

Greene County Historical Society, Inc.
2009-2010 Annual Report
May 2010

HISTORIC PLACES IN
Greene County
NEW YORK



A Salute to the Historic Register Committee!

The "Purpose" in the Charter of the Greene County Historical Society, Inc. includes the following first sentence: "The object of this Society shall be the preservation of historical matter relating to the history of the County of Greene in particular....." For 2009-2010, the Society's Board of Trustees believes that the book, "Historic Places in Greene County", completed and published by the Society's Historic Register Committee, best exemplifies that purpose. The Committee, composed of volunteers, was established in 1990 and has included 235 sites on the County Register of Historic Sites. For over six years, Committee Members have worked on the "Historic Register" book which includes 330 contemporary and historic photographs and images, many of which are in color. The book reflects more than 300 years of history in Greene County and includes "a wealth of information not readily found elsewhere". Published by Flint Mine Press, the book is selling well. As more sites are added to the Register, supplements to this book are planned. The Board wishes to formally recognize the great contribution of the Historic Register Committee. A job well done!

A picture taken at the 1st Book Signing on December 5.



Back row, left to right, Tom Satterlee, photography assistance; Bob Hallock, Society President; Bob D'Agostino; editing assistance; Nick Nahas, author and Committee member; Betty O'Hara, author and Committee member; Ken Mabey, author, Book Committee & Chair of the Committee; Ted Hilscher, author, Book introduction and legal assistance; Linda Pierro, author, designer/publisher Flint Mine Press; and Dave Dorpfeld, Society Treasurer.

Front row, left to right, Jean Bush, author, Book Committee, & Committee Treasurer; Winifred Clark, author, Committee emeritus member and former Treasurer; and Natalie Daley, author, Book Committee & Committee emeritus member and former Secretary.

Those absent from the picture, but who contributed to the book: Robert Bedford, retouching and photo restoration/publisher Flint Mine Press; Ralph Grinnell, author & present member of Committee; the late Josephine Blakeslee, author & member and past Chairman of the Committee; the late Jane Bostrom, author & past member of the Committee; Carol Doney, author & past member of the Committee; and Christine Cepale, author & past member of the Committee.

Present Historical Register Committee members not involved with the book: Roy Davis, Committee Secretary; Emily Kunchala; Nancy Alex; Tom & Diane Gibson; Joan Morales; and Gary Wank.

**Greene County Historical Society, Inc.
2009-2010 Annual Report
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The Officers 2009-2010

Chairman of the Board	Joseph Warren
President	Robert Hallock
Vice President	John Dickinson May
Vice President	Jim Planck
Vice President	Jonathan Donald
Treasurer	David Dorpfeld
Recording Secretary	Ann Hallock
Financial Secretary	Thomas Satterlee

The Trustees 2009-2010

Christine Byas	Robert Hallock
Robert D'Agostino	Emily Dorpfeld Kunchala
Jonathan Donald	Terez Limer (resigned 11/09)
David Dorpfeld	John Dickinson May
Wanda Dorpfeld	Richard Muggeo
Harvey Durham	Dennis O'Grady
James Dustin	Jim Planck
Carrie Feder	Marilyn Rausch
Jeff Flack	Thomas Satterlee
Russell Francis (resigned 2/09)	Edward Synan (resigned 3/09)
Linda Gentalen	Denise Warren
Michel Goldberg	Joseph Warren
Ann Hallock	

The Trustees Emeritus 2009-2010

Natalie Daley	Elizabeth Miller
Elizabeth Gustavson	Perry Palmer
J. Theodore Hilscher	Olga Santora
Valentine Kriele	Robert Stackman
Everett McCarty	

CHAIRMAN JOSEPH WARREN'S MESSAGE

MAY 2010

Despite many challenges over the past year, the GCHS continued its stated mission and succeeded in its endeavor of preserving local history and sharing its historical resources with as many interested parties as possible. Even during the absence of our curator, the wonderful volunteers and trustees put forth Herculean efforts to ameliorate the impact of her absence.

Similarly, due to factors beyond our control, the lifeblood of our Society – the endowment corpus - was under pressure because of the stock market swoon. Nevertheless, the fine stewardship by our financial committee weathered this storm and our financial situation is no longer the concern it was. The very successful Hudson River home tour helped in this regard as well. Although we could have cut back on programs and services to conserve our resources as so many state agencies have been forced to, we stayed the course and remained true to our mission.

On a more positive note, we say good bye to the quadric-centennial and the celebrations of Henry Hudson's historic voyage. With the waning of 2009, came the successful Historic Places in Greene County publication. The historical register committee is to be commended for all its efforts in this outstanding book.

The volunteer recognition day was long overdue and a resounding success. Without the tireless efforts of our volunteers, we would not be able to provide the vital services that make this Society a true jewel.

Another success story of the Society is the Thomas Cole separation. With the acquisition of Cedar Grove and the guidance and sustenance provided by the Society over the years, it is with pride that we can look upon our offspring as an asset to Greene County. This triumph is a tribute to the Society's selfless dedication to the principles of preserving our heritage for future generations.

In closing, there have been so many accomplishments and so many people deserve accolades for their efforts that it is impossible to list them all here. I just scratched the surface in this brief message and want to extend thanks to all of you for all that you do in the many facets of our Society.

We look forward to remaining true to our mission and to the challenges and rewards that only the future can bring.

PRESIDENT ROBERT HALLOCK'S MESSAGE

May 2010

During the period from mid May 2009 to now I had the opportunity to be at the Bronck Museum and Vedder Research Library frequently. This gave me a unique opportunity to deal with visitors, tourists, staff and volunteers as well as get to see the buildings and grounds up close and personal.

Several things stand out during that time:

- Dutch tourists who were surprised to find out that the Museum did not receive much in the way of government support;
- Dutch sailors from the flotilla here to celebrate the Quadricentennial – one of whom said “That’s my house in Holland – it’s just the same and just as old” ;
- Keil McCarran’s Eagle Scout ceremony held on the grounds;
- being at John Ham’s education program and opening the Victorian Horse Barn at 8:30pm to let people see the Catskill Mountain House model;
- dealing with the school tours and in the classroom with schoolchildren seeing their interest and keeping up with their questions;
- discussing the site with the “talent”(host) of PBS Channel 13 of NYC before they filmed the segment on the Bronck Houses; seeing the picture of the Bronck Houses on the Channel 13 website advertising their program;
- taking the photographer from National Geographic around the site; watching Jonathan Donald’s film being made in the 1663 house;
- doing a presentation on the revolutionary war for the Albany VA vets;
- giving tours day after day to people from all over and seeing how interested they were in the site;
- getting the Barrack open for storage;
- watching the Swamp Oak come down piece by piece;
- seeing the “Historic Sites in Greene County” book finally come to publication and be so well accepted;
- celebrating the Hudson Fulton Champlain Quadricentennial – the Dutch singers, the special programs at the Museum; speaking to groups about the Dutch history in the area
- seeing the excitement and pride of the library staff when the astronomers from the University of Texas found the information they were seeking about Frederick Church’s painting of the comet including Thomas Cole’s son’s diary of the event;
- being at the Vedder when the large scanner was delivered;

and many other good memories.

The various committees of the Society are to be congratulated for their efforts. Members and friends of the Society are encouraged to continue to support the Society. Our efforts are recognized as we work to preserve history and educate people. I attended a posthumous award ceremony for Ray Beecher at the New York State Historic Preservation meeting in December 2009. I presented a copy of “Historic Sites in Greene County” to the Preservation Office. There was a discussion of who was

going to get the book first, Commissioner Carol Ash, Deputy Commissioner Wint Aldrich or the staff of the preservation office. Deputy Commissioner Aldrich indicated he was going to take this book to various historical societies around the State and say "Look at this! If Greene County Historical Society can do this, you can too!"

We should be proud of what we have accomplished and at the same time ready to continue our efforts. We have to continue the restoration of the Bronck Houses; finish the Hunter Education Center; get the Barrack exhibit spaces open; expand our education programs; and continue to bring visitors into Greene County with our Bronck Museum tours, special events, and for research at the Vedder Research Library.

Who knows what 2010 will bring, but we can look forward to the year with confidence based upon our past successes.

Greene County Historical Society, Inc.
Annual Meeting
May 17, 2009

The Annual Meeting of the Greene County Historical Society, Inc. was called to order by President Robert C. Hallock with the Pledge of Allegiance on May 17, 2009 at 3:45 pm at the Vedder Research Library, Coxsackie, New York. There were 22 members present. An attendance list is attached to the Secretary's copy of these minutes.

A Moment of Silence was observed for those members who have passed away within the last year.

