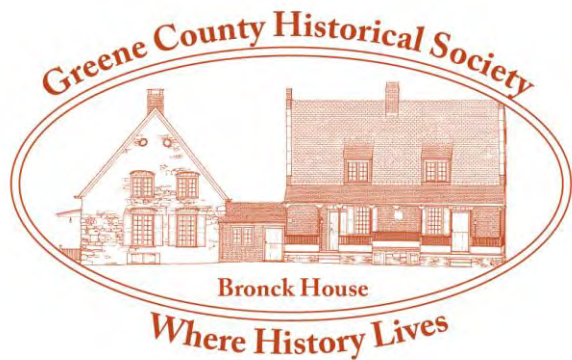
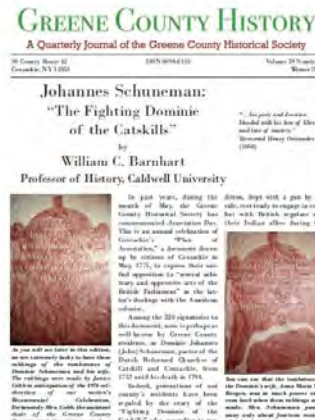


*Publications
of the Greene
County
Historical
Society*



Greene County Historical Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 44, Coxsackie, NY 12051
Website: gchistory.org

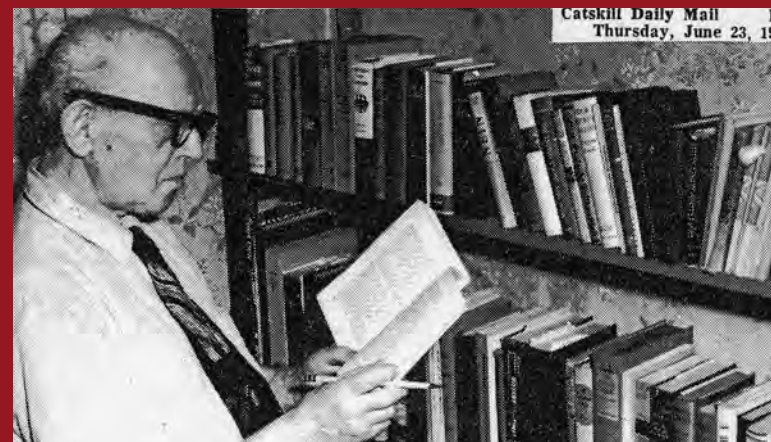
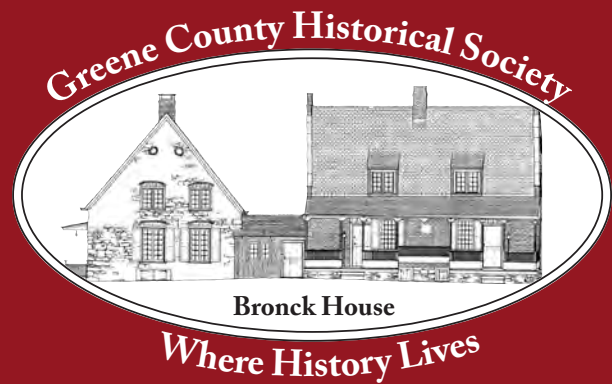
Find us on Facebook – search Greene County Historical Society

Bronck Museum

90 County Route 42, Coxsackie, NY 12051 Telephone 518 731-6490 • E-mail: gchsbm@mhccable.com

Vedder Research Library & Historic Register Committee

90 County Route 42, Coxsackie, NY Telephone: 518 731-1033
E-mail: gchsvl@vedderlibrary.org • Website: www.vedderlibrary.org



František Polák

SEDM LET V GULAGU

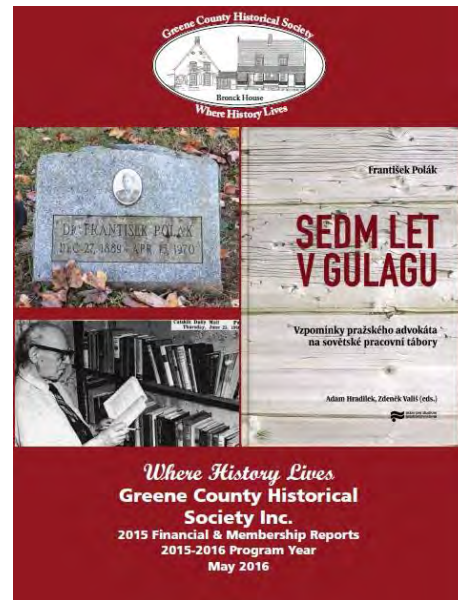
Vzpomínky pražského advokáta
na sovětské pracovní tábory

Adam Hradilek, Zdeněk Vališ (eds.)

ústav pro studium
totalitních režimů

Where History Lives
**Greene County Historical
Society Inc.**
2015 Financial & Membership Reports
2015-2016 Program Year
May 2016

About the Cover



What does “Sedm Let V Gulagu” and a Czechoslovakian Patriot and Poet have to do with the Greene County Historical Society’s Vedder Research Library?

The Vedder Research Library received a telephone call from Adam Hradliek in October 2014. Adam, a Czechoslovakian editor, was working on a book about the Czech patriot and poet Dr. Frantisek Polak (1887-1970) and he had been unable to find a photograph of him. Adam had determined that Dr. Polak had lived in Coxsackie and was probably buried there. Could we help? GCHS board member Thomas Satterlee trooped out to the Riverside Cemetery, found the grave, and photographed the picture of Dr. Polak on the stone. Mr. Hradliek was thrilled. Vedder volunteer Judith Rundell did some more digging, and unearthed a local newspaper article from July 23, 1966 which also had a photograph. Next, a copy of Frantisek Polak’s address to the United Nations about forced labor in the then Soviet Union was discovered in the Vedder Research Library files (editor Adam Hradliek had even tried to find this address in the United Nations Archives but could not.) Mr. Hradliek’s book was published in August 2015. Thanks to him a copy of *Sedm Let V Gulagu*, Adam Hradliek, Zdenek K Valis (eds.) rests on the library’s shelves ---. Linda Hunt, Librarian, Vedder Research Library

2016 Schedule

Bronck Museum. The season for drop-in visitors at the Bronck Museum begins on the Saturday before Memorial Day (5/28) and extends to October 15. The schedule is as follows: Closed Monday and Tuesday. Open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 12pm to 4pm. Open Saturday 10am to 4pm. Open Sunday 1pm to 4pm. The last tour leaves at 3:30pm. The Museum is open on Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day and Columbus Day Mondays. Specific events are listed below.

Vedder Research Library (VRL). The VRL is open on Tuesday and Wednesday from 10am to 4pm and on Saturday from 9am to 12pm. The VRL will open on the Saturdays of long weekends for Martin Luther King Day, Presidents’ Day and Easter and on Election Day. The VRL will be closed on the Saturdays for the long weekends of Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day and Thanksgiving Day. The VRL will close at noon on Wednesday, November 23rd before Thanksgiving through Saturday, November 26th. The VRL will also close for the Christmas holidays on December 24, 2016 and re-open on January 3, 2017.

2016 Events

- May 14 **Annual Meeting and Volunteer Recognition**, Greene County Historical Society, Inc. St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, William Street, Catskill, New York, 9:30am. Library is closed.
- June 4 **40th Annual Tour of Homes** to be held in Coxsackie, Tour headquarters at Bronck Museum, 10am-4pm.
- June 19 **Bronck Family at Home – Amusements, Great Games**, Fun for the entire family, see if you have the skills to win the games that were enjoyed by colonial Americans, 1pm – 4pm, Adults \$7, GCHS Members & Children \$3.50
- July 17 **Bronck Family at Home – Amusements, Parlor Prose**, Enjoy readings of three historic tales from the Greene County Catskills, 1pm – 4pm, Adults \$7, GCHS Members & Children \$3.50
- Aug 20 **By the Light of the Silvery Moon**, the pleasures & perils of the night life in times past, period refreshments & entertainment, 7:30pm, Adults \$8, GCHS Members & Children \$4.
- Sept 18 **Bronck Family at Home – Amusements, Doubleday Doings**, Step up to the plate and take a swing at baseball as Abner Doubleday might have wanted it played, 1pm – 4pm, Adults \$7, GCHS Members & Children \$3.50
- Oct 2 **Heritage Craft Fair**, exhibit & sale of traditional American crafts, live music, food, silent auction, wagon rides, 12pm-4pm, Admission Free
- Oct 29 **A Great Sorrow**, An early American funeral, Tours begin at 4:30pm & 5:30pm, Adults \$7, GCHS Members & Children \$3.50
- Nov 3 **Helen Dorth Longstreet**, Confederate General Longstreet’s second wife presented by Ron Gabriele, 7pm, Admission Free.
- Nov 12 & 13 **Chilly Willy Winter’s Eve Tours**, cold season tour with costumed guide, Tours begins at 11am, 1pm & 3pm each day, Adults \$8, GCHS Members & Children \$4

**Annual Report
Greene County Historical Society, Inc.
2015 Financial and Membership Year
2015-16 Program Year
May 2016**

The 2015-16 Officers of the Greene County Historical Society, Inc.

