# Vedder Research Library Celebrates 50 Years



Charles E. Dornbusch, first librarian of the Vedder Research Library in the original library, 1963

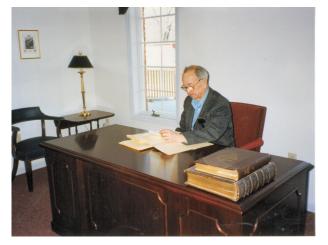
# Greene County Historical Society Inc.

2013 Financial & Membership Reports 2013-2014 Program Year May 2014 May 2014 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the official opening of the Vedder Research Library, and that commemoration affords an opportunity to look at the dedicated people who helped to create the library the Vedder is today.

The man on the cover, Charles E. Dornbusch, began his duties as the first librarian of the Greene County Historical Society in September 1963, using the loft in the wing of the 1663 Bronck House. In the spring of 1966, the growing library was moved to a renovated farm building next to the Victorian barn on the Bronck property. Mr. Dornbusch shared his expertise acquired at the New York Public Library continuing to build the Vedder collections.

In 1968, Dr. Raymond Beecher (pictured below on the left) assumed the role of librarian and brought the Vedder Library even further along. In 1991, Raymond and Catharine Beecher announced they would make a substantial donation toward the building of a new library if the Greene County Historical Society would raise the remaining funds. An anonymous donor stepped in, an extensive fund raising campaign ensued and the project was launched. The new building (pictured below on the right) was named in honor of Jessie VanVechten Vedder, Greene County's first historian.

The Vedder Research Library continues to grow by adding to its collections through the generosity of its supporters. Over ten volunteers gather and organize materials and assist researchers in their quest for historic information. The Vedder of today is truly the sum of its holdings, its structure, and, most importantly, its people.



Linda Hunt, Librarian

Photograph courtesy of Harvey Durham



Artist, Marian Schwebler

# Annual Report Greene County Historical Society, Inc. 2013 Financial and Membership Year 2013-2014 Program Year May 2014

# The 2013-2014 Officers of the Greene County Historical Society, Inc.

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

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# The 2013-2014 Trustees Emeritus of the Greene County Historical Society, Inc.

Natalie Daley J. Theodore Hilscher Valentine Kriele Perry Palmer Charles Schaefer Robert Stackman

# The 2013-2014 Staff of the Greene County Historical Society, Inc.

Shelby Mattice Jennifer Barnhart Linda Hunt Suzanne Thrasher Jason O'Donnell Amanda O'Donnell Curator Operations Manager Librarian (from September 2013) Museum Associate Custodian Custodian

#### April 24, 2014

The Greene County Historical Society proudly celebrated the sesquarcentennial (a/k/a semiseptcentennial) of its crown jewel – the Bronck House – on June 16, 2013. It is truly amazing that the Bronck House – built in 1663 – was still in the same family until 1939 when the Society acquired it and began using it as a museum. With much fanfare and cooperation from Mother Nature the celebratory event was a momentous day for the Society as many dignitaries attended as well as an exceptional turn out from the general public. There were numerous activities, including: children's activities, photo sessions open to the public, an exhibit near the Burying Grounds, and a Dutch Barn erecting demonstration. In addition to the celebration that day, the Society officially opened the Ice Exhibit in the Barracks. After years of hard work in compiling, assembling, and editing, the Ice Exhibit tells the story of winter commerce in the river towns in Greene County. This commerce was sometimes the very survival of these river towns, which in turn shaped the County as we know it today. (My home on South River Street, Coxsackie was the office for the Knickerbocker Ice Company.)

Although the Bronck House is in exceptional shape for its age, the Society must be vigilant in maintaining the integrity of the home, thought to be the oldest house in upstate New York. To that end, we began the Windows on History fund raising campaign in 2013 to repair some of the woodwork in the Bronck House. The campaign – designed for the entire 350<sup>th</sup> year anniversary - was successful, yet will continue into the future.

The Museum saw an uptick in visitors in 2013 as we had people from many states – near and far – as well as visitors from other countries as well as a Road Scholar tour came to visit the Museum. It is truly amazing that the Bronck House – built in 1663 – was still in the same family until 1939 when the Society acquired it and began using it as a museum.

Although this letter is mainly devoted to the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Bronck House, it should be pointed out that 2013 was another successful year for the Society. Financially, the Society is in fine shape, thanks to many people: Trustees, volunteers, caretakers, curator, and others who make contributions throughout the year for the Society's benefit. Importantly, too, we obtained the services of another Librarian for the Vedder Research Library; the individual is very capable and ably filling a critical function of the Society.

#### Joseph Warren,

Chairman of the Board

Dear Members and Friends:

The Greene County Historical Society is 85 years young and continues to be guided by its original charter language. The charter language specified several objectives.

**The object of this Society shall be** "the preservation of historical matter relating to the history of Greene County in particular and New York State in general to create an interest in all matters of historical information." The Bronck Houses and barns are preserved as well as both the objects and paper items in the collections of the Society. In addition tours of the Bronck Houses and barns are offered from Mid-May to mid October; the Vedder Research Library is open three days a week; the *Quarterly Journal* is entering its 38<sup>th</sup> year; an active historical lecture series; and outreach programs to schools and civic groups.

**The object of this Society shall be** "(to) collect, receive and preserve, and safely keep historical records, documents, books paper, maps, manuscripts, ......which may establish or illustrate the history growth and progress of the County of Greene…" The files, shelves and computers of the Vedder Research Library bulge with the accumulation of historical records as well as the collections of the Society on display or in storage in the Bronck houses and barns and now in the Hunter Education Center and Bronck Barrack.

**The object of this Society shall be** "to establish a museum therein for their preservation;" The Bronck Museum continues to have a local, national and world wide appeal with an excellent reputation for being a first rate museum.

**The object of this Society shall be** "to suitably mark places of historical interest in the County;" The Historic Register of sites in Greene County now has over 250 listings and plaques designating the site as being on the Society's Register abound in the County.

Our founders and their successors over the years would be pleased that the Society continues to operate and pleased that we continually expand our collections and methods to interpret local history. Jessie Van Vechten Vedder, Mabel Parker Smith, and Ray Beecher all must be smiling somewhere.

The volunteers, the paid staff and the Society Trustees and Officers all deserve the credit for our accomplishments. Volunteers help out in the Library, the Historic Register, and the Museum. Our new Librarian Linda Hunt, our Operations Manager Jennifer Barnhart, our Curator Shelby Mattice, our Summer Museum Assistant Sue Thrasher and our Caretakers Jason and Amanda O'Donnell deserve a big thank you for their efforts on the Society's behalf. Board of Trustees Chair Joe Warren Treasurer Dave Dorpfeld, Vice President Jim Planck, Secretary Ann Hallock, and Financial Secretary Tom Satterlee all devote huge amounts of time and effort to their duties. The Committees contribute significantly to the operation of the Society. Our membership should also deserve a large amount of thanks for their support over the years.

Robert C. Hallock, President

#### Treasurer's Report for Calendar Year 2013 David C. Dorpfeld, Treasurer

Equity markets continued to improve during 2013 as did the Society's finances. Operations are on a sound financial 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 (6). The other three columns from left to right are as follows: Calendar year 2013 budget, actual income and expenditures for 2013, and income and expenses compared to the budget (Over or Under).

On the revenue side we did not require as much to support expenditures in 2013. Therefore we did not need to draw as much from reserves as anticipated. Also, revenue from memberships and grants that had been budgeted was less than anticipated. With regard to membership dues, an increase or decrease in any given year is largely due to the timing of deposits. The bulk of this money comes in at the end of the calendar year and with the holiday season; sometimes some of it is not deposited until the following year. Our Financial Secretary's report provides a better picture of where we stand year to year on memberships. Footnotes are provided where we felt further explanations were needed on revenue items.

