

Greene County Historical Society

Annual Report

2012

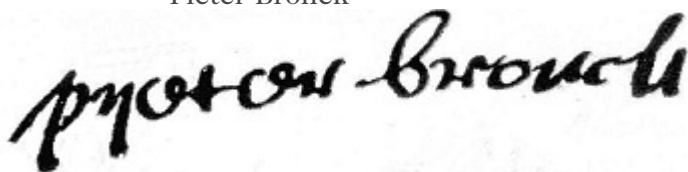
About The Cover

During 2012-13, the Greene County Historical Society will celebrate the 350th anniversary of the purchase of the land by Pieter Bronck and building of the 1663 House. A two year celebration is planned, including special events and fund raising. The Museum Committee decided that there should be a logo reflecting this important milestone for use on a banner for hanging on the Barrack facing Route 9W and for use as a letterhead on correspondence. This would provide the opportunity to tell everyone of this special anniversary.

A line-drawing of the Bronck Museum Houses from the 1981 Mendel, Mesick, Cohen, Waite Architects Historic Structure Report has been used in the Bronck Family Timeline on display in the Visitors Center Gallery and on the gifts given to Society volunteers. It was decided that we would continue to use this drawing as the basis of the logo along with recognition of the 350th anniversary. Operations Manager Jennifer Barnhart compiled the desired elements for the design and took them to Janet Atkins at Hinterland. Janet prepared several options for discussion by the Bronck Museum Committee with the final decision made, based on the one which would appear the best in print. C & C Graphics in Cossackie has worked with Jennifer to determine the best size banner to use and has arranged for its production. The image has been incorporated into a mast head which has gone to all Society officers for use on their correspondence and envelopes with the mast head have been printed. Other uses of the logo are being considered.

What is our basis for knowing this is the 350th anniversary? The original deed is on file in the Albany County Court of Records. It was dated January 13, 1662. (There have been some changes in the calendar since that time, but the year is accurate.). The document is written in Dutch, but was translated for "Beer's History of Greene County" published in 1884. Of special interest are the signatures which you see below. Pieter Bronck's signature is comparable to that on his will which is in the Vedder Research Library Collection. Tom Satterlee included this signature on the 2012 Membership mailing. The Mahican Indians signed with pictographs.

Pieter Bronck



Sioketas



Pawanoos, witness



Siachemoes

Other information about our 350th anniversary celebration are included in the Officer and Committee Reports.



Greene County Historical Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 44, Coxsackie, NY 12051

Website: ***gchistory.org***

Bronck Museum

90 County Route 42, Coxsackie, NY 12051

Telephone 518 731-6490

E-mail: gchsbm@mhcable.com

Vedder Research Library

90 County Route 42, Coxsackie, NY 12051

Telephone: 518 731-1033

E-mail: gchsvl@mhcable.com • vedderlibrary@yahoo.com

Historic Register Committee

c/o Vedder Research Library, 90 County Route 42, Coxsackie, NY 12051

Telephone 518 731-1033

E-mail: gchsvl@mhcable.com

2012 Schedule of Events

May 20 Association Day, Celebration of the 237th anniversary of the signing of the "Coxsackie Declaration" 1-3 pm, Music, Bronck Museum. Admission Free



May 20 Annual Meeting, Greene County Historical Society, Inc., 3:30 pm.

May 24 Education Program, "How I Came to Dowagiac", Nancy Marie Payne, Storyteller, The story of the first orphan train out of New York City in 1853. Vedder Research Library, 7pm. Admission free—donations accepted.

May 26-Oct. 15 Exhibit, "Plates, Porringers and Pats: A Century of Bronck Family Tableware." This new exhibit will be placed in front of the Timeline of the Bronck Family, Bronck Museum Visitor Center Gallery, Wed-Fri 12-4, Sat 10-4, Sun 1-4, Exhibit Admission Free.

June 2 36th Annual Tour of Homes to be held in the Town of Durham, 10 am-4 pm, Headquarters in the parking lot next to the Yellow Deli, Rt. 81, Oak Hill, Tickets \$25; advanced sale tickets \$20.

June 24 "Bronck Family in the Wilderness: Soil and Stone," Lecture by Robert Titus, 2:30pm in the Vedder Research Library followed by a walk to the West View; tours of the Bronck House available; and period refreshments. Adults \$6, Members & Children \$3.

July 15 "Bronck Family in the Wilderness: Water at Work," Lecture by Liz LoGuidice, 2:30pm in the Vedder Research Library followed by a walk along the stream/pond to the 13-sided barn; tours of the Bronck House available; and period refreshments. Adults \$6, Members & Children \$3.

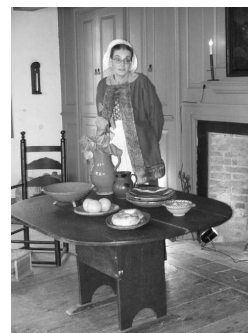
Aug 4 "By the Light of the Silvery Moon," the pleasures & perils of the night life in times past, period refreshments & entertainment, 7:30 pm, Adults \$7, Members & Children \$3.50.



Sept 9 "Bronck Family in the Wilderness: Beavers and Other Beasts," Lecture by Shelby Mattice, 2:30pm, Vedder Research Library. Tours of the Bronck House and period refreshments will follow. Adults \$6, Members & Children \$3.

Sept 30 Heritage Craft Fair, exhibit & sale of traditional American crafts, live music, wagon rides, silent auction, 12-5 pm, Admission Free.

Oct 29 A Great Sorrow, An Early Dutch Funeral, 4 pm, 5:15pm, Adults \$6, Members and Children \$3.



Nov 17 & 18 Chilly Willy Winter's Eve Tours, cold season tour with costumed guide, 11am, 1pm & 3pm each day, Adults \$7, Members & Children \$3.50.

Greene County Historical Society, Inc.
2011-2012 Annual Report
May 2012

The Officers 2011-2012

Chairman of the Board	Joseph Warren
President	Robert Hallock
Vice President	John Dickinson May, resigned 8/11
Vice President	Jonathan Donald, resigned 4/12
Vice President	Jim Planck
Treasurer	David Dorpfeld
Recording Secretary	Ann Hallock
Financial Secretary	Thomas Satterlee

The Trustees 2011-2012

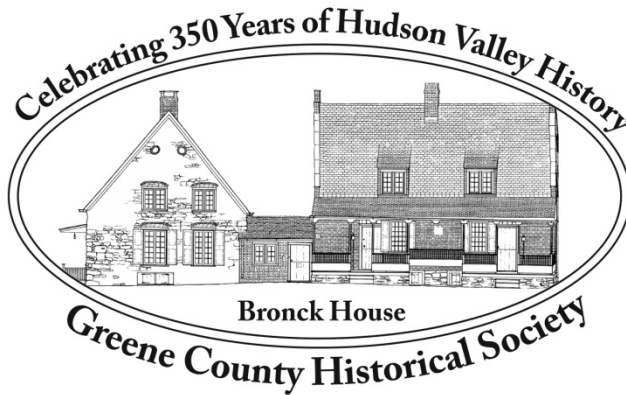
Christine Byas	Stefania Jozic
Robert D'Agostino	Emily Dorpfeld Kunchala
Karen Deeter	John Dickinson May
Jonathan Donald, resigned 4/12	Regina McGrath
David Dorpfeld	Richard Muggeo
Wanda Dorpfeld	Dennis O'Grady
Harvey Durham	Jim Planck
W. Bradford Ellis	John Quinn
Ann Hallock	Thomas Satterlee
Robert Hallock	Barbara Spataro
Rick Hanse	Denise Warren
Robert Hoven, resigned 9/11	Joseph Warren

The Trustees Emeritus 2011-12

Natalie Daley	Everett McCarty, died 4/12
J. Theodore Hilscher	Perry Palmer
Valentine Kriele	Robert Stackman

The Staff 2011-2012

Shelby Mattice	Curator
Suzanne Thrasher	Museum Associate
Steve Pec	Librarian
Jennifer Barnhart	Operations Manager
Jason O'Donnell	Custodian
Amanda O'Donnell	Custodian



Greene County Historical Society, Inc.
90 County Route 42
Coxsackie, NY 12051

518-731-6490
www.gchistory.org

Bronck Museum
Vedder Research Library
Greene County Historical Register

May 20, 2012

2011 began the Society's 5 year commemoration of the sesquicentennial celebration of the watershed event in American history - the Civil War. The Education Committee began the commemoration with a volunteer in character as Mary Todd Lincoln. That lecture along with other lectures, articles, and events sponsored by the Society have kept that important time in our nation's history, and its impact on the history of Greene County, in the foreground of our understanding of local history. Also, there are a number of books about the Civil War on loan to the Society for research by interested individuals.