Report from the President. Robert Hallock, Society President directed attention to the Society's 2008-2009 Annual Report distributed at the door. He noted that his written report refers to those people who led the effort to establish the Society in 1929 and to more recent leaders like Ray Beecher. He urged all Society members and Trustees to follow the examples set by these leaders. He thanked all Officers, Trustees, Volunteers and Members for their support through the past year in the many accomplishments of the Society.

Approval of the Minutes of the 2008 Annual Meeting. Ann Hallock, Secretary called attention to the minutes of the 2008 Annual Meeting which are included in the 2008-2009 Annual Report and summarized the content. It was moved by Michel Goldberg and seconded by Chris Byas that the minutes be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report. David Dorpfeld, Treasurer noted that there had been many accomplishments through the year despite the financial situation nationally and within the Society. The Officers and Committees have worked hard to keep expenses down and be sure that money was available to pay expenses before initiating projects. He believes that next year will include similar financial challenges. He referred members to the written financial reports within the Annual Report.

Financial Secretary. Tom Satterlee directed attention to the Society membership information included in the 2008-2009 Annual Report. He recommended that the Society implement a new, greater push for increased membership.

Committee Reports

President Hallock asked that each Committee Chairman give brief remarks and be prepared to answer questions about the information included in the 2008-2009 Annual Report.

Vedder Research Library. Linda Gentalen, Chair noted that the Library Committee was pursuing a State grant through the office of Assemblyman Tim Gordon for the purchase of resources for reproducing printed materials. No new information about this grant has been received. The Library would welcome new volunteers and Committee members.

Thomas Cole's Cedar Grove. Lisa Fox Martin, Chair thanked the Society for their support of the Cole Committee and the site. She noted that there is a good dialogue about the separation of the Cole Committee into a new corporation and that the Committee is excited about the future.

Bronck Museum. Ann Hallock, Chair introduced Shelby Mattice, Bronck Museum Site Manager and Jennifer Barnhart, Museum Associate. She noted that the first program of the season, Association Day, had been held immediately prior to the Annual Meeting. The Museum Report included in the 2008-2009 Annual Report offers details about the coming Museum season.

Buildings & Grounds. Tom Satterlee noted that the Committee is working on a number of problems, including the recent departure of the newly hired caretakers. He thanked the volunteers have been helping with pre-season work on the site.

Publication Committee. In the absence of the chair, attention was directed to the written report.

Beecher Scholarship. Chris Byas, Chair reported that the response to the availability of the Beecher Scholarship has been limited. Last year two awards were given. This year one application has been received. Information about the scholarship had been sent out in December so students have adequate time. She suggested that the availability of the scholarship might be offered to Juniors and that English and History Teachers might be contacted instead of only Guidance Counselors. She urged that the Trustees consider how the scholarships might be handled in the future.

Historic Register. In the absence of any representative from the Historic Register Committee, attention was directed to the written report.

Member Relations. Marilyn Rausch, Chair noted that a report is included in the 2008-2009 Annual Report.

Home Tour. Chair Terez Limer announced that the 33rd Annual Tour will be held on June 6, 2009 at various sites along the Hudson River. The main headquarters for the Tour will be the Freight Master Office at Catskill Point. A second site will be the Vedder Research Library in Coxsackie. People will be able to pick up tickets and tour packages at these sites. Advertisements have been sold and it is hoped that some grant assistance will help pay some of the expenses. Terez noted that it promises to be a good Tour.

Education Committee. Chair Terez Limer asked Wanda Dorpfeld to describe the program which she is organizing for July 14. Wanda announced that Michelle Phillips of Peebles Island, State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation has been involved in the restoration work of a B.B.G.Stone work which is owned by the Greene County Historical Society but has been on loan to Olana, a State site. Ms. Phillips will describe that work. Several other programs are being considered.

Strategic Planning. Emily Dorpfeld Kunchala reported that a new strategic plan has been drafted and will be ready for comment at the July Quarterly Meeting of the Board of Trustees and for approval at the October Meeting.

Cole Separation. Tom Satterlee reported that the Society Trustees and the Cole Committee had agreed to develop an informal agreement for the separation of the Cole Committee and the site from the Society. The Cole Committee would obtain a separate charter from the State Education Department for the operation of a museum with a collection. Currently an ad hoc committee with representatives from both the Society and the Cole Committee are waiting for the written proposal for the separation from the lawyers working with them. This ad hoc committee has spent a great deal of time working out arrangements for handling the current collections.

Board Development. Chair Wanda Dorpfeld reported that the Board Development Committee was offering the following slate for the Class of 2014:

Members of the Class of 2009 who wish to return as Trustees in the Class of 2014:

Robert D'Agostino
David Dorpfeld
Ann Hallock
Terez Limer
Thomas Satterlee

New Trustee Candidates for the Class of 2014:

James Dustin
Edward Synan
Denise Warren

It was moved by Dick May and seconded by Joseph Warren that the slate of Trustee candidates proposed by the Board Development Committee be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Other Business. President Hallock asked that any other business which should come before the membership be brought forward at this time. None was offered.

Adjournment. It was moved by David Dorpfeld and seconded by Jonathan Donald that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann B. Hallock
Recording Secretary

Treasurer's Report for Calendar Year 2009
David C. Dorpfeld, Treasurer

Following this narrative are two financial statements. The first is a revenue and expense statement for Society operations for calendar year 2009 without Cedar Grove, and the second is for Cedar Grove. While Cedar Grove operates as a committee of the Society, for some time they have kept their own accounting records which are consolidated once a year with the rest of the Society's records when the Society's IRS 990 is prepared -- usually sometime in the summer following the previous year's operations. It was determined early on that with all the grants and ongoing construction at Cedar Grove, the paperwork was too great for the Society's Treasurer to handle on a volunteer basis. As result, Raymond Beecher initially handled the finances at Cedar Grove and they are currently in the capable hands of Kenneth Williams. I would also like to thank Jennifer Barnhart who has assisted me in performing my responsibilities over the last year.

The financial condition of the society improved in calendar year 2009 as did the condition of the overall national economy. As a result, the Society's operations continue to be on a sound financial footing. We experienced a slight shortfall from what we had budgeted for investment income of a little over \$6000. This is an improvement from the \$17,000 shortfall the year before. This shortfall contributed largely to missing our overall budgeted target (bottom line) by \$3,542 or 2.2 percent. On the positive side, operations at Cedar Grove showed net operating income of \$1,546.

On the revenue side of the ledger we had some pleasant surprises and some disappointments. For instance, income from the home tour exceeded expectations by over \$3,000 while at the same time support from the Town of Coxsackie was less than requested. By the end of the year we were pleased to find that income had exceeded what we had budgeted by \$797.

This year we found it necessary to make almost \$8,000 in repairs and up-grades to the heating system in the Vedder Research Library. Fortunately we still had almost this much left from the original library construction, and this money was used to offset the cost. Wages exceeded the budgeted amounts for curatorial and administrative assistance. This was due to our Curator's temporary disability. The shortfall in this area was more than made up by the use of volunteers and the receipt of disability insurance. As is common, some expenses turned out to be more than budgeted and others were less. In the end, expenses exceeded our budgeted amounts by a total of \$4,339 or about 2.7 percent.

In 2008 we kicked off a capital funds campaign to raise money for the repair of the south wall of the 1685 stone wing on the Bronck House and development of the former kennel property purchased by the Society. We have made considerable progress with the money raised so far, but more is needed. We plan to renew our fund-raising efforts this year and members should be learning more about our accomplishments and unmet needs in the next few weeks.

Greene County Historical Society
Statement of Revenue and Expenses

For the period ending 12/31/09

	<u>FY09 Budget</u>	<u>Actual YTD 12/31/09</u>	<u>(Over)/ Under</u>	<u>Unanticipated/ Unbudgeted</u>	
REVENUES					
Grants Received					
Restricted	4,300	3,300	(1,000)	5,000	1
Unrestricted	10,000	7,500	(2,500)		
Total Grants Received	<u>14,300</u>	<u>10,800</u>	<u>(3,500)</u>	<u>5,000</u>	
Museum Activites					
Admissions	5,000	5,474	474		
Donations	1,000	986	(14)		
Events	2,000	1,140	(860)		
Total Museum Activites	<u>8,000</u>	<u>7,600</u>	<u>400</u>	<u>-</u>	
Other Income					
Beecher Scholarship	650	1,484	834		
Disability Insurance		4,250	4,250		
Events - Home Tour	5,000	8,198	3,198		
Library Activites	2,000	2,466	466		
Membership/Associates	20,000	21,339	1,339		
Memorial Endowment	102,500	96,166	(6,334)		
Micellaneous Income	2,000	785	(1,215)		
Museum Shop	3,000	5,399	2,399		
Publications	500	643	143		
Interest Income	400	17	(383)		
Restricted - Capital Funds Drive				12,745	
Restricted - Van Loon House					
Restricted - Grant/Gift for Register Book				13,231	
Total Other Income	<u>136,050</u>	<u>140,747</u>	<u>4,697</u>	<u>25,976</u>	
	<u>158,350</u>	<u>159,147</u>	<u>797</u>	<u>30,976</u>	

1 - Grant from Plymouth Hill Foundation

2 - Construction CD cashed to upgrade heating system in library.