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

The 2015-2016 Trustees of the Greene County Historical Society

Christine Byas	Emily Dorpfeld Kunchala
Robert D'Agostino	Matt Luvera
Karen Deeter	Richard Muggeo
David Dorpfeld	Dennis O'Grady
Ann Hallock	Jim Planck
Robert Hallock	Thomas Satterlee
Rick Hanse	Judee Synakowski
Stefania Jozic	Joseph Warren

The 2015-2016 Trustees Emeritus of the Greene County Historical Society, Inc.

Natalie Daley	Perry Palmer
Harvey Durham (deceased 6/15)	Charles Schaefer
J. Theodore Hilscher	Robert Stackman
Valentine Kriele	

The 2015-2016 Staff of the Greene County Historical Society

Shelby Mattice	Curator
Jennifer Barnhart	Operations Manager
Linda Hunt	Librarian
Suzanne Thrasher	Museum Associate
Amanda O'Donnell (resigned 11/15)	Custodian
Jason O'Donnell (resigned 11/15)	Superintendent of Buildings & Grounds
William Seyfferth (from 12/15)	Caretaker
Brenda Bedell (from 12/15)	Caretaker

Where History Lives

**Greene County Historical
Society Inc.**

2015 Financial & Membership Reports

2015-2016 Program Year

May 2016

May 2016

One hundred fifty years ago the seminal event that shaped this country came to a welcome close. The Greene County Historical Society held – and its members attended – many events over the past five years in honor and remembrance of those individuals and happenings that marked the Civil War. Although perhaps not as important as the Civil War, Coxsackie had its 240th anniversary of signing the Coxsackie Declaration of Independence, which was celebrated by the GCHS in the spring of 2015. The Coxsackie Declaration of Independence anniversary coincides with the founding of the US Army.

The Society continues to work on many projects that were begun earlier, including moving the hay press to a suitable location on the Society's Bronck House premises, restoring the north wall of the 1783 house, and moving the Catskill Mountain House to the Mountaintop Historical Society. In meeting one of its goals, preserving local history, the Society is conscientious in undertaking tasks such as the three just mentioned rather than rushing and possibly undermining an important facet of local history.

The Society lost one of its pillars with the passing of Harvey Durham. Mr. Durham served on the GCHS Board for 25 years and was named Trustee Emeritus. Mr. Durham, along with his wife, Kathleen, were ardent supporters of the Society, contributing in many, inimitable ways over the years. In an ironic twist, Mr. Durham was remembered fondly and lovingly on the Society's Facebook page by many people who knew his gentle, kind ways.

The Society acquired the vacant land which was the location of Lincoln's auction house and adjacent to the Society's Bronck House campus. This land will be useful to the Society for parking and to preserve the Society's bucolic setting.

Financially, the Society continues to be sound due to the care and conservative nature of its Board. Nevertheless, the Society is continuously seeking new members and would ask anyone reading this annual report to encourage others to join the Society and become a positive force in preserving local history.

Joseph Warren,
Chairman of the Board

May 2016

The mission statement for the Greene County Historical Society, Inc. is contained in its incorporation by the Charter from the NY State Board of Regents in 1929: Here are portions of the mission statement: "... the preservation of historical matter relating to the history of the County of Greene ... and New York State in general and to create an interest in all matters of historical information; collect, receive and preserve, and safely keep historical records,relics and things which may establish or illustrate the history,... of the County of Greene and its surroundings. ... establish a museum therein for their preservation; mark places of historic interest in the county; receive gifts in its name, of property and any nature, including real estate; to acquire by purchase, property, including real estate, ...for ... purposes of its organization, and to hold and manage the same under the sanction and direction of the Society...". Here is how the Society today is carrying out its mission statement:

- In 2015 the Society has received several items from various sources for its collections, including such items as paper materials and ice tools dealing with the ice industry in Greene County; photos, diaries, photo albums; and fabric items.
- The Bronck Houses have been undergoing renovations and restoration under the guidance of John Waite and Associates historic preservation architects.
- The Historical Register Committee of the Society continues to add sites to its register of historic places in the County now numbering over 250 sites.
- In December 2016 the Society purchased 1.6 acres consisting of the site of the former Lincoln Auction Barn property.
- The Society had a Masters level graduate student from the University of Delaware Winterthur Program. The Program is designed to prepare graduates for museum curator positions. The graduate student was researching Clark Fox Pottery from Athens, particularly inkwells.
- A book in Czech on Francisek Polak, a Czech national who testified at the United Nations on Russian war crimes during WWII, was received. (see inside front cover)
- The Society continues to publish *Greene County History: A Quarterly Journal and The Messenger*.
- Society employees and members have done programs for local schools and Community groups.
- In addition to its regular tours the Society held several other special presentation programs and Educational Programs.
- The Curator presented programs in Greene and Albany Counties and was invited to attend a seminar in Sweden at the Jonas Bronck Center.
- The Society has been working with the Mt. Top Historical Society and Greene County to place the Catskill Mt. House model closer to North South Lake.
- We continue to work on getting a site and housing for the hay press and to complete the Duncan Meat Wagon Exhibit.

Thanks to the members for their support; the volunteers for their time and efforts; the staff for their efforts, often above and beyond their job descriptions; and the Board of Trustees for their guidance and direction and their dedication. 2015 was a busy and productive year.

Robert C. Hallock, President GCHS

Greene County Historical Society, Inc.
Report of the Annual Meeting
May 2, 2015

The 2015 Annual Meeting of the Greene County Historical Society, Inc. was held at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Catskill on May 2, 2015.

The meeting began with a brunch served by the members of the Church.

Following the brunch a brief program, "Good Heavens! What Comes Here", which included the reading of selected sections of the diary of Elizabeth Miller of New Baltimore, was presented by Wanda Dorpfeld and Bob Hallock. The sections presented described Civil War events including the Lincoln Funeral Train. This diary is from the collection of the Vedder Research Library. Following the presentation, Ann Hallock emphasized the importance of saving and maintaining items such as this diary. She also noted the historical importance of items such as the Dutch Scripture Painting and the Tripp Chair which was pictured on the cover of Annual Report.

The next item on the agenda was the recognition of the volunteers from all areas of the Society's operation. In a departure from previous years, the names of all volunteers were read. Of the total 42 volunteers, 18 were present. Each received a snow flake paper weight from President Robert Hallock and Wanda Dorpfeld who with the help of Operations Manager, Jennifer Barnhart, was responsible for coordinating the list of volunteers and selecting the gifts. A copy of the list of volunteers is attached to this report.

The official Annual Meeting of the Society was held as the last activity of the day. Copies of the Annual Report including the 2014 Financial & Membership Reports and the reports for the 2014-15 Program year, were distributed.

Call to Order. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman of the Board Joseph Warren. He requested a moment of silence for those Society members who had passed away within the last year including the following:

Frank Daley	Dorothy Papish
Dick May	Judith A. Hall
Grace Plusch	Lois Cameron
Rev. Janice Conklin Hesselink	Ed Young
Mark Russell	

Remarks from the Chairman of the Board. Mr. Warren thanked everyone for coming and noted the volunteers who are deserving of recognition for all their work.

Remarks from the President. Robert Hallock thanked the Church for the wonderful brunch and for the use of their dining room. He further thanked all who had made this year a success for the Society.

