



Robert Weible  
New York State Historian  
New York State Museum  
Cultural Education Center, Room 3025  
Albany NY 12230

January 16, 2013

**NEW YORK STATE MUSEUM  
NEW YORK STATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT HISTORIANS  
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2012**

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Name:** Marybelle B Beigh      **Gender:** Female

**Type & Jurisdiction:** Town & Village of Westfield, Chautauqua County, NY

**Government Address:** Town of Westfield & Village of Westfield, Eason Hall  
23 Elm Street, Westfield NY 14787

**Westfield Historian Office Address:** Marybelle Beigh, Westfield Historian  
117 Union Street, Westfield NY 14787

**Telephone Numbers:**

Westfield Historian Office: 716-326-2457  
Town & Village Office: 716-326-3211  
Home (Land Line): 716-326-6171  
Home (Cell phone): 716-397-9254  
FAX (Town office): 716-326-3611  
E-Mail (Historian): [westfieldhistorian@fairpoint.net](mailto:westfieldhistorian@fairpoint.net)  
E-Mail (personal): [maryb2@fairpoint.net](mailto:maryb2@fairpoint.net)  
E-Mail (Town): [town@townofwestfield.org](mailto:town@townofwestfield.org)  
Web (Town): [www.townofwestfield.org](http://www.townofwestfield.org)

**Date of original appointment:** May 4, 2007

**Length of service as historian:** 5 years, 9 months

**Westfield is my hometown:** I was born in Westfield NY, December 8, 1940

**Education:**

1958 High School Diploma – Westfield Academy & Central School

1963 BS, Major Physics – SUNY Albany NY

1991 MS, Education Communications & Technology – WOSC/WOU Monmouth OR

**Finance:**

I receive a gross annual stipend of \$1000 each from the Town & Village of Westfield

**Office and Hours:**

My office is now located at 117 Union Street, Westfield NY 14787, which is in a small building on the same land as my personal residence (Neither the Town or Village has room in the Eason Hall where some Village and Town of Westfield offices are located.)

Mail comes to the library, the town & village office, to my office and to my residence:

Marybelle Beigh, 117 Union Street, Westfield NY 14787

Historian office phone number is 716-326-2457

Office hours: Monday through Friday: 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM and by appointment.

**Research & Publications:**

For the year, 2012, I continued to contribute weekly articles to *The Westfield Republican* under my monthly column entitled “BeeLines”. Also, through September 20, 2012, I continued to locate and retype the late Westfield Historian, Billie Dibble’s “Dibble’s Dabbles” articles published in *The Westfield Republican* from 1980-1990, and to locate and supply copies of the original photos used with these Dibble’s Dabbles. The current editor of *The Westfield Republican* published most of this year’s Dibble’s Dabbles reruns in the online edition, and then ceased re-publishing this column at the conclusion of the 1984 columns, because of space limitations and editorial prerogative.

**Topics of Articles and Article Series:**

- Frank Burns & Burns Vaporizer Co. Circa 1901; photo of part of an antique vaporizer
- History of Barcelona Post Office; old maps showing location of Barcelona Post Office
- Westfield Heirloom Fruits Part I – Medlar; photo of Medlar fruits and Quince
- 3 World War II photos from Christmas 1942; remembering the people identified
- Currants – Heirloom Fruits Westfield Series Part 2; Elton Tubbs & Currant Picker
- Fruit Factories, Railroad Bridges; photo postcard Old Welch Factory
- Buzzings re Reader Response to Canella, WW2 people, Tubb’s; republish WW2 people
- History Fruit Processing Factories in Westfield; photo old Armour Plant on Franklin
- Ottaway Park History; photo Jack’s Drive “milepost marker” in Ottaway Park
- More WWII Remembrances... Turkovich, ends with a poem by Coach Douds; WWII Honor Roll Sign photo, 1942 WWII group with Marion Hiller photo
- History of Drovers’ Inn, 309 E Main; circa 1875 photo of 309 E Main
- History of the Westfield YMCA; photo postcard of YMCA, circa 1908