3 - Quadricentennial grant - \$1,732; Plymouth Hill grant - \$2,165

Greene County Historical Society
Statement of Revenue and Expenses

For the period ending 12/31/09

EXPENSES	FY09 Budget	Actual YTD 12/31/09	(Over)/ Under	Unanticipated/ Unbudgeted
Maintenance				
Library	2,700	2,651	49	7,911 2
Museum	11,750	4,440	7,310	
Other	-	1,322		
Total Maintenance	<u>14,450</u>	<u>8,413</u>	<u>6,037</u>	<u>7,911</u>
Utilities				
Electric	3,500	3,895	(395)	
Fuel Oil/Burner Service	6,000	386	5,614	
Phones	1,000	1,098	(98)	
Other	-	235	(235)	
Total Utilities	<u>10,500</u>	<u>5,614</u>	<u>4,886</u>	<u>-</u>
Wages				
Bookkeeper/Payroll Service	2,100	2,100	-	
Caretakers	4,800	4,000	800	
Curatorial	38,000	38,000	-	
Curatorial Assistance	4,000	6,920	(2,920)	
Librarian	19,500	19,500	-	
Administrative Assistant	6,000	6,920	(920)	
Total Wages	<u>74,400</u>	<u>77,440</u>	<u>(3,040)</u>	<u>-</u>
Other Expenses				
Annual Meeting	100	-	100	
Beecher Scholarship	1,000	500	500	
Collection Enhancement/Acquisition	2,500	27	2,473	
Computer	900	1,707	(807)	
Contracted Services	500	470	30	
Dues/Subscriptions	400	352	48	
Equipment	-	1,202	(1,202)	
Exhibits	500	-	500	
Expenditures from Restricted Grants	1,750	2,135	(385)	3,878 3
Furnitures & Fixtures	1,000	693	307	
Home Tour	800	530	270	
Insurance	15,000	18,622	(3,622)	
Membership/Assoc. Expense	200	275	(75)	
Miscellaneous	100	110	(10)	
Office Supplies	1,000	1,314	(314)	
Postage	2,000	1,060	940	
Promotion and Outreach	3,000	2,868	132	
Purchases for Museum Shop	1,000	2,894	(1,894)	
Publications/Printing	2,000	2,664	(664)	
Sales Tax	150	423	(273)	
Security System	400	2,023	(1,623)	
Charges - Credit Card	300	416	(116)	
990 Preparation	2,000	3,881	(1,881)	
Supplies	1,500	2,784	(1,284)	
Health Insurance	3,600	3,271	329	
Payroll Expenses	7,300	6,001	1,299	
Transfer Out to Cedar Grove	10,000	15,000	(5,000)	
Capital Construction - Bronck Barracks				12,945
Historic Register Book				40,342
Total Other Expenses	<u>59,000</u>	<u>71,222</u>	<u>(12,222)</u>	<u>57,165</u>
Total Expenses	<u>158,350</u>	<u>162,689</u>	<u>(4,339)</u>	<u>65,076</u>
Net Gain (Loss)	<u>-</u>	<u>(3,542)</u>	<u>5,136</u>	<u>(34,100)</u>

Cedar Grove

Statement of Revenue and Expenses

For the period from January 01, 2009 ended December 31, 2009

All Fund(s)

	<u>Beecher Memoria</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>
Revenue				
Federal Grants		108,058.05		108,058.05
State Grants		17,000.00	4,800.00	21,800.00
Cty & Local Grants		9,713.00		9,713.00
Corp Grants		6,975.00		6,975.00
Foundation Grants		9,500.00	8,680.00	18,180.00
Other Grants	650,000.00	13,564.00	400,000.00	1,063,564.00
Membership		46,807.00		46,807.00
Gifts in Kind		11,000.00		11,000.00
Admission		26,139.34		26,139.34
Private Support Donations		29,001.17		29,001.17
Events Sponsor		41,500.00		41,500.00
Event Tickets		19,740.00		19,740.00
Shop Sales		22,427.44		22,427.44
Symposium & Program		8,921.46		8,921.46
Other Income		2,076.65		2,076.65
Greene Cty Historical Support		15,000.00		15,000.00
Net Assets Released from Rest		175,481.53	-172,905.54	2,575.99
NYS Released from Rest		1,548.76	-4,124.75	-2,575.99
Interest on Beecher Funds	81.00		1,934.00	2,015.00
Total Revenue	<u>650,081.00</u>	<u>564,453.40</u>	<u>238,383.71</u>	<u>1,452,918.11</u>
Expense				
Compensation		174,577.34		174,577.34
Consultants fees		157,064.49		157,064.49
Collection Related		6,214.97		6,214.97
Educational programs		3,523.12		3,523.12
Furniture and Fixtures		1,237.87		1,237.87
Computer Equip & Exp		6,815.73		6,815.73
Insurance		16,043.63		16,043.63
Maintenance		9,860.95		9,860.95
Office Supplies		3,164.45		3,164.45
Postage		9,481.73		9,481.73
Printing		25,921.74		25,921.74
Distribution		1,954.42		1,954.42
Adver/Public Relations		14,485.87		14,485.87
Purchases - Museum Shop		15,855.35		15,855.35
Security		960.00		960.00
Signage		830.24		830.24
Catering & Decorating		22,650.76		22,650.76
Utilities - Electric		3,495.76		3,495.76
Utilities - Fuel		4,368.75		4,368.75
Utilities - Telephone & Relat		4,575.89		4,575.89
Utilities - Water & Sewer		457.50		457.50
Other Expenses		21,585.56		21,585.56
Cap Const Grounds		55,913.89		55,913.89
Depreciation		1,867.00		1,867.00
Total Expense	<u>0.00</u>	<u>562,907.01</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>562,907.01</u>
Excess (Deficit) of revenue over expenses	<u>650,081.00</u>	<u>1,546.39</u>	<u>238,383.71</u>	<u>890,011.10</u>

ANNUAL REPORT 2009
MEMBERSHIP
 THOMAS SATTERLEE, FINANCIAL SECRETARY

January 1 - December 31, 2009, the total moneys the financial secretary collected for dues and donations were:

Dues	\$21,163
Donations	
Vedder Library	\$256
Bronck Museum	\$306
Capital Fund	\$1,220
Beecher Scholarship	\$1,445
 Total Dues & Donations	 \$24,330

Membership by category for the year 2009 were as follows:

Member	166
Supporting/Family	176
Sustaining	74
Patron	46
Business Basic	5
Business Supporter	8
Business Sustaining	12
Library Institutions	9
Honorary	13
Student	2
 Total Membership	 511

Membership was down slightly for 2009 while moneys collected was up slightly. Members are encouraged to solicit memberships wherever possible.

The current membership drive, as of April 27, 2010 has resulted in responses as follows:

Dues	\$15,973	Member	129
		Supporting/Family	141
Donations		Sustaining	62
		Patron	35
Vedder Library	\$225	Business Basic	4
Bronck Museum	\$220	Business Supporter	5
Capital Fund	\$1,239	Business Sustaining	10
Beecher Scholarship	\$50	Library Institutions	10
		Honorary	12
		Student	2
 Total Dues & Donations	 \$17,707	 Total Membership	 410

Greene County Historical Society 2009 Membership

NYS Library Ser. Cont Sect State
Historical Society of Wisconsin

Business Sustaining

Coxsackie Antique Center
National Bank of Coxsackie
Hinterland Design
Tip Top Furniture
Greene County IDA
Dimensions North Ltd
Black Dome Press Corp
Greene County Septic Cleaners, Inc
Chalet Services, Inc.
State Telephone Co

Business Supporter

C.A. Albright & Sons LLC
Deer Watch Inn Bed & Breakfast
Bavarian Manor Country Inn & Restaurant
Millspaugh Camerato Funeral Home
Hilscher & Hilscher
Kosco
Willow Mixed Media
Marshall & Sterling Upstate Inc.

Business Basic

Athens Auto & Collision Ctr
BAT-WINN Enterprises, Inc
Kingsley W. Greene Furniture
Restoration Executive Solutions
International Christman's Windham
House Inc.