Bob introduced the staff as follows:

Curator–Shelby Mattice
Operations Manager–Jennifer Barnhart
Librarian–Linda Hunt
Museum Associate–Suzanne Thrasher
Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds–Jason O’Donnell
Caretaker–Amanda O’Donnell

Bob asked the Trustees who were present to stand. Included were Joseph Warren, David Dorpfeld, Wanda Dorpfeld, Thomas Satterlee, Barbara Spataro, Chris Byas, Dennis O’Grady, Jim Planck, Judee Synakowski, and Ann Hallock.

Minutes of the 2014 Meeting. These minutes were presented and approved at the 2015 Spring Quarterly Meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Treasurer’s Report –David Dorpfeld. He expressed his thanks to Jennifer Barnhart for her assistance.

Financial Secretary Report –Thomas Satterlee.

Museum Committee –Wanda Dorpfeld and Ann Hallock, Co-chairs

Vedder Research Library –Barbara Spataro, Chair updated her report with an announcement that the Library has a new web-site.

Buildings and Grounds –Chris Byas, Chair, thanked Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds for making her job easier.

Publications –Bob D’Agostino, Chair announced that Ian Rasweiler who wrote an article for the Winter 2014 Journal was with us today for recognition as a Society volunteer.

Historic Register –Harrison Hunt, Chair indicated that 4 new sites have been added to the Register with several pending applications. The Register also has a new brochure pending. He noted that the Committee were happy to see Ken Mabey recognized for his years of service as the Chair of the Historic Register Committee.

Ad Hoc Committee on Restoration of the Bronck Houses –Bob Hallock, chair noted that the bricks needed for repair of the 1738 House have been delivered.

Ad Hoc Education Center –Bob Hallock, chair noted that this Committee has recently been established.

Education Committee –Judee Synakowski, Chair asked that people give her ideas for new programs.

Home Tour –Jim Planck, chair. Jim announced that the 2016 Tour is being held in Athens on June 6 and the Committee currently has 7 sites. Bob Hallock thanked David Dorpfeld for all his work in identifying and obtaining sites.

Beecher Scholarship –Chris Byas, Chair reported that the committee is about to select the 2015 winner.

Board Development –Wanda Dorpfeld thanked the committee members, Dennis O’Grady and David Dorpfeld for their assistance. She reviewed the process followed by the Committee including contacting all Trustees whose terms are expiring and determining whether they are interested in continuing on the Board. Based on those contacts and the wishes of the individual Trustee, the following action is recommended:

Stefania Jozic	Return as a Trustee in the Class of 2018
Rich Hanse	Return as a Trustee in the Class of 2020
Richard Muggeo	Return as a Trustee in the Class of 2020
Dennis O’Grady	Return as a Trustee in the Class of 2020

Matt Luvera is recommended for the Class of 2020. A biographical sketch of Mr. Luvera was included in the printed copy of the Annual Report. It was moved by Bob D’Agostino and seconded by Dennis O’Grady that the report of the Board Development Committee be accepted. Motion carried.

Dennis O’Grady read the following which is also found in the Annual Report.

“This year Harvey Durham is being nominated as a Board Member Emeritus of the Greene County Historical Society. Harvey has been a Trustee of the Greene County Historical Society for 25 years.” The nomination continues on to include Harvey’s many activities in the Society and the important role he played in many key decisions. Dennis concluded as follows: “Harvey is in the same category as the late Ray Beecher and Olga Santora—people who were willing workers that gave their all to the Society. At the age of 92, Harvey has decided not to seek another term as Trustee, and it seems only appropriate to elect him as a Trustee Emeritus.” Bob D’Agostino moved the nomination of Harvey Durham as a Trustee Emeritus. The motion was seconded by Chris Byas and carried.

Adjournment. It was moved by Chris Byas and seconded by Dennis O’Grady. Motion carried.

The minutes were written by Recording Secretary Ann B. Hallock and presented to the Board of Trustees at the Spring Quarterly Meeting.

Treasurer's Report for Calendar Year 2015
David C. Dorpfeld, Treasurer

From the Treasurer's perspective, 2015 was a good year. It is always a good year when our spending stays within the budget. 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 (Windows on History) 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 2015 budget, actual income and expenditures for 2015, and income and expenses compared to the budget (Over or Under).

On the revenue side income was a bit less than projected, but because expenditures were less than anticipated, we did not have to draw as heavily on our reserves as we planned. The final draw on our end of the year reserves was still less than five percent. Keeping our draw on reserves under five percent has remained our goal for a number of years.

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 and expense items.

On the expense side of the ledger, one additional item not footnoted may need an explanation. We exceeded the budget by about \$3,500 on maintenance. This was due to emergency electrical repairs that had to be made to the Bronck House. These repairs were not budgeted, but we can't take a chance with this irreplaceable structure.

One last point: I told the board at our last meeting that about 70 percent of our budgeted expenditures go to pay salaries and insurance. This is not a bad thing. We have excellent staff and they produce great value for the society. But, this does not leave a lot of money left over to support other initiatives. This is why it is important to have fund raising drives from time to time to support capital improvements. You will note that we received over \$33,000 in this fashion in 2015. Thank you to all that contributed.

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 eight 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 year ending 12/31/2015

	Budget CY 2015	Actual YTD 12/31/15	Over/ (Under)	Unanticipated/ Unbudgeted
REVENUES				
Donations & Grants				
Restricted Grants	4,000	5,122	1	1,200
Unrestricted Grants	3,847	3,847	3	-
<i>Total Grants Received</i>	<u>7,847</u>	<u>8,969</u>	<u>1,122</u>	<u>1,200</u>
Memorial Gifts	500	390	(110)	
Museum Donations	1,000	468	(532)	
Library Donations		848	848	
GCHS Donations		81	81	
Membership	27,000	24,667	(2,333)	
Beecher Scholarship	500	456	(44)	-
<i>Total Donations</i>	<u>29,000</u>	<u>26,910</u>	<u>(2,090)</u>	<u>-</u>
Programs				
Home Tour	7,000	5,750	4	(1,250)
Library Activities	3,500	975	(2,525)	
Museum Admissions	5,000	3,875	(1,125)	
Museum Events	2,000	1,180	(820)	
Shop	4,000	3,772	(228)	
Publications	250	120	(130)	-
<i>Total Programs</i>	<u>21,750</u>	<u>15,672</u>	<u>(6,078)</u>	<u>-</u>
Other Income				
Annual Meeting	500	453	(47)	
Fundraising (Heritage Craft Fair)	2,000	2,419	419	
Interest Income	500	352	(148)	
Miscellaneous Income	2,000	2,555	5	555
Unanticipated				
Historic Register				770
Civil War Books				128
Final Civil War Trip				19,985
John Ham Book				340
Windows on History				33,507
Cap Funds Barracks				50
Vedder Library Railing				1,659
<i>Total Other Income</i>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>5,779</u>	<u>779</u>	<u>56,439</u>
Reserves needed to support budgeted expenditures	149,669	146,470	(3,199)	
	<u>213,266</u>	<u>203,800</u>	<u>(9,466)</u>	<u>57,639</u>

- 1 \$1000 FAM, \$500 Town of Coxsackie, \$672 Greene County Office Supplies, \$1950 CIP, \$1000 Bank of Gr. Co.
- 2 Grant from FAM for benches
- 3 Greene County Legislature
- 4 Additional \$400 realized in 2016, not reflected here
- 5 Insurance settlements for damage to the Victorian Horse Barn
- 6 Mostly repairs to the Victorian Horse Barn covered by insurance
- 7 Expenditures from 2014 BOGC grant \$655.56 and 2015 BOGC grant \$1066.56.