- WHS Sport Patch, Earl Brooker; photocopy of patch, 1899 WHS team photo, 1 similar
- Welch's "Lost" Plant; "Lost" Welch photo from 1952; aerial Welch photo from 1968
- Welch's "Lost" Plant; Client Photo circa 1950, Aerial Welch Plant Photo 1968
- Dark Day 1952; (long article, no photo)
- History of Bark Grill Part 1; Photo Tony DiPasquale, photo Jim Blanchard, Lisa Schultz
- History of Bark Grill Part 2; Photo Tony & Carrie DiPasquale, photo Bark Interior
- Corrections & Clarifications Bark Grill History; Carrie/Tony Photo, Sciarrino Photo
- History of Bark Grill Part 3 on Source Documents; Scanned maps for Bark Grill property
- History of Bark Grill Part 4; Photo "Essay" with captions (7 photos over the years)
- Memories & History of Volusia PO; 1948 photo Breads' house where PO once located
- Recalling Forgotten Westfield Volunteers; photo Community Center at 3 East Main 1970
- Buzzings: Bark Grill Buczek proprietor photo, and missing Tony Baideme painting
- BL: Bark Grill "Museum" of Donald Bova; photo in photo of VAT69 bottle
- Buzzings: Bark Grill Baideme Polar Bear painting, and photo of unknown "waitress"
- BL: 1912 Diner at corner of Main and N Portage – photo and history
- BL: Grape Belt National Bank; Ad for the Westfield Clock on the other bank building
- Buzzings: Arnot Staff photo ID continued, just missing one.
- Buzzings: Miss Jenny meets Tony "Bark," final Arnot staff ID; Miss Jenny images
- Memories of the Deutsch Meisters, photo from 1977; parallel DD story & photo
- Grape Belt National Bank Finds & Request for Photos; coin bank & bank note photos
- Peace Pilgrim; photo of Peace Pilgrim
- More Ephemera about our Grape Belt History; photo of 1923 grape truck
- Do You Remember Pinter's Restaurant? Photo postcard of Pinter interior and exterior
- Jay Stratton Swede Road Story, in Swedish & English; Map showing Swede Road
- Mystery Postcard of Church with Steeple & Bank – request for
- Other Businesses in 5 – 11 East Main Street after Pinters & Millers; 2 photos showing East Main Street buildings from North Portage through Anthony's in 1980s
- Heritage Fruits – Have you ever eaten a Paw-paw? Photo of 2 of Stratton's paw-paws ready to eat by local historian
- Vince Luce's 1914 Farmhouse photo with story on back & request for more information
- Metal Sign Mystery (25 E Main, Morse Bldg.); 1854 Chaut. Co. Map Drawing of Main Street Buildings between Portage and "the jog" – labeled "Union Block"
- Buzzings on Reader Feedback and Updates re Paw Paws, Grape Belt National Bank, & Mystery Postcard - Church with Steeple; photos comparing North East PA and Postcard
- Anthony's, Calarco's, family member reminisces; 1963 wedding day photo of Jennifer Calarco June and family in front of Anthony's Restaurant
- Westfield Brick Yards, Brickmaking; 1867 map showing Brick Yards at Barcelona
- Part I of WWII Romance - Todd-Sheath Family Discovery & Reunion; 1942 photo of Robert Lincoln Todd in uniform, 2010 David Sheath photo
- Part II of Todd-Sheath Family Discovery & Reunion; recent photo of David Sheath and family in England
- Part III of Todd-Sheath Family Discovery & Reunion, featuring the US family's experience of the story written by Marty Hiller; photo of summer 2012 reunion when

David Sheath and wife Fabriana visited the living US family relatives including Hillers, Macers, Lancasters, Grohols, Chundrleks, and the family dogs

- Westfield-Barcelona Brickyards & Thomas Walker family brick masons; photos of Thomas Walker and his son Edward Walker
- History Mystery Question re “Stolen” area Indian Reservation; copy of a 1797 Holland Land Company map showing former Indian Reservations at that time
- Fairbanks School & Walker Family; Hayden Hanks photos of Fairbanks School
- Thomas Walker, Brick Yards, Lime Kilns, & Plaster Mill; 1867 Barcelona map image
- The Rugby, Walker Family Lake Erie Shipwreck Story circa 1862; photo c. 1870, frozen sailing vessel on Great Lakes, similar to The Rugby
- Remembering Trump Family & Lincoln-Bedell Connection; Fred Trump family photo

### **Additional Historian Projects, Activities, Research, and Commentary:**

- The Westfield Memorial Hospital Association creates and sells ornaments and magnets depicting historic Westfield structures including the Spencer House that became the first hospital, the Patterson Library, the McClurg Museum, the Barcelona Lighthouse, and the Lincoln-Bedell statues. For several of these, I have researched and provided the historic photos from which their artist rendered the images for the ornaments and magnets.
- Several historian clients are writing books and articles on the history of various aspects of this area, for which I provide research, photos, and editorial assistance. Current topics include Diners of the Great Lakes, the Lake Erie Concord Grape Belt History, Welch Grape Juice Company, and Dr. C.E. Welch history and biography, local Swedish Heritage history, Waterfalls of New York State, History of Volusia Corners, and the Nickel Plate Railroad history.
- Ongoing efforts to acquire local historic photos and items that succumb to the greed for getting rich by selling them on the internet is being shared by several local public historians and the Chautauqua County Historical Society. This is a very frustrating problem for all of us interested and active in preserving our local history.
- A fascinating project is the transcription of an 1867 diary of Thomas Walker, a master builder and brick mason who built many of the brick business blocks and churches in Westfield and surrounding villages, as well as the Fredonia Normal School.
- One of the most poignant stories for which I had the opportunity to be the contact person was the re-uniting of members of a local family and one in England who knew nothing of each other’s existence because of the secret invasion of Normandy in WWII. Research for this story began in 2010, and the incredible reunion occurred in summer 2012, with the subsequent publication of a three-part BeeLines series in *The Westfield Republican*. The story continues to receive responses and additional mementos from across the globe.