

Meetings. As Town Historian I have attended all the Municipal Historians of Tompkins County (MHTC) meetings. They meet once a month with the exception of summer months and holidays. I was asked to be note taker and have done the MHTC minutes all this year as well as part of last year.

The Danby Community Council promotes cultural events and I met with them early in the year to learn more about their activities and see where Historian activities and DCC activities might coordinate.

Requests. I have received four or five requests via e-mail throughout the year for information on genealogy, cemetery locations and history of one or two houses in town.

Writing/outreach. The Danby Area News – our local town newsletter comes out once a month and an article by me appeared in six issues. Besides the articles a “Help Wanted” ad ran in which I asked for an assistant or deputy town historian. One result of that ad was response from two teenagers who signed up to help organize the Historian files and participate in any other way they can. Together we accomplished the filing of all newspaper clippings that have accumulated over the years.

Accomplishments. This year saw the installation of a permanent display of a clock acquired a couple of years ago. The clock was restored then a custom cabinet built and hung, with the clock safely inside, in the main meeting room in Town Hall.

This year a couple of other items were donated and accessioned including a plow that is either a hand, or a horse drawn plow that was found on a Danby property.

Since I am an artist it was decided I should document all the big barns in Danby with drawn “portraits” of each (graphite on paper). This was begun in the fall and so far five drawings have been completed. Each drawing is 7”x10” with the idea of making a portfolio of all the drawings when completed.

There is a designated display case and bulletin board exclusively for Town Historian’s use in the main meeting room of Town Hall that was completed at the beginning of this year. I change out the displays three or four times a year and post monthly information on the bulletin board.

Going forward. It is my aim to curate and display Danby artifacts in an established space for the purpose as well as establish a permanent space for proper storage and archiving of Danby’s history. (So far the space is about the same as the past couple of years in which I have used shared space in one of Town Hall offices.) I also need to have a deputy/assistant Town Historian as mentioned earlier.

Time. My time spent in Town Historian endeavors averages two to three hours a week or a total of about 130 hours for the year though I do not keep a time sheet. I just do what I can when I can.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Ann Barr