Publication Fund	6,018
Capital Funds - Bronck Barrack	17,671
13-Sided Barn Signage Account	2,230
Meat Wagon Exhibit	652
Interactive Materials Grant	344
Digitalization	4,982
VRL Railing	(546)
Restoration	576
Windows on History	20,620
Civil War Flag Restoration	2,161
Van Loon House	9,524

Greene County Historical Society
Statement of Revenue and Expenses

For the year ending 12/31/2015

EXPENSES	Budget CY 2015	Actual YTD 12/31/15	Over/ (Under)	Unanticipated/ Unbudgeted
Maintenance				
Library	2,000	3,971	1,971	
Museum	9,000	10,847	1,847	
Staff Residence	1,000	769	(231)	
Total Maintenance	<u>12,000</u>	<u>15,587</u>	<u>3,587</u>	<u>-</u>
Utilities				
Electric	3,500	4,040	540	
Fuel Oil/Burner Service	8,000	8,024	24	
Phones	1,000	1,153	153	
Other			-	
Total Utilities	<u>12,500</u>	<u>13,217</u>	<u>717</u>	<u>-</u>
Wages				
Caretakers	10,000	9,649	(351)	
Curatorial	43,750	43,750	-	
Curatorial Assistance	3,900	3,936	36	
Librarian	18,000	18,000	-	
Operations Manager	31,000	31,000	-	
Total Wages	<u>106,650</u>	<u>106,335</u>	<u>(315)</u>	<u>-</u>
2014 Bonuses Paid in 2015	<u>4,000</u>	<u>4,000</u>		
Other Expenses				
Annual Mtg./Volunteer Recognition	1,500	1,547	47	
Beecher Scholarship	1,000	1,000	-	
Collection Enhancement/Acquisition	2,000	477	(1,523)	
Computer	1,000			1,358
Contingencies - General	1,000		(1,000)	
Contingencies - Museum	1,500		(1,500)	
Contracted Services (Copier)	1,666	1,613	(53)	
Dues/Subscriptions	300	527	227	
Exhibits and Education	6,000	420	(5,580)	
Expenditures from Restricted Grants	3,200	2,520	(680)	1,722 7
Furniture & Fixtures	3,250		(3,250)	
Home Tour	800	806	6	
Insurance	21,000	21,382	382	
Membership/Assoc. Expense	200	350	150	
Miscellaneous		2,955	6 2,955	
Office Supplies	1,000	2,447	1,447	
Payroll Service	2,200	1,911	(289)	
Postage	3,000	1,662	(1,338)	
Promotion and Outreach	4,500	4,385	(115)	
Purchases for Museum Shop	2,000	1,539	(461)	
Publications/Printing	3,500	2,746	(754)	
Security System	1,500	1,062	(438)	
Charges - Credit Card	500	846	346	
990 Preparation	2,000	1,645	(355)	
Health Insurance	2,000	2,405	405	
Payroll Expenses	11,000	9,794	(1,206)	
Sales Tax	500	622	122	
Capital Construction - Bronck House				25,355
Capital Construction - Bronck Barracks				190
Final Civil War Trip				18,694
Barrack Exhibit				
Historic Register				185
Property Purchase				37,289
Total Other Expenses	<u>78,116</u>	<u>64,661</u>	<u>(13,455)</u>	<u>84,793</u>
Total Expenses	<u>213,266</u>	<u>203,800</u>	<u>(9,466)</u>	<u>84,793</u>

Membership Report for Calendar Year 2015
Thomas Satterlee, Financial Secretary

For January 1 - December 31, 2015, the total collected for dues and donations were:

Dues	\$23,082
Donations	
Vedder Library	\$380
Bronck Museum	\$ 60
Capital Fund	\$ 50
Beecher Scholarship	\$130
Handicap Railing	\$157
Windows on History	\$265
General Fund	\$101
Sampler	\$ 60
Total Dues and Donations	\$24,235

13,839 of this amount relates to dues and donations for 2016. \$25,790 was collected for the 2015 dues year in 2014 and 2015. Membership for 2014 was down slightly from 451 to 449. At least 15 members passed away in 2015 and there were 32 new members. Dues payments were up slightly from 2014 from \$21,061 to \$23,082. Some additional monies were collected by PayPal and directly deposited. The addition of PayPal to our website for payment of dues has been successful as a payment method for new members and renewals. Members are encouraged to solicit memberships whenever and wherever possible.

Membership by category for the year 2015 were as follows:

Individual	174	Library Institutions	9
Dual/Family	124	Honorary	10
Supporter	45	Student	1
Patron	36	Business Basic	7
Benefactor	12	Business Friend	5
Silver Benefactor	3	Business Supporter	13
Gold Benefactor	3	Trustee Emeriti	7

Total Membership 449

The current membership drive, as of March 25, 2016 has resulted in responses as follows:

Dues	\$17,828	Individual	97
		Dual Family	85
Donations		Supporter	27
Vedder Library	\$235	Patron	32
Bronck Museum	\$20	Benefactor	12
Capital Fund	\$40	Silver Benefactor	1
Beecher Scholarship	\$225	Gold Benefactor	4
Other	\$70	Library Institutions	9
		Student/Senior	70
		Honorary	8
Total Dues & Donations	\$18,778	Trustee Emeriti	5
		Business Basic	5
		Business Friend	5
		Business Supporter	8
		Total Membership	368

Greene County Historical Society 2015 Membership

Business Supporter

Bavarian Manor Country Inn & Restaurant
Braine Building & Restoration
C.A. Albright & Sons LLC
Chalet Services, Inc.
Coxsackie Transport
Dimensions North Ltd
Greene County Septic Cleaners, Inc
Hinterland Design
National Bank of Coxsackie
Round Top Electric
State Telephone Co.
Tip Top Furniture
Williams Lumber & Home Centers

Business Friend

Black Horse Farms, Inc
Coxsackie Antique Center
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2015-2016 Committee Reports

BRONCK MUSEUM

Wanda Dorpfeld and Ann Hallock, Co-chairs

The 2015 season at the Bronck Museum introduced changes in the content of the guided tours and activities. After six years and the restoration of the north wall, the West Wing, circa 1690, had been reopened in 2014. Since the large Victorian dining room furniture had been removed to storage before the restoration, it was decided that it was an ideal time to change the 1663 House and the West Wing so that the function and furnishings of these spaces more closely reflected the periods of construction and the financial status of the family at the time. For example, the 1663 House now includes a plank table and other primitive items which would have been built on site with available materials. The furnishings previously in the 1663 House were placed more appropriately in the West Wing including the Dutch Scripture Painting and the 1710 Tripp chair. For the 2015 season, a bed which could be tied was added. These changes have helped eliminate visitor confusion about how Pieter Bronck could bring finished furniture down the Indian Trail from Beverwyck in 1663.

The following describes various aspects of the 2015 Season which began in early May and ended in mid-November:

Museum Attendance. Last year, the Museum welcomed 2209 visitors, including those who toured the Museum only, those who attended the special events, those who were part of group tours, including school groups and those who attended off-site programs presented by Museum staff and volunteers. Information about each of these groups follows:

Visitors at the Museum. Visitors came from nearby, other states and the following countries—the Netherlands, Chile, Northern Ireland, Canada, Romania, and the United Kingdom. Especially appreciated was the comment offered by a couple from the Netherlands who wrote “What a beautiful historic place!” Several family groups included three generations. The Museum has continued to honor passes from Libraries where the Library has a specific number of passes which they can give to their patrons to visit local museums without charge. The Museum does not give passes to the Library unless the Library has a Library membership in the Society. In 2015, two libraries, the Heermance Library in Coxsackie and the Ravena Library offered passes. The Museum also had visitors from the Schuyler Colfax Museum in Wayne, New Jersey, who were interested in learning more about the operation of a small museum. These visitors were brought to the Museum by Joanne Makely, a former Society Trustee.

Group Tours. The following groups brought visitors to the Museum:

Waterford Historical Society – 28 visitors on May 6

Columbia Greene Media – 10 visitors on June 19

A private group from New York City – 12 visitors on August 16

Warwick Road Scholars – 40 visitors on September 15

New Netherlands Conference – 51 attendees on September 17

Greene County Promotion staff and consultants – 4 visitors on September 2

School Tours. The following schools visited in 2015:

E.J. Arthur, Athens, 4th Grade – 50 children and 2 adults on June 4 for a half day program.

Coxsackie, Elementary, 4th Grade – 45 children and 8 adults on June 10 for a half day program.

Catskill 6th Grade, “Greater Sense of Place” – 17 students and 2 adults on October 4 for a full day program.

Special Events at the Museum. The special events for 2015 used the same format as used in previous years with the following events presented:

Association Day. This free admission community event was held on May 17 with an estimated 200 people present. In 2015, the Town of Coxsackie provided \$500 to the Society to help support this event. The program included the signing of the Articles of Association as urged by Johannes Schuneman and Leonard Bronk and music provided by the Village Fife and Drum Corp, under the County Initiative Program (CIP) grant. Demonstrations included use of black powder, the “Mystery of a Lady’s Closet”, “Tea and Comfort”, and “Farm Animals.” Special activities for children included an egg hunt, craft projects and moving hay. The Library was open with a display of genealogy information. On-ti-ora DAR members, dressed in costumes, circulated around the grounds.