Library Institution

Columbia-Greene Community College
The Catskill Center for Conservation & Development
Palenville Branch Library
New York Public Library
Catskill Public Library
Allen County Public Library
Greenville Public Library

Patron

Beth & Timothy Albright
Charles A. Beach
Phoebe P. Bender
Helen Brown
Jean & Clesson Bush
Christopher Charvat
Mr. & Mrs. William T. Conine
Arthur Levin & William Cox
Mr. & Mrs. William A. Day
Mr. & Mrs. Seraphino C. DeLucia
Lisa Fox Martin & Dick May
Nancy Dunn
Stephen Dunn
Harvey Durham
Kathleen Durham
Stephen Ellwood
Aaron & Rebecca Flach
Jim & Purcell Palmer Foundation
Virginia K. Garland
Thomas & Linda Gentalen
Michel Goldberg
Theron & Lisa Gunderman
Robert C. Hallock
Ann B. Hallock
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Hartman
David O. Herman
Richard N. Philp
Emily & Suraj Kunchala
Mary W. McCabe
Marjorie S. McCoy
Drs. Robert & Margaret Meyer
Magda Mininberg
Paul & Dawn Moyer
Nicholas & Mary Lou C. Nahas
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis O'Grady
Hugh & Peggy Quigley
Barbara Smith Rivette
Harry C. Sacco
Martin & Robin Smith
Steven E. Sossei
John & Cynthia H. VanLoan

Willis & Jennette Vermilyea
Joseph M. Warren
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Jean Williams
D. Wubben
Benjamin Zitomer

Student

Rachel Hallock
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Bertha Bogert
Library of Congress
Natalie & Frank Daley
Ulster County Genealogical Society
Schoharie County Historical Society
Delaware County Historical Society
DAR Library
NYSHA Library/Serials
Eliza B. Miller
Perry Palmer
Dr. Olga Santora
Dutch Settlers Society
Gilboa Historical Society

Committees 2009–2010
2009-2010 Committee Reports

Committees with Membership Lists
Standing Committees

Executive Committee

Joseph Warren
Robert Hallock
John Dickinson May
David Dorpfeld
Thomas Satterlee
Jim Planck

Jim Tancredi
Wanda Dorpfeld
Lisa Fox Martin until 1/10
Linda Gentalen
Jonathan Donald

Buildings and Grounds

Jim Tancredi, Chair
Bob Hallock
Thomas Satterlee

Theron Gunderman
Harvey Durham
Tom Winnie

Finance

David Dorpfeld, Chair
Robert Hallock

Emily Dorpfeld Kunchala

Investment

David Dorpfeld, Chair
Robert Hallock
Charles Schaefer

John Dickinson May
Dennis O'Grady

Museum Shop

Jennifer Barnhart

Bronck Museum

Wanda Dorpfeld, Co-Chair
Ann Hallock, Co-Chair
Chris Byas
Harvey Durham
James Dustin

Jeff Flack
Richard Muggeo
Shelby Mattice, Curator
Jennifer Barnhart, Operations Manager

Membership

Thomas Satterlee, Financial Secretary

Education

Marilyn Rausch

Wanda Dorpfeld

Vedder Research Library Operations

Linda Gentalen, Chair
Harvey Durham

Steve Pec, Librarian
Jane Rogers

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Dennis O'Grady

John Dickinson May

Publications

Robert D'Agostino, Chair
Harvey Durham

Thomas Satterlee

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Joan Morales
Tom & Dianne Gibson

Ralph Grinell
Emily Dorpfeld Kunchala
Nick Nahas
Betty O'Hara
Gary Wank
Nancy Alex

Historical Register Members Emeritus

Winifred Clark

Natalie E. Daley

Public & Member Relations

Marilyn Rausch, Chair until 1/10

Strategic Planning

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Ann Hallock
Terez Limer
Jim Planck

Jonathan Donald
Bob Hallock
John Dickinson May

Ad Hoc Committees 34th Annual Home Tour

Terez Limer, Chair
Patricia Marrow
Roy Davis

Ken Mabey
David Dorpfeld

Beecher Scholarship Award

Chris Byas, Chair
Harvey Durham

Terez Limer

Photographic & Digital Reproduction Policy Committee

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Linda Gentalen
Denise Warren
Shelby Mattice

Jim Dustin
John Dickinson May
Jonathan Donald
Steve Pec

Cole Separation Committee

Jonathan Donald
Wanda Dorpfeld
Randolph Wills

Tom Satterlee
Lisa Fox Martin
Robin Smith

Attached are the individual reports from the Committees:

VEDDER RESEARCH LIBRARY

Linda Gentalen, Chair

It has been a productive year at the Vedder. Our Librarian, Steve Pec, has been keeping records since 2005, and by far the year just past reflects the largest number of visitors to the library, as well as the most numerous requests for information via email. The celebration of the 2009 Hudson Quadricentennial brought a myriad of projects large and small, keeping staff and volunteers very busy and bringing to light a number of issues regarding the reproduction of some of the library's holdings. Within reasonable limits, the library has always provided paper copies to its patrons, but multiple requests for finely detailed digital images have caused new concern. Quality digital information is internet ready and reproducible in an endless variety of formats, so reflection is called for before deciding to provide such material, especially with regard to some of the library's more valuable items. Fortunately, the Society has formed a Photographic and Digital Reproduction Committee. Under the direction of Emily Kunchala, the committee is working on all sorts of duplication questions and the VRL has been an enthusiastic participant in these meetings. A Society-wide policy covering these matters will be ready soon.

The Vedder Research Library was the happy recipient of two lovely grants in the past year. A check for \$1,000 for operating expenses was received from the Bank of Greene County Charitable Trust in June, and we received a \$5,000 Special Legislative Grant from Assemblyman Tim Gordon's office dedicated to updating photographic and research technology equipment. For the most part, this grant requires us to spend the money and then be reimbursed, but a check for \$1,200 was sent along recently. Originally, only purchase of a planetary (overhead) scanner was envisioned, but in the time lapse between our application for the grant and its approval the price of such new equipment skyrocketed from multiple thousands to over five figures, well out of reach. Ebay provided the answer, and an older model of this sophisticated equipment has been acquired. This approach has allowed other purchases true to the mission of the grant. Under Steve Pec's careful administration, the library has acquired two new printers (one is a printer/scanner/copier/fax combo), refurbished an older computer, and bought a new computer with optical scanning software. This software enables a scanned text document to be searched using key words. Some money has been held in reserve to provide installation of the planetary scanner, and to provide the new outlets that may be needed to handle all this new equipment.

The Library held a well attended Informational Open House in conjunction with the Bronck Museum Heritage Craft Fair on October 4. Visitors had an opportunity for personal interaction with our library volunteers and staff, and received an introduction to the wealth of information held within our walls: books, newspapers, photographs, postcards, genealogies, vital records, cemetery inscriptions, military records and more. Our guests learned that although we are not a lending library, we are a rare flower in the small bouquet of historical society libraries—through the grace of our wonderful volunteers, we are well organized and open to the public.

It is our active volunteers whose knowledge and ongoing commitment make the Vedder such a valuable resource. Our appreciation and thanks go to Shirley McGrath, Judy Rundell, Harvey and Kathleen Durham, Clesson Bush, Stephen Schwebler, Charles Holtz, Debbie Scott, Raymond Friss and Jerry Sterritt for their time well spent. A number of these Vedder volunteers were able to participate in the Society's Volunteer Recognition Reception at the Beattie-Powers House on May 2. Shirley, who has so many duties at the library, looked unusually relaxed and was lovely in pink. Stephen, who deals with the library's photo collection among other things, was seen recording the event with his camera. Job security, perhaps? What fun!

Donations of interesting historical material continue to arrive at the Vedder, some 44 gifts since June. A good example is the latest one, received from James Hubbard at the Volunteer Reception mentioned above. He provided Hudson River scenes-- an 1897 photograph of the Embought and a small watercolor of Dieper Hoeck before the building of the Rip van Winkle Bridge, both framed. The bulkiest donation of the year came from Adirondack Community College, through the work of Steve Pec and Tom Satterlee. They gave us a microfilm reader/printer which nicely replaces our broken one, along with six filing cabinets of New York Times microfilm, covering the daily paper from 1850 to 1985. Pick up was required, and Tom handled everything—literally! Many thanks, Tom, for this extra effort.

Graciously, Raymond Beecher's family has allowed the library to keep on display for a while longer the memorabilia and photos of his life so beautifully brought together by Terez Limer last spring. The exhibit is a helpful reminder to us all of Ray's goals for the Vedder. The VRL is open Tuesday and Wednesday, 10 AM to 4 PM, and Saturday from 9 AM to noon. Our phone number is 731-1033, and you can find us on the web at www.vedderlibrary.org.

