

History Advisory Committee
January 28, 2023

Attendance: Donald Dubac, Richard Coons, Christopher Lindner, Alvin Sheffer, Ethan Dickerman, Marisa Hayes, Tom Shannon

- Hover grant 2022: orders were placed with Catskill Castings for three new roadside historic signs for Sharp's Landing, Diell Rockefeller's mills, and the First Lutheran Church. Our application to join Hudson River Valley Heritage was accepted. The Germantown Library, who sponsored this grant, cut checks for all of the above recently. The feedback form and a short letter saying as much are due to the Hover Foundation by Jan. 31st.
- Hudson River Valley Heritage: there are training webinars coming up. Links to register will be included with the minutes.
- Ten Broeck Cemetery restoration: on hold until the ground freezes, if it ever freezes this year.
- Ideas for the Semiquincentennial in 2026
 - Do we need another separate committee at the town level? Consensus seemed to be no.
 - Columbia County has formed a committee. The first meeting is in late February. Tom is on the committee along with other town historians and supervisors.
 - A book about the Revolutionary War with a chapter written by each town historian has been floated.
 - Publishing annotated collections of former county historians Walter Miller's and Florence Mossman's newspaper articles. Publishing former Clermont historian Della Vosburgh Boice's poetry potentially. Christopher mentioned the possibility of a Furthermore grant and that the Golden Notebook bookstore is getting into publishing.
 - A parade from Kinderhook to Hudson with a float from each town. This was done in 1976 during the Bicentennial celebrations.
- Deaccessions: a pile of non-Germantown newspapers to the New York State Historic Newspapers project. Five Peabody, Massachusetts High School yearbooks from the 1920s with no apparent connection to Germantown or Columbia County; offer them to Peabody High School.
- Events: Historic Signs of Germantown, Feb. 16th at 6 PM on Zoom or in person at the Germantown Library. Still have to put some thought into ideas for the Path Through History weekends. For the Hudson River Valley Ramble, a kayak/canoe trip from Anchorage to the Ramshorn Livingston Sanctuary followed by a hike there.

- Recent donations: Hank recently brought in the architectural drawings by Leland P. Hover for the Hudson Valley Cold Storage building from 1927 as well as a biographical sketch of L.P. done by Carise as a child. Rory Callaghan gave several copies of A Road Through Time by Richard Figiel. Denis Crawford donated his family tree.
- Oral History project: working together with FOHG to restart this effort that has been on hold since late 2021. We discussed several potential people to interview.
- Field trips: We would like to visit the Burden and Tarbush cemeteries soon. If the ground freezes, we'll reach out to Steffen Hyder and ramble around Livingston State Forest.
- Marisa gave an update on the historic signs story map website that she has been working on. Talked about several oddities with signs along Turkey Hill Road.
- Christopher gave an update on his recent and upcoming work. His recent presentation to the NYAC is now on YouTube. The slide presentation that goes along with it is on the Bard Archaeology website. He plans to have his spring semester students dig at the Parsonage on Friday afternoons starting after spring break. One current student, Emily Lahan, is working on a thesis related to the Parsonage. Chris is teaching at Bard Early College in Hudson as well. He plans to do a public presentation about the mapping project and associated poster at the Germantown Library in late February.