

2013-J4012

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the Duanesburg Historical Society upon the occasion of celebrating its 70th Anniversary

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commend the efforts of those organizations who seek to bring recognition to historical places within the State of New York, and in doing so, help to ensure that the complete history of our State and Nation is preserved and shared with present generations of citizens; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its longstanding traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the Duanesburg Historical Society in Duanesburg, New York, upon the occasion of celebrating its 70th Anniversary; and

WHEREAS, With 25 enthusiastic charter members, the Duanesburg Historical Society was organized in April of 1944, as a branch of the venerable Schenectady Historical Society; and

WHEREAS, Duane Featherstonhaugh, President of the Schenectady Historical Society and a Duanesburg resident, facilitated the start-up of this new organization; as the great, great, great grandson of Judge James Duane, the 18th century founder of Duanesburg, he took a special and personal interest in the Society's success, and provided knowledgeable leadership as needed; and

WHEREAS, For 70 years, this organization has been supported by a continuous vital, engaged membership connected to the land, its people, its stories, its history, its folklore, its visible and invisible past, evincing a willingness and interest in presenting the knowledge of Duanesburg's rich history; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Duanesburg has long been defined as a crossroads, beginning from a time when only Indian trails crisscrossed the forests of the interior to arrive at Fort Orange on the Hudson, a port for the

lucrative beaver pelt trade; and

WHEREAS, Primitive roads stretching westward from both Albany and Schenectady toward vague and future destinations, were the early routes to the frontier, which lay at first just beyond the waters of the Schoharie Creek; these were followed by more dependable roads and bridges over which drovers moved livestock and produce to market, and supported by a string of inns and taverns, some of which are still standing along what is now known as Route 20; and

WHEREAS, In the 19th Century, one of Duanesburg's towns, Delanson, became a thriving rail center, bustling with trade, boasting hotels, a roundhouse, and the largest coal yard in the world; following the world wars, the crossroads at Duanesburg became something of a tourist hub as families piled into automobiles, setting off to see the United States of America, requiring food and lodging along the way, all of which Duanesburg worked hard to supply; and

WHEREAS, As in many communities across the great State of New York, remnants of the past lie all around; the Duanesburg Historical Society quietly honors its mandate to proclaim and preserve their significant realities of Duanesburg's illustrious history; and

WHEREAS, The Duanesburg Historical Society provides its community with monthly programs, special events, the encouragement of student projects, and through the years, producing available print materials including bulletins, newsletters, and newspaper articles; and

WHEREAS, In 2005, the Duanesburg Historical Society, in collaboration with the Town of Princetown, published a Pictorial Directory of historic photos, and beginning in 2009, three volumes of collected memories, stories, and researched history of the township were gathered, published, and made available to the public; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is pleased to have this opportunity to express its highest admiration for the Duanesburg Historical Society, and for all of the individuals who have worked to bring proper attention

to a place and time which merits recognition in the grand panorama of the history of our State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when organizations of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the Duanesburg Historical Society upon the occasion of celebrating its 70th Anniversary; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Duanesburg Historical Society.