BRONCK MUSEUM COMMITTEE

Wanda Dorpfeld, Co-chair

Ann Hallock, Co-chair

The 2009 Events and Tours. The 2009 season for the Bronck Museum was filled with unique challenges. In early June, Shelby Mattice, Bronck Museum Site Manager suffered a horrible bicycle accident, resulting in broken bones in her leg and knee. Since it was apparent that Shelby would be incapacitated for several months, plans were made to maintain the previously announced Museum schedule. Jennifer Barnhart, Museum Associate, agreed to work another day. She took on all responsibilities for promoting the site, including a signboard on Route 9W and promotion cards for each event. A map of the site helped visitors look over the areas not covered in the tour. New caretakers, Jason O'Donnell and Aaron Bedell, opened the Museum buildings and checked the security system at the end of the day, as well as helping with special events. As word of Shelby's accident spread, Bronck Museum Committee members, other trustees and members volunteered to help. Soon there was a way to cover the

2009 season from school tours, special bus tours to planned events both on-site and off. Of special note was Ted Hilscher's willingness on a warm Sunday afternoon to present the Bronck Family at Home "Inside the Dutch Farm". By mid-September, Shelby was able to return to the Museum for special presentations, seated in the 1663 House with volunteers taking visitors on the tour. Throughout her time away from the Museum, Shelby was contacted regularly with a list of questions which volunteer docents could not answer. When we realized how interesting her responses were, we suggested that a regular feature, "Ask Shelby", be added to the Society's newsletter, "The Messenger".

The second challenge was presented by The Hudson Champlain 400th Anniversary celebration. The year started with uncertainty about funding for special programs so the Committee scheduled only what the Society could handle including several events which emphasized the Dutch Heritage of the Museum. Hudson Champlain Quadricentennial Celebration Funding was received to support several special events. The 400th anniversary also brought additional tourists to the Hudson Valley, especially the Dutch tourists, who remarked on the Museum's effort to describe Dutch colonial life before the English influence. These Dutch tourists often noted the Museum component of the Society web-site, citing this as a reason that they had decided to visit. Thanks to Jennifer Kang who serves as web-master. The Museum was included in several programs made for television including Trustee Jonathan Donald's "Greene County, USA" and Channel 13 NYC's "Dutch House of the Hudson Valley". Images were also gathered for a National Geographic presentation in 2010.

Over the years, the County Initiatives Programs, administrated by the Greene County Council on the Arts, under the leadership of Kay Stamer, have provided support for our cultural offerings, especially the music for "By the Light of the Silvery Moon" and the Heritage Craft Fair. In 2009, this funding was an important resource.

The calendar of events was as follows: May—Association Day and Exhibit in Visitors Gallery—"Definitely Dutch" opens. June – "Voyage of the Half Moon", a musical presentation by Nanne & Ankie. July—Bronck Family at Home Tours, "Inside the Dutch Farm". August – "By the Light of the Silvery Moon". September—Bronck Family at Home Tours, "Inside the Dutch Family" and Hudson River Ramble, "18th Century Green". October—Bronck Museum Heritage Craft Fair; Bronck Family at Home Tours, "Inside the Dutch Church"; and "Art in Food & Food in Art" by Peter G. Rose; and November—Chilly Willy Winter's Eve Tours.

Of note was the involvement of volunteers from the National Honor Society at Coxsackie- Athens Central School, recruited by Rachel Hallock to work at the Heritage Craft Fair. These students received credit for their service to a non-profit community group. We hope that we can continue to recruit student volunteers.

Group tour visitors included the 4th Graders from Coxsackie Elementary and E.J. Arthur Elementary Schools; a Vermont Historical Group; a Vermont Senior Group; tourists from Polace's; and a group from the Albany VA Hospital. The Bronck Family Group visited

the site for a special time and tour. Retired teacher Wanda Dorpfeld developed a new program for second graders from a Christian School, including pressing cider and a special craft project and retired teacher Dick Muggeo developed a program for a local cub scout den, including home-made root beer. These new programs have given the Committee ideas for reaching out to new audiences.

Museum staff and volunteers have continued to make off-site presentations including appearances by Shelby in 4th Grade Classes at Coxsackie and E. J. Arthur with the Dutch Foodways and by Shelby in the Home and Careers class on the History of Chocolate. Bob Hallock did a special program for the Hudson DAR on General Nathanael Greene. The Committee is planning more promotion of the off-site presentations for the six months when the Museum is closed.

When the year ended and all the visitors and the money had been counted, we realized that we had a banner year with a total revenue of \$8,496.68 and 3,005 people, the total attendance for all types, both on-site and off-site.

Other 2009 Accomplishments at the Museum. The Committee's activities were not limited to tours, programs and events. There were many accomplishments on the grounds including the following:

- Kiel McCarran completed the work at the Burial Ground. His Eagle Scout presentation was held in the picnic grove in front of his new stone wall. The Museum Committee was happy to work with Kiel and his family and hope that other Scouts will consider Eagle Scout projects at the Museum.
- The picnic area received a face lift with new picnic tables and repair of some of the old picnic tables, funded by the Bank of Greene County. Thanks to the Masonic Woodworkers who found the picnic tables and trucked them to the site.
- Signage funded by the Plymouth Hill Foundation was installed to explain the Burial Grounds and the importance of the West View from the back of the 1738 House. Small brochures which provide additional information about these two areas will be available in 2010.
- After receipt of the Historic Structures Report on the West Wing and consultation with several arborists, Tom Satterlee from the Buildings and Grounds Committee, indicated that the large swamp oak tree, next to the Mill Stone, and the cedar tree on the side of the 1663 house had to be removed. Removal of these trees posed several issues—the disruption to the Tourist Season and loss of the trees' shade resulting in the greater potential for UV damage to the collection items on display in the 1663 House, particularly, the Dutch Scripture Painting. The trees were eventually removed in late October. New UV shades for the windows on the first floor of the 1663 House were made-to-order and installed and the caretakers made UV screens for the second floor windows. The removal of the

trees has changed the view of the house, but provides a better view of the three separate houses and hyphen hall from the south east corner of the complex.

- The reaction between modern day paint and the milk paint used on rooms of the houses, particularly the 1663 and 1685 Houses and the kitchen dependency, continues to produce areas of peeling paint. Rick Hanse and his grandson Alex carefully removed the peeling paint with a dry paint brush in the summer of 2009. The experts from Benjamin Moore recommend that we continue this process regularly because a sealer that works with both the original paint and the modern paint in the Museum environment has not been found.

Beginning in 2009, the Museum Committee organized several small sub committees to deal with specific issues and report back to the entire committee. These committees have worked on the following initiatives in 2009-2010:

- **Van Bergen Overmantel Program** –This painting is one of the most historically significant artifacts pertaining to early Dutch life in the Hudson Valley. It is a landscape painting of Dutch colonist Martin Van Bergen's farm in Leeds c.1731. The artwork attributed to John Heaton (active 1730-1750) is an oil painted on two pieces of cherry wood, secured with white pine battens and was intended to be displayed over a fireplace mantel (hence the term overmantel). In recognition of the importance of this painting, members of the Bronck Museum Committee used a copy of the painting to develop a new hands-on educational school program for 4th and 5th graders. This program is designed to give students a better understanding of early Dutch life in America through careful investigation of the painting. Lesson plans have been developed which will be lent to interested teachers in Greene County. The plans include offering an original size copy of the overmantel painting as well as segments (thirds) which are to be assigned to groups of students. Students will be asked to act as amateur historians by studying the painting and reporting back on what they have learned about early 18th century farm life in Greene county. We wish to thank the Fenimore Art museum for collaboration on this project.
- **Promotion of Museum Programs for Home Schoolers** –In an effort to have more home schoolers visit the Museum a letter was sent to 18 schools in Greene County and surrounding areas. The schools have agreed to include these letters in their mailings to home school parents. The letter explained that over the years the Museum has hosted many visits tailored to meet the needs and interests of young people and outlined the resources we have available at the Bronck Museum that can enhance the educational experiences of students.
- **Promotion of Museum Programs for Scouts** –Letters were sent to area scout leaders informing them of our presence and offering to tailor programs to assist them in obtaining badges. We were contacted by Heart of the Hudson Girl Scouts of America which serves five counties above New York City, and they will

be listing us on their website as a resource for troop leaders.