In 2013 we also embarked on another capital campaign called "Windows on History" to fund additional repairs to the 350-year-old Bronck House. One generous couple has already donated over \$11,000. At of the end of 2013, over \$27,000 had been realized and another \$2500 is anticipated from an IBM matching grant.

On the expense side of the ledger, we were under budget. The main contributing factor here was that the position of Librarian went unfilled for about six months as we searched for a replacement. In the end actual outlays for wages and payroll expenses were reduced by over \$14,000. Another area where we under spent was on Exhibits and Education. This is because we received grant money in the past that was used for this purpose (See \$7,793 for the ice exhibit in the right hand column). Variances (over/under) in other categories of expenditures were fairly minor and negated one another.

One last note on our financial results. While the bottom line shows we stayed within our budget, this does not mean we have excess to spend on something else. Each year we budget between four and five percent of our reserves to support the budget. During several years because of the downturn in the stock market, we spent slightly more than we budgeted. Years like 2013 begin to make up for this, and the excess should not be considered a windfall.

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 six years and made my job easier and more pleasant. I would also like to thank 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.

#### Greene County Historical Society Statement of Revenue and Expenses For the period ending 12/31/13

	Budget CY 2013	Actual YTD 12/31/13		Over/ (Under)	Unanticipated/ Unbudgeted	
REVENUES						
Donations & Grants						
Restricted Grants	4,200	2,550		(1,650)	2,000	3
Unrestricted Grants	5,000	3,847	1	(1,153)		
Total Grants Received	9,200	6,397	-	(2,803)	2,000	
Memorial Gifts	-	50				
Reserves needed to support budgeted expenditures	127,900	120,607	2	(7,293)		
Museum Donations	1,000	630		(370)	6,500	4
Library Donations	1,500	1,011		(489)	2,000	5
GCHS Donations	•	350		350		
Membership	25,000	21,932		(3,068)		
Beecher Scholarship	500	170		(330)		
Total Donations	155,900	144,750	-	(11,150)	8,500	-
Programs						
Home Tour	6,000	4,900		(1,100)		
Library Activities	1,500	817		(683)		
Museum Admissions	5,000	4,254		(746)		
Museum Events	2,000	1,804		(196)		
Shop	3,500	6,257		2,757		
Publications	250	77		(173)		
Total Programs	18,250	18,109	-	(141)	•	-
Other Income						
Fundraising (Heritage Craft Fair)	2,000	1.825		(175)		
Interest Income	400	545		<b>`145</b> ´		
Dividend Income		2,137				
Investment Interest Income		187				
Miscellaneous Income	2,000	417		(1,583)		
Restricted - Capital Funds Drive	·				27,104	
Unanticipated					87,738	6
Historic Register					836	
Civil War Books					370	
Fredericksburg CW Trip					14,800	
Total Other Income	4,400	5,111	-	711	130,848	-
	187,750	174,367	•	(13,383)	141,348	-

1 Greene County Legislature

2 The Society budgeted 4.73 percent of reserves to support the 2013 expenditures. Because of additions, the increase in the value of investments and reduced expenditures, the actual draw on reserves at year-end amounted to 4.17 percent.

3 Bank of Greene County/FAM

4 Donation for new exhibit at Barrack

5 Grant for the library

6 Me morials: Milon Overbaugh (\$9,325) Betty Miller (\$78,413)

7 350th Celebration, most of which was covered by grants.

# Greene County Historical Society Statement of Revenue and Expenses For the period ending 12/31/13

EXPENSES	Budget <u>CY 2013</u>	Actual <u>YTD 12/31/13</u>	Over/ (Under)	Unanticipated/ <u>Unbudgeted</u>
Maintenance				
Library	3,000	4,687	1,687	
Museum	7,000	5,413	(1,587)	
Caretakers House		732	732	
Total Maintenance	10,000	10,832	832	
Utilities	2 500	3,847	347	
	3,500	,	-	
Fuel Oil/Burner Service	7,000	8,250	1,250	
Phones	1,000	1,018	18	
Other Total Utilities	11,500	13,115	1,615	
Wages				
Caretakers	4,800	5,800	1,000	
Curatorial	41,750	41,750	-	
Curatorial Assistance	3,400	3,674	274	
Librarian	20,650	9,058	(11,592)	
Operations Manager	26,000	27,000	1,000	
Total Wages	96,600	87,282	(9,318)	
Other Expenses				
Annual Mtg./Volunteer Recognition	600	793	193	
Beecher Scholarship	1,000	1,000	-	
Collection Enhancement/Acquisition	1,500	126	(1,374)	
Computer	2,000	1,856	(144)	
Contingencies	2,000	2,870	7 870	
Contracted Services	2,000	2,010		
Dues/Subscriptions	300	487	187	
Equipment	500	1,197	1,197	
Exhibits and Education	5,000	170	(4,830)	
Expenditures from Restricted Grants	2,200	1,912	(4,000)	233
Furniture & Fixtures	1,500	150	(1,350)	2.55
Home Tour	800	1,183	383	
	21,000	19,710	(1,290)	
	21,000	209	(1,200)	
Membership/Assoc. Expense	200 100	175	75	
Miscellaneous				
Office Supplies	3,000	2,860	(140) 148	
Payroll Service	2,000	2,148		
Postage	2,500	2,209	(291)	
Promotion and Outreach	4,000	4,497	497	
Purchases for Museum Shop	1,000	3,915	2,915 463	
Publications/Printing	3,000	3,463		
Security System	1,000	903	(97)	
Charges - Credit Card	500	814 2,100	314 100	
990 Preparation	2,000	-		
Health Insurance	2,500	1,190	(1,310) (2,749)	
Payroll Expenses Capital Construction - Bronck House Capital Construction - Bronck Barracks	9,950	7,202	(2,748)	1,575 1,517
Civil War Trip/Fredericksburg John Ham's Book				14,864 6,000
BOGC Grant for 350th Celebration				590
Books Sold for Saint Mary's				250
Expenditures from 2012 FAM Grant				950
lce Exhibit				7,793
Civil War Book				356
Digitaliztion Project				680
Total Other Expenses	69,650	63,139	(6,511)	3,325
Total Expenses	187,750	174,367	(13,383)	3,325
			<u> </u>	·

# ANNUAL REPORT 2013 MEMBERSHIP THOMAS SATTERLEE, FINANCIAL SECRETARY

For January 1 - December 31, 2013, the total moneys the financial secretary collected for dues and donations were:

Dues	\$19,861
Donations	
Vedder Library	\$155
Bronck Museum	\$50
Capital Fund	\$11
Beecher Scholarship	0
Total Dues & Donations	\$20,077

\$12,811 of this amount relates to dues and donations for 2014. \$21,080 was collected for the 2013 dues year in 2012 and 2013. Membership for 2013 was up slightly from 450 to 466. Dues payments were down slightly for 2013 from \$22,511 to \$21,080. Members are encouraged to solicit memberships whenever and wherever possible. The addition of PayPal to our website for payment of dues has been successful as a payment method for new members and renewals. Memberships by category for the year 2013 were as follows:

Individual	184
Dual/Family	133
Supporter	50
Patron	29
Benefactor	6
Silver Benefactor	2
Gold Benefactor	3
Library Institutions	10
Honorary	10
Student	3
Business Basic	6
Business Friend	8
Business Supporter	16
Trustee Emerti	6

Total Membership

The current membership drive, as of April 1, 2014 has resulted in responses as follows: Dues \$18,683 Individual 158

465

		Dual/Family	108
Donations	Supporter		33
		Patron	29
Vedder Library	\$186	Benefactor	6
Bronck Museum	\$10	Silver Benefactor	2
Capital Fund	\$1,171	Gold Benefactor	
Beecher Scholarship	\$40	Library Institutions	9 0
		Student	
		Honorary	10
		Trustee Emerti	6
		Business Basic	4
Total Dues & Donations	\$20,345	Business Friend	4 8 9
		Business Supporter	9
	383		