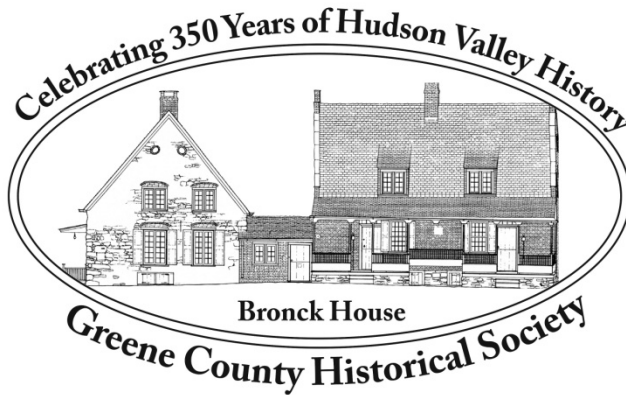
Turning to the Society's overall well being, it seems that membership decreased slightly in 2011 from 2010, something probably attributable to the lingering economic uncertainties. Although the Trustees do not like to see a decline in membership for any reason, the vicissitudes of external events will inevitably lead to membership fluctuations. In addition, attendance at Society events decreased in 2011 from 2010; however, 2010 is a difficult year in which to compare because there was a big increase for that year. Moreover, there were a number of off-site Society events that may have impacted the attendance at other events.

Despite the slight decline in attendance and membership the Society's finances have never been in better shape. There are several reasons for this nice financial position, including: (i) there was a large bequest of stock of which we took possession in 2011 that continues to grow in value, (ii) due to the improved stock market, our corpus has grown; and (iii) expenses have been maintained at a fairly constant level, due in large part to the wonderful efforts of the Trustees and volunteers.

It was with horror that we witnessed mother nature visiting heretofore unseen destruction on Greene County from Hurricane Irene in late summer 2011. Particularly hard hit were the mountain top towns of Prattsville and Windham. As is often the case, though, when tragedy strikes hardest, volunteerism rises to meet the occasion. GCHS is no different in that several Society Trustees went to the Pratt Museum to do whatever was necessary to help them as best they could. Also, the Society donated \$1,000 to the Pratt Museum to offset some of their financial losses and we dedicated the Fall Meeting to all Greene County victims of that terrible disaster.

Finally, turning to the new year, 2012 marks the 350th anniversary of the date when Pieter Bronck acquired the property that the Society now calls home. The Sesquicentennial will bring new initiatives to maintain the Bronck House, including a fund raising capital campaign to repair or replace the windows, doors, and shutters.

Joseph Warren, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, GCHS, Inc.



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Bronck Museum
Vedder Research Library
Greene County Historical Register

Dear Member and Friends:

This year, 2012, is the 350th anniversary of the purchase of the property by Pieter Bronck and next year marks the 350th anniversary of the building of the 1663 stone house. In comparison, 83 years makes the Historical Society seem like a youngster.

Youngsters have energy and activity and that's what our staff, volunteers and Board members have, as well as our events and tours. Just read some of the committee reports. From Association Day to the Chilly Willy Winter's Eve; the education programs; the Bronck Family at Home programming; the volunteer reception; and the school programs; the library visitors; the new technology installations in the Vedder; and requests for information from near and far to answer. The "Windows on History" Campaign for restoration work to be done on the Bronck houses and the work being done on the Bronck Barrack and Hunter Education Center sites. There is certainly lots and lots of energy and activity at the site.

Thanks to the Board members, the officers, the staff, the volunteers for their efforts and to our members who support the Society with their dues and donations. It has been nice to see some new volunteers this year on several committees.

We look forward to our new programming efforts for visitors to the site and to reach out into the community with travelling programs for schools and for community groups.

2011 marked the first award for Historic Preservation, named after Jessie Van Vecthen Vedder. The Jessie is appropriately a tile created for the Society by a local artist Frank Girogini, on a wooden plaque. The tile is an image of the Leeds Stone Bridge that Jessie Van Vecthen Vedder helped to save. The first award went to Justine Hommell of Hunter at a ceremony in Hunter at the Library. A well deserved honor for Justine.

The Society was pleased to be able to make a sizeable donation to the Pratt Museum after their near disastrous encounter with Hurricane Irene. I was pleased to be able to present the check at an event in Prattsville. It is nice to be in a position to help. It also made us look at some of our disaster preparedness preparations.

Another pleasant effort has been travelling in the county and doing history programs for schools and for senior groups and other organizations. General Greene, my first person interpretation, has been all over the county and in the schools. Sons of the American Revolution and Daughters of the American Revolution, Garden Clubs, Rotary groups, and political clubs are some of the groups I have been to over the years, I look forward to more visits.

In our 83 years the Society has come a long way. We still have a long way to go and perhaps as the song says "The best is yet to come." With your support and help we will accomplish our plans and endeavors. The Greene County Historical Society, Inc. is considered one of the best County historical societies in the State. Our intent is to keep us in that position.

Come over to the Museum and the Library to see the energy and activity at the site. .
Robert C. Hallock,
President GCHS, Inc.

Treasurer's Report for Calendar Year 2011

David C. Dorpfeld, Treasurer

The Society's financial condition improved again this year. As a result, operations continue on a sound footing. One overall note on the following Statement of Revenue and Expenses: The last column on the right reflects income and expenses that were not budgeted. For instance it is impossible to know in advance how much will be raised through the Capital Funds Drive or that someone will remember the Society in his or her will. The other three columns from left to right are as follows: calendar year 2011 budget, actual income and expenditures for 2011, and income and expenses compared to the budget (Over or Under).

On the revenue side we experienced a small shortfall from what we had budgeted. This was largely due to the timing of deposits for money raised through memberships. The bulk of this money comes in at the end of the calendar year and with the holiday season; sometimes much of it is not deposited until the following year. This is not always the case, but it was this year. One pleasant surprise was a large bequest from the late Dr. Olga Santora which is reflected in the right hand column of the report. This bequest – more than the improvement in the stock market – contributed greatly to meeting the amount we had budgeted to use from our reserves. Footnotes are provided where we felt further explanations were needed.

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 was needed. Therefore we made an additional appeal to the membership in 2010. Almost \$17,000 was realized and another \$15,000 was raised in 2011. In 2012 we are embarking on another capital campaign called "Windows on History" to raise money to make additional needed repairs to the 349 year old Bronck House.

On the expense side, the cost of fuel oil/burner service was much higher than budgeted. This is because for the past several years we have paid our oil bills on a pay as you go basis. In 2011 we were offered a better price for advance payment resulting in a larger expense for that year. Expenses for office supplies were higher than anticipated because we had a very active year. The same goes for publication/printing expense. The amount spent on items for the Museum Shop also spiked, but was offset by increased revenue from that activity. With a healthy inventory, we expect to turn a larger profit in 2012.

I would like to extend a special thank you to Jennifer Barnhart, the Society's Operations Manager. She has greatly assisted me over the last three years and made my job easier and more pleasant. Also, Tom Satterlee who handles all duties associated with membership. This is a time consuming job and he handles it in a very professional manner. I could not continue to do my job if it were not for the capable work of these two individuals.

ANNUAL REPORT 2011

MEMBERSHIP

THOMAS SATTERLEE, FINANCIAL SECRETARY

January 1 - December 31, 2011, the total moneys the financial secretary collected for dues and donations were:

Dues	\$15,593
Donations	
Vedder Library	\$345
Bronck Museum	\$205
Capital Fund	\$1,730
Beecher Scholarship	\$360
Total Dues & Donations	\$18,233

Membership by category for the year 2011 were as follows:

Individual	202
Dual/Family	134
Supporter	44
Patron	32
Benefactor	3
Silver Benefactor	1
Gold Benefactor	2
Library Institutions	9
Honorary	11
Student	3
Business Basic	3
Business Friend	10
Business Supporter	12
Total Membership	466

Membership and moneys collected was down slightly for 2011. Members are encouraged to solicit memberships whenever and wherever possible.

Member categories, dues, and premiums were revised for 2011.

The current membership drive, as of April 22, 2012 has resulted in responses as follows:

Dues	\$16,138	Individual	155
		Dual/Family	109
Donations		Supporter	29
		Patron	24
Vedder Library	\$230	Benefactor	6
Bronck Museum	\$200	Silver Benefactor	1
Capital Fund	\$1,230	Gold Benefactor	1
Beecher Scholarship	\$155	Library Institutions	7
		Honorary	12
		Student	1
		Business Basic	6
Total Dues & Donations	\$17,953	Business Friend	4
		Business Supporter	11
		Total Membership	366

Greene County Historical Society, Inc.
Annual Meeting—May 15, 2011
Minutes of the Meeting

Call to Order. At 3:30 pm on May 15, 2011, in the Vedder Research Library, Joseph Warren, Chairman of the Board of Trustees called to order the 2011 Annual Meeting of the Greene County Historical Society, Inc. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Copies of the agenda and the 2011 Annual Report were distributed as members came into the meeting.