- **Promotion of Museum Programs for Other Grades in Schools** –Traditionally the Museum has emphasized off-site and on-site programs for the 4th grade level, since it includes study of American and local history. In recent years there has been more pressure to offer educational programs for K-12 in local history museums, such as the Bronck Museum. This is a major departure, but one which offers the Committee new and interesting challenges. We took the first step in 2009 when Wanda Dorpfeld and Dick Muggeo worked with younger children at the Museum. We hope that this effort will be continued. Another option is the Greater Sense of Place Program, which began at Catskill Middle School 28 years ago. It was designed to help students gain a better understanding of what their community and local history has to offer. Next fall we plan to participate in this very successful and important program by offering activities at the Bronck Museum. Bob Hallock is adapting his costumed interpretation of General Nathanael Greene for older students where they would interview the General and prepare a report of their findings.
- **Development of Ice Exhibits in the Bronck Barrack** –Jim Dustin has designed exhibits on the local Ice Industry for two of the eight exhibit spaces in the Barrack. A model of one of the exhibits has been on display in the Visitors Center since September 2009. Money has been obtained from grants from Plymouth Hill, Fenimore Asset Management and the Bank of Greene County. Other grants to fund these exhibits are being pursued. It is planned that the exhibits will be open for the 2011 season.
- **First Move of Collection Items into the Bronck Barrack** –During the past year, the caretakers have painted and prepared a portion of the Barrack for the storage of large, heavy furniture items. At the end of April, the first move into the new space took place. This move allows Shelby Mattice, the space to implement a new storage plan approved by the Museum Committee several years ago.
- **Issues involving the Buildings and Grounds** –This sub-committee, headed by Jim Dustin is charged with developing a master plan for the grounds from the viewpoint of the operation of the Museum. Included in this committee's charge was addressing the problem of the bats which dine on the abundant mosquitos from the pond behind the houses, but come into the Dutch Barn to sleep during the day and soil collection items and signage. Experts recommend giving the bats new homes so several bat houses were mounted under the eaves of the Dutch Barn. Hopefully these will attract the bats. This sub-committee also looked at safety issues such as the need for signage when the slate sidewalks are wet and signs reminding people crossing either Pieter Bronck Road or C.R. 42 of the dangers of traffic.
- **The West Wing, Also Called the 1685 House** –There has been a serious

problem in the walls of the 1685 House with plaster falling off and obvious movement of the walls. During the 2009-2010 season, a canvas curtain blocked the wall from view and a monitor recorded temperature and humidity readings. Small plastic monitors check for movement in corners and over cracks. After the season ended, the dining room was stripped of all small collection items. Currently entrance to this room is blocked by a rope, but the door remains open so that visitors can see the beautiful woodwork on the west wall. The Committee is waiting for another meeting with Waite Associates to determine what work can be done this season. A Capital Funds Campaign is planned to help with funding of the work on this House.

Plans for the 2010 Season. The Bronck Museum officially opens for regular tours on May 29. In the Visitors Center a new exhibit, "The Broncks: A Dutch-American Family", designed by Trustee Jim Dustin and curated by Shelby Mattice will open. This exhibit has been designed to help the visitor visualize what was happening at this site and in this family in the context of what was happening in this country and the world at the time. The panels mounted around the room include images of family members and their possessions never displayed before to visitors. It is expected that this exhibit will remain in place for several years. New signage will be hung in Dutch Barn offering an explanation of the barn type and this particular barn. This signage was made possible through a grant from Plymouth Hill.

Prior to the opening of the exhibit and initiation of regular tours, the Committee has been busy. Both Shelby Mattice and Bob Hallock have visited the Cocksackie 4th grades. On April 24, 68 people on a bus tour, organized by the Philadelphia Society of Decorative Arts visited the Museum. The Museum Committee was pleased to honor the volunteers who have helped with Museum tours and events during this past year at the 1st Annual Volunteer Recognition Reception on May 2. Plans are underway for the recruitment and training of volunteers for the 2010 season. Shelby Mattice presented the History of Chocolate Program on May 6 for 63 senior citizens in Columbia County. Association Day, a celebration of the signing of the "Cocksackie Declaration", will be held on May 16, prior to the Annual Meeting.

The other events currently planned for 2010 include three Bronck Family at Home Programs, emphasizing ties between the family and community. Costumed interpretation, in the houses and on the grounds as appropriate to program will be offered. Specific programs will be offered as follows: In June –"The Minister and Parishioner"; the Reverend Johannes Schuneman of the Reformed Dutch Church of Cocksackie and his parishioner Leonard Bronk reminisce about their shared experiences in the recently concluded Revolutionary War. In July –"My Husband the Minister", Adelaide Bronk, wife of the Reverend Lewis Lampman will talk about her husband and their life together. In September – The Judge, the Doctor, and the Daughter", Dr. John Ely will be paying a call on his daughter Maria, who is married to the son of Judge Leonard Bronk. The popular "By the Light of the Silvery Moon, the Bronck Museum Heritage Craft Fair, and the Chilly Willy Winter's Eve Tours will be continued. A new

event "Of Great Sorrow", a Dutch funeral will be held in October. Watch the newspapers for more details of these programs.

The Bronck Museum Gift Shop in the Victorian Horse Barn is undergoing some remodeling, restocking and getting a new look. Not only will we be welcoming back our previous vendors, but we will also be carrying several new items for sale in the Shop. It is planned that the Grapeville Country Store will reopen during the season. Closed for several years, the building has been repaired and repainted and the exhibit is being refreshed with additional collection items.

Collection Additions. During 2009-2010 year, the Museum received a number of collection items from Tony Appa, Harvey and Kathleen Durham and Bob and Ann Hallock. In November 2009, the Museum received a chair which was willed to the Society by Isaac Tripp and catalogued into the collection in 1942. Both Raymond Beecher and Shelby have continued to track this chair with the goal of finally receiving it into the collection. The chair is English and dates to about 1720-30. The mate is in the Albany Institute of History and Art. Shelby is developing recommendations for the care and preservation of this chair.

Staff Title Changes. In March, on recommendation of the Museum Committee, the Board agreed that Shelby would return to her original title as Curator of the Bronck Museum and Jennifer Barnhart would be Operations Manager, which more closely reflects her responsibilities across the entire Society.

In closing we thank the Museum Staff and caretakers; Librarian Steve Pec; the officers, especially President Bob Hallock and Treasurer Dave Dorpfeld; the Trustees and other Committees, particularly Buildings and Grounds; the volunteers; the Society members; and all the visitors who have come through the doors of the Museum or attended our off-site programs. It has been a very good year.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

Jim Tancredi, Chair

At this time in May 2009 our caretakers Krista Weidel and Rob Fensterer had left the Society's employment. We hired a young couple to replace them and the couple lasted one day before resigning. Then we hired Aaron Bedell and Jason O'Donnell. These two young men have done a fantastic job at the Museum; doing the grounds work; helping out at museum events; and taking on extra maintenance and repair jobs. Picnic tables were obtained with a Bank of Greene County grant and stained by Aaron and Jason, who also repaired some of the picnic tables which were in the grove. The Masonic Woodworkers of Catskill delivered the picnic tables and donated new garbage can holders as well. The grounds look the best they have in a while. They have worked on the barrack, the education center, and several of the outbuildings as well as the Bronck House itself.

Without their work, the barrack would not have been completed on budget. Their efforts also enabled us to put gutters and downspouts on the education center and replace the bay window. This work and a new sump pump took care of the water problem in the

basement. Over the winter they stripped the door on the Country Store shed and repainted it, as well as re-caulking the windows and scraping the doors and woodwork on the shop and shop annex. The window glass was replaced in the Victorian Horse Barn cupola and the Bronck Museum Shop space in the horse barn was remodeled. More bat houses were added to the Dutch Barn eaves to try to prevent bats from living in the barn itself. A new step was added to the rear entrance to the kitchen dependency courtyard for safety purposes. The banisters and rails on the stoop leading to the hallway between the 1663 and 1685 houses was repaired and painted. Screens were made or repaired for the upper windows of the 1685 and 1738 houses to increase ventilation. A broken slate over the cistern in the kitchen dependency courtyard was replaced for safety purposes as well. Tree and brush trimming was done on the property.

Family Danz was hired to do repair work on the heating and air conditioning system of the Vedder Research Library. Over the summer of 2009 Family Danz crews worked on the system and seem to have done the job. They now have a maintenance contract for the system as well.

Limber Tree Service, a tree climbing tree cutting service, removed the damaged Swamp Oak tree at the Southeast corner of the 1663 house and a cedar at the South wall of the 1663 house and trimmed and removed trees at the rear of the Bronck houses. Catskill Masonic Woodworkers took the oak from the tree for use in their maple syrup operation. The tree work was recommended by the John Waite Associate's study of the problems at the houses. After the trees were removed, ultra violet screens were placed at the windows of the 1663 house since more UV sunlight would come in without the shade of the trees. American Sun Control was hired to put up the shades. Aaron and Jason made fitted screens for other windows of the house with UV shade material donated by American Sun Control.