# Greene County Historical Society 2013 Membership

# **Business Supporter**

Kosco C.A. Albright & Sons LLC Coxsackie Antique Center National Bank of Coxsackie Bavarian Manor Country Inn & Restaurant Hinterland Design Millspaugh Camerato Funeral Home **Tip Top Furniture** Greene County IDA Dimensions North Ltd Greene County Septic Cleaners, Inc. Chalet Services, Inc. State Telephone Co. Coxsackie Transport Giovgini Design/Udu Inc. Hudson Valley Merecantile

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#### Student

Rachel Hallock Brianna Melick

#### Library Institution

Columbia-Greene Community College D.R. Evarts Library Palenville Branch Library Catskill Public Library Allen County Public Library Greenville Public Library NYS Historical Ser. Cont. Sect. State Historical Society of Wisconsin Peggy Ahwesh Heermance Memorial Library

#### Honorary

Library of Congress Ulster County Genealogical Society Schoharie County Historical Society Delaware County Historical Society NYSHA Library/Serials Eliza B. Miller On-Ti-Ora Chapter NSD Dutch Settlers Society Gilboa Historical Society

# Trustee Emeriti

Natalie Daley J. Theodore Hilscher Valentine Kreile Perry Palmer Charles Schaefer Robert Stackman

# Greene County Historical Society, Inc. Annual Meeting-May 5, 2013

**Call to Order.** On May 5, 2013, the Annual Meeting of the Greene County Historical Society, Inc. was held in the Community Center, Westkill, Town of Lexington. An attendance list is attached to these minutes. The meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag by Chairman of the Board, Joseph Warren. This followed an excellent brunch served by the Community Center and Michael Barcone's interesting program on Daniel Angle, a Hessian soldier who later fought on the side of the American colonists and settled in what became Lexington. Copies of the Meeting agenda and the 2013 Annual Report were distributed to the 18 members attending.

**Moment of Silence for Departed Members.** President Robert Hailock asked for a moment of silence for those Society members who departed this world since the 2012 Annual Meeting. The list was as follows:

In 2012: William Tremmell, Bob Heisinger, Freeda Margraf, John Weidel, Janet Wood June, Blance Buhler, Jim Haines, and Franklin Clark

In 2013: Grace Bedell Sutherland, Marjorie M. Jakovic, Henry Yost, and Terrence Lein.

President Hailock asked Wanda Dorpfeld, Board Development Chair, to offer words about Jim Dustin, a former Trustee. Wanda noted that Jim had passed away suddenly in August 2012. He was a man who gave freely of his artistic talent in many ways to help the Society, including the initial drawings for the ice exhibit; the installation of the Browere paintings in the Library and his work with Jennifer Bamhart on the initial design and format for "The Messenger".

**Introductory Words by Chairman of the Board, Joseph Warren.** He thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and the people at the Westkill Community Center for the excellent brunch. His letter to the membership is included in the 2013 Report.

**Introductory Words by President, Robert Hailock.** He thanked the Trustees and members for their support during the past year. He noted the activities coming up in the 350<sup>ln</sup> Birthday Celebration at the Bronck Museum and urged all to attend. His letter to the membership is included in the 2013 Report.

**Minutes of the 2012 Annual Meeting.** A copy of the minutes is included in the Annual Report. Ann Hallock, Recording Secretary summarized the content of those minutes. It was moved by Dennis O'Grady and seconded by Chris Byas that the minutes be accepted as included in the Report. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report. David Dorpfeld thanked the following people:

- Bob and Ann Hailock for their work on compiling the Annual Report;
- Jennifer Barnhart for all of her assistance to the Treasurer, handling the day-to-day financial business
  of the Society; and
- Thomas Satterlee for his work on membership.

David indicated that 2012 had been a good year financially. He called attention to the 2012 Report found on pages 9 and 10. (Note: Following the meeting, it was found that the numbers

-1-

for footnotes 2, 4, and 5, listed along the side of the last column were cut off in the printing process because they were in the right side margin of the page. Corrections were made to include the footnote numbers and the corrected sheet was included in other copies of the report and in the copy attached to these minutes.) He asked if anyone had any questions. Since none were presented, the report was referred to audit.

**Financial Secretary.** Thomas Satterlee, Financial Secretary indicated that the report on Society membership is included in the Annual Report. He noted that the Society is always in need of members and that Pay Pal has worked out well for the Society. He mentioned that he has membership forms with him and that an effort to offer membership forms at all Society events is being made. Chris Byas suggested that a membership table might be set up to encourage membership.

# Committee Reports.

The meeting was turned over to President Robert Hallock who noted that reports from each of the Society Committees are included in the Annual Report. He introduced the chair persons of each Committee.

**Bronck Museum:** Co-chair Wanda Dorpfeld reported that the Museum had a very busy, successful 2012 season and is looking forward to the 2013 season. She announced that the Museum Committee would be holding a 350<sup>th</sup> birthday party for the 1663 House on June 16<sup>th</sup> with 350 cupcakes. On that day the Ice Exhibit in the Barrack will officially be opened. It was noted that the Museum has been actively working with other groups including the Pratt Museum and the Mountain Top Historical Society on the Clove exhibit.

**Vedder Research Library:** Chair Barbara Spataro reported that the Library is working toward networking of the Library computers; upgrading the cataloguing; and making more information available on-line. She noted that the Library could not work without the Library volunteers. She thanked Karla Flegel who is a Library volunteer and serving as secretary of the Library Committee. She announced that the Library Committee has begun a search for a new Librarian.

**Publications:** In the absence of the chair, Robert D'Agostino, President Hallock noted the recent improvements in both "The Messenger" and "The Journal".

**Buildings and Grounds:** President Hallock reported that work has been done on the houses and the Education Center.

**Historic Register:** President Hallock called attention to the Register Committee report included in the Annual Report. He noted that there are over 260 sites and there will soon be enough sites for another book.

**Fund Raising:** President Hallock noted that the "Windows on History" campaign for repairs to the Houses is under way. He thanked Trustee Jim Planck for drafting and designing the brochure and Operations Manager Jennifer Barnhart for finalizing the brochure. Tom Satterlee noted that the Society is selling a special tile of the 1663 House, made by Frank Giordinini of Freehold. It is hoped that there will be a large sale of the tiles.

**Beecher Scholarship:** Chris Byas noted that the Beecher Scholarship report had not been included in the Annual Report. She reported that the Scholarship Committee has received four essays which will be used as a basis for awarding the \$1000 scholarship in honor of Raymond Beecher.

**Cole Separation:** The Separation is now completed. The Society purchased the property, opened it as a Museum and has now transferred it to the independent Cole Board.

At the meeting it was found that the above two items were cut off the report between the copy e-mailed to Hinterland and the copy printed. Copies of these two items were included in the report attached to these minutes and to copies of the reports distributed after the meeting.

**Home Tour:** David Dorpfeld reported that the 2013 Tour, called the "High Peaks Tour", will be held here in Lexington and in Hunter on June 8. Volunteers to work at the Tour sites are needed. Non-Board members receive free admission tickets for their % day work for the Society. David noted that a rack card advertising the tour has been used this year. He highlighted that the Tour will include the Angle House with a visit to the Angle Cemetery. A Dutch Barn, approved by the Dutch Barn Preservation Society, was found on that site during preparation for the Tour.

**Election of Trustees, Class of 2018:** The meeting was turned over to Chairman of the Board, Joseph Warren who introduced Wanda Dorpfeld, Chair of the Board Development Committee. The terms of the following trustees expire in 2013: Karen Deeter, Chris Byas and Wanda Dorpfeld. Wanda reported that all three Trustees wish to be re-elected as Trustees and the Committee was nominating these people. Nominations from the floor were requested. Since none was offered, Tom Satterlee moved that the Secretary cast one ballot for the candidates offered by the Board Development Committee. The motion was seconded by Joseph Warren and carried.

