

## 2009 FARMINGTON HISTORIANS REPORT

A major project was a presentation given for a group named OASIS, from Rochester. This is an adult educational organization, which requested a program about the history of the Farmington Quaker settlers and their church. Information about the settlement of Farmington in 1788 - 1789, the formation of the Church in 1796, the building of the 1816 Meetinghouse, the 1876 Church and the cemetery was given. A photographic display was set up, and the 1876 building and cemetery were toured. 40 people attended the program, at the Friends Church. Pastor Ruth Kinsey and Clerk Helen Kirker assisted the historian.

Requests for information about older homes, the cemeteries, and churches are frequent, and come from local people, visitors to the area, and newspaper reporters. One this year was from Margaret Dilmore, who has established her music school in the Hathaway Home. Her music school appears to be an excellent new use for one of our oldest homes, and a wonderful addition to our town. Another visitor to the historian's office was a professor, Ezra Greenspan, from Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas, who was researching for a biography of William Wells Brown, a fugitive slave active in the abolitionist movement, who lectured with Joseph C. Hathaway. He lived in Farmington from 1845 - 1847, and sent his two daughters to a school, run by the Quakers. Professor Greenspan was pleased to see the Joseph C. Hathaway home still in use here.

Information and photographs were sent to the American Society of Civil Engineers, Rochester chapter, for a tour guide to Civil Engineering in the region. The guide will identify significant sites, both past and present, and notable engineers.

Several meetings have been attended such as the Ontario County Historian, Preston Pierce's annual winter meeting, a SARA workshop at Hopewell, entitled Preservation of Electronic Records, and an Association of Public Historians of New York State gathering in Victor, led by Ontario County historian Preston Pierce and Wayne County Historian Peter Evans. This gathering featured a presentation given by Judith Wellman, about the 1816 Meetinghouse. Historians from Monroe, Wayne; Seneca, Cayuga, and Ontario Counties attended, and there was much sharing of concerns and information among them.

Reginald Neale has been scanning older photographs in my file, assembling material for a book about Farmington, which will be submitted to Acadia Press in 2010. We expect to assist him more in 2010 as he prepares text to go with the photos.

More boxes have been placed in the vault, as well as the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century Town Board Minute Books, for permanent preservation.

The usual activities, such as changing the display case, and attending meetings of the historic Preservation Commission continue. The maintenance and protection of the town cemeteries is a concern. We wish to thank Mr. McLaughlin and the highway and parks people for their fine work in mowing the cemeteries and keeping them accessible for visitors.

We want to thank Supervisor Fafinski and the town board for their continued support of the historian's office.

Margaret H. Hartsough

Town Historian