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MEET ALICE J. ZACHER HISTORIAN, TOWN OF SHELBY

Alice Zacher, Historian for the Town of Shelby is pictured here with a Christmas Tree which is sixty years old. Believe it or not, but it's true. The tree was originally owned by Luva Yates until she gave it to Alice Zacher a few years ago. It had always been cared for and kept in a box when not in use. Of course, if you haven't guessed, it's an artificial tree which is made of twisted wire and dyed feathers. This must have been one of the first artificial Christmas trees ever made as it has attached to it, sockets for candles. Indeed, a most unusual and very rare item. Each season Alice sets it out and decorates it with antique ornaments which creates quite a conversation piece around her house.

Alice Zacher is the youngest of the twelve children of Fred and Alma Vaughn. She was born in Alabama, N.Y. and graduated from Lyndonville High School. In 1958 she married Walter Zacher and they have two sons and a daughter. The boys, Mark and Timothy work with their father who is self-employed as a carpenter. Amy, their daughter, is currently a student at Bryant and Stratton. Work experience for Alice includes twelve years with Loblaws, Inc. which was spent between the Albion and Medina stores. For ten years she was co-owner of Zacher's Grocery in Shelby Center before moving to Millville. Presently, she is employed part time at the Oak Orchard School cafeteria and also works part time as sexton of the United Methodist Church in Medina.

Alice was appointed Town Historian in 1981 by Supervisor Stanley Dudek to replace Naomi Riches. She says "My goal as Town Historian is to gather as much of our past history as possible. A top priority is to see in print, the history of the mills of the Town of Shelby from facts gathered by Herbert Weet who was historian in the early 1950's. I'm especially interested in obtaining any pictures available of these mills." Herbert Weet's work which is in manuscript form includes facts on grist, flour, stave and heading mills in Shelby.

Alice is also extremely interested in the history of the one-room school houses and has been gathering facts pertaining to these. Recently she authored a full page newspaper story about the District #8 Little Red Brick Schoolhouse. She is always anxious to borrow pictures to have reprints made. Not only is she interested in facts on schools but also farms, businesses and the volunteer fire companies. Her files on local history grow daily as she adds clippings from local papers. Alice says, "I work with a very cooperative Town Board and receive \$100 a year salary and a budget of \$400. We have a display case located in the town building and I change it periodically."

Alice Zacher holds membership in a wide range of organizations including Medina Historical Society, Region 8 Association of Municipal Historians, the Association of Municipal Historians in N.Y.S. and Western N.Y. Post Card Club. She has been a den mother, Girl Scout leader and Sunday School teacher for twelve years. She is also co-program chairman of United Methodist Women and a Communion Steward at the United Methodist Church in Medina. Along with these duties Alice is the church librarian for a collection of books on religion which numbers between 700 and 800 volumes. Her hobbies include flea marketing, antique shows, auctions and refinishing furniture.