

Correspondence and research help

- A niece of Barbara Hotchin Hilson contacted me concerning the Hotchin, Northrup and Sinclair families. She also received assistance from Dick Davidson with her research.
- Carrie Hewitt asked for some assistance in tracking down maps of Bovina's water and septic districts.
- Conan Carpenter has purchased a home on Russell Hill that was likely built by James Coulter (1808-1898) and had questions about the house and about the Coulter family.
- Travis Batey requested images of Bovina for a PowerPoint presentation he was creating for a school project.
- Ed Rossley was in touch with me to determine the location of the Nichols cemetery (it's on Cape Horn Road).
- Roger Coulter contacted me concerning the Coulter family. He was in town trying to find the grave of Francis Coulter. Unfortunately, I was not able to meet with him in person and did not get the message in time to help him, though he did find a number of other Coulter graves. I have sent him photos of the Francis Coulter grave and hope to direct him to the site when he makes a possible return visit in the fall.
- Nancy Holm from Minnesota was checking into a local murder, that of Hugh Cameron in 1813. The murder was in Andes, so there wasn't anything that Bovina records could reveal, but I made several suggestions concerning county records that might have something about the murder.
- Jane Sullivan inquired into the location of the grave of Truman White in the Bovina cemetery. Information from the Davidson brothers helped me to help Ms. Sullivan find the gravesite.
- Anita Schoen, Archivist at the Western Heritage Center in Billings, Montana, had contacted Marjorie Miller concerning a picture she had of a group called the 'Mystic Knights of Bovina,' dated April 1900. Most of the people in the picture were hooded. She had contacted Bovinas in Texas and Wisconsin. I suggested she check Bovina, Mississippi as well. I later determined that the picture was related to Bovina, Texas and had some connection with cattle ranchers.
- Tom Hilson contacted me concerning the creation of the Bovina Fire Department, specifically when it was originally created. I have yet to determine the founding date. A Bovina Center Fire District was founded in 1915, which led to the construction of the first fire hall. The Bovina Fire District was created in 1943. I have not found when the modern fire department was founded. Unfortunately, the early minutes of the fire district have not been located.
- Phil Signor contacted me in October concerning the Signor genealogy.
- Rich Singleton contacted me concerning a burial in the Brush cemetery.
- Mike Kudish, a retired professor from Paul Smiths College, contacted me in October concerning the attempt in 1898 to bring a railroad into Bovina. Mr. Kudish has written several volumes concerning the railroads in the Adirondacks and now that he has retired to the Catskills is interested in railroads in the Catskills.
- Malcolm McNaughton from Coeymans sent me a letter concerning his ancestor Mary Ann Gladstone.
- Dianne Rabeler Abele inquired concerning her Thomson ancestors and their Scottish origins.

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- Ed Kelly, who recently purchased the McNaught farm on McNaught Hill Road, inquired about a picture of his farm. I was able to send him an aerial photo taken in 1946 that shows the farm.
- Greg Spanos, whose family owns a farm on Cape Horn, inquired about his family's farm for a school project.

Bovina History Calendar

I helped to develop a calendar for 2008 as a fund raiser for the historical society. The calendar did quite well. I developed a calendar for 2009, the theme being 'Bovina Celebrates.' Development, including writing the text and choosing the images, was done by early fall. Unfortunately, our designer was unable to complete the work before our deadline due to illness and family matters. I decided to sit tight and put off the calendar for a year.

Bovina Historical Society

I met with Sibel Finn and Jan Bray in March to discuss the records held by the society. They are working to consolidate the records so they are in one secure and relatively stable location.

Ann Morris turned over to me several boxes of records from the Cecil Russell family. I am processing these records. When completed, the records will be turned over to the historical society.

Collecting images and records

- With the help of Joe Dibble, I was able to collect one each of all the campaign signs from the 2007 local election. I will be turning these over to the Bovina Historical Society.
- I purchased from eBay a postcard showing a view of the Bovina Methodist Church and its parsonage (the latter is now the home of Chuck and Betty McIntosh).
- Christine Batey gave me access to some Hilson and Strangeway family albums so I could scan the pictures. Most dated from about 1915 to around 1940.
- After the October 28 snowstorm, I asked for and received a number of pictures from the storm. Contributors included Donna Weber, Barbara Spoettel, Gary Simmons, Larry Karam, Marni Greenberg and Jonathan LaFever.

Speaking engagements

- June 14 – I did a presentation at the Bovina Library in June on mapping Bovina. This was a review of the various maps of the town since its creation in 1820.
- November 1 – I did a presentation on Bovina Farming in the 19th Century called 'Was Bovina Butter Served at the White House?'

Articles

I continue to write regular articles for the Bovina UP Church newsletter. Topics this year included Bovina businesses, Bovina farms and Bovina's 'Old Home Days.'

Association of Public Historians of New York State (APHNYS)

I attended the spring meeting of APHNYS, held in Glens Falls in April.

Other activities

- March 1 – I served as a judge at the National History Day competition held at the Stamford Central School and hosted by the Catskill Teacher Center. I served on a team of judges looking at junior level exhibits (grades 5-8).
- November 2 – I was honored to receive one of the Annual Awards of Merit from the Delaware County Historical Association. I was nominated by Jan Bray on behalf of the Bovina Historical Society.

Acknowledgements

- Marjorie Miller, Bovina Library Director, for providing me a venue for two talks.
- Sibel Finn, Jan Bray, Donna Bray and the rest of the Bovina Historical Society, for their continued support.
- Josh Allen and Taylor Foster for support for the 2008 Bovina History Calendar.
- Christine Batey for allowing me to scan family pictures.
- The Bovina Town Board for their continuing support.

Plans for 2009

I expect to get the calendar that we hoped to use for 2009 issued for 2010.

The Bovina UP Church's bicentennial will be in 2009. I suggested putting into the church bulletin weekly history tidbits from the history of churches in Bovina and the session agreed. I've created 52 history items, tied to the week it appears in the bulletin.

I will continue to carry out presentations as requested. I expect to do one or two presentations for the Bovina Library in 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

C. Raymond LaFever
Town Historian, Town of Bovina