Wells Archives

The announcement of an upcoming "Learning by the Lake" video presentation by HWS Archivist Brandon Moblo (scheduled for Oct. 14) indicated that the materials from the Wells Archives that were transferred to HWS have been incorporated into the HWS Archives and are at least partially ready for public use. Therefore, I began calling Mr. Moblo on Sept. 15, and after resolving a phone issue (at his end) received a callback on Sept. 29. I asked specifically about the resources listed in Mayor Murphy's letter. He believes that these were not transferred to HWS, which means that they are in the "local history" (or possibly "miscellaneous") categories assigned, somewhat arbitrarily, by Tiffany Raymond, last Wells Head Librarian.

Brandon has already identified some items that came to HWS as properly belonging to Aurora history, and I explained the roles of the Village as owner of the Village Archives and ALHS as steward of the archive space. In addition, I explained the materials that were deposited in the Village Archives by alumnae during the time that it seemed likely that the Archives would be going to Manhattanville (materials noted in my monthly reports to you); most of these are duplicates of records transferred to HWS. Our relative authorities (Village and HWS) will determine the appropriate paperwork for transfer of materials. There is nothing secret or diplomatically delicate about this process, which is normal in libraries, archives, and collections.

Our discussions have uncovered some helpful supportive material on Temple Hollcroft's use of archival resources. These reinforce the inferences in my Affidavit, prepared for the Village's attempt to gain the right to review the assignments of the Wells Archives. Our review is continuing.

In summary, the Wells Archive at HWS is now accessible to the public in the way that any academic archive is: not on open stacks but upon scheduled visit and specific request. We have already exchanged information about one request that came up in the "Learning by the Lake" presentation last week. Thanks to Brandon's account of what he was told and what he was able to observe, the bulk of Aurora materials are still at Wells and in better condition than was feared. I will share orally any new information that I receive between this report and Wednesday's meeting.

Events: The Irish heritage evening on Friday Oct 2nd, featuring author Cynthia Neale and the Crane Irish Dancers, attracted an all-ages audience of 38-40 to the Morgan Opera House. This collaboration between the Aurora Ledyard Historical Society and the MOH/Library was very satisfactory and I hope will be repeated.

Coming up this Friday at Patrick Tavern, 7:00-8:00 pm, Brian Chappell, expert in historic lamps, will present "A Revolution in Illumination." His host is Robert

LoMascolo, who works with Chappell at the prestigious Historic Eastfield summer workshop series.

Publication: Part 2 of "Paine's Creek: The Man Behind the Name," covering Edward Paine's Aurora homestead on the site of Gateway Park appeared in the September issue of *The Southern Cayuga Tribune*.

Research: In connection to the above work on Paine, I am researching his intriguing connections with the Native American trading network. See *Visits* for more.

Visits: On Oct. 6th, author Cynthia Neale returned to Aurora to learn more about its history, both the Military Tract era and the history of Aurora's Irish community. Thank you to John Miller for his important contributions to the latter discussion; Neale was very impressed by his account and perspective.

On Oct. 3rd, I met with Paul E. Mitchell, author of "Between Two Fires," an historical novel on the life of Jasper Parrish, translator in the Reservation era, trader with Native nations, and son-in-law of Edward Paine. I look forward to continuing this collaboration.

This coming Friday, Oct. 23rd, I will be leading a group from Lansing United Methodist Church on a walking tour of Aurora's churches.

Accession: The Village Archives have received additions to the Maloney Collection from Marcia Alissandrello, of the Maloney and Conboy families.

Query: A request from the Paul Jones House Preservation group for a brochure on the history of this house.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Schwab, PhD
Village Historian