**Comments or Other Business:** Chairman of the Board Joe Warren asked if anyone wished to raise any other issues or make any comments. None was offered. Joe Warren thanked Karen Deeter and the people at the West Kill Community Center for their work on the Annual Meeting. Karen thanked those present for coming to the meeting in West Kill, Town of Lexington.

**Adjournment:** A Motion to adjourn was simultaneously offered and seconded by several Trustees. Motion carried.

The Minutes of this meeting were compiled by Recording Secretary Ann Hallock. The Minutes were reviewed and approved by the Board of Trustees at the Fall Quarterly Meeting of the Board of Trustees on September 11, 2013.

# Committees 2013-2014 2013-2014 Committee Reports

# **Committees with Membership Lists**

### Standing Committees Executive Committee

Joseph Warren Robert Hallock Jim Planck David Dorpfeld Thomas Satterlee

**Buildings and Grounds** 

Chris Byas, Chair Robert Hallock Thomas Satterlee Ann Hallock Wanda Dorpfeld Barbara Spataro Chris Byas (from July 2013)

Rick Hanse Arthur Byas Ray Hamlin

Jason and Amanda O'Donnell, Caretakers

### Finance

David Dorpfeld, Chair Robert Hallock

# Investment

Joseph Warren, Chair Robert Hallock Charles Schaefer

# **Museum Shop**

Jennifer Barnhart, Operations Manager

# **Bronck Museum**

Wanda Dorpfeld, Co-Chair Ann Hallock, Co-Chair Chris Byas Harvey Durham Karla Flegel Emily Dorpfeld Kunchala

David Dorpfeld John Dickinson May Dennis O'Grady

Wanda Dorpfeld

Robert Hallock Richard Muggeo Judee Synakowski Shelby Mattice, Curator Jennifer Barnhart, Operations Manager

# Dr. Olga Santora Lecture

Karla Flegel, Chair Debbie Allen Lori Fields Richard Muggeo Shelby Mattice, Museum Curator

Mary Heisinger Joan Satterlee Judee Synakowski Linda Hunt, Librarian

### Education Committee (established March 2014)

Karla Flegel, chair Lori Fields Joan Satterlee Richard Muggeo Shelby Mattice, Museum Curator

Joan Satterlee Mary Heisinger Judee Synakowski Linda Hunt, Librarian i

# Membership

Thomas Satterlee, Financial Secretary

# Vedder Research Library Operations

Barbara Spataro, Chair Robert Hallock Harvey Durham

#### Board Development & Resources Nomination Committee

Wanda Dorpfeld, Chair Dennis O'Grady

### **Publications**

Robert D'Agostino,Chair Harvey Durham Jim Planck

# **Editorial Review Committee**

David Dorpfeld Robert Hallock Jennifer Barnhart, Designer

# **Historical Register**

Ken Mabey, Chair Harrison Hunt, Treasurer Nick Nahas, Joan Morales Tom & Dianne Gibson Diane Fausel

# **Historical Register Members Emeritus**

Winifred Clark

# Public & Member Relations

Jennifer Barnhart, Operations Manager

# Strategic Planning

Emily Dorpfeld Kunchala, Chair Ann Hallock John Dickinson May Karla Flegel, Secretary Lori Fields Linda Hunt, Librarian

John Dickinson May

Thomas Satterlee Robert Hallock David Dorpfeld

Jim Planck Robert D'Agostino

Betty O'Hara Jean Bush Mary Heisinger Bruce Stokes Karen Deeter, Board Representative

Natalie E. Daley

Jonathan Donald Bob Halllock Jim Planck

# Ad Hoc Committees

37<sup>th</sup> Annual Home Tour Terez Limer, Chair David Dorpfeld, Board Representative Karen Deeter

38<sup>th</sup> Annual Home Tour

Jim Planck Robert Hallock

#### **Beecher Scholarship Award**

Chris Byas, Chair Harvey Durham Debbie Allen Cyndi LaPierre Dede Thorpe

Karen Deeter David Dorpfeld

Bob Hallock

# Ad Hoc Bronck Houses Restoration Committee

Robert Hallock, Chair Robert Knighton Shelby Mattice, Museum Curator Harrison Hunt Jim Planck

#### Accessibility

Karla Flegel, Chair

# Attached are the reports from the individual Committees.

# The Bronck Museum Committee The 2013-2014 Program Year Co-Chairs Wanda Dorpfeld and Ann Hallock

In 2013, the Bronck Museum Committee met on a monthly basis, except in October and November when one meeting was held and in December. Minutes of all meetings are maintained. The Members of the Committee are listed in the Committee section of the Annual Report.

The 2013 season was a good one with a total of 2,858 people touring the site or attending special events. Our first drop-in visitor signing in the "Visitors Book" for the 2013 season came from the Netherlands and the last visitor in the book came from England. Each year, a report including attendance, income and volunteer hours is prepared.

The Museum Staff and Functions are as follows:

- Shelby Mattice is the Museum Curator; leads the majority of the on-site tours; coordinates the large group tours; prepares tour information for special programs such as the Bronck Family at Home; presents off-site programs; prepares the flyers and the program information for promotion of site events; handles all inquiries to the Museum; and prepares a monthly Curator's report for the Museum Committee.
- Jennifer Bamhart is the Society Operations Manager. For the Museum, she maintains our visitor log; receives and records admission income; distributes press releases; maintains a photographic history of Museum events; runs the Museum Gift Shop; develops special promotional flyers for specific purposes; maintains the Museum-related information on the web-site; records the notes of each meeting and sends out the packages for the Committee meetings.

Sue Thrasher is the Museum Associate; staffs the Visitors Center 3 days each week; continues the data entry for the collection files; and makes the annual changes in the collection files required for current exhibits.

Jason and Amanda O'Donnell are the Site Caretakers. For the Museum, they assist
with interior and exterior set up and breakdown for special events such as the Heritage
Craft Fair; open the buildings for committee meetings; clean exhibit items and space;
assist with the storage of the collection; and oversee the entrance and exit of
contractors or repairmen.

The Museum uses a firm to ensure distribution of Bronck Museum brochures across a wider area. Currently the Committee focuses on a distribution area which extends from Albany northward into Saratoga County and westward to Schenectady County and believes that this has resulted in an increased attendance for regular tours and improved attendance at special events. Widespread distribution of publicity releases has continued by Operations Manager Jennifer Barnhart who continues to search for new options to promote the site.

**The 1663 House, 350 Years Old.** In 2013, the 1663 House was 350 years old. The Museum Committee believed that it was important to have the following special activities to celebrate this milestone:

• **The Flag.** Using the 350<sup>th</sup> emblem, a red, white and black flag was obtained to fly on the Society flag pole, below the U.S. Flag. The Committee is continuing to use the emblem on stationary, changing "Celebrating 350 years of Hudson Valley History" to 350 years of Hudson Valley History".

