

TOWN OF BOSTON, ERIE COUNTY, NEW YORK STATE
TOWN HISTORIAN'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2013
(December 6, 2013)

Artifacts and Preservation. I retrieved all artifacts, literature, pictures, etc. which had been dropped off at the Town Hall. Deposited these items at the Boston Historical Society Museum.

Budget. The 2013 annual stipend for town historian was \$2,550 with an expense account of \$1,000. Of the latter I used \$160.99 (the least so far since I began four years ago). On July 29th I submitted the paperwork to reduce my budget by 50% for 2014 and requested that the \$500 saved be used to augment the Boston Historical Society's budget per their contract with the town. The savings were accomplished by: (1) Utilizing the supervisor's newspaper subscriptions for the town's scrapbook of history, rather than using my budget for a historian's subscription. (2) Combining trips (*e.g.*, buying a year's worth of office supplies all at once, so as not to incur any unnecessary mileage expenses). (3) Cancelling membership in a certain historical organization, since it was more cost effective to take advantage of their services on an as-need basis.

Correspondence. Replied to all letters, which were primarily of a genealogical nature. Also replied to all telephone calls. Researchers are instructed to send written correspondence, so as to generate a hard copy of inquiries, and my subsequent replies, for the town's scrapbook of history.

Donations. On January 8th, I donated the following local history books to the Boston Historical Society Museum collection: (1) Johns, A. Wesley. *The Man Who Shot McKinley*, Cranbury, N.J., 1970. (2) *Niagara Frontier Miscellany*, Vol. XXXIV, Buffalo Historical Society, Buffalo, N.Y., 1947. (3) *Proceedings of the Board of Supervisors of Erie County, N.Y. for the Year 1920*, Buffalo, N.Y. (4) Kaszubik, Keith. *Boston Hills' Polonia*, North Boston, N.Y., 2006. The last mentioned is a sixty-six page printed and bound form of a computer database numbering 853 entries. It is a complete extraction transcription of all Poles found documented in the available microfilmed Roman Catholic parish records (up to circa 1920) for the Boston Hills and vicinity. On March 12th, I also donated copies of articles concerning Boston from the 1860s and 1870s as found in the microfilmed *Springville Journal* local newspaper. On March 14th, I donated my *Polonia Surname Index* database to the locally based Polish Genealogical Society of New York State. The computer database is an index of Poles found in local publications (formerly unindexed) numbering over 6,000 entries, which includes the majority of publications concerning Boston.

Media. I researched, wrote, and contributed the following articles (and one unauthored newsbite) to the Boston Historical Society newsletter, and other publications, in order to promote the history of our town: (1) *All the news from Boston, Hills that is (Am-Pol Eagle, February 7th, p. 8).* (2) *FIRST OF ALL in Boston* (1st Quarter, pp. 1-2). (3) *Old Quaker Cemetery (Part 2)* (1st Quarter, pp. 2-3). (4) *Kaszubik donates books to Boston Historical Society* (1st Quarter, p. 3). (5) *Origins & meanings of Polish surnames in our town* (2nd Quarter, p. 6). (6) *Please come to Boston* (town promotional flyer, which I distributed at the July 4th observation at the Town Park). (7) *Horton Hill Cemetery* (3rd Quarter, pp. 2-4). I also proofread ever issue of the newsletter and

the text for the Western New York Southtowns Scenic Byway sign erected in the Town Park.

Membership in Organizations. Since January 2010 I have been a life member of the Boston Historical Society and the Boston Free Library Association. My annual appointment as town historian also makes me a board member of the former organization. I attended all board meetings along with a special town contract meeting held at the Town Hall on September 24th.

Research. I researched in great detail the history of the Polish people in town and compiled that information into a twelve-page comprehensive report entitled *The Poles in Boston*, which was presented to all town officials and other interested parties on September 3rd, and thereafter.

Tally of History. I kept a comprehensive scrapbook of history for the town including all press coverage, advertisements, legal notices, etc. as published in our official weekly newspaper, *The Sun* in Hamburg, N.Y., and the *Springville Journal* in Springville, N.Y. The scrapbook also includes a few scattered articles from other publications, town board minutes, historical society minutes, historical society newsletters, historian's reports, community flyers, political flyers, etc.

Town Board Meetings / Event Attendance. I attended all Boston Town Board meetings except one due to illness on April 17th. I also attended the following community events: Coffee Hour with Congressman Chris Collins at the Town Hall (May 25th), Memorial Day observations at the Town Park and the Boston Commons Veterans Park (May 27th), Boston Free Library's Hot Dog Roast Fundraiser (June 14th), Flag Day Celebration at the Town Park (June 14th), July 4th observation at the Town Park (which I donated \$100 to for the fireworks), Town of Boston Recreation 4th Annual Kids Day (August 13th), Town Historians Seminar at Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' Family History Center in Orchard Park, N.Y. (September 20th), and the Town of Boston Halloween Party at the Town Hall (October 25th).

Volunteer Work. I helped serve food to the children and adults attending the Town of Boston Recreation 4th Annual Kids Day (August 13th). I compiled a Halloween music CD for the Boston Historical Society's presentation (potluck dinner) entitled *In the Spirit of ...* at the Town Hall (October 8th). That same evening I presented a detailed framed full-page (maiden) surname report to the society's president, which I had researched and compiled. I participated in the Fall outdoor cleanup at the Boston Historical Society Museum (October 27th).

Respectfully Submitted to the New York State Historian,

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cc: Boston Town Supervisor Martin Ballowe, et al.