



# Historian's Annual Report for 2023

Ted Rice, Town of White Creek Historian

## January:

In January I attended the Organizational Meeting of the Town Board and was reappointed as Historian and Archivist.

## February

I scanned more pages of the Allen Genealogy book, finally finishing that up. I also signed up for a course from the University of London on Preserving Digital Research. On Feb. 14 I attended Town Board Meeting. Work was begun on processing the images for the Allen book and putting them together in a PDF file.

## March

Worked intermittently on processing images and putting them together into PDF format. As the files became very large, I cut it into several sections. I started planning the next video. It seemed like an easy subject, but I immediately began to run into some challenging puzzles. Never even got started on the online course I signed up for. I returned the original Allen book to the owner. Missed Board Meeting in March.

## April

I took a number of photos of White Creek and put them up on the Facebook site. Also recovered some old articles I wrote long before becoming Historian using the Wayback Machine, rewrote and reformatted them, and used them to create a new section about the Religious History of the Area on the Historian Website. I managed to attend Town Board meeting! Corresponded with the Salem Historian about some information I had that might be useful to Salem. Worked on planning the video again. Also found an actual survey of the NY/Vermont Border, though it was lacking some critical information.

## May

In May I began researching previous White Creek historians, with the idea of writing about them and what they accomplished. I made a little progress but information was difficult to come by. I researched Patience Brownell (Chase) for a Donna Doyle of New Jersey, and hunted up and downloaded several sources of information from the State Library and saved them to my computer. Sent a number of photos of local one room schools to Ken Gottry for a summer presentation he is planning. Sent some more information on Arent Van Corlaer to Dawna Curler, missed Town Board Meeting due to illness, spent time researching former White Creek historians, and spent most of a morning getting my printer running and printing out the “NYS Commemorative Field Guide” dealing with preparing for the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

## June

In June I worked several hours with videos, helped Ken Gottry a bit with information for his upcoming presentation on one-room Schools at the Cambridge Historical Society, attended Town Board Meeting, attended Ken Gottry’s presentation at the Historical Society, attended an online webinar on Information Governance put on by the State Archives, and helped Loretta Bates in looking for a rare book.

## July

In early July I corresponded back and forth with Rauri Jennings at the State Archives about the missing rare book. It really has nothing to do with us, but he thought it was possible we were sent it by mistake years ago. That would be before my time as historian, so I referred him to Marilyn. I missed Town Board Meeting, corresponded with Jason Dolmetsch on Facebook Messenger about the old hotel and the John Allen Jr. places in the Hamlet. He and his wife just bought them both and wanted information on them. They plan to start fixing them up. I sent him what information I had. Also corresponded with Crystal McMorris about Barb Kingsley’s place. She and her husband are purchasing it and wanted to know when it was built and by whom. I couldn’t help her much as we don’t have records going back into the 1840’s. Finished the month by planning some more videos, giving up for the time on the one I had been planning. Also began scanning Allen Photos and putting them up on the Facebook Group.

## August

In early August I began shooting and putting together the first of two videos. Started on the second but ran out of time and had to put it off. I processed and uploaded the Video “The House at the North End of the Notch”. The video had 74 views as of noon Aug. 7. Because of rain, I uploaded a number of new Allen photos to the Facebook Page and did a bit of work on the website. I attended Town Board Meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup>, then returned to the Cambridge Community Forest and made a video about it, returning home and spending the rest of the day processing, producing, and posting it. Later in

the month I finished scanning the Allen photos and updated the Historian's Website so all the major videos are linked. Worked on research for next video.

## September

In early September I met at the Burger Den with Jackson historian James Kennelly and Village of Cambridge historian Megan Albert to get acquainted and to begin talking about plans for the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Later worked several hours on research for new video. While doing so I accidentally came across information about a "North American Oil Company" oil refinery in 1856 in Fort Ann. Sent the research on to the Fort Ann historian. Scouted out the ground up in Chestnut Woods for the next video. Came across what seems to be an old mill-site about a mile in.

Later in the month I spent four hours out in Chestnut Woods with Lucy the dog shooting video. Came home and spent another hour starting to put the video together on the computer. Spent hours in the evening mapping GPS points and processing still photos. Corresponded by email with Mary Wald about the Moshers and Covills of White Creek. Worked on the video more and got it processed and published the last day of September.

## October

In October I missed Town Board meeting again. Did some research on miscellaneous topics and some research for a Cindy Dyer on the Lake family and Patent. Sent her links to a lot of resources. I signed up for a State Archives webinar on electronic media. Put another video up on Rumble. Corresponded with Cindy by email and phone several times.

## November

In November I participated in the webinar on electronic media and records, put another video up on Rumble and re-uploaded two others, and sent Loretta Bates my information on the 1856 Fort Ann oil refining business. Hopefully it will be preserved at County level. I again missed Town Board meeting. I did a lot of research on the Deake/Dake family and sent it to Timothy Dake, who is looking for records of them. They lived in White Creek up until 1790. Also spent the better part of two days researching the Duncomb and Gooding families who lived in White Creek and Hoosick in the mid-1800's for a Virginia Goldstein who is a descendant.

## December

In December I did some more research on the Dake family for Tim Dake. I began work on the latest video, on the Wilber family of White Creek NY and Momence IL. I attended Town Board meeting. Read Amos Moscrip's book "The Old Cambridge District" that I was lent. Researched Hutchins and Gardner families. Might make another video, but the Wilber video took an enormous amount of time during December and I wasn't able to publish it until January 8, 2024. [George and Tryphena Wilber and Family](#)

## Projects Started but not Completed

Other than the one meeting, nothing got done on planning for the 250<sup>th</sup>. I never pursued the “Preserving Digital Research” course. Missed almost half of Town Board meetings during the year.

### Statistics for 2023:

On YouTube: 510 views total. The most viewed video was “The House at the North End of the Notch” with 103 views. Second is the Community Forest video. Rumble is inactive.

The website had 769 visitors with 2325 views. Nine files were downloaded.

The Facebook Group is up to 936 members. We’ve had a bit of trouble with people joining to post ads, so I had to start personally approving all posts before they are seen. This slows it up somewhat.

Respectfully submitted,



Theodore Rice

Town of White Creek Historian/Archivist

January 8, 2024