The Bronck Family at Home, “Getting Things Done--Making Your Bed and Sleeping In It”. The 3 sessions for this event used the West Wing’s new bed which can be tied by visitors. 25 adults (including 3 members) and 3 children attended this program on July 12.

The Bronck Family at Home, “Getting Things Done--Corn: From Cob to Cake”. The 2 sessions were held in the Dutch Barn. 21 adults (including 5 members) and 5 children attended this program on August 9.

“By the Light of the Silvery Moon”. Once again this event was held on the lawn of the Museum on August 29 with a nearly full moon for 41 people. Mr. & Mrs. Charles L. Beach (Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Capobianco) of the Catskill Mountain House called on Adelaide Bronk Lampman that evening. Music and the popular ghost stories by Dick Muggeo were presented along with period refreshments. Visitors were urged to visit the newly furnished 1663 House and West Wing. The evening concluded with the traditional walk to the Bronck Family Cemetery.

The Bronck Family at Home, “Getting Things Done – Busy with the Bees”. In the Dutch Barn, Dick Muggeo had established a glass bee hive which allowed visitors to observe the action of the bees. Colorful posters about bees were included in the area. Dick presented information about the maintenance of bees and their hives in 2 sessions with 29 present (6 were members) on September 13.

Heritage Craft Fair. It is estimated that 750 people attended this October 4th free admission community event which included 12 crafters offering a variety of products. Musical entertainment was provided under the CIP grant. A silent auction with gifts from local businesses and Society Trustees raised money for the Museum. Unfortunately, the horse-pulled wagon rides were not available, since the owner of the horses was seriously ill.

“A Great Sorrow”. Three sessions were held in the West Wing and in the Bronck Cemetery to present the early funeral and burial practices with 24 in attendance.

Chilly Willy Tours. These cold weather tours celebrated the late Fall, early Winter holidays of both the Dutch and Swedish cultures. Traditional cookies from both cultures were served after the tour. 62 people attended six sessions which were conducted by Curator Shelby Mattice in costume.

Off-site Presentations. The Museum continues to promote the availability of off-site programs presented by Museum staff and volunteers. Presentations in 2015-16 included the following:

- The History of Chocolate Program presented by Shelby Mattice for the Cocksackie BPW group on March 12, 2015 for 24 members.
- The Ice Industry and Bee Keeping programs presented by Dick Muggeo to senior citizen groups in Catskill.
- The Ice Industry for 42 4th grade students presented by Chris Byas in Cocksackie Elementary School on April 26, 2015.
- The Chilly Willy Program, without the food and artefacts, presented by Shelby Mattice for the Ravena Coeymans Historical Society on November 8, 2015 for 26 members of that group.

The Museum has had several inquiries about off-site programs in 2016 and has begun presentation of programs. Bob Hallock presented a program for the Cocksackie Senior Citizens. Shelby Mattice has made a return visit to the Cocksackie BPW group. Details of these presentations will be included in the 2016-17 report. A program for the Ravena Coeymans Historical Society based on the Van Bergen Overmantle has been requested. Also on May 23, Shelby will make a presentation at the Quilter's Hall of Fame Annual Meeting. Inquiries also have been received from several other Greene County Senior groups.

Exhibits. A new exhibit providing information and artefacts from Adelaide Bronk Lampman's brothers, Leonard and Edwin Ely Bronk was installed in the Visitors Center.

As mentioned previously in the section on Museum programs, an exhibit on bees was installed in the Dutch Barn. Another hive was placed in the open space to the west of the Library. It appears that this hive survived the winter and will be continued in its current location. Work has continued on the exhibit in the Barrack for the Duncan Meat Wagon. It is expected that this exhibit will be completed this year. On August 15, the Bronck Museum presented an exhibit about the activities of the Bronck Museum at History Day at the Mountain Top Historical Society. This was an excellent opportunity to meet representatives from other historical organizations on the Mountain Top.

The Collection. Items received during the past year included the following:

- A cider press. The press has been placed in an unit of the Barracks and will eventually be part of an exhibit on apples.
- A 1950's era phone booth which stood in Hurliehy's drug store in downtown Cocksackie. It is hoped that this can be equipped with an old pay phone.
- A grinding stone which is unique, because it is complete and not cracked. Also some tools including a cultivator, scythe and several block and tackles.
- A plaque Jewish War Veterans of America, Post 399
- Ice Hooks
- Portraits on paper and other assorted objects from the Goodwin/Albright Family.
- Paul's Dairy Milk Bottle
- Assorted Ironwork
- Souvenir flags from the Catskill Game Farm and Carson City
- Costume "Uncle Sam" and a uniform from Felix Rebecca Lodge.

Use of the Collection. The Greene County Historical Society is fortunate to own a large collection of Clark Pottery. The importance of this collection was highlighted in October 2015 when a student from Winterthur came to the Museum and the Library to study the two inkwells in the Museum collection and the Library's collection of Clark papers and memorabilia. In

addition to the two inkwells at the Museum, there are two inkwells at Winterthur and another at the Smithsonian. The student has written an article about her research and has approval from her advisor at Winterthur for publication in the Journal.

The Cole Wedding Dress and a piece of fabric like the dress have been placed on long term loan to the Thomas Cole National Historic Site. The Cole House has asked for permission to loan the Cole sketch box to the Columbus Museum of Art for an exhibit on Thomas Cole later this year. This item is also on long term loan from the Society.

Grants. Each year applications are made for grants for which the Museum is qualified. Grants in the past year include the following:

A County Initiative Program grant of \$1,950 was awarded to the Museum by the Council on the Arts for the musical entertainment at various events in 2015. In late 2015, application was made for a similar grant for the 2016 entertainment and funding has been granted.

In 2014, the Museum received a grant from the Bank of Greene County. Since the grant is received during the Museum season, work with the grant occurs in the following year. These grant funds were used to purchase items which can provide interactive experiences for visitors, especially children. Items purchased under this grant included a merchant's scale which was placed in the Country store, and a wooden hay rake and fork and straw for placement in the Dutch Barn. Bob and Ann Hallock purchased a small yoke and two wooden buckets for the interactive programs. A cultivator will be used to demonstrate how the soil was tilled.

Another grant application was sent to the Bank of Greene County in January 2016 for funds to make improvements in the Mountain House Model, which is beginning to show the impact of several moves prior to placement in the Victorian Horse Barn and being on display constantly through the seasons. Word has been received that the Museum will receive a grant of \$1,000.

An application was made to Fenimore Asset Management for the funds to build additional benches for placement in the Museum. Museum visitors tend to be less able to stand during the tour. The current benches in the 1663 House have provided the assistance needed so it was decided to obtain funding for the construction of benches for the West Wing. This grant was approved so the benches can be constructed this Spring.

Staff. Curator Shelby Mattice was invited to present a paper at the 2015 Annual Lectures at the Jonas Bronck Center in Jonkoping Sweden in August. Unfortunately, the conference was cancelled due to financial problems. Shelby has become recognized as an important authority on Pieter Bronck. Jason and Amanda O'Donnell, the caretakers for the past six years left the Museum in October after purchasing their own home. Jason had helped Shelby with setting up the Museum for special events such as the Heritage Craft Fair and the Chilly Willy tours. They will be missed. Will Seyfferth and Brenda Bedell joined the staff as the new caretakers in November. Jennifer Barnhart continued as the Operations Manager for the Society. Her specific functions for the Museum include promoting the Museum and all special events through the media and internet; managing the Bronck Museum Gift Shop; working in the Visitors Center; and maintaining the operations of the computer system used in the Museum. New computers were obtained for Museum staff over the winter months.

Volunteers. The Museum would not be able to function without the help of volunteers. In 2015, a special effort, including newspaper articles, two meetings, and development of a brochure, was made to recruit new volunteers. One new volunteer worked regularly in the

Visitors Center. Numerous volunteers worked at the various special events, especially the Heritage Craft Fair. One college student volunteer worked one day each week on collections management as well as serving refreshments at special events. These volunteers will be recognized at the Society Annual Meeting. By the end of the season, 34 volunteers had given 709 hours of service to the Museum.

