

## History Advisory Committee

April 28th, 2023

Meeting canceled due to schedule conflicts; Historian's notes below.

- The History Department received a check of \$345.32 from the Columbia County Historical Society re-grant program. This will be used for the requested archival materials and paint for NYS historic signs.
- New York Heritage: We are up and running. The first project is the Colden Map. So far, the original map and two indentures are available. Check them out at: <https://nyheritage.org/collections/1740-1741-colden-map>
- We will soon be joining Empire Archival Discovery Cooperative, which is associated with New York Heritage, to organize the physical archive and make the contents of it known to researchers online. For organizations our size, the cost is a one time fee of \$50. This is a more feasible alternative to ArchivesSpace, which we previously discussed, which would cost \$300 annually.
- Three new historic signs arrived from the foundry recently. They are for Sharp's Landing, the First Lutheran Church, and Diell Rockefeller's Mills. One belongs on a county road and two on a state road. Anthony has calls out to the applicable officials. We will set up a dedication ceremony once they are put up. These were paid for by last year's Hover grant sponsored by the Germantown Library.
- Metal detector law status: the Town Board discussed at the April meeting and voted to move forward. The Town Attorney should have a formal draft of the law ready for consideration at the May Town Board meeting.
- Tom spoke to all of the 4th, 5th, and 6th graders at GCS recently about the Civil War and soldiers from Germantown who fought in it.
- Bank of Greene County grant program: we applied for \$2,500 to reprint pamphlets several months ago through FOHG. Recently, BoGC granted \$1,000 for the project. Given that the project is only partially funded, we need to prioritize which ones to reprint.
- Yvonne Crawford is now an official member of the History Department.
- Recent donations: Yvonne Crawford donated account books from Isaac P. Rockefeller's lumber/coal business at the foot of Funk Road for two full years in the 1870s and also many scanned photographs of Rockefeller and associated families. We also received many items from Mary Howell including a 1741 indenture for lands granted to Anna Maria Sipperle.

- Columbia County 250th Committee: the proposed name for the 250th celebrations is ColumbiaNY250. There are plans for a large event at the Chatham fairgrounds on July 4th, 2026. Tom is the chair of the Marketing Sub-Committee.
  
- Events:
  - June 18th, 5 PM Walking Tour of Cheviot Cemetery, hamlet, and park.
  - June TBD, FOHG event at Quittner.
  - July 1st, 4PM-11PM Fireworks at Palatine Park, History Dept. will have a table.
  - Sept. 9th 4PM-7PM Tom and Emily Majer, Q and A at Quittner.
  - September: Otto's will have a Germantown history themed sandwich all month.
  - Sept. 16th Hudson River Valley Ramble. Kayak/History Tour from Lasher Park to the Ramshorn Livingston Sanctuary led by Tom. Hiking Tour of the Sanctuary led by Greene County Historian Jonathan Palmer.
  - TBD, talk at the Reformed Church about the stained glass windows. Rev. Tipple will talk about the theological significance of each one. Tom will talk about the people they are dedicated to.