Monday, May 27, 11am – 3:00pm
Memorial Day Exhibition and Open House.

Exhibition Background
June 2019 marks the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Versailles treaty, the treaty which brought the war to a formal end in June 1919. The process of bringing the “boys” home would take much of the rest of the year, and a set of homecoming parades did not occur until September of 1919.

The stories remain untold in part because New York State failed to publish its planned set of books called “New York’s Part in the World War” for a variety of reasons, among them, veterans’ reluctance to talk about the war that was unprecedented in so many horrific ways.

In reviewing its archives for the 100th anniversary of the end of WWI, the Dutchess County Historical Society secured funding for transformation of over 300 glass plate negatives from the period into high quality prints and online images. The exhibition is supplemented with items from New York State Archives, local historical societies and historians, and members of the public who brought family items forward to be photographed or digitally scanned, if not donated.

A series of 12 panels, which launched as a traveling exhibition at the FDR Presidential Library in April of last year, has toured almost every city and town in the county. The topics covered include the speed with which the nation needed to prepare, the pervasiveness of the impact on every man, woman and child, the pressures it created that allowed women and persons of color to step into new roles, and issues of identity and memorialization.

Among the photographs featured is a never-before published photograph of Assistant Secretary of the Navy Franklin Delano Roosevelt marching down Main Street in Poughkeepsie in the September 1919 homecoming parade. Two years before contracting polio.