

History Advisory Committee
August, 27, 2022

Attendance: Tony Albino, Donald Dubac, Jack Willoughby, Alvin Sheffer, Richard Coons, Tom Shannon

- Tom submitted letters of intent for four, standard NYS style historic markers and one Legends and Lore marker from the William G. Pomeroy Foundation. Pomeroy gave the green light to submit full applications for the four regular markers. Deadline is Oct. 1st. Still waiting for word on the Legends and Lore marker. See below for proposed texts and Pomeroy's initial feedback.
- Use of the Columbia County Historical Society re-grant money: Tom proposed using the \$250 and an additional \$50 to subscribe to ArchivesSpace. This will give the History Department a way to catalog all of the physical collections and papers and make the index easily available to the public.
- Volunteers including Rich Coons, Alvin Sheffer, Jack Willoughby, Marisa Hayes, Lauren Williams, and Phil Williams cleaned the gravestones behind the Livingston Memorial Chapel in Linlithgo in just an hour and a half on Sunday, August 21st. We have 12 gallons of D-2 biological solution on hand as of Aug. 27th.
- Methodist Cemetery on Camp Creek Road: Tom and Rich cleaned all of the gravestones over several days in early August. When the cleaning was finished, the owners of the parsonage, church, and cemetery arranged to have their work crews stand up almost all of the 50 gravestones that had previously fallen over. Tom will arrange for a formal thank you letter and recognition.
- NYS Historic Signs maintenance: 27 signs in Germantown, Livingston, and Clermont have been repainted so far this summer. The total cost is still under \$200. See attached excel sheet.
- Tom will reach out to Rev. Jackie Jefferson about doing a cemetery cleaning at the Second Lutheran Cemetery next to the Church in Viewmont.
- Pomeroy grant: Tom also submitted a grant request to the Pomeroy Foundation for approximately \$1,600 to cover the cost of 40 more gallons of D-2 biological solution for cemetery cleanings next year.
- Recent donations: Mary Howell donated some additional local history books from her collection. Alvin Sheffer donated four local history books, several historic photographs, and three gallons of D-2 biological solution to cover what was used at the Livingston Memorial Chapel. Mary Lou Fink donated historic photos, papers, and a commemorative plate of the Parsonage done for the Ekerts in the 1950s.

- Events: History Kayak/Canoe Tour Sept. 10th at 12:30 PM. Rain Date of Sept. 11th at 12:30 PM. This is part of the Hudson River Valley Ramble. Will start at Cheviot and go up to the mouth of the Roe Jan and back. This is just about full as of Aug. 27th.

Legends around the East Camp-fire, Path Through History Weekend, Saturday, October 8th, 4 PM to 9 PM, at the Parsonage. Campfire, house tours, cornhole boards, etc. Jack brought up the possibility of serving food at this event. Tom will look into a few options.

Palatines to America New York Chapter meeting in Little Falls, NY, October 1st, 1 PM. Hybrid meeting. Speaker will be Ginny Rogers of the Little Falls Historical Society. Her talk is entitled: "Palatine Germans in Search of a Land to Call Home."

Work parties as needed in mid-September to clean gravestones at the Lutheran cemetery in Viewmont.

- Rezoning Committee: Tony discussed the new Zoning Committee. Tom will get Tony a map and descriptions of all the known cemeteries, a scanned copy of the 1973 Comprehensive Plan, and the list of 70+ historic sites generated recently for the Columbia County Historians mapping project.

Proposed NYS historic markers, Pomeroy Foundation:

Ten Broeck Cemetery, northern end of Hover Ave., private property

1845 Tragedy, Cheviot Park, Town property

Ice House Site, Ice House Landing, north of Cheviot, Town property

Burying Ground, Sharp's Landing Road and Ext., Town property

Ten Broeck Family
Cemetery located at top of
Knoll a short distance
East of this spot.
Enslaved people included.

Pomeroy feedback: As stated in our [Criteria For Marker Inscriptions](#), the subject must be historically significant to the larger community or beyond and the inscription must be clear about why the subject (i.e. person, place, thing, event) is historically significant. For cemeteries, consider if any noteworthy figures are interred there. That information should be included in the marker inscription and must be proven with primary sources. The age of the cemetery is not a criterion to qualify for a marker. However, key dates must be included in the text for historical context.

Additionally, as the site is on private property, will viewers have access to the site without trespassing?

1845 Tragedy
9 leading citizens of
Germantown drowned March 26
1845. Their boat struck by
Schooner and steamboat
One body never recovered

Pomeroy feedback: "leading citizens" - How will you qualify this statement? What makes them leading citizens?

"one body never recovered" - How will you prove this? Could the body have been recovered after April of 1845, the date of the most recent article?

Ice House Site
Germantown Ice Co. house
Incorporated 1882 by 3
Rockefellers and C.C. Coon
Stack blew onto tracks 1890
Burned 1906, razed 1913

Pomeroy feedback: There are ruins on site, mostly brick foundation footings - Per our [Marker Criteria](#), we don't award markers for structures that no longer exist. Are the brick footings readily visible to viewers? Are they located near the proposed site of the marker? Please provide a description or photo with your application.

Burying Ground
Calvinist Church Burying
Ground. Also known as
First Reformed Cemetery.
Early generations of
Palatines buried here.

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