- **The Party.** A giant 350<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party with 350 cupcakes was held admission free. Activities included the following: an opening ceremony; the opening of the ice exhibit in the Barrack; a kiosk about beaver; the Bronck Museum's Justin Beaver (portrayed by Amanda O'Donnell); a face painter; an activity center set up by the Heermance Library; a refreshment stand staffed by the Rasuch Family; a photo opportunity with Tom Satterlee; a children's nature activity and musical entertainment. Attendance was estimated at 750 people. Of special note is that many local families with young children attended and had positive comments about their experience. This is a group which we have not reached with previous activities. A grant of \$500 for this event was obtained from the Town of Coxsackie through the work of Treasurer, David Dorpfeld.
- The Bronck Family at Home Lectures. A grant was obtained in 2012 from the Bank of Greene County for no-admission programs designed to present information about other people in Pieter Bronck's world of 1663. The first lecture,"the Bronck Family at Home with the Mohicans" was given by Shirley Dunn. A capacity crowd of 106 people attended. The second lecture by Janny Venema, "The Bronck Family at Home in Beverwijck" was attended by 68 persons. Following both lectures, the audience was given the opportunity to tour the Houses. In the fall, the Bank of Greene County was given permission to take several pictures involving the 1663 House and the Victorian Horse Barn for inclusion in their annual report.
- Semiseptcentennial Sundays Tours provided visitors an opportunity to learn about the construction of the 1663 House and to sit in the cellar of that house, an area rarely seen by visitors. This was followed by discussion in the first floor of that house. Three tours were given on four Sundays through the season by Curator Shelby Mattice. Since the cellar is small and low, seating was limited to 15 people per session. The total attendance was 140. The opportunity to see space, not usually offered on a tour, seemed to be the major drawing factor.
- Coverage and Special Issue of "The Hudson Valley Mercantile". Operations Manager Jennifer Bamhart arranged for coverage of the 350<sup>th</sup> celebration in this advertising magazine. Articles about the Museum were included in several early 2013 issues with one full magazine devoted to the Museum and its history.
- **Girl Scout Volunteer.** Bianna Melick, a Girl Scout from New Balltimore gathered information and took pictures of the 350<sup>th</sup> birthday festivities. From this, she prepared a digital record of the day's events as part of her scouting work. Her record will be maintained as part of the history of the celebration.

**Other Events.** These events reflected the traditional presentations given by the Bronck Museum annually, unless specifically noted.

- Association Day. 2013 Attendance 29.
- "By the Light of the Silvery Moon". 2013 Attendance 71. This year's program did not include a fortune teller. Planning for 2014 includes inclusion of fortune telling or a similar activity.
- Heritage Craft Fair. 2013 Attendance estimated at 700. A new activity was the building of the Dutch Barn model, brought to the site by the Dutch Barn Preservation Society. The day was rainy and cold affecting attendance.
- A Great Sorrow. 2013 Attendance was 47. The two tour sessions were "sold-out" and people had to be turned away. In 2014, the times will be changed to include a third session.

 The Chilly Willy Winter's Eve Tours. 2013 Attendance 75. Katterskill Clove Exhibit and Lecture. Attendance 20. The Museum was asked by Carolyn Bennett of the Pratt Museum to work with that Museum and the Mountain Top Historical Society in an effort to highlight the Clove. The Museum and the Vedder Library have a number of B.B.G. Stone paintings of the Clove in their collections. An exhibit of the paintings was included in the Victorian Horse Barn while the exhibit cases in the Library included Stone memorabilia including his Civil War service. Jim Planck gave a lecture, "B.B.G. Stone and the Clove" presenting a number of Clove scenes in photographs and Stone's work.

# Group Tours On Site

**School Tours.** The Museum has continued its practice of working with teachers to offer various modules focusin on different areas of the site's history. Example for the Fourth Grade Tour include the following options:

- Various time periods, such as Early Dutch with the 1663 House and Dutch Barn or a later period utilizing the 1738 House and the 13-sided barn.
- Revolutionary War
- Bronck Family Time Line
- A hands-on component with corn or apples.

In the past two years, the Museum Committee also has developed new options for school tours for students in other grades including the beaver and their dam; a "what's if exercise including making butter; the ice exhibit with a video of ice harvesting; the relationship between 19<sup>th</sup> century diseases and Mountaintop Resorts; and Civil War activities. The Committee has used the Education Center for presenting new options. The specific school tours with attendance from the 2013 season are as follows;

 Coxsackie Elementary-4th Grade. 2013 Attendance 67 E.J. Arthur Elementary-4th Grade. 2013 Attendance 60. Catskill Sense of Place. 2013 Attendance 20. Kingston 8<sup>™</sup> Grade. 2013 Attendance 82.

Adult Tours. The Museum continues to offer adult group tours. Groups of 15 or less receive the standard tour of the houses led by Curator Shelby Mattice. The larger groups are divided into smaller groups and visit areas of the site where volunteers provide information. The adult tours included the following with attendance figures:

- Bus Tour from a Philadelphia, PA AME Church. Attendance was 33 with shop income of about \$200.
- Warwick Center "Everything Dutch Tour". This was the third year this group brought a tour to the Bronck Museum. Attendance was 53.
- NY Early Birds. Attendance was 13.
- New Scotland Seniors. Attendance was 14
- Mater Christi, Albany, Attendance was 12.
- Dutch Barn Preservation Society Executive Committee. The group met in the Education Center and toured the houses and barns on November 23. Attendance was 15. This was the latest tour ever offered by the Bronck Museum

**Off-site Programs.** In 2013, the following off-site programs were presented as indicated below;

- Hendrick Hudson DAR, "Dutch and English Women", Shelby Mattice and Ann Hallock Attendance 27.
- Lexington Bicentennial Lecture, "Dutch and English Women", Shelby Mattice and Ann

Hallock, Attendance 30.

- Coxsackie Fourth Grade, "Dutch Foodways", Shelby Mattice, Attendance 63.
- Coxsackie Fourth Grade, "Revolutionary War", Bob Hallock, Attendance 59.
- Bethany Village Seniors, Shelby Mattice, Attendance 27.
- Coxsackie Seniors, "Coxsackie History", Bob Hallock, Attendance 200. Two different presentations were made on 2 dates.
- Columbia County Retired Teachers, "The Bronck Museum", Shelby Mattice, Attendance 21.
- Onteora DAR, (Presented in the Vedder Library) Bob Hallock, Attendance 16. Adult Learning Center, HVCC, Shelby Mattice, Attendance 47. "The Willows", Shelby Mattice, Attendance 30.

In 2014, the following off-site program has been presented:

• Town & Country Business and Professional Women, Attendance 15.

**The Santora Lecture and Formation of the Education Committee.** Following the 2013 Dr. Olga Santora Lecture on the history of the fight for women's right to vote, an ad hoc committee, chaired by Karla Flegel and including the following was formed: Lorie Fields, Debbie Allen, Mary Hesinger, Joan Satterlee, Judee Synakowski, Shelby Mattice, Linda Hunt, and Dick Muggeo. The ad hoc committee immediately set to work and made arrangements for the2014 Lecture which was held on March 31 with 50 people attending. Following a short presentation about Olga, Juanita Leisch Jensen spoke on "Upstate Women & the Civil War: How They Changed America". Refreshments followed.

Impressed by the work of the ad hoc committee, the Museum Committee recommended that the group continue and become an Education Program Committee responsible for offering Education Programs outside those offered by the Museum Committee. This arrangement would be similar to that used by Dr. Santora when she was responsible for planning programs. Some members of the ad hoc committee have indicated a willingness to continue with the new committee. The group has plans for programs in April, May and June and has identified numerous options for future programs.

**Fund Raising and the Shops.** During 2013, the Museum Committee continued operating the Bronck Museum Gift Shop in the Victorian Horse bam, selling items on consignment; local history books and Bronck specific items. For the 350<sup>th</sup> birthday, a special woven throw depicting the various buildings on the Museum site was sold. The Trading Post shop was opened for special events to sell used items donated by Society members and friends. Fund raising activities continued to include a raffle of an Adirondack chair painted by Ellen DeLucia and the Heritage Craft Fair's crafters fees; refreshment stand; sales in old Trading Post; silent auction and donation buckets. In 2013, the Heritage Craft Fair took in \$897.00. Donation buckets which are placed in several areas, received \$630.00 in 2013. Jennifer Barnhart looks each year for new options for raising funds.

**Volunteers.** In 2013, 30 volunteers gave 750 hours of service. This includes members of the Bronck Museum Committee. In addition, these volunteers also make in-kind contributions, particularly of food served as part of on-site programs. In an effort to attract additional volunteers, a new volunteer brochure is being developed and the information will be included on the Museum's portion of the web-site.

