

Dr. Stan Cianfarano, Warren County Historian

When at work, Warren County Historian Dr. Stan Cianfarano is surrounded by books, bookshelves full of tomes about Warren County, its early settlers, historical families and much, much more.

Records are the lifeblood of an historian's work, and Warren County has assembled tens of thousands of them over the years, overseen by Cianfarano as Historian, and staff of the Warren County Clerk's Office.

Cianfarano has been County Historian since 2015, and his path to the job was a roundabout one.

He spent decades teaching in a Central New York elementary school and Vermont college before becoming involved with Warren County Historical Society in the early 2000s as the society prepared for the 2013 Warren County's bicentennial.

He became an integral part of the Historical Society's leadership, which led to the Warren County Historian post, a part-time position that has him in the office two days a week. (He also spends two days a week at the Historical Society as its co-president.)

Cianfarano said a large part of his role is to answer questions from the public, and the Historian job has been a busier one in recent years.

He said the COVID-19 pandemic prompted more people to become interested in their genealogy, so more people visit his office at Warren County Municipal Center or call to access historical records related to their lineage.

"We've had days where I will have 4 people in my office at a time going through our genealogy books," he said. "I'm amazed at some of the records we have here."

Helping people solve their family mysteries is interesting, and often fulfilling, work. When researching relatives, one man who Cianfarano worked with recently found an old cemetery in the Thurman area dating back to the 1840s that had not been on any known local maps.

These materials and others in Warren County's records archive are available for public review by appointment. Call 518-761-6544 to inquire about an appointment.

The County Historian's website also provides a complete breakdown on the office's role in county government: <https://www.warrencountyny.gov/historian>.

Cianfarano also serves as co-chair of the committee working to build a museum for Joseph Warren, the 18th century physician for whom Warren County is named. The museum, to be sited on county property on Gurney Lane in Queensbury, is in the planning stages.

■ *By Don Lehman, Warren County Director of Public Affairs*