antique and gift shop was opened in June. Also, a new gift shop/antique shop called ***By the Light of the Moon*** and **A Perfect Blend Coffee Shop and Eatery** were opened at #14 and #16 West Main Street. These newest commercial establishments complete the occupancy of the Palmer Block which houses the Palmer Opera House on the second floor. The **Cuba Cheese Museum** occupies the third mercantile places on the ground floor of the building

South Street /Genesee Street facelift: In August, Route 305 (South Street and Genesee Street) was given a facelift with handicapped accessible crosswalk approaches and the pavement milled and repaved from Water Street South to the Cuba village limits (Near the Empire City Farms Block Barn) The work was done by contract with NYSDOT by Bothar Construction Company.

Mayor Thomas Taylor proclaimed Oct 26, 2014 as First Baptist Church of Cuba Day, as the congregation at that church observed the 180th anniversary of the founding of that church in Cuba.

State Senator Catharine Young announced in December that Cuba Memorial Hospital received 3.35 Million Dollars from New York State under its designations as Critical Access Hospital.

Cuba Cemetery Named to State Register of Historic Places The Cuba Cemetery joined 22 other locations in the state that were named to the State Register of Historic places by the NYS Office of Parks, Recreations and Historic Preservation. The designation also includes a nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

Necrology Among the many residents and former residents who passed away during the year 2014 the following individuals who had served the town and village of Cuba in some "official" capacity are hereby noted.

Jack Nease, died January. 17, 2014, Cuba Mayor 1973-1975

Robert W. Lester, died Jan. 10, 2014, member Cuba Fire Dept. over 40 years, Chief 1985-1987

Samuel H Guild, died August 31, 2014; former village trustee and Cuba Fire Chief 1970-1972

James A. Wetherby died August 6, 2014– Village mayor 2005-2007

Thomas (Tom) Robert Flower, died October 29, 2014, Chief of Cuba Fire Dept. 1987-1989

Throughout the year I have been busy answering inquiries relating to genealogy, historic background etc. in the community. In this electronic age with widespread use of the internet, more inquiries come via email than regular surface mail. Thanks to the cooperation of many local individuals along with the Cuba Historical Society, the Cuba Circulating Library and the Cuba Cemetery Association I am able to supply answers to most of the inquiries. I continue to monitor area newspapers and

periodicals for items of historic interest to our community and remain grateful to the Town Board and Village Board of trustees for providing modest budgets for subscriptions and memberships in several area historical groups and agencies in lieu of a salary.

2014 Town Officials:

Supervisor, Barbara Deming,
Deputy Supervisor, Robert Carney
Clerk/Tax Collector/Registrar of Vital Statistics, Nancy Orcutt,
Deputy Town Clerk, Jeff Orcutt
Justices, James Keough, Paul Conklin
Councilmen: Joseph Miller, Jeffrey DaHill, Lynnford Sweet, Robert Carney,
Assessors: Merlin Briggs, David Crowley, Thomas Cuccharo.,
Highway Superintendent: Chad Smith
Chief of Police, Dustin Burch

2014 – 2015 Village Officials

Mayor, Thomas Taylor;
Trustees, Judith Zayac, Lon Sweet, Robert Gleason, Andrew Swift
Deputy Mayor, Judith Zayac
Village Attorney, John Cappellini
Clerk/Treasurer, Diane Wilson
Public Works Superintendent, Richard Hall
Deputy Public Works Superintendent, Randy Snyder

Respectfully Submitted

David H Crowley, Historian

January 4, 2015