Moment of Silence for Departed Members. President Robert Hallock asked for a Moment of Silence in memory of the following departed members:

In 2010—Dr. DuBois Jenkins, Ruth Vedder Schmidt, Shirley Overbaugh, Emily Slocum, Ora Hotaling, Honor Riley, Dr. Olga Santora, Marion Becker, Doris Smith, Francis Williams, Rita Wood, Virginia Deamer, Louise Messinger, Jean M. Mersreau, Lisbeth Lamb, Clarence “Sonny” Moon, Jerome Sterritt and Elizabeth Miller.

In 2011—Elizabeth Gustavson, Helen Mary Eckler, David Clapper, Phillip Smith and Thomas Winnie.

Introductory Remarks. Chairman of the Board, Joseph Warren noted the good financial standing of the Society and the work done in 2010. He indicated that he was looking forward to next year when he was sure that the Society would be more productive. He noted especially how the Society had reached out to other groups. He concluded by saying that the Greene County Historical Society is one the best historical societies in the State.

Introductory Remarks. President Robert Hallock recognized the publication of the revised “Messenger”, thanking Jennifer Barnhart and Jim Dustin for their work. He called the attention of members to the cover of the Annual Report which utilized a drawing of the Bronck Farm in 1892 done by Horace Wilbur Palmer. He reported on his trip to Wisconsin with a local IDA delegation which is interested in signing a Mitigation Agreement with the Stockbridge Munsees, the descendents of the Mahican Indians. He said that he hopes that a kiosk about the history of the Mohcians will be built on site and that there will be more Native American programs and resources available to schools, including display cases of items found in the “digs” of local IDA sites.

Reading of the Minutes. Ann Hallock, Recording Secretary, read the minutes of the 2010 Annual Meeting. It was moved by Dennis O’Grady that the minutes be accepted as read. It was seconded by Chris Byas and carried.

Treasurer’s Report. David Dorpfeld began his report by thanking Ann Hallock for her work in compiling the Annual Report, noting that the report is helpful when seeking grants. He urged members to read the report. He called member’s attention to the portion of the report containing the 2010 financial reports and noted that the Society had come close to the estimates in many categories. He reported that the Society had received a generous gift of IBM stock and that the Investment Committee would be meeting shortly. He asked those attending for questions. Joe Warren indicated that some organizations have increased their budgets in specific areas and

have found that the additional revenue may follow. David indicate that originally the 2011 budget had several areas of under-estimation in the budget. The recent bequest will make it possible to fund these areas. Since there were no questions, the Financial Report was referred to Audit.

Financial Secretary. Thomas Satterlee reported the benefits for various categories of membership had been revised. He asked members to persuade others to join the Society. Membership information is available on the web-site. He noted that e-mail of "The Journal" and "the Messenger" are available.

Committee Reports. President Robert Hallock noted that reports from each of the Committees are included into the Annual Report. He introduced the the chairpersons of the Committees as follows:

Bronck Museum Committee: Co-Chair Wanda Dorpfeld introduced Jenna Melewski, who has been an intern this Spring at the Bronck Museum. Jenna was the first Beecher Scholarship winner.

Vedder Research Library Committee: Harvey Durham spoke on behalf of the Library Committee. He noted that the resources of the Library have changed dramatically over the years. It is now an electronic age, but it is still possible to provide information when the computer fails. He noted the grant received from Assemblyman Gordon for equipment.

Buildings and Grounds. President Hallock noted that the Society caretakers are doing an excellent job. He noted the need of the Committee for more volunteers and more money to address the many problems.

Publication Committee. In the absence of Bob D'Agostino, President Hallock noted that Journals for 2011 will be started soon, bring them up-to-date.

Education Committee. In the absence of the Chairs of the Committee, Marilyn Rausch and Regina McGrath, President Hallock noted the Committee has done a nice job getting programs. There will be a program next week with a first person interpretation of Mary Todd Lincoln.

Tour of Homes. David Dorpfeld, the Board Liason to the Tour Committe reported that the Tour is all set for New Baltimore in July. The Committee is now recruiting house sitters. Lunches will be served at the New Baltimore Reformed Church. In order to make this a weekend event, on Sunday there will be a hike to Paper Mill Falls in New Baltimore and the Museum will offer a program in the Bronck Family at Home series on decorations. Sponsors are being solicited and if interested, people should contact David Dorpfeld. Regina McGrath is selling ads in the Tour programs.

Security Ad Hoc Committee. Rick Hanse reported that the Committee has been researching various types of surveillance, special protection for the act collection in the Library. The Committee believes that the number of people who have access to everything should be limited. The call list which is contacted when the alarm system company identifies a problem is also being reviewed.

Beecher Scholarship. Chris Byas reported that there was one entry, Jack Hilscher, in 2009. There have been some changes in the process. Currently there are 5 applications for the 2010 \$1,000 scholarship.

Public and Member Relations. Jennifer Barnhart reported that all materials for the Fall issue of "The Messenger" will be due in mid-July.

Strategic Plan. Emily Dorpfeld Kunchala reported that the Committee has revised the plan which will sent to all Trustees shortly with discussion planned for September.

Historic Register Committee. In the absence of any members from this committee, the President reported that the committee was looking for new volunteers.

Board Development and Resources Committee. Wanda Dorpfeld, Chair of the Board Development Committee thanked other committee members for their work. There have been 4 resignations during the past year. Marilyn Rasusch, a member of the class of 2011 has decided not to seek re-election. Wanda thanked Marilyn for serving on the Board for 10 years. Wanda thanked the other members of the class of 2011, Emily Dorpfeld Kunchala, Joseph Warren and Jim Planck for their willingness to continue on the Board. This leaves five vacancies to fill.

The Committee is proposing the following:

Class of 2013 Karen Deeter

Class of 2014 Emily Dorpfeld Kunchala

Class of 2016 Jim Planck

Joseph Warren
W. Bradford Ellis
Robert Hoven
Barbara Spataro
John Quinn

It was asked whether there were any nominations from the floor to fill the vacancies. None were offered. It was moved by Dick May and seconded by Dave Dorpfeld that the Secretary cast one ballot for the slate as proposed by the Board Development Committee. Motion carried.

Any Other Business. The President called for other business from the floor. The following items were offered:

A Volunteer Reception will be held on May 22 from 1 to 3 at the Beattie-Powers House in Catskill. This reception will honor all Society volunteers. Trustees should see Jennifer Barnhart to volunteer food and drink for the reception.

Ann Hallock asked for feedback from the membership on the work which the Board and the Committees are doing. Recommendations for improvements or changes can be given to any Trustee.

Chairman of the Board Joseph Warren thanked everyone for coming.

Adjournment. It was moved by Rick Hanse and seconded by Robert Hoven that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

Respectively Submitted,

Ann B. Hallock
Recording Secretary

Committees 2011–2012
2011-2012 Committee Reports

Committees with Membership Lists
Standing Committees

Executive Committee

Joseph Warren
Robert Hallock
John Dickinson May (resigned as VP)
David Dorpfeld
Thomas Satterlee

Jim Planck
Wanda Dorpfeld
Ann Hallock
Jonathan Donald (resigned 4/12)

Buildings and Grounds

Vacant, Chair
Bob Hallock
Thomas Satterlee

Rick Hanse
Arthur Byas
Jason and Amanda O'Donnell,
Caretakers

Finance

David Dorpfeld, Chair
Robert Hallock

Emily Dorpfeld Kunchala

Investment

David Dorpfeld, Chair til 4/12
Robert Hallock
Charles Schaefer

Joseph Warren, new Chair 4/12
John Dickinson May
Dennis O'Grady

Museum Shop

Jennifer Barnhart, Operations Manager

Bronck Museum

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

Richard Muggeo
Shelby Mattice, Curator
Jennifer Barnhart, Operations
Manager

Membership

Thomas Satterlee, Financial Secretary

Education

Regina McGrath

Bronck Museum Committee

Vedder Research Library Operations

Barbara Spataro, Chair
Karla Flagel, Secretary

Steve Pec, Librarian
Harvey Durham

Board Development & Resources Nomination Committee

Wanda Dorpfeld, Chair
Dennis O'Grady

John Dickinson May

Publications

Robert D'Agostino, Chair
Harvey Durham

Thomas Satterlee
Robert Hallock

Editorial Review Committee

David Dorpfeld
Robert Hallock

Jim Planck
Robert D'Agostino

Historical Register

Ken Mabey, Chair
Jean Bush, Treasurer
Nick Nahas, Secretary
Joan Morales
Tom & Dianne Gibson
Karren Deeter, Board Representative

