

History Advisory Committee

Oct. 29, 2022

Attendance: Rich Coons, Tony Albino, Ethan Dickerman, Alvin Sheffer, Tom Shannon

- First Reformed Cemetery monument: the bronze plaque was backordered for several months but arrived a few days ago. Kol-Rocklea is scheduled to install it beginning next week.
- Pomeroy Foundation sign grants status: the First Reformed Cemetery request was rejected because they weren't convinced that "Calvinist Church Burying Ground," the language from the 1741 deed, equated to "original Reformed Cemetery" as it was called in Arthur Kelly's books. The Ice House sign request is still alive but with a long laundry list of clarifications and more information due by Nov. 30th.
- Cemetery cleaning: the Second Lutheran Cemetery is about one third of the way complete. Hoping to finish it up before winter. We have 47 gallons of D-2 on hand at the moment. Will work on a public notice for the Second Reformed Cemetery and full transcriptions of completed cemeteries over the winter.
- Hover Grant 2022: the History Department via Germantown Library was awarded funds for new historic markers for Sharp's Landing, the First Lutheran Church, and Diell Rockefeller's grist and saw mills on Lower Main Street as well as funds to subscribe to Hudson River Valley Heritage. HRVH is a digital archive compiled from various libraries, archives, museums, and historical societies making the collections easily available to the public. The Hover Foundation declined to fund a look up service for the Hank Jones collection at the Germantown Library.
- Hank Jones collection: the New York Chapter of Palatines to America will pick up the cost of a document scanner and short term pilot program for a look up service. If it is popular, we will seek funds to continue.
- Recent donations: - **Patricia Hinkein** donated quite a few photos and documents from a McGregor family that lived on Woods Road. No clear Germantown connection for a lot of the stuff. Will send most off to more appropriate institutions; **Connie Miller Stein** donated photos of Adam Lasher and family as well as athletic memorabilia from GCS; **Mary Beth Wenger** donated the Yager family Bible with genealogical information, about 75 family photographs, and a large quantity of home sewn linens and similar items. Will try to find an appropriate home for the linens; **Bill Droege** brought over the original Fisher grant map for us to photograph. This is the only known map showing the old Upper Coal Beds stake light, located mid-river, a little north of Main Street.

- Tony suggested doing a town flyer together with FOHG detailing historic sites and cemeteries as well as telling people where to donate old photographs or other items if they choose to.
- Archives Space - will use the Columbia County Historical Society grant money to subscribe to Archives Space. This will be a substantial winter project to organize the physical collections of the History Department.
- Events - nothing at this time. Will have a few wintertime Zoom talks on the calendar by next meeting.
- Americana Corner grant: Grant program opens on Nov. 15th. There is between \$5,000-\$10,000 available to restore and/or improve a historic site to enhance the visitor experience. Tom and Ethan will kick around ideas.
- Bank of Greene County Foundation grant: opens Dec. 1st. Up to \$2,500 available. Should focus on the chimney or roof.