2015 Volunteers at the Museum included Stephanie Deso, Beverly Walker, Meg Griffin, Sue Thrasher, Joan Satterlee, Stephanie Mattraw, Sylvia Mattraw Johnston, Chris Hanse, Carol Muggeo, Donna Nelson, Peggy McLarnon, Joe Capobianco, Diane Capabianco, Carol Serazio, Judi Besenfelder, Cynthia Pena, Susan Farrell-Melick, Brianna Melick, Carol Jankowski, Pat Maxwell, Heather Rockefeller Boice, Marilyn Rausch, Henry Rausch, Michael Rausch, Max Rausch, Doris Hallock

Signage. Two of the historic information signs, “West View” and “Bronck Burying Grounds” have deteriorated over the years. Contact with the manufacturer showed that the Museum ordered “exterior” signs guaranteed for 10 years, but “interior” signs were shipped. The manufacturer, Fossil, has agreed that the signs will be replaced at a prorated basis, determined on the number of years the signs were legible. The new signs will be installed for the 2016 season.

The 13-sided barn is a structure which has attracted attention and has been included in several books on multi-sided structures. An ad hoc committee is developing a multi-sided sign which will include the history of the barn; a description of the structure; an image of the interior beam structure; the original design for the barn; and credit to the people who funded the work necessary for the preservation of the barn.

Promotion. The Society began use of a rack card in 2015, replacing the more expensive tri-fold brochure. The rack cards are distributed to specified areas by a distribution company which owns the racks or has agreements for use of the racks. In 2015, the Museum chose distribution in the Albany, Schenectady and Saratoga area. Rack cards are also provided to County Promotion Office for distribution at their center in Catskill. For 2016, the Committee has decided to add distribution to the area on the east side of the Hudson River and cut the amount allocated to print advertisements.

Information about events is sent to all newspapers in this area, including the Albany papers and is included on the Society web-site and Facebook Page. E-mail blasts are sent out to members for all activities. Based on a recommendation received at the Society’s Home Tour, the Committee has considered working with other organizations to send out e-mail blasts for selected events during the 2016 season.

In the past, the Society paid to have signs installed on the Thruway, but it was not believed that it was a cost-effective way to advertise the Museum. The Museum is on the New York State “Path through History.” Signs are found on Rt. 9W and on Pieter Bronck Road. Thanks to the County Promotion Office which has arranged that “Path through History” signs for the Bronck Museum will be placed on the Thruway at no cost to the Society.

Membership. The Museum does not raise sufficient money to support its operation and is dependent on the Society for funding. The Committee has discussed ways that the Museum can promote membership in the Society. Two recommendations for action in 2016 were developed as follows:

Ask Museum visitors if they are members and if not, encourage membership, pointing out that members get free admission to the Museum and reduced admission to special events. A poster for the Visitors Center, highlighting the support of the Society will be developed.

Encourage Bronck descendants to join the Society. The Museum maintains a list of Bronck descendants. Each year, a newsletter entitled "Letter from Home" is sent out to each known descendant. This newsletter includes an original article about some aspect of the Bronck family, a calendar of Museum events and any information pertinent to the family. The mailing addresses were reviewed and it was found that only 14% of the descendants are Society members. In the 2016 letter, descendants will be encouraged to become Society members.

The Shops. The Museum has continued to operate the Bronck Museum Gift Shop in the Victorian Horse Barn. Some items are purchased by the Society for resale while others are sold on a commission basis. Books about local history and Bronck Museum postcards are offered for sale. The Trading Post sells used items (no clothing or shoes) donated by friends and members of the Society and is open for large events, such as the Heritage Craft Fair.

Looking Ahead. The 2016 season also promises to offer some new and interesting opportunities. John Bonafide, Director of the Technical Preservation Bureau for the Division of Historic Preservation in the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and a former trustee, has expressed interest in bringing his staff to the Museum to meet with Shelby Mattice and restoration contractor Dave Bova regarding the work done on the West Wing. This would be an in-service training opportunity which would provide good insight in an actual restoration.

A professor at Ithaca College has a grant for on-site ground penetration radar and development of 3-D images of his findings on historic sites. Information about the Bronck Museum has been sent to him and we hope that he will make a preliminary visit to the Museum this Spring, since there is evidence of several buildings which have been lost through the years.

Schedule of Activities. Events and activities for the 2016 season are included on the Society calendar on the inside of the back cover of this report. It should be noted that the Museum will not be holding Association Day this year. This event has been held annually since 2009. It is expected that work will be done in April-May in the West Wing to remove the plaster from the south wall to determine what work will be needed in this area. After reviewing various options, it was decided that it would be best to combine Association Day and the first Bronck Family at Home into an event in June. The Committee will review past Association Days and the combined effort in 2016 for future determinations on this event.

Looking Forward to 2017. Pieter Bronck was born in 1617 and the Museum Committee is planning a 400th birthday celebration with historical presentations, interactive programs and 400 cupcakes. In view of Pieter's experience in running a tavern in Beverwyck, staff have talked with the Cross Roads Brewery in Athens about the possible development of a Pieter Bronck beer to promote this 400th birthday. They have agreed to do this. It is also hoped that more information about Pieter and his family can be found and used in this celebration. It appears that research by Shelby Mattice and Bob Hallock is finding that Pieter had a married sister who lived in New Amsterdam. Perhaps we will find another line of Bronck descendants to celebrate Pieter's birthday.

VEDDER RESEARCH LIBRARY

Barbara Spataro, Chair

In the past year:

- VRL's phone system was replaced with an up-to-date fully functional system.
- Three computers and a printer were purchased to replace non-working equipment.
- UV filters were installed on all lights in the Vedder's main room following a grant received from the Bank of Greene County.
- Nearly all funds were raised to wipe out the debt to GCHS reserves for the railing project, thanks to the many generous supporters including individuals, businesses, and service organizations.
- The U.S. Explorer edition of *Ancestry* was installed for researchers' use on the public computer.
- Kevin Ferguson of PBS in Boston consulted with VRL concerning the documentary "Dancing at the Crossroads," and purchased over 10 images concerning resorts in Durham and East Durham area from the Library. This program about the Irish in Greene County was shown locally in March. A DVD copy will be donated to the Vedder.
- The Vedder played host to Heermance Memorial Library's "Follow that Book" program. Librarian Linda Hunt read *A Perfectly Messed-up Story* and discussed "who are the people in your family?" and family trees with the visiting preschool group and parents.

Projects continuing in 2016:

- In development is a gallery of photographs to be hung in the main room, of individuals who have been influential in the Historical Society and Vedder Library. Librarian Linda Hunt has been scouring VRL's collection for suitable photos and bringing them to the attention of Library Committee members.
- Modeled after another historic society's efforts, Committee members are considering a "Best of " program to be held in the Library on a day it is normally closed, when one or two of the recorded education programs could be shown to the public, most likely on a once-a-month basis.

Interesting research:

- Winterthur students (Delaware) visited the Vedder to research Clark Pottery inkwells and will donate copy of their finished project to the Library.
- Vassar professor, Daniel Peck, has travelled to the Library several times to research and connect Thomas Cole's paintings with corresponding geographic sites in Greene County.

A few (among quite a number of) interesting and welcome donations to the collection:

- A substantial and varied collection that belonged to Jean Goodwin Albright was donated by her daughter, Mary Jane Albright Solsanter.
- General and Mrs. George Nichols collection including photographs, a scrapbook dated 1856, and other documents related to the Civil War, were donated by Antoinette Wilson and Mrs. Christian Pfister.
- Six photos of Mike Tyson and family, taken by deceased photographer Ken Regan, were donated by Michael Sonnenfeldt.

Our dedicated volunteers: Stephanie Altomer, Clesson Bush, Jean Bush, Kathleen Durham, Karla Flegel, Kathleen Hintz, Harrison Hunt, Evelyn Lein, Shirley McGrath, MaryAnn Patsky, Judith Rundell, Joan Satterlee, Stephen Schwebler, and Stanley Whitbeck.

Without these volunteers, the Vedder would not operate at the level it does, could not function at all. They are amazing!