Betty O'Hara
Gary Wank
Nancy Alex
Gina Blenis
Roy Davis
Bruce Stokes

Historical Register Members Emeritus

Winifred Clark

Natalie E. Daley

Public & Member Relations

Jennifer Barnhart, Operations Manager

Strategic Planning

Emily Dorpfeld Kunchala, Chair
Ann Hallock
John Dickinson May

Jonathan Donald
Bob Hallock
Jim Planck

Ad Hoc Committees **36th Annual Home Tour**

Terez, Limer
Karen Deeter
Karen Deeter
Nick & Mary Lou Nahas,
Oak Hill Preservation Group

David Dorpfeld, Board
Representative

Beecher Scholarship Award

Chris Byas, Chair
Harvey Durham

Bob Hallock

Fund Raising

Jim Planck, Chair
Robert Hoven, resigned 9/11
Manager

W. Bradford Ellis
Jennifer Barnhart, Operations

Security

Rick Hanse, Chair
Tom Satterlee
Harvey Durham

Shelby Mattice
Steve Pec
Jason O'Donnell

Attached are the reports from the individual Committees.

2011-2012 Annual Report
Bronck Museum Committee
Wanda Dorpfeld, Co-chair
Ann Hallock, Co-chair

The 72nd season (2011) of the Bronck Museum was busy and productive with new activities, volunteers, and events. The number of people visiting the Museum and attending events was lower than that of previous years. However, the off-site activities increased dramatically. The 2011 numbers with comparable numbers from 2009 and 2010 are as follows:

	2009	2010	2011
Pre-season Groups and Special Events	138	142	25
Outreach (off-site event)	230	201	528
Seasonal Walk-ins or Groups	2623	2377	2091
Post Season Groups	14	154	171
Total Attendance	3005	2887	2815
Net Income	\$8,497	\$9,008	\$7,157

The following factors affected the season's numbers:

- The Economy. People do not have as much money to spend. For example in 2010 there was \$340 in the donation buckets but only \$99 in 2011. Three group bus tours cancelled because the tour sponsor was unable to fill the bus with enough participants to cover the cost of the entire tour, especially meals and fuel.
- The Types of Programs Offered. The costumed personal interpretation for the Bronck Family at Home used in 2010 is more popular than the lecture/tour model used in 2011, but the former costs more for the rental of costumes.
- The Weather. Flooding from the Hurricanes closed the Museum for one day and the snow storm on the day of the Dutch funeral program reduced participation.

Financial Support. The budget for the Museum and its programs is found in the Annual Report of the Treasurer. The Museum cannot operate without the financial support of the Society's membership. The entertainment for events is made possible in part with public funds provided by the Greene County Legislature through the Greene County Cultural Fund administered by the Greene County Council on the Arts. In addition the Museum received a grant from the Plymouth Hill Foundation which will be used towards the exhibits in the Barrack. The opportunity to apply for some local grants is rotated between the Library and Museum. If any member has any suggestions of private granting agencies, please share the information with the Museum office.

The Volunteers. During the 72nd season, an effort was made to increase volunteer participation at the Museum. A volunteer manual was prepared. In May, a special meeting was held to meet new volunteers and to acquaint them with the assistance needed by the Museum.

In 2011, 21 people volunteered 986.75 hours of service including staffing the Visitors Center Gallery; working at special events; attending Committee meetings, working on various administrative functions and preparing for events ranging from baking to researching writing programs. The Museum could not function without the work of these people. The Volunteers were honored at a Reception for all Society Volunteers in April 2012.

The Staff. The staff with area of responsibility are as follows:

- Shelby Mattice, Curator, is responsible for maintaining the collection and developing and presenting new programs which use the collection including the houses and barns. Shelby also has major responsibility for ensuring the availability of the daily tours.
- Jennifer Barnhart is the Operations Manager for the Society. She handles the publicity for programs and events; maintains the Museum's website which has become important in attracting visitors to the site; and manages the Bronck Museum Gift Shop. Over the past two years, she has establish good rapport with the morning team at Channel 13, sending them photos of the Museum grounds. In November, she arranged for Shelby and Society President Robert Hallock to participate in an interview about the Museum.
- Susan Thrasher is the Museum Associate who greeted visitors on weekend days. During the 2011 season, she has been updating the collection records.
- Jason and Amanda O'Donnell are the caretakers at the Museum. Jason helped with the setup and tear-down for the special events.

First Intern. The Bronck Museum was fortunate to have in the 2011 summer its first intern, Jenna Melewski who had just completed her junior year at Duquesne. Jenna did an outstanding job of creating a unit on "Life of Children, The Civil War Era", tailored to 5th grade students. It contains seven separate lessons and provides the Museum with a rich resource to use in the classrooms in the coming years. Jenna whose internship was supervised by Wanda Dorpfeld was able to obtain academic credit for her work at the Bronck Museum. It is hoped that the Museum can obtain additional interns in future years.

The Collection, Accessions and Security. Collection activities have included the following:

- The Isaac Tripp chair from the 18th century was evaluated by an AIC accredited furniture conservator who agrees with the Museum Curator about the significance of the chair and its mate which is in the Albany Institute of History and Art. It was agreed that the chair would be upholstered in calfskin and may be ready during the 2012 Season.
- In July and October 2011 Shelby accessioned a full collection of WWII uniforms, minus the shoes, for a woman and other items including pictures of the soldier. These were given by Mary Jane Albright Sutanski.
- A beautifully restored Victorian two-seater buggy originally owned by Dr. Charles E. Willard (1846-1935) of Catskill, NY was donated by the Dr. DuBois Jenkins family.
- The wedding dress of Maria Bartow Cole was loaned to the Cole House for their celebration of the 175th wedding anniversary of Maria and Thomas Cole
- The Museum Committee reviewed the security of the Museum and made several recommendations for changes.

School Tours and Programs. Over the past several years, the Museum has offered 4th grade classes a half day tour at the Museum including 5-6 modules, depending on the size of the

classes. For schools purchasing the Museum tour, Museum staff and volunteers will present two programs in the classroom—"Hutspot and Olykochen: Dutch Foodways" by Shelby Mattice and General Nathanael Greene by Bob Hallock. In 2011, Cocksackie and Athens 4TH graders participated in these tours.

The Overmantel program was presented to all five fourth grade classes at Catskill Elementary School by Wanda Dorpfeld.

Two on-site programs were offered for the Catskill Middle School's Sense of Place. The first was a call to arms for new recruits for their Revolutionary War re-enactors, using the Cocksackie Declaration. The second program was day-long, using several different modules from traditional school programs. Based on this experience, it is evident that the Museum can offer day-long choices to schools in the future. In the future, a day-long program could include more hands-on activity such as a scavenger hunt, a craft or additional program content.

The Museum participated in two events directed at teachers. For the first, the Greene County History Day, an exhibit of two school programs was presented by the Museum. For the second, the Ulster BOCES Teaching American History Symposium spent a day on site. In addition to a morning of speakers and a tour of the house, exhibits for various school programs were set up in the Library. This symposium resulted in two requests for school tours which posed new challenges. The Kingston 8th graders came for a Civil War based program which included Civil War music with John Quinn and General and Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant and Chris Byas' Ice program. The Port Ewen 4th graders came in late October. The traditional 4th grade program was presented with the traditional sections on General Greene and the Cocksackie Declaration replaced by Mahican legends and a Dick Muggeo ghost story.

Museum Programs. It has become a tradition to offer a core of the following six programs with various enhancements, each year:

- Association Day. 2011 included Rev. Schuneman, portrayed by Joe Capobianco reading the Cocksackie Declaration. Music of the period was also included.
- "By the Light of the Silvery Moon". A tarot card reader was added for those interested.
- Hudson River Ramble: 18th Century Green, a Look at the Environment of the Times. Shelby has continued to add new information to this program.
- The Heritage Craft Fair. With heavy rains the previous day, space was found for all crafters inside buildings.
- "A Great Sorrow", A Dutch Funeral. Shelby added a costume for this event. The heavy wet snow lowered attendance at the first tour; caused the elimination of the walk to the Bronck Burying Grounds; and forced the cancellation of the second tour of the day.
- The Chilly Willy Tours. Shelby has added more heavy time appropriate clothing to her costume for this tour to address the challenge of three tours each day in the cold houses.

Each year the Museum has offered a series of three Sunday afternoon programs which feature some aspect of the Bronck Family Life. In 2011, the title of the overall program was Bronck Family Keeping House with individual programs on Cleaning, Decoration, and Food. These

programs included more interactive features such as sweeping with brooms made of various materials and agitating laundry in a wash tub with a paddle.