**The Collection.** After 3 years of trying to find the appropriate leather for the seat of Isaac's Chair, the Museum Committee turned the job over to the restorer. At last, the Russian Leather with its distinctive cross-hatch has been found and arrangements made for the work to be

finished in 2014. The total cost of the restoration will be \$6,000. The Museum Committee has not undertaken any restoration projects in recent years in anticipation of restoring Isaac's chair which was built in the early years of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and is one of the oldest pieces of furniture in the collection.

**Plans for the 2014 Season.** The Committee has been working on the 2014 season since last Fall including the following:

**Grant Applications.** In Fall 2013, an application for a CIP grant from the Greene County Council on Arts was submitted. This grant will be used to pay for the musical entertainment for 2014 special events such as Association Day, "By the Light of the Silvery Moon" and the Heritage Craft Fair. A grant of \$2,050 has been awarded. In 2014, two grant applications have been submitted and letters announcing the awarding of the grants received. One to the Bank of Greene County requested funds for the development of interactive components for exhibits and educational programs, especially for use with children. A grant of \$1,000 has been awarded. The second grant application to Fenimore Asset Management is for the development of a summer art program for children 6-9 with \$750 awarded.

- **Continued Development of Exhibits in the Barrack.** A contract has been signed with Empire Designs for designing an exhibit featuring the Duncan Meat Wagon and including an interactive component for visitors. Subjects for other exhibits have been developed. It is hoped that funds can be raised to continue further development of the Barrack Exhibits.
- **Descendants.** A request for information about the Bronck Family Crest from a researcher in Komstad, Sweden (Pieter Bronck's home town) has been received. Research and a previous request have not identified new information on the crest. Curator Shelby Mattice continues the search. The 2014 "Notes from Home" will feature information about Pieter Bronck's sister-in-law, Antonia Slagboon. A Bronck Family Descendant's Day is planned for June 8 at the Museum.
- **Booking On-site Tours.** A tour for a group from the Albany Garden Club is planned for May 1. This will be the earliest date for a tour of the houses and grounds. Other tours booked include:

The Hudson Valley Community College "Out and About" group on May 29 Mount Saint Mary's Road Scholars on June 4 and Coxsackie Elementary on June 6.

- A Changed West Wing. No tours have been given in the West Wing, also known as the 1685 House since the 2009 season in view of the need to address the problems with the north wall. The work on this wall will be completed this spring. The heavy Victorian Furniture which came from the Bronck family's home on Route 385 has been removed. The room which will present its time of construction, end of 17<sup>th</sup> century and early 18<sup>th</sup> century, will be the site of the 2014 Bronck Family at Home in the English Colony of New York Program. Also used will be the loft above this room and the exterior door from the West Wing hallway. We hope that re-opening of the space with its new look, will attract more visitors in the 2014 season.
- **Country Store.** The Museum Committee has developed plans for reopening the Country Store exhibit for school tours and all special events. The large plexiglass hood will be removed and new signage added. Interactive components are also being developed.
- Increase in Admission Rates. The Museum has not increased Admission Rates in over 5 years. After studying rates charged by other Museums in the areas and considering what the Bronck Museum is offering, it was decided that the following new rate schedule was needed:

Adults, including all persons 16 and over increase from \$5.00 to \$6.00.

GCHS members receive free admission.

Adult rates for special events, depending on the refreshments offered, increase from \$6.00 to \$7.00 and from \$7.00 to \$8.00. The rates for special events for GCHS members are half of the non-member adult rate, \$3.50 and \$4.00

Children's rates were not changed.

- The Mountain House Model. The Museum Committee proposed a resolution to the Society Board of Trustees to allow the formation of an ad hoc committee to meet with representatives of the Mountain Top Historical Society (MTHS) about possible joint efforts to explore and develop coordinated methods of presenting the Catskill Mountain House story. One option which will be put on the table is the long term loan by GCHS of the Catskill Mountain House model to MTHS as a core component of a new Mountain House exhibit in close proximity to the original site. The Museum Committee is recommending these discussions and possible loan because of the concern about preserving the history of this landmark. No loan can occur unless the GCHS Board agrees and a long term loan agreement is signed between both parties.
- Education Consultant The Museum Committee is in the process of forming an ad hoc committee to investigate hiring an education consultant. We are interested in someone who is able to develop programs that convey the importance of and an interest in history to children. We believe initially the position will be on a contractual basis.
- **2014 Calendar of Events.** All Bronck Museum events are listed in the Society Calendar on the inside of the back page. This calendar, included on the back of a membership application, was included in the bank statements for the Bank of Greene County in April.

# VEDDER RESEARCH LIBRARY Barbara Spataro, Chair

We are excited to be celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Vedder Research Library this year! In addition to the historic photographs and information on the cover of the Annual Report, look for more VRL history in displays created by volunteer curator, Joan Satterlee, at the Library's Open House on Association Day, May 18.

In 2013, an extensive search was undertaken by the Vedder Library Committee for a new librarian, and fortunately for library patrons, researchers, and volunteers alike, Linda Hunt accepted the position and came on board in September. Linda brings experience as a librarian, archivist, and historical society/museum administrator, as well as strong education credentials, to her position as Vedder librarian. She possesses a MLS degree from the Palmer School of C.W. Post College on Long Island and holds an Archival Certificate and Records Management Certificate from there as well. In past positions, she has provided archival services for private and corporate clients and has been responsible for operations of a historic house museum and library including their collections, programming, and volunteers. Most recently Linda held a librarian position at Island Trees Public Library in Levittown, NY. She and her husband, Harrison Hunt, who portrayed a Civil War surgeon last year in a program held at the Vedder, moved to Catskill in 2013. In January 2014, Linda and her husband were instrumental in bringing the availability of an 1882 map of the Catskill Mountain Railroad to the attention of the GCHS Executive Committee. This important piece of County history was purchased by the Society and added to the collection at the Vedder. We are very happy to have Linda on board.

Two new VRL projects have been set in motion; a railing which will run from the ramp to the beginning of the Library walkway, with funding support from Fenimore Asset Management, and a complete revamping of the Vedder's web site thanks to a collaboration with Operations Manager, Jennifer Barnhart.

Our volunteers continue to play a significant role in day-to-day operations at VRL. Their contributions help to organize the Library's collections and make them more easily accessed by researchers. VRL volunteers represent a diversity of skills and abundance of knowledge and make a formidable team.

Clesson S. Bus Durham		Harvey Durham	Kathleen
Karla Flegel	Kathleen Hintz	Harrison Hunt	Linda Hunt
Evelyn Lein	Shirley McGrath	Judy Rundell	Stephen
Schwebler	Joan Satterlee		

In 2013, Vedder staff and volunteers provided access to more than 350 items requested by patrons, including court records, church records, postcards, maps, and microfilm. A total of 254 visitors signed in last year, from as far away as California, Wisconsin, and Canada. Library acquisitions were plentiful and diverse in 2013; they include an 1892 Greene County Directory, 3 Greenville CSD yearbooks from the early 1960's, Medway Christian Cemetery Association minutes from 1946 to 1989, and scrapbooks from the Harvey/Ford Family in Athens, as well as the Catskill Mountain Railroad map mentioned above.

