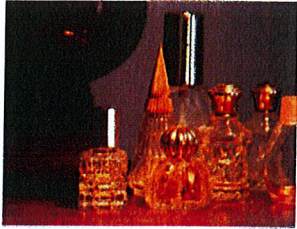


Town of Batavia Historian Report for 2020
Presented by Town of Batavia Historian Berneda Scoins

During this year of the Coronavirus my activities have been limited. I was able to participate in several events and keep up with office duties. Even during this difficult time, I am proud of what has been accomplished.

Town of Batavia Display Cabinet



1

Avon Bottles complements of Carolyn Epps

Valentine Cards from the collection of Charles and Margaret Breese dating from 1929-1960.

Four framed ships: USS Constitution, America, Charles Morgan and Flying Cloud donated by William and Charlotte Graham



We took the family files and completely re-organized them placed them into individual folders and in alphabetical order, then created a computer document labeled "Families" for quick reference.

Coronavirus 2020 and Newspapers

All Batavia Daily News and Buffalo Newspapers are being saved as records of the Coronavirus here in Western New York.

*Genesee County Ellicott Trail Bridge
Walnut Street, Batavia, NY*



Ribbon cutting ceremony was held on July 8, 2020 making the bridge officially open to the public.

Town of Batavia Highway Superintendent Tom Lichtenthal came to the History Department and asked for landmarks and a brief description of businesses and historical places along the trail.

List of the following places to visit on the trail are as follows:

Batavia Industrial Park. Apollo Drive. The Ellicott trail begins here.

Williams Park – Pearl Street

Tonawanda Creek

NY Central Railroad, Jackson Street

Batavia Fire Dept – Evans Street

Round Building use to store oil for lamps in Batavia – Evans Street

Masse Harris Manufacturing – Harvester Avenue

Wiard Plow – Swan Street

Batavia Cemetery – Harvester Ave, William Morgan Monument

Joseph Ellicott – First American Surveyor created 1-foot standard measure

O-At-Ka Milk – Ellicott Street

General Emery Upton Statue – Main and Route 63

Genesee County Old Court House – Main and Route 63

Dewitt Park – Cedar Street

Terry Hills Golf Course – Clinton Street

Genesee County Fair Grounds – Route 5

Batavia Peace Garden on Main Street which connects to the Memory Garden behind the Court House

Holland Land Office Museum – Main Street

Paolo Busti Monument – Main Street

7 Springs Road – Leads to Education and Genesee Community College

Genesee Valley Agri Business Park

Blondies Ice Cream – Main Street

None of the above information above was used in the Ellicott Trail Brochure.



Our office recorded the number of deaths this year from the Batavia Daily News for all of Genesee County was 687.

Books Donated to the History Department



Barber B. Conable Jr. A Congressional Biography "Window on Congress"

Backward Glance of Genesee County

John Gardner's "Grendel"

John Gardner's "The Sunlight Dialogues"

Heritage Magazine – complete set War 1812

1925 Jumbo the Elephant Comes Home

1893 Reed's Word Lessons

1944-1983 Television Schedule Program Book by Harry Castleman and Walter Podrazik

Friends of the Batavia Peace Garden

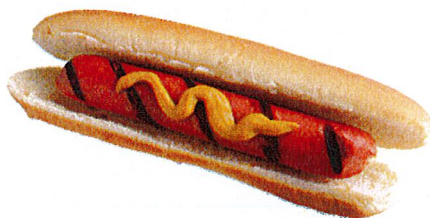


This year was by no means a difficult year for all. We put up the International flags which include the United States and Canada. Flags were taken down in November.

The Batavia High School Seniors as part of their community service to the county chose and worked in the garden weeding, trimming, and planting of bulbs that were donated by Delre's Greenhouse and Garden shop. Delre's have been a big contributor to the flowers in the garden.

Memory Garden Phase 2: Landscape Designer Holly Dougherty drew up prospected plans for the garden. She donated her time and talent to the Peace Garden. The plans were presented to the Peace Garden committee then Vice Chair Barb Toal presented the drawing to the City of Batavia and to the Town of Batavia Supervisor, Greg Post.

Peace Garden Hotdog Sales



With the Coronavirus we did not start selling hotdogs until July 17, 2020. We sold hotdogs through the summer every Friday. Our loyal customers supported us, and we made a profit of \$2500.00. We also received from H.E. Turner Funeral Home money toward the hotdogs.