Special Group Tours. The Museum has actively pursued the inclusion of the Museum on bus tours and the use of the site by local groups, interested in special programs. Included in 2011 were several different tours including the following:

- By using the Museum's collection of benches and chairs and reducing the walking between buildings, an interesting tour was provided for people with mobility problems. This provides the Museum with ideas of other ways to share the Museum by new approaches.
- The On-te-ora Chapter of the DAR is guaranteed the right to meet on site according to the will of Society benefactor, Leonard Bronck Lampman. In 2011, Shelby did a special presentation, "Women in Revolutionary America", for this group in the 1663 House. The Hendrick Hudson Chapter of the DAR came for a tour before lunch at a nearby restaurant.
- This season brought back a Road Scholar tour (formerly called Elderhostel Tours) to the Museum. This tour, entitled "Everything Dutch", was organized by the Warwick Conference Center. Charles Gehring of the New Netherland Project recommended that they come here. The participants offered much praise and the Director indicated that he would be recommending inclusion of the Museum if this Tour is offered again.

Family Newsletter. Each year Shelby send off a newsletter "Notes from Home" to the known Bronck descendants. In 2011, the traditional family related content was sent off. An extra "Note" was drafted asking family members for any information which they might have about the Bronck Family Crest. This request came from two researchers who are connected with the Bronx Historical Society and interested in the origin of the family crest and its relationship to the New York State crest. The Museum Committee has determined that these newsletters contain excellent family information gleaned from a number of sources and should be combined into a volume which can be sold in the Museum Shop. The compilation of these will be done in summer 2012.

Wedding Pictures. In the Fall of 2011, the Museum had its first Wedding party come to the Museum for outdoor pictures. The wedding brochure offering this option was drafted 10 years ago.

Web-site. Jennifer Barnhart has assumed responsibility for the Museum's web-site. This has become an important part of the Museum's image with scholars and groups contacting the Museum based on what they saw on the web-site. For example, a charter school in the Bronx has contacted the Museum for information about the Bronck farmstead. Shelby will be developing the content for a new family page for the web-site.

"Windows on History". As the 72nd season ended, the Museum Committee began discussing the best ways to celebrate the 350th anniversary of the purchase of the property by Pieter Bronck

in 2012 and the building of his house in 2013. The Committee recommend a fund raising effort named "Windows on History" for the following:

- Repairing the shutters and windows of the houses.
- Aging the houses by using period paint colors. The white windows and shutters reflect a 1950's look, not the colors which were used on Dutch Houses. Some experimentation with the appropriate colors has been done over the past several years and comments from visitors solicited.

An inventory of the doors and windows was prepared and the enclosed resolution was presented and adopted by the Trustees. Shelby has made a model shutter for use in the fund-raising and drafted the historical information for a brochure. Other Committees also have begun work on various aspects of the campaign.

Planning for 2012. It became clear in the fall of 2011 that the Bronck Museum Committee needed to establish ad hoc committees to plan and develop the 2012 schedule, since the single monthly meeting did not provide adequate time. The following describe the work of these committees:

Exhibits, Programs and Events. The entire Museum Committee determined that the core events from past years would be continued. This includes Association Day, "By the Light of the Silvery Moon", Heritage Craft Fair, Of Great Sorrow, Chilly Willy Tours, and three special Bronck Family Tours. Shelby Mattice and Ann Hallock developed ideas for these programs, "the Bronck Family in the Wilderness" focusing on various aspects of the area which Pieter Bronck bought 350 years ago. These three programs and the presenters are listed in the calendar at the back of this Annual Report. The programs have been changed with one lecture followed by tours on site and refreshments.

The Committee also wanted to have special presentations which would help describe Beverwyck, Pieter Bronck's previous home and how he would have traveled here. Ann Hallock obtained a grant from the Bank of Greene County to support two special lectures which will be presented in the 2013 Spring Lecture Series. The 2013 season will include Bronck Family at Home programs, which focus on the beginning of the family on this site with special emphasis on the second and third generations. The Bronck Timeline in the Visitors Center Gallery would be continued for 2012 and 2013, but the current family objects on display would be changed to an exhibit, "Plates, Porringers and Pats", a century of Bronck tableware. The idea of this exhibit grew from a mini exhibit done by Shelby for one of the 2011 Bronck Family at Home presentations.

Development of the Ice Exhibit in the Bronck Barrack. This committee is chaired by Wanda Dorpfeld and includes Chris Byas, Shelby Mattice, Richard Muggeo, Bruce Stokes and Harvey Durham (as the advisor). The Committee is working on developing an exhibit on the local ice industry which was initially designed by Jim Dustin. The first two barrack compartments on the north end will be used for this new display. A panel will be installed in the back of the bays to accommodate storage of ice industry items that we own but will not be using and some additional

lighting will be added. The committee is developing the script that will be used, selecting pictures and items from the Society's current collection, and working with a graphic designer for additional assistance. An icebox has been purchased and a card that was placed in the window of a house which indicated how much ice the customer wanted delivered that week was donated by Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Donnellon. Thomas Locker's book for children "Ice Horse" will be sold in the Museum Shop. It is anticipated that this exhibit will be opened during the 2012 season.

Nature Program. This committee is chaired by Wanda Dorpfeld and includes Chris Byas, Ann Hallock, Bob Hallock, Shelby Mattice, Richard Muggeo, Jim Planck and Bruce Stokes. The focus of this committee is to interpret the site of the Bronck Museum from an ecological view.

Categories that we have been researching are:

- damming and stream alteration throughout history
- the contrast (and similarities) between human damming and beaver dams
- the effect dams have on local ecology, as well as plants, trees and animals indigenous to this area.

The committee has met with representatives (Emily Stewart and Lillian Ramlow) from the Greene County Soil and Water Conservation District (GCSWCD) and with Elizabeth LoGuidice from Cornell Cooperative Extension's Agroforestry Resource Center to assist in our research. Ann Hallock has applied for a grant which would allow us to purchase signage, jars, magnifying glasses, etc. This is a work in progress and will most likely be completed in accomplishable increments.

Scavenger Hunt. This committee, chaired by Chris Byas, includes Bruce Stokes and Shelby Mattice, began work on a Scavenger Hunt at the Bronck Museum in mid-April. The committee quickly realized that this activity would make an enjoyable interactive program for school groups and so decided to develop it as a school tour option with a target audience of 4th–8th grade. The objective was to provide students with a glimpse of the life and times of the 7 generations of the Pieter Bronck family using site artifacts and architecture. Any single module could also be used as a stand-alone to augment other educational programming. The six modules are the **Kitchen Dependency**, the **Dutch Barn**, the **Bedroom of the 1738 House**, **Exterior Architectural Design** including owl holes and tie rods, **Guided Site** which includes the grave stones in the cemetery, cupola on the horse barn and the weathervane on the 13 sided barn and the **Timeline**. We have chosen artifacts and architectural features for each module and are in the process of writing riddles to help students to identify the chosen items or features. In addition, Shelby will be writing short descriptive pieces for docents to use to add additional information. We will have the project complete by early fall in time to use with any Autumn school groups.

Off-site Programming. As noted in the 2011 statistics, the Museum and its staff and volunteers are being utilized for programs by more local organizations. Such programs also can promote Museum visits by people participating in an off-site event. The Committee is reviewing current or previous programs, including those for school children and developing some new special programs. Power point resources will be used as appropriate. The Committee will publicize the availability of off-site programs. Since some of these programs involve costs for program material and transportation, it was decided to develop a fee schedule which was approved by the Board of Trustees. A coupon for a discounted admission to a regular tour of the Museum would be distributed also. The new off-site effort will be implemented this summer by a weekly presentation at Pollace's. One of the new off-site programs being developed is called "What's It?" and involves the identification of a collection of historic articles used in by-gone periods for various tasks.

The "Adelaide Bronk Lampman" Cookbook. This committee consists of Shelby Mattice and Ann Hallock. Shelby located a small handwritten cookbook of Adelaide Bronk Lampman in the Vedder Research Library. It is planned that the recipes from the book will be included with Adelaide's picture; genealogical information on Adelaide's Bronk and Ely families; drawings and pictures of family silver and china; and images of period cooking utensils. It is planned that the booklet will be sold in the Museum and the Library.

