

The Westfield Republican

"First Republican Newspaper Printed in U. S. A."

WESTFIELD REPUBLICAN, Thursday, July 7, 2022

Sherman historian's work comes to life in book

By DAVID PRENATT

editorial@westfieldrepublican.com

"There's not just one thing that makes Sherman what it is. It's the people, how dedicated they are to this town, to helping each other and to making it a great place to live."

With these words, Sherman Historian Annette Swan summed up the focus of her book, *Around Sherman*, which was recently released by Arcadia Publishing of Charlestown, S.C.

The book gives an historical, pictorial account of the history of Sherman from the 1860s to the 1970s. It is part of the *Images of America History Book Series*, a collection of books by local authors, which "open a window into yesterday for eager history lovers."

Swan took over as Sherman

Historian in January 2021. She has been the historian for her family since 1998. "During COVID, I was working on my family history," she said. "I had a few books from Arcadia Publishing and I thought, Sherman really needs a book like this."

Swan contacted Arcadia publishing, who sent her guidelines. She then submitted ten photos with captions. "They had to make sure that Sherman was a good subject for a book," she said.

The company gave Swan one year and four months to complete the book, Swan said. "I gathered all the photos first," she said. "The main thing was, if I did not have a picture for it, I did not include it in the book."

Swan said the images in the book are from the Sherman His-

torical Society and private collections. "I got many from individuals who graciously let me use their photos," she said.

The book contains chapters on important places and organizations, such as the Yorker Museum, the school and the fire department. "There's still a Sherman alumni association, that's been going strong since the 1800s," Swan said. "The fire department is in the chapter on Groups, Clubs and Gatherings."

Swan said many historical books focus on things such as buildings and memorabilia, but she took a different tack. "Because genealogy is my thing, I wanted the book to highlight the people that make Sherman what it is and what it was," she said.



See SHERMAN, Page A2

Annette Swan and her daughter Melissa Gibbons.

BOOK, From Page 1

"The people who lived in the town, their dedication and their desire to make Sherman a great place to live were my focus."

Swan said one of the most enjoyable things about compiling the book was learning about Sherman. "I had just become the Sherman Historian," she said. "It was like a

crash course in Sherman history.

Swan had a book signing event at the Minerva Free Library on Thursday, June 16. About 35 people attended the event, Swan said, and she sold 44 books. "A lot of people were giving them as Fathers' Day gifts," she said.

She will also be signing

books at the Yorker Museum on Sherman Day.

Swan, who is a lifelong resident of Sherman, said she used to listen to stories about Sherman when she was young and she hopes to keep these stories alive through her work. "I did it for the people of the town and for other family historians; like myself," she said.