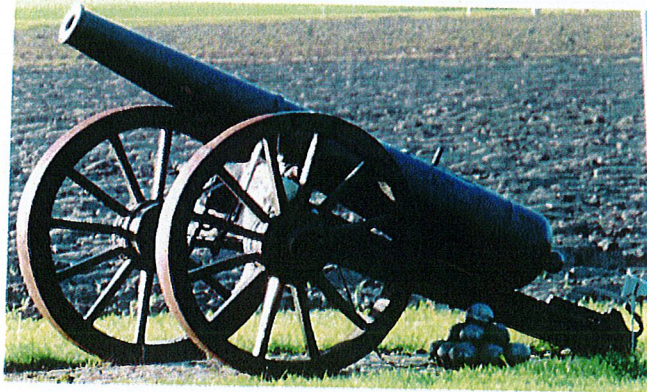
In the past we were able to sell hotdogs at Wal-Mart and Valu Home Center during Community Days in Batavia. This year we were not allowed to sell hotdogs due to the Coronavirus as most events in Genesee County were cancelled.

Again, all money raised goes to the garden, buying mulch and supplies. All who help are volunteers. No paid employees.

History of the Batavia Peace Garden Book by Barb Toal

Barbara Toal over the winter did a complete history of the Batavia Peace Garden. There were three of us who proofed the book several times after corrections were made and before it went to print. Once the initial cost is realized all profit of the sale of the book will go to the Peace Garden.

*August 24, 2020
Holland Land Office Museum*



The Holland Land Office Committee had the two Civil War cannons restored. When the cannons were returned a ceremony on the front lawn was held with dignitaries from the Genesee County participating. I also attended representing the Town of Batavia. Curator Ryan Duffy gave a brief history of the cannons. The cannons were placed on the entryway to the Holland Land Office for all to see.

Peace Garden Memory Garden



A steel 8' x 8' x 8' arbor was built and purchased from Rob Barone. It will be installed in the spring 2021 at the beginning of the Memory Garden behind the Batavia Court House and next to the Tonawanda Creek. Four Rose of Sharon trees will be planted at each post. The Rose of Sharon's were donated by Ron Weimer of East Aurora. He also donated pine and hardwood trees that are now in the care of Delre's Nursery. Delre's will hold and care for the trees until Phase 2 is ready for them to be planted.

Peace Garden Butterfly Bench

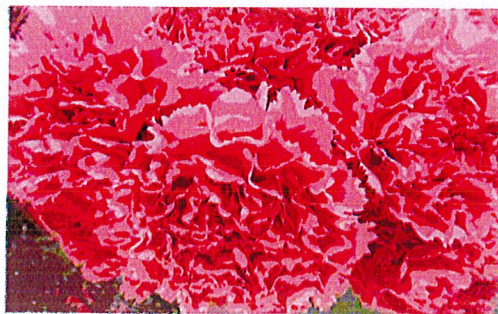


Our Butterfly Bench in the main garden needed repair and painting. Old World Collision donated their time and talent to revive the butterfly bench. They sand blasted the original butterfly bench and repainted it as a donation to the Peace Garden. The butterfly bench has become a favorite show piece to the garden. While it was being restored, we had several residents call and ask where it was. To the communities delight it was returned and placed back in the garden.

Cancellations due to Coronavirus

- 1. Batavia High School Student Interviews – I was asked to participate, and I accepted. Students were to come to the interview as if they were applying for a job. They were to be judged on their appearance, their mannerism, their poise, and presentation of themselves. Again, I was saddened that is event was cancelled due to the virus.*
- 2. GAHWNJ Conference at GCC this year has also been cancelled.*
- 3. United Way Day of Caring was also cancelled.*

Painting Donated to the Town



Two painting donated to the Town of Batavia by a lifelong resident Mrs. Kitty Dennison (1869-1962) who lived in East Pembroke. The 8x10" painting of Carnations was donated by Doug and Angie from Canada; Mrs. Dennison was 92 years old when she painted the carnations. The 6x6" yellow roses in a vase donated by myself. Mrs. Dennison married Charles Dennison at the age of 20. She did artwork for stores in Rochester, NY, Buffalo, NY and Cleveland, Ohio.



Oliver's Candy, Batavia, New York created a special candy bar cover for the Peace Garden. These candy bars are sold in and around Batavia and at our hotdog stand during the summer. Our candy bars are for sale in local business here in Batavia. We have realized a \$500.00 profit from the sales.

*Holland Land Office Museum
Christmas Trees on Display*



The Peace Garden choose this year to decorate our tree with little stuffed Santa's, reindeer, elf's, teddy bears and a variety of animals. Our tree received the most votes from the community this year. In November 2021 we will be donating all the stuffed decorations to nursing homes, VA Hospital, Crossroads, and the Manor House for the residents.

It has been my pleasure to serve as Town Historian this past year. With the help of Carolyn Epps, we are getting things in order. A long way to go. A new adventure every week which keeps this job exciting.

*Respectfully,
Berneda Scoins, Town of Batavia Historian*