Education Programs. The Committee has welcomed the offering of educational programs especially during the time when the Museum offers no programs, but was concerned that these programs were being discontinued. In the Spring of 2012, the Committee organized three programs including a program for Women's History Month in March; a presentation about a new historical novel based on Benedict Arnold's life; and a storyteller on the Orphan Trains. As the Committee considered education programs, the idea of developing the Dr. Olga Santora Memorial Women's History Lecture to be given during March, Women's History Month was offered by Curator Shelby Mattice. A resolution sponsored by the Committee was offered by Harvey Durham and adopted at the Spring Meeting of the Board of Trustees. The resolution is attached to this Report. The Committee has begun planning for the first lecture in memory of Olga in March 2013.

Opening of the Hunter Education Center. The Museum Committee has begun planning for the opening of the Hunter Education Center this year. This will provide the Museum with non-historical space which can be used for new events and activities.

The Museum Committee has been very busy. Please come and see the results of these efforts this summer.

**RESOLUTION for the Spring 2012 Meeting
Board of Trustees Greene County Historical Society,
inc.**



Resolution:

Be it resolved that the Greene County Historical Society, Inc. present an educational program each year in March to celebrate Women's History Month, in keeping with the national designation;

Be it further resolved that this lecture be called 'The Dr. Olga Santora Women's History Lecture' in memory of a woman who served the Society for many years as follows:

Served as President, Vice President and Trustee through her years on the Board;

Worked tirelessly to raise money for the Society, including recruiting volunteers, soliciting merchandise to sell, organizing and operating the Bronck Museum Shop and holding special sales such as the outdoor summer sales and the Fall fairs in the Library at the time of the Chilly Willy;

Served as an active member of the Museum Committee where she consistently encouraged development of museum programming directed toward the greater awareness and understanding of Greene County History;

Was the chair of the Education Program Committee, organizing a group of volunteers who arranged for the presentation of 4-5 programs each year; and

Organized a booth at the Greene County Youth Fair to promote the Society and encourage membership; and

At her death, the Society received a sizeable block of IBM stock, with specifications that only the interest can be used.

Justification:

This service and her gift should be recognized by the Society. Holding a lecture in her honor seems fitting especially in recognition of her educational background and interests. Olga held a doctorate in education and was on the faculty of SUNY New Paltz for many years, supervising student teachers. She was an avid reader, especially enjoying biographies. She enjoyed history, researching the Indian tales which she included in school tours. At one time, she had read all the biographies in the Hermance Library. In her retirement, she read and reviewed children's books for a publication.

Vision:

It is envisioned that an educational program centered on some issue of Women's History would be presented each year in March in Olga's name. Various types of programs could be offered including speakers who have researched a topic and may or may not have prepared the findings in print, book reviews of related books, as well as first person and oral history presentations.

Each year the introduction to the program and the publicity for the program would include a word about Dr. Olga Santora.

Committee Support:

This resolution is offered on behalf of the Bronck Museum Committee, which has discussed the resolution. The idea has also been discussed with Treasurer David Dorpfeld and President Robert Hallock.

**Resolution –Windows on History
Bronck Museum Committee
Fall Quarterly Meeting of the GCHS Board of Trustees**

Motion: Ann Hallock moves that the Bronck Museum be authorized to develop a special fund-raising campaign as part of the Museum's celebration of the 350th anniversary of the purchase of the site by Pieter Bronck (1662-2012) and the building of the original house (1663-2013). This campaign would be called "Windows on History", since the funds raised by the campaign would be used for the restoration and repair of the windows and doors of the Houses of the Bronck Museum.

Background: The current white windows, shutters, doors, soffits, etc. on the Houses reflect the decor from a period after the Civil War and are in very poor condition. Painting these surfaces is an easy way to bring the appearance of the house back to the period of construction. The Committee has studied several other houses constructed around the same period. For example, the Van Bergen Overmantel depicts a house with painted doors and windows, including multiple colors. The Winnie House near Selkirk also has used paint to show the period of construction of the house. The windows and soffits on the Kitchen Dependency were painted with color several years ago. Of particular importance is the way this color has stood up to the damp environment by the side of the swamp.

Since re-glazing and repainting the windows of the houses is a necessity, the Committee studied how the house would look with period paint, thanks to a paint-box presentation done by Jim Dustin. Since the Committee liked the look of the darker paint on the House, the Committee asked Caretaker Jason O'Donnell to re-glaze and paint several of the windows with "Pompeian Red", a period color recommended in earlier discussions with Benjamin Moore representatives. The response to the change of the painted windows on the Houses has been positive, but moving ahead requires funds to address the many problems related to the windows and doors in the houses. The attached inventory lists the needs for each of the Houses' windows.

Plan for Campaign: The Museum Committee recognizes that there are many competing demands for building repairs so have considered how the Committee might help obtain their vision of an aged house with all shutters present. Ideas have been suggested but a final plan has been delayed until the Board of Trustees authorizes the fund raising and the needs for replacement and repairs have been discussed with the Buildings and Grounds Committee. Shelby Mattice, Museum Curator, has offered many ideas for this campaign and for the application of color to the Houses.

It is projected that the effort would begin in Spring 2012 and extend into Fall 2013. The Museum Committee envisions working the Buildings and Grounds Committee to review the inventory and identify the funds which would be needed for the work. Development of a special fund raising appeals brochure would be done by the Museum Committee which is also considering ideas for several new program options for raising necessary funds. It is planned that there will be a special Bronck Family Association meeting in 2013 to celebrate the anniversary of the building of the house. Bronck descendants will be asked to support the campaign. The Museum Committee also hopes to work with the newly appointed fund-raising committee on other ideas. Grants will be sought also.

It is believed that Caretaker Jason O'Donnell will be able to do some of the work. It is expected that contractors will be needed for the following jobs: replacing window sills and frames; repairing brick and stonework around the windows; and scraping and painting surfaces requiring scaffolding or a bucket truck. It is recognized that the work must be done in stages as money becomes available.

Existing shutters will be examined to determine how they were constructed, whether the pieces were routed together or not. If not, Shelby who has excellent carpentry skills (She has build major pieces of furniture for her home.) believes she can provide Jason with any needed instructions. If routing is required, construction of the shutters by someone with the necessary skills and tools will be needed. The painting of the shutters can be handled by Jason. In the past, the Society has purchased Benjamin Moore paint through GNH. For the interior of the Kitchen Dependency, Benjamin Moore supplied the paint under their plan to aid Historical Landmarks. An effort will be made to seek support for the purchase of the paint from Benjamin Moore for this project.

Shelby will prepare a model shutter with the multiple color combination for use in fund raising and to demonstrate the painting required for the combined color shutter.

Discussion with Officers and Other Committees. The proposal has been discussed with Treasurer David Dorpfeld and the Executive Committee. All have expressed support for the idea since the restoration of the Houses' windows and doors is badly needed and would be necessary without the campaign and "aging" of the Houses.

Motion made by David Dorpfeld

Motion Seconded by Dick May Adopted.

VEDDER RESEARCH LIBRARY

Barbara K. Spataro, Chair

After much discussion in 2011, the Library adopted a Code of Conduct, approved by the Board of Trustees in March 2012. Its three main purposes are

1. to consolidate policies regarding use of the Library
2. to bring these policies to the public's attention
3. to encourage consistent application of Library's policies

The Code is posted throughout the Library as well as on its web site.

<http://www.vedderlibrary.org/librule.htm>)

Patrons will be asked to read the Code and indicate agreement by signing when they initially request to view an item. Signed copies will be kept on file so that Library users will be asked to sign only once.

One of the policies that had been previously approved by the Board asks patrons to store their briefcases, bags, cell phones, and other gear in entryway lockers. These were inspected and readied for use in January.

Other building-related improvements in 2011 include the replacement of locks on both restrooms and heating and air conditioning system repairs.

Another focus in 2011 that continues in 2012 is the establishment of a wireless local area network (WLAN) which will include all VRL PC's as well as those in other GCHS buildings on the Bronck property.

Toward that end, in January 2012, Steve put together an RFP and posted it on the Library's web site. Fifteen potential IT vendors were contacted, of which four expressed interest. In March, representatives of three of these companies came for site visits led by Steve. Committee discussion regarding their responses/estimates is continuing. Alternatives to this effort and its upfront and ongoing costs are also under discussion in 2012.

In 2011, VRL continued to receive DONATIONS TO THE COLLECTION. These can be viewed at <http://www.vedderlibrary.org/libgift.htm>

LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS continue to accomplish amazing things! Volunteers are

Clesson S. Bush	Jean Bush	Harvey Durham
Kathleen Durham	Karla Flegel	Kathleen Hintz
Charles A. Holtz	Evelyn Lein	Shirley McGrath
Beth Rienti	Judy Rundell	Stephen Schwebler

Shirley McGrath and Judy Rundell continue their work for many years of answering genealogical questions from walk-in visitors, letters, and email. In addition, Shirley and Judy keep the card catalog up to date, adding cards as needed. Also, Judy handles library subscription to magazines, and records library items used by walk-in visitors. Shirley also updates existing indexes.