# Building & Grounds Committee Chris Byas, Chair

The first meeting of the Building & Grounds Committee, after my appointment as chair, was July 16, 2013. Committee members included President Bob Hallock, Trustees Tom Saterlee and Rick Hanse and GCHS members Art Byas and Ray Hamlin. We toured the grounds and buildings from cellar to attic. After much discussion we all agreed to ask the office of NYS Preservation for guidance in repairing the north wall of the 1685 West Wing and the crack in the foundation and repointing of the brick veneer of the 1738 House. We met with Mark Peckham and John Bonifide from NYS Preservation as well as Ron Moore from Western Restoration and this spring with Dave Bova from Renaissance Restoration, all experts in the field of historic restoration. In December we met with John Waite from John G Waite Associates, Architects PLLC whose firm completed the 2008 Existing Conditions Report. The Building and Grounds Committee decided that it was in the Society's best interest to hire Waite's Architectural firm to oversee the renovations to the 1685 Wing and 1738 Brick house. At the Spring Meeting of the GCHS, the board voted to form an Ad Hoc Committee to specifically oversee the renovation of these two buildings.

Jim Parmiter repaired the hinge and door frame of the Dutch door at the entrance to the Hyphen Hallway so it closes correctly. He also replaced rotted sections of the frame below the front Bilco doors on the entrance to the cellar of the 1663 House. The sill of the north entrance to the 1685 house was repaired. Jason O'Donnell, the caretaker.has stripped and painted several of the Dutch doors with the work to be finished as time permits.

The Building and Grounds Committee has received two bids for the replacement shutters on the 1685 West Wing and 1663 House.

In the Caretakers House new weather stripping was put around the door casing. The sill will be replaced this spring. A new pellet stove was purchased to replace the old one which no longer functioned properly. A new door was installed in the Caretaker's House.

New, more energy efficient lighting was added in the Library. Library blueprints were located so we could determine where the drainage system was installed. There was discussion on placement of a pipe railing along the library sidewalk.

It was brought to the committee's attention that there were many tree limbs overhanging the buildings on the grounds. State telephone was contacted to remove the limb that had fallen on the roof of the Dutch barn. On further investigation we realized that besides the many overhanging limbs there was a tree in danger of splitting apart. We contacted Van Etten Construction to complete the tree trimming and tree removal. At this time the majority of the tree trimming has been completed and the tree has been taken down.

The committee is in the process of developing a yearly plan for tree replacement and landscaping. Art has spoken with George Story about developing a landscape design. Tim Albright has offered to give his recommendations and we also will contact Bob Byfess for his imput.

The Building and Grounds Committee has been working in conjunction with the Museum Committee to begin renovation of the Hunter Education Center and to complete a new exhibit in the Barrack. Tim Albright has completed a design for the Education Center which includes new board & batten siding, and installing a door, porch and wheel chair ramp on the south side. We are in the process of getting an estimate of the cost from GNH for the new door and materials needed to build the porch and ramp. We hope to begin work later this year. At the Barrack new doors will be installed in the center section so the Duncan Meat Wagon can be moved out of the 13-sided barn into the new Exhibit space. The ceiling will need to be removed and a divider wall installed before work on the new exhibit can begin.

The Building & Grounds Committee began working on a five year painting plan. This year's painting includes the Visitor Center, the doors on the 13-sided barn, and the remaining door on the 1685 house. Other work could be added to the list as time and monies permit. Other issues that need to be addressed are the replacement of rotted boards on several of the buildings and refurbishing of the cupolas on the Horse Barn and 13 sided barn. Art met with a Central Hudson representative to discuss the parking lot lighting and meter issues. His suggestions included changing to LED bulbs which are brighter and more energy efficient and combining meters to reduce costs. A light will also be added to the Bronck Museum sign on the 9-W and additional outlets to the Grapeville Store and caretaker's shed. Work should begin this spring as our electrician has been contacted.General cleanup, mulching, and brush and weed trimming will continue on site. Walkways and parking lot areas need to be dressed this spring as well.

Taking care of the historic buildings on the Bronck Museum site is not an easy job. I appreciate the hard work and effort of our caretaker's Jason and Amanda O'Donnell. I would also like to thank the volunteers on the Buildings and Grounds Committee, Art, Tom, Ray, Rick and Bob who have attended countless meetings, met with the many experts we have asked for advice and worked tirelessly often under stressful conditions to make sure the work is done correctly.

#### PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE Robert A. D'Agostino, Chair

1. 2014 marks the 38<sup>th</sup> year of publication of *The Greene County Historical Journal... aka, Greene County History!* 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.

2. Preparing each edition for publication is a complex task, and now our "many hands" make for much lighter work. Employee and computer whiz Jennifer Barnhart does a spectacular job creating the layout and prepping the file for the printer. She, more than anyone else, is responsible for the modern "look" of *Greene County History*. In addition to the editor (that's me!), our Publications Committee includes County Historian (and Society trustee) David Dorpfeld, Society president Bob Hallock, trustee Jim Planck, who brings his experience in journalism, trustee/Vedder Library volunteer Harvey Durham, and trustee/memership secretary Tom Satterlee.

3. In 2013, for the first time in many years, we were thrilled to be the recipient of many, many articles, which led to much reshuffling of articles from one edition to another over the course of the year. Case in point, the Summer and Fall 2013 editions, Volume 37, Numbers Two and Three. Much of thiat content was originally intended for the Spring edition, but did not fit! This largesse continues... and we hope to see more of it in 2014! (You can help: see #4, below!)

3a. That Spring 2013 edition – Volume 37, Number One – focused on the Homefont during World War II, and included...

- \* "Rationing: A Fair Share," an article on how rationing worked in Greene County
- \* another article in our World War II homefront series, this one by Donna P. Reiley, and recalling a child's perspective on that war
- \* "In Woods Once Cleared," the first article in a new series From the Archives
- \* the History Quiz (a very well-received series!)

3b. Summer 2013 featured...

\* Jim Planck's article on the life of William H. Edwards, a Hunter native, who became an Amazon explorer and authored *A Voyage Up the Amazon* 

\* Part One of Wanda West Traver's article on 19<sup>th</sup> century transportation in Greene County. This part dealt with turnpikes and stage coach lines.

\* the History Quiz

3c. Fall 2013 included...

\* an article on Pieter Bronck and his involvement with "the Katskil Colonies," authored by Jim Planck

\* Part Two of Wanda West Traver's article on 19<sup>th</sup> century transportation in Greene County, this time focusing on railroads and trolley lines.

\* the History Quiz

3d. The Winter 2013 edition was completed, mailed, and should have actually been received, during Winter 2013. This edition included...

\* an article by Jean Bush, tracing a farm through three families over the past 200 years

\* trustee Karla Flegel's article on the Coxsackie virus and how its discovery and treatment impacted the polio epidemic. "Mystery illnesses" of children in California, in the news recently, are suspected to actually be instances of the Coxsackie virus.

- \* an update to the *From the Archives* article "In Woods Once Cleared"
- \* the History Quiz

4. At the top of this report, I stated that you can help continue the overflow of articles we received in 2013. Here's how!

What sights, sites, and people, now gone, live on in your memory? Each and every person reading this page has knowledge of people who have made an impact, of places that suddenly no longer exist. Share them with us: write about them for us. *Greene County History* is always looking for manuscripts, and the Publications Committee encourages Society members to consider writing for us. Editorial assistance can be provided.

The Publications Committee 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 *Greene County History* is solicited by the Publications Committee in accordance with the following conditions:

a. 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.b. Material must be original and written in acceptable English style, preferably word-processed or typewritten, and double-spaced.

c. An author should be prepared to cite the sources from which the information was obtained. In many cases, a formal bibliography will be needed.

d. The name, address, and telephone number of the author must be given.

e. We reserve the right to accept or reject material submitted.

f. We reserve the right to edit accepted material for historical accuracy, clarity, and/or space considerations.

g. Photographs:

\* Photographs submitted as part of the article, will be returned after being copied.

\* If the author sends photographs as image files, those files must be in either JPG or TIF format, at a resolution of 300 dpi.

\* Any image taken from the web, must identify the website source where it can be found.

5. The Messenger is the Society's publication which contains information on the latest news within the Society. Under Operation Manager Jennifer Barnhart's direction, the Messenger published a Spring and Fall issue during 2013.

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.

