

Annual Report for 2015 of County Historian

Once again it has been my pleasure to serve as our County Historian and County Government Records Management Officer.

During the year of 2015, I presented 61 film and digital slide programs around the county and region to a wide variety of organizations. I have scanned hundreds and hundreds of older film slides into digital format for programs and safe, long-term storage and preservation. Many CDs and DVDs of these slides have been given to local historians and historical societies for their respective files. I also answered about 150 e-mails, voice mail and OSPS mail requests for historical information, genealogy, etc....

Perhaps the highlight of my year was the tearing-down of the former County Museum and Historian's Office in April. The building was the former Belmont Presbyterian Church built in 1840. It has served the county as our Museum since 1972. Unfortunately, the building was in very poor shape despite repeated efforts over the last 10 years by the County to save it. Our County Department of Public Works "bridge crew" did the demolition and removal work. It was subsequently turned into a much-needed employee parking lot.

Respectfully submitted, Craig R. Braack, County Historian and R. M. O.