

History Advisory Committee
August 28, 2021

In attendance:

Tony Albino, Donald Dubac, Hank Himelright, Rich Coons, Alvin Sheffer, Tom Shannon

- Masks are now required in all town buildings including the Parsonage.
- Pomeroy grant to replace Sharp's Landing NYS historic sign: Tom will send in the proposed text and primary source list today. Full application is due on Sept. 13th. Proposed text is: "Queensbury. Largest of the Palatine Camps. J. Conrad Weiser and son lived here 1710-12. First Lutheran and Reformed churches and cemeteries. Sharp, Kortz, Hover, and Saulpaugh among early families."
- Gertrude Clum Rockefeller gravestone at Cheviot cemetery: Kol-Rocklea Memorials of Red Hook carved the death date onto her gravestone on August 19th. Her only child, Vernon Rockefeller, was killed at Anzio in 1944. No one was around to carve her death date onto the gravestone after she passed. See attached picture.
- Elias Lasher gravestone: the owners of Gatherwild Ranch, on Roundtop road, reached out to Tom about donating a headstone they have on their property. The stone is completely intact, about 6 feet tall, leaning up against a tree. Looks very similar to stones at the Second Lutheran cemetery. Elias Lasher 1808-1848 is also on a family obelisk at the Second Lutheran cemetery, close to the present church on Church Ave. It seems like the family upgraded his grave marker at some point and had his original gravestone moved to what is now Gatherwild Ranch. Will have to research the matter further. It will be stored at the Parsonage. See attached picture.
- Demolition permits: no new permit applications. Hank and Tom did a walk through of the barns at 98 Viewmont Road in early August. That and the previous demo permit from 2021 are attached to this email.
- New construction on Sharp's Landing Road. Noticed some site work being done to build a driveway, presumably for a new house. The driveway is close, but I would guess a little bit east, of what former historian Walt Miller identified as the site of the union church that Lutherans and Reformed parishioners shared in the 1710s and 1720s before each had the means to build their own churches. There could possibly be a cemetery associated with this site. Alvin poked around in the pile of dirt created by the excavation and found part of a 19th century bowl. See attached photo. An account of the union church can be found in *The World of Justus Falckner* by Delber W. Clark who wrote in the 1940s: "Today one may visit the site of Kingsbury, which is more often recorded as Queensbury. The long street, running due west down the hill from the site where the Lutheran church was afterward built, is now a houseless lane. A tangle of sumac

bushes covers the plot where stood the house built by (Reverend) Haeger and used for services.”

- Oral history project: Rich and I interviewed Gertrude Papp a couple of weeks ago. It is up on our YouTube page now. We will hopefully get another one completed this week.
- NYS chapter of Palatines to America will be meeting October 9th in Buffalo, NY. There will be a chapter meeting and lecture at the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Historic Site followed by a tour of Condordia Cemetery, where many soldiers from German-American Civil War regiments are buried.
- Exhibits for the autumn months: Will have them up in the kitchen space soon running through Jan. 1st. Included will be many recent finds and donations.
- Wikipedia page: no movement yet.
- Hover Foundation grant regarding First Reformed Cemetery and future kiosks: awaiting word.
- Cemeteries: Tom will research NYS cemetery law and potential preservation options to present to the Town Board. The Methodist cemetery on Camp Creek Road is for sale currently. The church folded about 10 years ago, leaving the churchyard and Valley View cemetery on Hover Avenue in limbo. We need to have some plan of action in place in the event that the other cemeteries in town eventually share the same fate.
- Tom will write a letter of support for the Hudson River Greenway grant that the Town is applying for to improve Roe Jan Park.
- Tom sent a batch of old photos to the Lions Club for use in their upcoming pamphlet. Also sent a batch of photos to Jennings-Willeys American Legion Post 346 for them to use in commemorating their 100th anniversary this month.
- Palatine history (and Germantown specifically) was highlighted on the prominent history blog, New York Almanac, in the August 27th entry “The Palatines along Hoosick Road in Rensselaer County” by John Warren.
- Next History Walk will be at the Viewmonte Cemetery on Sept. 15th at 6:30 PM.
- Meet and greet with the History Department will be October 22nd at 5 PM. Tom has sought permission from the Town Board to have a small bonfire in the backyard at the Parsonage for this outdoor event.

- Remembering Ruth Piwonka: Alvin will make a donation in honor of recently departed Village of Kinderhook historian, Ruth Piwonka, to the Leisler Institute on behalf of the Germantown History Department. Tom will write a letter to accompany it.