Volunteer projects:

- Joan Satterlee's extensive research concerning Greene County women in the military led to our current display and the recent Olga Santora lecture.
- New volunteer and Library Committee member, MaryAnn Patsky continues to gather information for a user's guide to Vedder's resources and services, which will be written with new users in mind and organized in three sections, "People," "Places," and "Subjects."
- New volunteer, Stephanie Altomer, began an inventory of the family Bibles in the Vedder collection, specifically attending to family genealogy pages to make certain they have been copied and filed in the Library.
- Harrison Hunt undertook a project to reorganize and stack bound volumes of newspapers in VRL's collection, to make them more easily accessed. The project is complete.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

Christine Byas, Chair (until 10/13/15)

Robert Hallock, Interim Chair

In early October 2015 Jason and Amanda O'Donnell tendered their resignation as Caretakers. We were sorry to see them leave and wish them well. An ad hoc committee of Bob Hallock, Ray Hamlin, Tom Satterlee and Harrison Hunt interviewed applicants for the position. New Caretakers Will Seyfferth and Brenda Bedell were hired and began work as of December 1, 2015.

April 2015 saw a fire destroy the Lincoln Auction Barn on 9W just to the east of the Museum property across County Route 42. Jason and Amanda O'Donnell, our Caretakers, performed above and beyond the call of duty with their efforts to assure the fire did not spread to the Museum grounds. As a result of the fire, a fire truck backed into the electrical meters on the Victorian Horse Barn destroying them. Jason and Amanda spent Sunday calling electricians and found one willing to come on Monday morning to start repairs. The resulting insurance claim paid for a new electrical service and time spent by the Caretakers related to the fire. The service was restored within 4 days, but the Caretakers House, Visitors Center and the Museum were without power for that period. The Library had to be closed on the Wednesday following the fire because the well serving the Library bath rooms, which is located at the Caretakers House, was without power. The meters were moved to the driveway side of the Horse Barn. Still to be done is some repairs and painting to the siding on the Horse Barn. During the process Central Hudson strongly recommended that a new service line to the Caretaker's House be installed underground replacing the old lines. In the Fall of 2015 this was accomplished by placing the line underground in a trench, leaving a tee in the line for use in further undergrounding the electric lines to other buildings. As part of the new line project, the driveway to the Caretaker's House was coated with new stone.

In the summer of 2015 new outside lights were installed in the Museum/Library parking lot. The new LED lights on the pole and Victoria Horse Barn faced toward the parking lot, and the light on the north side of the Victorian Horse Barn was replaced with an LED light. These lights are more efficient and save energy.

Walkways on the Museum complex also had stone added to level them. A yellow jacket infestation in the Visitor's Center west wall was eliminated by an exterminator. Dead ash trees, probably due to ash borer, in the swamp on the north side of the Dutch Barn were removed by a tree firm for no charge. The firm will sell the trees for firewood. In the Spring of 2016 the firm will return to trim trees on the Museum property at no charge.

The security system wires from the Horse Barn and Visitor's center were damaged in the line underground work. The security firm has given the Committee some recommendations and the Committee is determining what the best solution is to the problem. Also, bids for service to the heating and air conditioning system and the Vedder Research Library were received and reviewed. A determination on a new service contractor will be made shortly.

Grounds maintenance, painting, parking lot striping and other such chores will be done for the spring and summer. The cupola on the 13 sided barn needs some work and we hope to have some estimates in for that work.

Purchase of former Lincoln Auction Barn Property

In December 2015 the Society held a special meeting of the Board of Trustees to consider purchasing the former Lincoln Auction Barn site, approximately 1.5 acres, for \$30,000. The Board gave their unanimous approval. On December 22 the closing was scheduled and the property is now part of the Museum complex. We plan to seek a grant to do a site plan of the entire property and to get ideas for how best to tie the property together.

AD HOC BRONCK HOUSES RESTORATION

Robert C. Hallock, Chair

The Old Carolina Brick Company was contracted to make handmade bricks to match the size and color of the bricks currently on the 1738 house. A brick mould was made measuring 1 ¾ inches by 4 ¼ inches by 8 ½ inches per brick. Color choices were Londontowne (140 bricks); Jefferson College (140 pieces); Tryon (60 bricks); and Park Ridge (60 bricks). The cost was estimated to be \$2,293.00. The bricks were delivered in July and in the fall Renaissance Restoration began the work of rebuilding the northwest corner of the 1738 house brick veneer; re-pointing the mortar and replacing bricks as needed. New sills and window casings were also installed. The new windows were based on a pattern using another window in the 1738 house. The window panes in the new windows came from an early 1700's house and are as close to the original as we can get. The northwest corner wall has been straightened out, resolving a long standing problem. The total cost of the restoration efforts was \$28,885, which covered both the cellar walls being rebuilt and re-pointed and the work on the brick exterior.

For 2016 there are some minor items to complete on the 1738 house north wall, such as filling a hole drilled in the stone for a support system and some minor cracking in the new mortar re-pointing. Also, we plan to take the plaster off the south wall of the 1685 house and evaluate the condition of the wall. That estimate is \$2,250 from Renaissance Restorations and work will probably be completed in April 2016 on the plaster removal. Also, we plan to repair, re-point and replace bricks on the south wall of the 1738 house. Estimates have been sought for new shutters for the 2 windows on the west wall of the 1738 house and new sills for the basement

windows. Dave Parmiter's quote for the shutters is \$239 each for 4 shutters and \$150 each for the two sills for a total of \$1,256. The brickwork estimate is still pending.

The *Windows on History* fundraising campaign raised about \$25,000, which will enable us to proceed with the 2016 work. Thanks to all who donated, and a special thanks to Ann Hallock for her work on the fund raising letter and to Jennifer Barnhart for doing the mailing and accounting.

39th ANNUAL TOUR OF HOMES

Jim Planck, Chair

A successful tour of homes in Athens brought in close to \$6,000. Advance sales were the highest in 4 years, all the advertising space was sold and several Board members took sponsorships. Lunches were prepared and sold by the Zion Lutheran Church which also served as the headquarters.

40th ANNUAL TOUR OF HOMES

Terez Limer, Chair

The 40th, like the first Tour of Homes will be in Coxsackie. 12 sites in Coxsackie have been secured for the 2016 Annual Tour of Homes. Headquarters will be at the Bronck Museum/Vedder Research Library and lunches will be sold by the First United Methodist Church of Coxsackie, also a site on the tour. Publicity and mailings are being prepared and will be in the mail by the time of the Annual Meeting.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Robert D'Agostino, Chair

1. 2016 marks the 40th year of publication *Greene County History* – formally, *The Greene County Historical Journal*. Copies of editions from recent years are available for purchase at the Vedder Research Library. You may also be able to purchase editions from earlier years, though some specific editions may be completely sold out.

2. Preparing each edition for publication is a complex task, and our “many hands” make for much lighter work. Operations Manager Jennifer Barnhart always does an excellent job designing the layout on computer and then preparing the file for the printer. She, more than anyone else, is responsible for the “look” of the publication. 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, and trustee/membership secretary Tom Satterlee.

3a. Our Spring 2015 edition... technically Volume 39,. Number One... contained a wonderful piece on Catskill's Sunnybrook Resort by Marie Bitter, whose grandparents founded the resort, and whose parents ran it for many years as well. In the piece, Marie described herself as a “third generation hotelier.”

I must report that this article on Sunnybrook Resort struck an *extremely* strong chord with our membership! MANY members – I stopped counting after a while – remarked to me how wonderfully it was written, and how much it reminded them of the way our County was during the heyday of the [20th century] family resorts. (On a personal note I have to say that it was eye-opening for me that many more people commented on this, than did regarding 2014's "double" edition.) I know that our membership looks forward to Marie's next article!

This edition's History Quiz answer also explained the strange pipe adorning one of the walls at the Bank of Greene County's new Lending Center building!

3b. The Summer edition took us back to the days of Catskill's Prospect Park Hotel, which stood on the grounds of today's St. Anthony's Friary, an integral part of the Franciscan Custody of the Immaculate Conception.

This edition also featured a piece by frequent author Norm Fuller, who penned us an article about the history of agriculture in the Town of Athens, complete with photographs of a number of historically-significant prize-winning milking cows.

Finally, this edition's History Quiz answered the question regarding the fate of the island of Wanatonka, which today has been integrated into the area we know as Catskill Point.