We began to implement the John Waite Associates report in 2009. Reggie Young brought in a crew to begin taking the plaster and cement off the stone walls in the 1685 house in an effort to decrease the moisture problems and help the house breathe. That job is not complete, but it has been started. Aaron and Jason assisted in the preparation of the rooms for the work and helped in the removal work as well. A contract has been signed to create a swale between the 1663/1685 houses and the caretaker's house to keep water away from the foundations of the 1663/1685 houses. Bill Brandow, the John Waite architect assigned to the project, is working on a proposal to replace the gutter on the north of the 1663 and 1685 house which has not worked properly since its installation 25 years ago.

Aaron and Jason have worked with Trustee Jim Dustin to prepare the rear of the Bronck Barrack for installation of exhibits. An alarm system was installed in the Barrack by Scott Alarm in late 2009. In late April 2010 Mabee Movers were hired to bring several large items from the Visitor's Center, the Victorian Horse Barn and the Bronck Houses over to the Barrack for storage. This removed weight from old, fragile walls.

For 2010 we plan to continue work on the Barrack exhibit space and the Education Center, and continue to implement the Waite report. Shutters will be renovated, replaced and repaired as part of that work. The Country Store shed will have a new roof and gutters as well as a spruced up interior. Caulking and painting of windows will continue. We will also plan to start the building painting rotations in the next year or two depending on the availability of funds.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Robert D'Agostino, Chair

1. As the *Greene County Historical Journal* moves into its 34th year of publication, copies of editions from recent years are available for purchase at the Vedder Research Library. Editions from earlier years may also be available, though some specific editions may be completely sold out. Additionally, a few copies of the Society's "library binding" edition of *Journal* volumes 11 through 20, including the relevant indices, may still be available.
2. The five-year index for *Journal* volumes 26 through 30 may be completed later this year.
3. Jennifer Barnhart, one of the Society's very talented employees, has worked very hard to learn *MS-Publisher*, the publication program used by the printer. Her efforts have allowed the editor to catch up on layout for future editions. It was her work on the layout that produced our Special Edition honoring the late Dr. Raymond Beecher.
4. Jennifer also worked on the Spring 2009 edition, which featured the biography of Nathan Elliott, a Catskill bookseller in the early 1800s. The latter was actually a "lost" article written by Dr. Beecher: while he wrote the manuscript between six and eight years ago, it only recently came into the possession of the Society's president, Robert Hallock. Society Trustee Jim Planck also lent assistance on this edition, helping to prepare the Nathan Elliott manuscript for publication.
5. Due to the discovery of Dr. Beecher's "lost" Nathan Elliott manuscript and our wish to publish it as soon as possible, the *Journal's* production schedule was changed. This is why the conclusion of the 1909 Hudson/Fulton event article will be held until the Winter 2009 edition. Our popular new feature, the History Quiz, will also return in that edition.
6. The feature story in the Winter 2009 edition, will be Jean Bush's article on Captain Thomas Briggs of Athens, and his streamer the *Silas O. Pierce*.
7. The Spring 2010 edition features the story of another Athens resident, Private John Parry, who served during the American Revolution. This article was written by John Cameron.
8. Summer 2010 will feature an article by Don Howard, on the Rev. Lafayette Moore. Moore was the founder of drug companies Britsol-Meyers/Squibb and Proctor & Gamble. And Rev. Moore is buried in Durham.

9. The Fall 2010 edition will contain an article on America's symbolic "Uncle Sam," and its origins in the real-life Sam Wilson of Catskill and Troy. This article was written by Green Mountain College senior Andrew Bittner, and forwarded to the editor by our VRL librarian.

10. Society Trustee Harvey Durham has forwarded an article on the ice industry, by Norm Fuller. Depending on space limitations, this article will either appear in the Fall 2010 edition or the Winter 2010 edition.

11. Despite the list of articles above, currently "in queue" for publication, be aware that the *Journal* is always on the lookout for good research! The Publications Committee encourages Society members to consider writing for us! Editorial assistance can be provided.

The *Journal* seeks manuscripts which relate to the history of the various townships of the County and its environs. Items need not be of world-shaking import; we seek, rather, to record for the use of future generations, information about people, events, and artifacts that could be lost when our generations are gone. Topics may be related to any time period, including the recent past. (And remember, editorial assistance can be provided.)

Material for the *Greene County Historical Journal* is solicited by the Publications Committee in accordance with the following conditions:

- The Society has no funds to purchase articles. However, under special conditions the Society may be able, to a limited degree, to reimburse an author's research or reproduction expenses.
- Material must be original and written in acceptable English style, preferably word-processed (typewritten is OK as well) and double-spaced.
- Authors should be prepared to cite the sources from which their information was obtained.
- The name, address, and telephone number of the author must be given.
- The *Journal* reserves the right to accept or reject material submitted.
- The *Journal* reserves the right to edit accepted material for historical accuracy, clarity, and/or space considerations.
- Photographs will be returned after being copied.

Articles or requests for further information should be directed to Robert A. D'Agostino, *Journal* editor, at the Greene County Historical Society, Inc., P. O. Box 44, Coxsackie, New York 12051.

Also: please note the *Journal's* e-mail address: gchjnl@verizon.net

34th ANNUAL TOUR OF HOMES

Terez Limer, Chair

On Saturday, June 5, 2010, the Society will hold its 34th Annual Tour of Homes in Windham from 10am to 4pm. This year's tour is held in collaboration with the Town of Windham Historical Society. Tour headquarters will be at the beautifully restored Centre Church Civic Center on Main Street in Windham. Ticket prices have increased to \$20 in advance and \$25 the day of the tour. Included in the tour are historic guest houses, a historic resort complex now used as an art center, a barn converted to a private home and many more. Lunches are being provided by the Windham United Methodist Church. Flyers were included in the National Bank of Coxsackie statements mailing. Advertisement revenue from the tour are expected to be in the area of \$1,000.

The 33rd Annual Tour of Homes held in 2009 going from Catskill to Coxsackie along the Hudson River was a huge success. About 400 participated in the tour and record revenue of \$8,198 was the result. Expenses for the Home Tour were \$530 so a net profit of \$7,658 was the result. A good way to help celebrate the Hudson Champlain Quadricentennial.

BEECHER SCHOLARSHIP

Chris Byas, Chair

The Society Board of Trustees created the Dr. Raymond Beecher scholarship to honor the late Dr. Beecher for his 90th birthday in 2007. In 2009 one \$500 scholarship was awarded to Britney Firstiun of Ravena Coeymans Selkirk Central School.

For 2010 the scholarship committee has amended the requirements for submitting papers to include such things as power point presentation in an effort to increase the participation in the program. Applications are due May 31. The committee is also considering opening the scholarship application to Juniors as well as Seniors to reflect the changes in education at the Senior year level. Many Seniors are now involved in study programs at local colleges and universities or at QUESTAR programs and may not spend much time at the high school.

EDUCATION

No Chair

The Education Committee put forward two programs in 2009. In July Michelle Phillips, art conservator at The New York State Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation Peebles Island facility talked about her restoration work on a B. B. G. Stone painting in the Society's collection which was being lent to Olana State Historic Site for an exhibition. Then in September, John Ham, local author and historian from Hunter, gave a talk on his newly published book on Greene County Railroads.

On May 26 the Society's Historic Register Committee will present a program on Historic Houses by Joan Morales of the Historic Register Committee. Also for 2010 a Walk and

Talk program is being considered for East Hunter where a tannery operation was once in existence. That program is tentatively scheduled for July with Trustee Jim Planck doing the walk and talk.

PUBLIC AND MEMBER RELATIONS

Marilyn Rausch, Chair

Two editions of "The Messenger" were published in 2009-2010. These issues included articles and stories from various committees, thanks to the work of the contributors. Pictures of various events and activities were included in each edition. Members have commented positively on the latest edition which was done with the assistance of Operations Manager Jennifer Barnhart.

HISTORIC REGISTER COMMITTEE

Ken Mabey, Chair

Sites added to the Register: 2009-2010 # 226-235. The following is a list of those sites:

- #226 Manley B. Mattice House, Catskill; Lauren Levey
- #227 Parisi Boarding House/Alzda Hallenbeck, Coxsackie; Stephanie Mattraw
- #228 Rushmore Farm/Rushmore Grove, Athens; Michele Saunders-Laine
- #229 Groom Family Home/The Woodburne/Howard Hall Farm, Athens, Nora Johnson
- #230 The Homestead, Coxsackie; Bob Phibbs and Bill Pratt
- #231 The Willows/William Brandow House, Athens; Greene Land Trust
- #232 Liberty Hall, New Baltimore; Robert & Shelly Van Etten
- #233 Athens Opera House; Ken Landin
- #234 South Durham School House #4, Acra, Town of Cairo; Eric & Elizabeth Rasmussen
- #235 Windrift Hall/Smith House, Coxsackie, NY; Susan Frank

"Historic Places in Greene County", our recent book featuring sites on the Historic Register was released in December 2009 with a reception at the Vedder Research Library on a snowy winter day. The book continues to sell and the response has been enthusiastic and very positive by the public. Arrangements with the publisher were made for the Society to have 500 books for sale as part of the contract. At last count, I believe that there were less than 100 of our 500 copies left. Society Treasurer David Dorpfeld indicates that we have paid for the publication of the book at this point. We appreciate his assistance with the financial aspect of the book. Additional copies are available from Flint Mine Press at a discount should the GCHS need more copies to

sell. We are grateful to the members and Trustees of the GCHS for all the help we have received with the book, and our projects.