#### Historic Register Committee Ken Mabey, Chair

We have added only one site in the past year in the hamlet of Cornwallville in Durham. It is number 261, the Thomas Smith House. Several other places are in the process of application at this time.

It has been a difficult year for the most part. Two meetings had to be postponed and changed due to snow storms, and one had to be held because it came suddenly without time to notify folks. Most members living nearby wisely stayed home, phoning in regrets Attendance at meetings has been off this year with only 3 or 4 members present most of the

time. With this in mind we have reorganized our meeting schedule hoping to allow for more time to work in localities, to bring in more sites, and to work on related projects.. We have added two new members this year Harrison Hunt who is our new treasurer, and Diane Fausel. Both have experience with historic preservation, and we are pleased to have them join us.

Our files are being updated. About five were missing, and four have been recreated. We hope to get all files organized and updated this coming year

Congratulations to Jennifer Barnhart, Jean Bush and Tom Satterlee for their fine work on the 2014 calendar featuring inns, resorts, and such establishments that are on the Historic Register of Greene County.

#### EDUCATION COMMITTEE Karla Flegel, Chair

The Education Committee, composed of trustees and volunteers of the GCHS, was a subcommittee of the Museum Education Committee. It has now been restored as a full committee with Its purpose to plan and organize diverse historical related programs (at least 6-8 per year) which attract the many interests of Greene County and the wider area residents. Presently, its programs include the Second Olga Santora Lecture by Juanita Leisch-Jenson whose presentation is *Upstate Women and The Civil War How They Changed America* held on March 30; Clifford Oliver Mealy, re-enactor ofr Solomon Northrop- *Twelve Years A Slave* held on April 27<sup>;</sup> and the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Vedder Research Library on May 17. The committee always welcomes local presenter names and or topics

# Annual Tour of Homes Terez Limer, Chair 2013 Prepared by David Dorpfeld

The 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Tour of Homes was held on June 8<sup>th,</sup> 2013. Called the "High Peaks Tour of Homes," the event stretched from Westkill to Haines Falls and coincided with the bicentennials of Lexington and Hunter. Before 1813, most towns on the mountain-top were part of old Windham. In 1813 New Goshen and Greenland were formed eventually becoming Lexington and Hunter. These two towns presented a beautiful setting for the tour with Route 23A forming the spine of the drive. It has been said that the "beauty of the Greene County mountains is the hidden things; deep caves in the forests, mountain meadows on the their terraced sides, an abundance of steams and cascades, crags and precipices, deep silent glens, little mountain-surrounded valleys, and above all a charm not well defined…" Participants on 2013 tour got to appreciate that quote.

### Jim Planck Chair 2014 Prepared by Robert Hallock

The 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Tour of Homes will be held in Kiskatom/High Falls on June 7<sup>th</sup>.

# Beecher Scholarship Christine Byas, Chair

The Greene County Historical Society established the Raymond Beecher Scholarship in 2007 to honor Dr. Raymond Beecher's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Each year it is awarded to a Greene County high school senior based on a 3-5 page article on local history.

In the spring of 2013 five students from four different Greene County schools submitted an application for this prestigious \$1,000 scholarship. As I read through each local history article I couldn't help but be impressed by each student's work. After much deliberation by members of the Scholarship Committee, Jonathan Pacuk, from Coxsackie-Athens High School, was awarded the 2013 Raymond Beecher Scholarship. Congratulations go out to Jonathan, his parents and the Coxsackie-Athens School District.

I am looking forward to reading this year's local history articles. Dr. Beecher would be pleased to see increased student interest in local history.

In Jonathan's own words, "The Raymond Beecher Scholarship provides an incentive for students to go beyond the books and explore local history."

#### BOARD DEVELOPMENT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

#### Wanda Dorpfeld, Chair

The Board and Development Resources 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 current trustees:

W. Bradford Ellis Regina McGrath John Quinn Denise Warren

Member of the Class of 2014 who wishes to return as trustee in the Class of 2016:

Emily Dorpfeld Kunchala

Members of the Class of 2014 who wish to return as trustees in the Class of 2019:

Robert D'Agostino David Dorpfeld Ann Hallock Thomas Satterlee

New trustee candidate for the Class of 2019:

Judee Synakowski

The following is a biographical sketch of the new trustee candidate:

Judee was born and raised in Coxsackie. Her parents were Alfred and Julia Daoust. She is newly retired from the NYS Teachers Retirement System where she worked as an Information Technologist Specialist for 35 years. She is a 35 year member and President of the Coxsackie Columbiettes (auxiliary to the Knights of Columbus) and a member and past president of the Coxsackie Hose 3 Ladies Auxiliary.

Judee is active in the Civil War Heritage Foundation. The members of this organization are all Living Historians for the Civil War, and each member portrays someone from that time period. Judee has been portraying Mary Todd Lincoln for about ten years. She enjoys learning about Mrs. Lincoln and teaching people about the former First Lady and her family.

Judee is looking forward to becoming a trustee of the Greene County Historical Society as she is very interested in learning and helping to educate people about the history of her home county.

# 2014 Schedule of Events

**May 3.** Annual Meeting and Volunteer Recognition. Greene County Historical Society, Inc. St. Luke's Episcopal Church, William Street, Catskill, New York, 11:00 am

May 18. Association Day, Bronck Museum. 12:30-4:00 pm, Admission Free.

May 18. Vedder Research Library 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. 12:30-4:00 pm, Admission Free.

**May 24-October 15.** Bronck Museum is open for Visitors. Wed-Fri 12pm-4pm, Sat 10am-4pm, Sun 1am-4pm. Guided tours of the Museum available. Exhibit-Bronck Museum Visitors Center

**June 7. 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Tour of Homes, "Under the Blew Hills",** Tour of the Kiskatom and High Falls Area, Headquarters at the Kiskatom Reformed Church, 10 am to 4 pm.

**June 8. Bronck Descendants' Day**, Bronck Museum, 11 am. Includes tour of basement of 1663 House, Family Meeting and Lunch.

June 22. Bronck Family at Home in the English Colony of New York, Bronck Museum, Tours 1:00, 2:00, 3:00 pm.

July 13. Bronck Family at Home in the English Colony of New York, Bronck Museum, Tours 1:00, 2:00, 3:00 pm.

August 2. "By the Light of the Silvery Moon", the pleasures & perils of the night life in times past, period refreshments & entertainment, Bronck Museum, 7:30 pm, Adults \$7, Members & Children \$3.50.

August 17. Bronck Family at Home in the English Colony of New York. Bronck Museum, Tours 1:00, 2:00, 3:00 pm.

**September 14. Bronck Family at Home in the English Colony of New York.** Bronck Museum, Tours 1:00, 2:00, 3:00 pm.

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

**October 25. A Great Sorrow,** An Early Dutch Funeral, Bronck Museum, 4 pm, 4:45 pm, 5:30 pm.

**November 15 & 16.** Chilly Willy Winter's Eve Tours, cold season tour with costumed guide, Bronck Museum 11am, 1pm & 3pm each day.

Publications

of the Greene County Historical Society



#### **GREENE COUNTY HISTORY** A Quarterly Journal of the Greene County Historical Society

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Robert A. D'Agostino

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Pieter Bronck & "the Katskil colonies

Jim Planck

me necessity GREENE COUNTY HISTORY

# **GREENE COUNTY HISTORY** A Quarterly Journal of the Greene County Historical Society

90 County Route 42 Coxsackie, NY 12051 William H. Edwards & the Amazon

#### Jim Planck

GREENE COUNTY HISTORY A Quarterly Journal of the Greene County Historical So The Rothe - Gaspar Family Farm

The Elias S. Palmer Farm Jean Bush



Greene County Historical Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 44, Coxsackie, NY 12051 Website: gchistory.org

**Bronck Museum** 

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#### Vedder Research Library & Historic Register Committee

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