3c. The Fall edition took us to the western side of our County, with an article on the early history of the Prattsville House Hotel by another of our frequent authors, Jean Bush. Another of our frequent authors, Wanda West Traver, wrote the second article in this issue, taking us back to the early days of the American Revolution and the female Paul Revere, Sybil Ludington, whose historic ride was actually longer than Revere's much-lauded trip! Greene County Historian David Dorpfeld also contributed to this article, rounding out the known info regarding Sybil's later life – many years of which were actually spent right here in Catskill!

Thanks to information supplied by Robert Carl, the History Quiz answer here, showed us the location of the Rip Van Winkle Park, once a site for families to enjoy in Leeds.

3d. Our Winter edition featured amazing research regarding our Revolutionary-era "fighting Domnie of the Catskills," the Reverend Johannes Schuneman. The first piece was written by Professor of History William C. Barnhart of Caldwell University, and took us through the major events of his life – including the fact that his was the very first signature on the Coxsackie Declaration!

We were lucky enough to have a second, complementary, article on the Reverend, this one describing his... unique personality traits. County Historian David Dorpfeld penned this article, helping to round out our knowledge of the Reverend.

This edition also noted the sad state of the headstones of the Reverend and his wife, despite conservation efforts in the 1980s.

And the History Quiz answer took us back to 1977 and the the amazingly-long local run of the original Star Wars movie..., which was actually Episode Four.

4. Of course, each edition of Greene County History presents historical research. Each of us has at least a few interesting stories to tell. Interested? 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, and 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:

1. 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.
2. Material must be original and written in acceptable English style, preferably word-processed or typewritten, and double-spaced.
3. An author should be prepared to cite the sources from which the information was obtained. In many cases, a formal bibliography will be needed.
4. The name, address, and telephone number of the author must be given.
5. We reserve the right to accept or reject material submitted.
6. We reserve the right to edit accepted material for historical accuracy, clarity, and/or space considerations.
7. 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.

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.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Judee Synakowski, Chair

The Education Committee, composed of trustees and volunteers of the GCHS, was a subcommittee of the Museum Education Committee. It is now a full committee with its purpose to plan and organize diverse historical related programs which attract the many interests of Greene County and the wider area residents. Programs that were presented for the past year were *Boarding Houses and Resorts in the Towns of Greenville and Durham*, by Don Teator and Mary Lou Nahas, *Palenville* by Ron Dombroski, *Baseball during WWII* by Ron Gabriele, and *Around Hunter* by DeDe Thorpe and Cyndi Lapierre.

The Olga Santora program was held on April 3rd. The topic was *Women from Greene County that served in military during 4 different war times*. Women who had served in WWII, Korea, Vietnam and Afghanistan-Iraq were represented.

The education program on May 5th was *Lighthouses on the Hudson* by David Chinery.

An education program is scheduled for Thursday Nov. 3rd. The topic will be *Helen Dorth Longstreet (Confederate General Longstreet's second wife)* presented by Ron Gabriele. The committee always welcomes presenter names and topics.

HISTORIC REGISTER COMMITTEE

Harrison Hunt, Chair

The Historical Register Committee lost two members by resignation in the past year: Nick Nahas, our longtime secretary, and Bruce Stokes; we appreciate their efforts on behalf of historic preservation in Greene County. Their places were taken by Joan Satterlee, Nick Dellisanti and Eileen Tompkins.

The Committee met four times over the past year. We reviewed and approved applications for two sites: the Cornwallville cemetery and the Hamilton Clark House in Athens. The latter was a home on the Society's 2015 House Tour, and the owner took advantage of our offer to waive the Register application fee for any building on the house tour. The Register now includes 270 sites.

In addition to these applications, we have received inquiries from several residents about how to research the history of their houses. I have met with at least four of them at the Vedder Library. At the suggestion of Ann Hallock, we began researching the history lime kilns in Greene County, information which was shared with Robert and Johanna Titus for one of their recent columns about area limestone.

To publicize the Register and encourage applications, the committee prepared a flyer answering some basic questions about the process and where to find background information. It has been printed by the Society and copies distributed by committee members to area libraries and historical societies and to participants at the Mountain Top Historical Society's History Day in August.

We also worked with Jean Bush and Jennifer Barnhart to develop the Society's 2016 calendar, which features photographs of recent additions to the Register and a brief description of the Register itself.

In addition to the usual business at Committee meetings, we have re-introduced an information component. In answer to members' questions, over the past year we have had illustrated discussions about styles of windows and definitions of architectural terms.

BEECHER SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Christine Byas, Chair

Each year the Greene County Historical Society awards the Raymond Beecher Scholarship to a Greene County high school senior based on an article on local history. The scholarship began in 2007 to honor Dr. Raymond Beecher's 90th birthday.

In the spring of 2015 two students 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, the members of the Scholarship Committee awarded the prize to Christopher Welch, from Coxsackie-Athens High School. His essay covered the ice harvesting industry in Greene County. He discussed the growth of the industry, its importance to river front towns and its inevitable decline. It was a thoroughly enjoyable read.

This year we decided to send the scholarship information out to the schools in September so students would have more time to research a topic and complete an essay. I was also interested in finding out when each school's financial aid night was so our scholarship information could be presented to parents in the hope that they would encourage their child to submit an application. Jennifer Barnhart, our operations manager, also sent a second notice in January to all the schools.

The May 1 deadline for the 2016 scholarship is fast approaching. I look forward to reading this year's essays as there is always an element of surprise in the topics chosen. Dr. Beecher would be pleased to see the level of expertise exhibited by the students and to know that their research began at the Veeder Research Library, home of the Greene County Historical Society.

BOARD DEVELOPMENT AND RESOURCES

David Dorpfeld, Chair

The Board Development and 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 without an excused absence and recruited three new candidates to propose for election.

Board Resignation
Karen Deeter

Members of the Class of 2016 who wish to return as trustees in the Class of 2017
Emily Kunchala
Barbara Spataro

Members of the Class of 2016 who wish to return as trustees in the Class of 2021
Jim Planck
Joseph Warren

New trustee candidates for the class of 2021
Crane Davis
Donna Poulin
Stephen Senigo

Following are biographical sketches of the new trustee candidates:

Crane Davis

Crane Davis has been a resident of Palenville for more than 30 years. He grew up in Dallas, Boston and New York City, received a BA in Latin American Affairs from Princeton University in 1967, and was wounded in action as a Marine in Vietnam. He began a career in journalism at Time magazine and later became a producer/host at WNET-13, public television in New York City. In 1976, he left to form his own company, Paladin Communications, where he spent 30 years advising and writing for senior executives at IBM, Ford, Merck, AT&T, Mercedes-Benz and other clients. In retirement, he has written a book on the history of Vietnam and is currently compiling a database of the history of Palenville. He is Vice President of the local organization, Palenville the Hamlet, and is married to Doreen Parsley Davis.

Donna Poulin

Donna Poulin was born and raised in North East Massachusetts and moved to Hunter in 1988. She is a photographer and has worked in customer service for over 30 years. She took an interest in genealogy research at a young age and began researching her family tree. Donna has always had an interest in history and has volunteered her time photographing headstones in many of Greene County cemeteries for the "Find a Grave" website. She also worked with the Historian in the Town of Lexington on the bicentennial events in 2013. In addition she designed and maintains the Town of Lexington website, Facebook page and puts out a quarterly newsletter for them. She has participated in the Greene County Historical Society's Homes Tours as a docent for several years and has worked with local organizations on marketing and advertising materials for their events. She says she is looking forward to serving on the Board of the Greene County Historical Society and helping to keep history alive in Greene County.

Stephen Senigo

Stephen Senigo considers himself fortunate to have been raised in Manhattan. During the Vietnam War he served in Photo Intelligence Units aboard aircraft carriers, mainly in the Pacific. Stephen is a graduate of Columbia University with a major in Art History, concentrating in American art and architecture. After working for several federal agencies, he returned to Columbia to study in the Preservation Program at the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation. Stephen became a photographer for the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission and had the opportunity to photograph landmarks, potential landmarks and landmark districts throughout New York City. He also did freelance architectural photography. For a time beginning in the early 90s, Stephen, his wife and two children also lived in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Now he and his wife own a home in West Kill in the Town of Lexington. Throughout most of his life Stephen has held a special interest in Thomas Cole and the Hudson River School of painters.