2011 catalog updates completed by Cless Bush can be seen at

<http://www.vedderlibrary.org/libcatup.htm>

Harvey and Kathleen Durham continue to review numerous area newspapers and collect items from these that have historical significance for Greene County. In addition, they assist in answering genealogical and local history questions.

Volunteer Karla Flegel, who was welcomed as a new member of the Library Committee last fall, (1) has been creating a list of contents of Main Vertical Files – she is working on the letter “S.” (2) Karla completed inventory of Backroom Manuscript Vertical File Folders, drawers 1-10. (3) Karla completed inventory of Maps Filed at the Vedder Research Library, folders 1-13.

Kathleen Hintz has been creating Table of Contents to Scrapbook collection at the library – she is now completing scrapbook #19. Kathleen also assists Shirley in genealogical research.

Stephen Schwebler continues to make digital copies of photos ordered by library visitors. Recently one customer was so satisfied with the first \$300 order (12 scans @ \$25 each) that she spent an additional \$175 for the second order (7 scans @\$25 each). Many others praise Stephen as well. Here is what Guggenheim Productions, Washington, DC 20007, said “You are a miracle worker...thank you! “

It should be noted here that the above listing is only a sample of library activities. All volunteers work as a team and offer their expertise when asked, helping each other as the need arises. Even GCHS board members contribute to the library tasks e.g. addressing St. Luke’s Church issue, as well as answering genealogical or local history questions.

In 2011, community service worker, Dan Knickerbocker, completed chronological organization and labeling of all New York Times microfilm from 1854 -2007 or approximately 3,000+ reels of microfilm! He also re-boxed index cards regarding military history created by a former VRL librarian. In addition, Dan shelves books, assists moving material into basement, and constructs storage boxes.

2011 STATISTICS

There were 387 visits to the VRL and 704 items requested in 2011. Also, 349 email inquiries were received last year. A total of \$2,690 in income was generated from copies made, books sold, etc. in 2011. Year 2011 income is much less when compared to 2010, \$4027. Perhaps it is due to credit card payments which are not included here.

UNDER DISCUSSION in 2012

The Library Committee is facing the issue of recruiting new volunteers to continue and expand the essential work currently undertaken by VRL volunteers. Discussion has included a review of the volunteer description and available roles present on the VRL web site, as well as ideas to attract & recruit interested people, possibly at GCHS events on site, as well as other festivals and events throughout Greene County. This is an important discussion that will continue.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Prepared by Robert C. Hallock

Since May of 2011 Buildings and Grounds has accomplished several things.

Bronck Barrack and Hunter Education Center

A new septic tank system and a new heating system were installed at the Hunter Education Center; the well at the Education Center was brought back on line, the water was tested and determined to be potable; the bathroom was redone and the front room redone; walkways in front of the barracks were installed; walkways were installed from the Barrack to the Education Center and from the Center to the intersection of County Route 42 and Pieter Bronck Road. New stone was placed on the driveway from Pieter Bronck into the Education Center. Two trees donated by Coxsackie Elementary School in honor of retired teacher and current GCHS Trustee Chris Byas and were planted on the Barrack Education Center site. A parking area was enlarged behind the Barrack.

There is still work to be done in the Education Center before it opens to the general public. A new water tank and hot water heater are needed and more cleaning to prepare the kitchen is required. A handicap ramp to access the entryway will also be constructed.

Windows on History

Last Summer, Caretaker Jason O'Donnell removed a shutter from the 1685 house hallway window and cleaned it. Then it was appropriately painted in the red, blue and gold colors and re-hung properly to show the effect of the original Dutch color scheme for shutters. After this effort, the Museum Committee reviewed the Waite Historic Structures report and drew up a plan for necessary renovations on the house. They pushed for a fund-raising campaign to raise the money to do the necessary restorations and called that effort "Windows on History." The Board of Trustees adopted a resolution approving the restoration work and the campaign.

Over the winter, Curator Shelby Mattice created a model board and batten shutter for the house as a pattern for Caretaker Jason O'Donnell to be able to create new shutters and replace the existing shutters made of plywood. Sources of dimensional lumber for the shutters and other uses have been identified. Appropriate iron hinges will be acquired where needed. Other trim on the house will be painted in the original Dutch colors as justified. Jason and Shelby deserve credit for their work on this project which is over and above their regular duties.

The Building and Grounds Committee reviewed the Museum Committee "Windows on History" plans for renovations on the Bronck Houses and the Waite Report and consulted with Roderick Blackburn, a noted local expert on Dutch architecture. Jeremy Copleston was approached and agreed to be a "clerk of the works" for the work in the late spring-early summer time period. Statements of what was needed to be done on the restoration work on the houses were drawn up and sent to area contractors. Several contractors have visited the site and proposals are expected in by mid May. It is expected that some of the brick work and the sill work on the 1738 house will be begun this year. Depending on the cost of the proposals received, other work on the houses is expected to be done this year as well.

Library Heating System

Family Danz did further work on the heating system in the Vedder Research Library.

New Member of Building and Grounds

Art Byas joined the Committee in 2012. He has worked on the walkways and driveways this year as well as arranging for the removal of a dead willow tree at the intersection of County Route 42 and Pieter Bronck Road that was an eyesore and a threat to the electric wires that ran through the dead branches. A Central Hudson crew took down the tree and a County Highway crew removed the cut up portions of the willow. Thanks to Art and the rest of the committee for their work.

Security System Review

An ad-hoc sub-committee of Buildings and Grounds reviewed the security of the site and found that some procedures had to be changed for better security. Their review indicated that installing new security systems would be expensive and changing some procedures would be easier and cheaper. As a result both the Library and the Museum have changed some of their procedures.

Jason and Amanda O'Donnell have done great work as caretakers. Jason particularly has done many jobs in-house that have saved the Society money and he has done them well.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE **Robert A. Dagostino, Chair**

1. As the *Greene County Historical Journal* moves into its 36th 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 at this point some specific editions may be completely sold out. If you find that your collection is missing a few editions, check with the Vedder!

2. In 2011, the *Journal* took another stride forward into the electronic age: a PDF version of each *Journal* edition will now be available when it is published. The PDF version will be distributed by email, to any Society member who would prefer to receive the *Journal* electronically. Society Financial Secretary Tom Satterlee has all the details if you wish to switch from the traditional print, to the electronic edition!

3. The Winter 2011 edition of the *Journal* featured a wonderful article by Jim Hubbard, the subject being Resnick's buckwheat mill. Jim worked there during the summer of 1941, right after he had graduated from Catskill High School. A hearty Thank You goes to Society member Terez Limer, who keeps in touch with Jim, and brought the article to us.

3. The next article is a major piece on Cocksackie's White Elephant Railroad, brought to the *Journal* by VRL Librarian Steve Pec. As currently planned, the Spring and Summer 2012 *Journals* will be combined into a special "double edition," and will contain the complete article.

4. As currently planned, the Fall 2012 edition will feature an article on the cholera epidemic of 1832. This is the first of what we hope will be many articles by Society member Karla Flegel.

5. More articles are on the way as well, including a Civil War article and more World War II: Life on the Homefront articles.

6. Any recap of 2011 would be incomplete without a mention of Hurricane/Tropical Storm Irene. On that day at the end of August 2011, we all became part of the fabric of history. Ever-so-slowly, daily life in the parts of our County that were affected, inches forward, with the ultimate goal a return to a semblance of normality. This tragedy prompted the Society to establish an Irene Archive, for the best history does not exist through a repository filled only with newspaper clippings. Believe it or not, the best history exists through the personal insights of plain old us, and your ability to tell of Irene is important to history.

And moving beyond Irene, what other sights, sites, and people, now long gone, live on in your memory? Share them with family. And please write about them, too: *The Greene County Historical Journal* is always looking for manuscripts, and the Publications Committee encourages Society members to consider writing for us. Editorial assistance can be provided!

The *Journal* seeks manuscripts which relate to history within the various townships of our County. 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. Sights and sites - remember that photographs are important historical artifacts as well!

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 or typewritten, 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. (If you're contributing material to the Irene Archive, it's the same address: address to The 2011 Irene Archive, at the Greene County Historical Society, Inc., P. O. Box 44, Coxsackie, New York 12051.)

HISTORIC REGISTER COMMITTEE

Ken Mabey, Chair

Recent additions:

251 Mended Wall Farm/Uriah Stevens Homestead, Greenville

252 Leonard Kinsley House, Catskill

Several other applications are under consideration for approval shortly.

Jean Bush presented a slide program at C-G Community College on Historic Places in Greene County, assisted by Ken Mabey.

