



Historian's Annual Report for 2022

Ted Rice, Town of White Creek Historian

January:

In January I spent a fair amount of time researching and corresponding by email with Linda Herman about the Curtis Family. I ordered a PDF file of James Parrot's papers from Archives Canada, (which I never received). Parrot came from White Creek and served with John Curtis and Timothy Hill in the Queen's American Rangers at Fort St. John, Quebec.

I also made 3 day hikes up into "Adams", up on Mt. Tom from Shaker Hollow, shooting segments for a video. Lucy the dog was glad when we finished! Spent four hours on the 29th trimming and splicing segments to use in the final video, about an hour processing still photos from the same trips, and another couple of hours getting my video processing programs running again after recent computer updates.

January ended with me writing up my Annual Report for 2021 and emailing it to the State and Town.

February:

In February I corresponded by email with Elaine Schenot about the divisions of Great Lots # 5 through 7 of the Walloomsac Patent.

On the 2nd I published my video "Walking Up to Adams". It got 56 views by the end of the day, and was up to 120 views with 4 comments on the 6th. This seems to be the most popular video yet.

On the 4th I met with Major Greg Woodcock about his proposed Town of White Creek flag. I went out and took some photos with him on the 5th, worked on some designs, and emailed them all to him. The 7th to 13th I worked on some flag revisions, took photos of the Town Hall, and made some new designs from them. Emailed them all to Maj. Woodcock. A few days later I met with him again in Cambridge for about an hour. We finalized plans and worked on the presentation to be given to the Town Board.

The video "Walking Up to Adams" hit 142 views on the 20th.

March:

On Feb. 28th through March 2nd I engaged in an unusual text correspondence with a man leaving comments on a YouTube video whose comments had nothing to do with the video. He was researching the Baldwin family.

I began researching an article intended to find out who all the Town Historians since 1919 were and what projects they worked on. Emailed Marilyn Robinson, Ken Gottry, and Devin Lander (the State Historian) about it.

I missed a call from Maj. Woodcock on March 1st about the flag project, but caught up with him later.

Also advised a Mr. Darius Asly by phone at the County Historian's Office, who was trying to trace all the deeds to Perry's place on Cobble Hill Road as he is considering buying it.

On March 3rd – 6th, I worked on the Historians Project. The State had almost nothing on file before Marilyn Robinson. They did send me the files they had. Talked to Maj. Woodcock on the phone.

I attended the Town Board meeting on March 8th and secured permission to access the archives to research the Historian Project. (This project got put on hold and nothing further has been done on it).

The Flag Project moved on the rest of the month. I obtained the loan of a box of Allen Family genealogy papers and other historical research done by Harriet Allen. In it I found an old map that supports the conclusions I arrived at regarding the re-division of Great Lot #14 of the Walloomsac Patent after the Revolution. It does seem like they issued a second set of Letters Patent, in spite of the State Attorney's office saying that wasn't possible. Haven't pursued that any further yet, however.

Worked on some notes and updating the website. Worked on sorting and photocopying Harriet Allen's research and other paperwork, including a few documents from the 19th Century.

April:

In April I began work on digitizing Harriet Allen's book of Genealogy Research created between 1930 and 1960, and other paperwork, including several original documents from the 18th century, which include a travel pass issued by John Younglove to John Allen shortly after the Battle of Saratoga. I scanned the cover and first pages, then decided to transcribe the actual material. By April 5th I had finished the bibliography and started the index.

On the 9th I helped out Bob Bass with some research on Hoosick. On the 12th I attended Town Board Meeting. James Lake contacted me about the Allen Genealogy. I continued working on that during April, finishing the index on the 16th and then starting transcribing the body of the work.

On April 30th I was contacted by Bill Sargent in Shaftsbury Hollow about getting together to help him research the 1760/1770's border dispute for a book his wife is writing. We exchanged a few emails, but nothing further took place on this.

May

On May 6th I attended the APHNYS Region 5 “Advancing on the 250th” Planning Conference by Zoom. (I was unable to attend in person due to my wife’s medical treatment schedule, which also forced me to miss one session of the Zoom conference, but I managed to record that to watch later). This is to begin planning for the 250th anniversary of the Revolution in 2025.

Arden Law emailed me on the 8th about a creek he thought was in White Creek but turned out to actually be in the Town of Schaghticoke north of Johnsonville. I referred him to Schaghticoke Historian Christina Kelly.

