

**WESTFIELD TOWN & VILLAGE HISTORIAN**  
**Marybelle B Beigh**  
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**Jennifer Lemak, Acting State Historian**  
**Cultural Education Center**  
**222 Madison Avenue**  
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**NEW YORK STATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT HISTORIANS  
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2013**

**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

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

**Resigned upon move to Colorado:** December 31, 2013

**Reappointed upon return to NY State: Town -** January 7, 2015; **Village -** January 19, 2015

**Length of service as historian:** 7 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

**Local Government Historian:**

- I attend monthly meetings of the Town and Village Boards, and provide monthly historian reports.
- I receive a gross annual stipend of \$1000 each from the Town & Village of Westfield
- The Town of Westfield also provided a line item budget of \$1000 for expenses

## **Research & Publications:**

### **Topics of Research and Study for various clients and my continued education:**

- History of Ryan Hardware Store at 31 East Main in 1920s, and proprietor Francis P Ryan
- Assisting Mike Engle, Diner Historian with next book *Diners of the Great Lakes*
- Participated in Bemis Point Historical Society meeting re 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery and local digs
- Attended JCC Chautauqua County history course
- Assisted a journalist from the Jamestown Post Journal with research about Memorial Day celebrations in the county
- Collecting Pre-prohibition Winery and Distillery info for John Slater, Grape Historian
- Participated in Civil War Weekend, including a Civil War Church Service as organist
- Researched the names of the Barcelona Lighthouse Keepers and discovered a relative amongst them for a client
- Starting preparations for 2<sup>nd</sup> Chautauqua County History Fair 2016
- Researching source and date for application of Bark wall covering in response to a client request for this information after reading about the history of The Bark Grill restaurant. Client has started a company to revive the architectural décor of peeled tree bark wall coverings, interior and exterior

### **Topics of Articles and Article Series:**

From February through December, 2015, I have contributed weekly articles and historic photos to *The Westfield Republican* under my monthly column entitled “**BeeLines**” and “**Buzzings from BeeLines.**”

- **Martin C. Rice, Founder of Westfield Republican in 1856**
- **History of Breweries in Westfield**
- **History of Elliot P Harrington, diver who recovered the safe from the shipwreck of the “Atlantic” Side-wheeler on Lake Erie, in mid 1800s, and assisted Navy in Civil War**
- **Harrington, Chautauqua Gorge, Volusia**
- **Paper Mill, Paper Warehouse, and the Portage Inn**
- **Westfield’s First Fire Hall and Lock Up**
- **History of the Portage Inn**
- **History of NW Corner of Main & Portage in the 1800s**
- **History of NW Corner of Main & Portage, 1900-1915**
- **History of Three Grand Theaters at NW Corner of Main & Portage, 1916-1992**
- **History of 42 North Portage, now known as Portage Pie**
- **Historic Highlights of the Spencer Block from 1870-1950**
- **Remembering Westfield’s Drive-In Theater**
- **A “Grate” History Mystery Solved! (A historic metal grate’s original location found)**
- **Putting Tew & Tew Together to solve a History Mystery at 44 E Main in the 1800s**
- **What Happened at 44 E Main after Tew in the first third of the 1900s**
- **Did you ever hear of Silver Dew Bottling Works? (New History Mystery, 1930)**
- **Highlights of Businesses at 44 E Main Street from 1930 to present**
- **Celebrating Independence Day Westfield Style in the 1880s**

- **History of Ox Roasts in Westfield**
- **History Mystery - Remembering Dark Day 1950**
- **Remember the York House and Anna Christina Rider**
- **Memories of Midsummer Nights and Pergola Garden Dreams**
- **Summertime Treats - Old-fashioned Ice Cream Parlors & Soda Fountains in Westfield**
- **Memories of a Westfield One-Room School - Hardscrabble #3**
- **Memories of Childhood Games - Reader Participation Requested**
- **Naming of Barcelona NY (Frenchman DeLery's 1700's Map)**
- **Westfield's Pioneer Era Schools**
- **Grape Season - An Unusual (Round Paper) Grape Box Container**
- **"Drunk History" of Lincoln-Bedell Story and Westfield NY 1860 picture questioned**
- **History of "Grace Bedell House" on Washington Street**
- **Historic Homes - Reuben Gridley Wright - 233 East Main**
- **Another Wright House aka Drovers Inn, Guile House, Seymour House - 309 East Main**
- **Additional Wright Home Info - Preview Peacock Homes of Westfield**
- **Harriet Campbell Taylor House - 145 South Portage - documented history**
- **Peacock Homes in Westfield, Part 1, Intro, Peacock Grove, Connection with Judge William Peacock and Peacock Inn Mayville**
- **Prehistoric Iroquois Village Excavation story involving Wright and Peacock Families of Westfield**
- **Peacock Homes in Westfield, Part 2, Margaret Peacock Residence West Main Road**
- **Westfield Peacock Homes, Part 3, Thomas Peacock House, 31 Jefferson**
- **Westfield Peacock Homes, Part 4, Charles E Peacock home 186 East Main**