We continue to work with Jennifer Barnhart, and Tom Satterlee as needed regarding the next calendar featuring farms that are on the register, and Messenger items.

Karen Deeter, Nick Nahas and Ken Mabey of the HRC are working with the Homes Tour committee for 2012.

Tropical storm Irene damages.

We have checked on the damage to places on the register from "Irene". The greatest damage was in Prattsville, Windham and Lexington. Most are likely to be repaired. Only a few in Prattsville were completely destroyed. We are pleased that we still have the files, photos, and records to these places, and the importance of GCHS's mission of historic preservation.

In Windham all of the places on the register located on lower Main St. received some damage. None were lost, and most, if not all, have been restored.

In Lexington two places on the register were damaged, but not beyond repair. They are the Schoharie Creek Homestead, # 167, and Lexington Stone House, # 31

In Jewett, and Ashland the places were on high ground, and didn't suffer major damage. Durham is fine, too despite some damage in Oak Hill at St. Paul's; wrought iron fence around the cemetery and church grounds. To the best of my knowledge there were no losses of register sites in any of the other towns.

Prattsville is the big concern.

5 Pratt Museum-repairs have been made, and can use the building.

16 O'Hara/Fowler Home-repairs are being made

92 Reformed Dutch Church- being repaired

#134 Reformed Dutch Parsonage-under repair

#138 Lutz/Moffatt House being repaired

#159 Old Town Hall-This was lost and is unlikely to be replaced

#160 Country Hutt Antique Store-Betty said "the owner will either make repairs or rebuild if the damage is too great."

#161 Medad Frayer Barn- Uncertain, but thought to be okay

#163 Prattsville Commercial Bldg/Z. Pratt's office. Good condition-just needs to be put back on foundation when electric wires have been removed by NYSEG from under the building.

#165 Pratt Rock Park-high and dry!

#166 Waterfalls House & Clark's Falls-thought to be okay.

#167 Schoharie Creek Homestead- Betty thought some damage, but did not know outcome.

#170 Vetter House-Okay, being repaired

#180 O'Hara's Trading Post- Swept away, but is being rebuilt.

#194 Prattsville Academy/Town Hall-under repair, some part of the building uncertain at this juncture.

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Emily Kunchala, Chair

The Strategic Planning Committee consists of Jonathan Donald, Ann Hallock, Bob Hallock, Emily Kunchala, J. Dickinson May and Jim Plank. The committee had several meetings during the fiscal year and presented a revised Strategic Plan to the Board at the Fall meeting which was accepted. The six main goals of the Society have not changed since the prior version of the Plan. The major changes to the Plan included the separation of Cedar Grove, consolidation of certain objectives, and general updates to reflect changes that have occurred. The Committee also discussed how to work with the other committees of the Board to have them utilize on the Strategic Plan for their future planning and budgeting purposes.

BEECHER SCHOLARSHIP

Christine Byas, Chair

The Greene County Historical Society established the Raymond Beecher Scholarship in 2007 to honor Dr. Raymond Beecher's 90th birthday. Each year it is awarded to a Greene County high school senior based on an article on local history. Since I have chaired the Beecher Scholarship Committee I've been disappointed that only one or two applicants have applied for this prestigious scholarship each year. Last year the committee decided to make some changes to encourage more student participation. Jennifer Barnhart, our Operations Manager, took over the responsibility of contacting schools and following up with email reminders to keep our scholarship at the forefront. An article with pertinent information was sent to local newspapers to get the word out to parents. We also made a change in the Beecher Scholarship award. We decided to give one thousand dollar scholarship instead of two five hundred dollar awards. Last year five Greene County students researched, wrote and sent in articles for our committee to evaluate. The 2011 Beecher Scholarship was awarded to Kristin Wallace, a Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk student, who wrote an interesting oral history on the Cornell Hook and Ladder Company. An article announcing the winner was sent to local newspapers and Kristin was also featured in the Fall Edition of *The Messenger*.

This year six students have submitted articles which the committee is in the process of evaluating to choose the 2012 Beecher Scholarship winner. Dr. Beecher would be pleased to see increased student interest in local history.

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Jim Planck, Chair

The Society achieves fundraising through a number of manners and continues to expand its opportunities. Among those the Society conducts are:

- The Annual Homes Tour. The tour is a major revenue source for the Society, yielding revenue from ticket sales, ticket and program advertisements, and sponsor program listings. This year's Tour will be in the Town of Durham on June 2.
- The Heritage Craft Fair. The fair, held in October, has been conducted for the past two years, with vendor fees and associated revenues proving very successful, and will be held again this year.
- The Silent Auction. Held in conjunction with the Heritage Crafts Fair, items and services for

the Silent Auction are donated by crafters, artists, members, and businesses. It, too, will be held again this year.

-- The History Chair Raffle. Tickets for 2011's chair, painted with an image of the 13-sided barn by local artist Ellen Delucla, who donated her talent and time, sold very well throughout the season, and the raffle was a solid fundraiser. Plans are shaping to have another chair for raffling this season, tentatively with an image of Rip Van Winkle painted on it.

-- The Christmas Dinner. Board Director W. Bradford Ellis hosted a pre-Christmas dinner at his home on Route 81 which was strongly attended and raised substantial funds for the Society.

-- Book Sales. The Society earns a percentage of all books its sells, based on commission or Society ownership, and they move regularly.

-- Membership. The Society is actively working to expand its membership base, with revenues proportionate.

New fundraising opportunities for 2012 include:

-- Windows on History Campaign. The "Windows" campaign is to restore and repair the sills in the 1738 brick house expansion on the Bronck House, which have undergone serious decomposition. The campaign is a primary fundraising focus for the Society at this time, with ongoing development of a brochure/flyer to support the campaign, plus a kick-off event being planned for the Fall, with subsequent follow through.

-- 350th Anniversary Tiles -- Through the efforts of Board Director Tom Satterlee, decorative tile artist Frank Giorgini, of Freehold, has produced a beautiful ceramic art tile bearing the image of the 1663 stone house and celebratory words commemorating Pieter Bronck's 1662 purchase of his land, with tile sales to begin in the near future.

-- Local History Tiles -- Discussion is ongoing for artist Giorgini to also produce a potential series of ceramic art tiles in conjunction with the Society, depicting significant and recognized scenes important to the County's history, such as Kaaterskill Falls.

-- The Hunter Education Center. The opening of the Center later this year will provide additional opportunities for fundraising.

-- Bronck Family Timeline. A PowerPoint presentation centered around the timeline of the Bronck family's residence and use of the site through the generations is being developed, which will provide regional interaction and basis for soliciting funds.

Suggestions for additional fundraising opportunities are regularly discussed, with some undoubtedly to manifest later in the year.

BOARD DEVELOPMENT AND NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Wanda Dorpfeld, Chair

The Board Development and Nominating Committee has 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 a new candidate to propose for election.

Resignation of a current Trustee

Jonathan Donald

Member of the Class of 2011 who wishes to return as Trustee in the Class of 2016:

Robert C. Hallock

New Trustee Candidate for the Class of 2016:

Karla Flegel

The following is an autobiographical sketch submitted by the new Trustee candidate:

Karla Flegel

Karla recently relocated to the family farm and entered full time retirement. She holds on to those professional endeavors (health care and education for adult learners) that induce meaning, has reactivated those interests (gardening, nature appreciation, agricultural activities) that she laid aside for many years and engages in all that brings joy, which includes community involvement, history in the forms of books, older poetry and local historical sources. More specifically as an educator, she maintained a clinical practice across the lifespan in which she more recently concentrated in elder care. Her professional interests guided her serving several years in developing nations (South Vietnam, Brazil and the Papago Nation) from which she acquired interest thus further study in cultural diverse concepts.

Presently, in addition to being a volunteer at the Vedder Research Library where she discovered an enjoyment in writing historical health related issues relevant to Greene County history, Karla is the president of the New Baltimore Farmers' Market, an elder in her faith community, a volunteer with the Alzheimer's Association as a support group facilitator in Columbia and Greene Counties (both of which are new within the past year or two), a representative at Health Fairs and a member of the Program and Service Committee for the Northeastern New York Alzheimer's Association. Karla continues to value health, the outdoors throughout the year, working with others, and learning and serving our community.

Board Trustee Emeritus

This year Charles Schaefer is being nominated as a Board Member Emeritus of the Greene County Historical Society. At various times over the last two decades, Mr. Schaefer has provided outstanding service and support to the Society in the following ways: President of the Society, fundraiser for the construction of the Vedder Research Library, legal advisor for the acquisition of Cedar Grove and establishment of the Thomas Cole House as a separate entity from the Society. The Society is grateful for Mr. Schaefer's continuing commitment to our activities and goals.