

History Advisory Committee
Sept. 25, 2021

Attendance: Donald Dubac, Richard Coons, Alvin Sheffer, Tom Shannon

- Elias Lasher's headstone was donated to the History Department by the proprietors of Gatherwild Ranch. Elias is buried at the Second Lutheran Cemetery at Church Avenue and Cemetery Road. His family erected an obelisk at the family plot sometime after his death, put his name and others on it, and removed his original stone. It is an excellent example of the limestone mined off of Viewmont Road in the mid-1800s that predominates at Second Lutheran cemetery.
- Tom will work on securing copies or images of the plot maps for all the cemeteries in Germantown.
- Pomeroy Foundation turned down our letter of intent regarding replacement of the Sharp's Landing NYS historic sign. Reason given was that their time frame for that specific grant starts in 1740 and they deem the historically significant aspect of the Sharp's Landing area to be before that. We would like to see more accurate and detailed historic signs or other monuments at all four of the Palatine villages so we will have to pursue them through some other grant or fundraising opportunity.
- County Historian William Better reported at the recent Columbia County historians meeting that he filed incorporation papers for Friends of Columbia County History, a 501(c)3 organization, on August 26, 2021. Once up and running, this will allow us to raise money and apply for a wider array of grants to complete maintenance projects at the Parsonage.
- The website established by the Columbia County historians group is under construction currently as is their mapping project. Tom is almost done with the requested list of historically significant sites in Germantown. There are nearly 60 sites.
- Preservation League Technical Assistance Grant (TAG). We applied for their Preserve NY grant in the spring to fund a building condition report but it was turned down. Discussion among members of the History Department led us to decide to pass on applying for their TAG. The greatest current needs at the Parsonage include a new roof and chimney repointing. It was nearly impossible to find a willing consultant for a building condition report in the spring and unlikely to be any different now.
- Article regarding the engraving of "84" onto Gertrude Clum Rockefeller's gravestone is in this weekend's Register-Star. Her only child, Vernon Rockefeller, was killed at Anzio in 1944.

- Information for the Town Board regarding cemeteries: Tom will send Austerlitz Town Historian Thomas Moreland's memo, Arthur Kelly's cemetery map, a description of said map, and possible solution to the board along with these minutes.
- Oral history project: continues on. Recently interviewed Judy Tappen regarding the Farmerettes. Will interview George Sharpe tomorrow. We will continue to try and line up people willing to do interviews.
- New exhibits: We will have the labels made up soon and will advertise the exhibit. Will also make a call for donations at that time.
- Next history walk will be part two at the Reformed Cemetery on October 16th at 3 PM. If the town board approves, we will have an outdoor meet and greet and small bonfire in the backyard of the Parsonage. Date set for that is October 22nd at 4 PM.