The Historic Register Committee is now in the process of purchasing a computer to keep our database. We look forward to the use of a power point projector that will be available for presentations to groups within the GCHS.

Upcoming events: Book signings for our publication "Historic Sites of Greene County" at Barnes & Noble in Kingston, May 12, and one at Catskill that is still in the planning stages by our publisher Flint Mine Press. Jean Bush and I will attend these book signings. We also have a presentation on the publication for the Ravena-Coeymans Historical Society on May 13. During the summer we have plans to be in Windham and Prattsville to further promote the book by request of the Civil War Encampment Group, and the Pratt Museum. Books will be available for sale at the Centre Church Tour headquarters in Windham during the GCHS Homes Tour in June.

Joan Morales of our Historic Register Committee is scheduled to make a presentation on how to research your site using deeds and genealogical sources on Wednesday evening, May 26th. This is being done to celebrate Historic Preservation Month. We sadly note our loss of Ray Beecher, and Josephine Blakeslee during these past years. They were both so important to the work of the HRC. We have learned much by their example, dedication and service.

PHOTOGRAPHIC AND REPRODUCTION COMMITTEE

Emily Dorpfeld Kunchala, Chair

This ad hoc Committee was organized as a resolution of the Board this year. The Committee had several meetings to discuss the current problems encountered by each site, the current policy in place, policies used by peer organizations, cost implications of the policy and theoretically how the facilities may be abused. A policy and form were drafted that would be used broadly across the GCHS. This draft policy was presented to the full Board for comment at the last meeting. Board members submitted comments and another meeting of the Committee was held to discuss these comments and incorporate changes where possible. The policy is now under final review by the Committee and will be presented to the Board to vote on at the next meeting.

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Emily Dorpfeld Kunchala, Chair

The Strategic Plan was drafted and finalized last summer. The Plan is organized around the six main goals of the GCHS. The goals are designed to guide the Society's committees in formulating and implementing specific courses of actions. This Committee has not had a recent meeting, but will reconvene later this spring to discuss the application of the Strategic Plan and perform an annual review of the goals.

BOARD DEVELOPMENT AND NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Wanda Dorpfeld, Chair

The Board Development and Nominating Committee have reviewed the current list of Trustees; reviewed the attendance records; contacted those whose terms are expiring or have missed more than one-half of the meetings; and recruited new candidates to propose for election. Candidates who have resigned during the past year:

Terez Limer
Russell Francis
Edward Synan

Member of the Class of 2010 who wish to return as Trustees in the Class of 2015:

Harvey Durham
John Dickinson May
Richard Muggeo
Dennis O'Grady

New Trustee Candidates for the Class of 2015:

Rick Hanse
Stefania Jozic
Regina McGrath

The following are biographical sketches submitted by the three candidates:

Rick Hanse

Rick Hanse retired in July 2007 having served as Assistant Deputy Commissioner of the Suffolk County Department of Labor with oversight of the county's three one-stop employment centers. In 1986 he was elected to the Town Board of Huntington and served in that position for a period of four years. During his tenure as a councilman he served as liaison between the town board and the Huntington Historical Society. Apart from any connection with the town board he participated on the Save Huntington's Lighthouse Committee for several years. The Committee was instrumental in restoring Huntington Harbor's Beaux Arts style lighthouse, built in 1912, which had been abandoned by the Coast Guard and was suffering the ravages of neglect exacerbated by the effects of salt water and the seagulls that inhabited the structure. Today the restoration is complete and the Committee continues the work of maintenance of the structure.

A source of particular satisfaction is the part he had in preserving the only surviving service station on the Northern State Parkway. The stone building was the last of the distinctive style of service stations built along Long Island's parkways under the

direction of Commissioner Robert Moses. The structure had stood unused for many years and was slated for demolition by the state. Rick sponsored a successful resolution urging the state to recognize the historical importance of the structure and requesting that it be retained as a reminder of how the parkways were originally designed and appointed. The effort succeeded with the result that the state sealed the building in a manner consistent with its architecture to protect it from vandals and the weather. It remains today in the grassy median of the parkway in the hamlet of Dix Hills.

Rick is looking forward to bringing his expertise and skills to the Historical Society.

Regina McGrath

Regina was raised in Coxsackie and attended elementary school there. She graduated from Kenwood Academy in 1961 and Russell Sage College in 1968 with a major in Psychology and minor in Classics. She is widowed with three sons, three granddaughters and one grandson.

Regina recently retired from State Telephone Co. after 30 plus years. She has served on the Doane Stuart School Alumni Board, Coxsackie Hose Co. #3 and Coxsackie Rescue Squad. She is currently on the Board of Heermance Library and Community Action of Greene County and is a very active member of St. Mary's Church.

Regina is looking forward to serving on the Historical Society as she grew up with parents who loved and collected antiques restored an old stone house and wrote a detailed genealogy!

Stefania Jozic

Stefania has lived and worked for the last 24 years in the beautiful Catskill Mountains. She is the proprietor/innkeeper of the historic Washington Irving Inn in Hunter, NY. In 2007 her inn was honored as a Bed & Breakfast of Distinction by the New York State Hospitality & Tourism Association. She is a founding member of the Town of Hunter's Scenic By-ways Committee, on the Board of Directors of the Zadock Pratt Museum and a member of the committee to save the historic St. Mary of the Mountain Church in Hunter village. She is also the vice-chairwoman of the New York State Hospitality & Tourism Association, Bed & Breakfast Council.

Stefania has a passion for history and preservation and is looking forward to serving on the Historical Society.

Addresses

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Telephone 518 731-6490 E-mail: gchsbn@mhcable.com

Vedder Research Library. 90 County Route 42, Coxsackie, NY
Telephone: 518 731-1033 E-mail: gchsvl@mhcable.com or
vedderlibrary@yahoo.com

Staff

Bronck Museum Curator..... Shelby Mattice
Vedder Library Librarian.....Steve Pec
Operations ManagerJennifer Barnhart
Bronck Museum Complex Custodians Jason O'Donnell and Aaron Bedell

Calendar of Events

Vedder Research Library Hours –Open every Tuesday and Wednesday from 10 am to 4 pm.
Every Saturday from 9 am to 12 pm.

Bronck Museum Hours –Regular season opens May 29 and closes October 15. Open on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 1 pm to 4 pm; Saturday and Monday Holidays from 10 am to 4 pm and Sunday from 1 pm to 4 pm. Last tour at 3:30 pm. 2010 Exhibit: “The Broncks: “A Dutch-American Family”.

Special Events for the Balance of 2010

(Legend for sites: VL- Vedder Research Library and BM-Bronck Museum)

May 16	3:00 pm	VL	Annual Meeting of GCHS
May 26			“Researching a House History,” by Joan Morales, sponsored by the Historic Register Committee to celebrate Historic Preservation Month.
May 29	10:00 am	BM	Bronck Museum Opens for Season
June 5	10 to 3		34th Annual Homes Tour: Windham. Headquarters: Centre Church Civic Center, Main Street, Windham.
June 27	1:30, 2:30, 3:30	BM	Bronck Family at Home Tour, “The Minister and Parishioner.” Costumed interpreters.
July 17	TBA		1st Annual Walk & Talk, led by Jim Planck. Program to be announced
July 25	1:30, 2:30, 3:30	BM	Bronck Family at Home Tour, “My Husband the Minister.” Costumed interpreter.
August 21	7:30	BM	“By the Light of the Silvery Moon, The Pleasures and Perils of the Night Life in Times Past.”
September 19	1:30, 2:30, 3:30	BM	Bronck Family at Home Tour, “The Judge, the Doctor, and the Daughter.” Costumed interpreters.
October 3	12-5:00 pm	BM	Bronck Museum Heritage Craft Fair
October 30	4:00 pm	BM	“Of Great Sorrow.” Preparation for a Dutch Funeral.
November 13	11,1 & 3	BM	Chilly Willy Winter’s Eve Tours
November 14	11,1 & 3	BM	Chilly Willy Winter’s Eve Tours

Check the Society Website or the local newspapers information about other events