On May 29th I received an email about Alexander Munro from Catherine Eddy. After some back and forth we decided he had no connection to White Creek.

June

In early June I started learning to use LIDAR to see ground features that don’t appear on maps or even in person on the ground. Unfortunately, White Creek (and Washington County) doesn’t have finely enough detailed information available yet, though neighboring Vermont does.

I was sent a number of photos from Ft. Edward on various schools in White Creek before they were consolidated. I started posting these on June 6th. I helped Corinne Ellis from Hoosick with addresses of historians. Also met a number of people at the Craft Fair to whom I was introduced as the Town Historian.

From June 25th through July 18th I was in Albany Med and out of action. During this time I did try to help two or three people by email, but without access to my computer and information I could not do too much.

July

On July 23rd I corresponded by email with a descendant of William Waite about the Waite family.

August

In August I corresponded by email with Curtis Christenson about the Lake family of White Creek. From late July on I was recovering from surgery, driving back and forth to cardiac rehab, and driving back and forth to South Troy where my wife was alternately in a rehab place or Samaritan Hospital. It was hard to find time!

September

In September I corresponded several times with Tom Blake about Edward Allen, supposedly of Cambridge, married in White Creek, who fought in the War of 1812.

October

In October I corresponded by email with Robin Caudell about Valentine Perry who died in White Creek in 1813 and is buried in the Center White Creek cemetery. I did quite a bit of research.

On October 8th I received an email of thanks from June Amman for helping her back in 2020 with research on Levi Preston, which helped her to gain membership into the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, and receive an additional certificate as a descendant of Richard Warren, Mayflower passenger.

I corresponded by email with the McKerrows of McKie Hollow about the history of their farmland, and with John Stempien about Donald Munro and where his land would have been. I was able to trace it to the Soldier's Patent in present day Rupert, Vermont. The confusion was due to the "other" White Creek running out of Vermont through Salem.

I got back to working on Harriet Allen's notes, deciding to scan most of the pages rather than transcribe them. Problems with my cataracts and surgery played into this, but I found by scanning them and making them negatives they were quite legible and it was a lot faster than transcription.

At the end of the month, I took a few gravestone photos for folks.

November - December

On Nov. 1st I corresponded with John Stempien again and sent him a link to the Sauthier map of 1779. I also scanned 20 more pages of Allen Genealogy research. On the 27th I sent Cheryl Gawne, who contacted me by email, some information on the Woodworths.

In summary, not much got done in November and December due to illness and family issues.

Projects Started but not Completed

The planned video of canoeing along the southern border of White Creek on the Hoosick had to be postponed due to high water in the first half of the year, and illness in the second half. I did do some planning out of what historical places to video and how much to cover. Hopefully I can finally get this one done in 2023!

The project on the Historians also got shelved in March and never picked up again. Hopefully I can get back to that soon.

The Allen book copying is still going forward slowly. I hope to finish that by Spring 2023.

Possible New Project: If 1 meter resolution LIDAR data gets published this coming year, I will begin looking through White Creek with that.

Statistics as of January 6, 2023:

On YouTube:

1. Our Yesteryears videos: 392 views
2. Virtual Tour Videos: 742 views
3. Walking Up to Adams: 158 views
4. The Historical Background of the Dwinell Limekiln: 101 views
5. The Renaming and Rededicating of the Town Hall (June 14th) got 34 views.

On the website whitecreekhistorian.wordpress.com:

There were 688 visitors in 2022 with 2588 views. 2306 views were from the US, 247 from Canada, 13 from the UK, 11 from the Netherlands, and lesser amounts from Sweden, France, and other countries. The top pages viewed were the Home Page, Early Landowners and Settlers of White Creek, the Town of White Creek Archives, and the Van Corlaer/Lake Trading Post. The top six downloads were the 18th New York Militia (78), the Wood Family (73), Asa Rice (70), Waite's Baptist (67), the Historian Annual Report for 2017 (64), and the Historian Annual Report for 2018 (62).

The Facebook Group (White Creek Past and Present) has grown by 65 members in the last year. Data is difficult to find on Facebook Groups. In 2021 we had 553 active members out of a total of 786. This year (2022) we had 586 active members out of a total of 851.

Respectfully submitted,

Theodore Rice

Town of White Creek Historian/Archivist

January 17, 2023