

History Department Update  
May 6, 2024

- No History Advisory Committee meeting held on April 27th due to schedule conflicts. Our next meeting will be on Saturday, May 18th, at 10:30 AM, to avoid Memorial Day.
- NAGPRA: a draft Notice of Inventory Completion (Step 5) was sent to Corinne for review on April 9th.
- The Pomeroy Foundation accepted our LOI for a new Transportation History marker commemorating the various modes of transportation at Anchorage over the years. Tom will submit proposed language and primary documents by May 11th.
- Roof/Chimney work: Tom sent contacts for two more potential chimney contractors to Anthony. No luck getting either to take the job.
- Still waiting for the NYS Environmental Protection Fund Historic Preservation Grant to open up for 2024. Will keep moving on scopes of work and quotes from contractors in anticipation.
- Tom recently submitted an article about the 1931 Germantown National Bank failure to the Columbia Paper. Look for it in the next few weeks.
- Rich and Alvin cleaned out a bunch of scrap sheet rock from the attic, and Tom organized the filing cabinets and archive boxes upstairs in preparation of Hudson Mohawk Vernacular Architecture's visit to the Parsonage on May 18th. Will focus on yardwork next Saturday, May 11th.
- Bank of Greene County grant: we received word that our application for funds to digitize our newspaper collection was granted in the amount of \$1,000, to be paid to FOHG after an announcement ceremony in June or July.
- The Greater Hudson Heritage Network has two grant opportunities available, due May 31st. One for preservation supplies (\$650), one for a site assessment by an archival consultant (\$1,000). We will definitely apply for the preservation supplies grant. We have to figure out what the full cost of a consultant visit would be before we apply for the assessment grant. Their much larger conservation treatment grant will be available in June.
- William Better returned to duty as County Historian and Chair of the ColumbiaNY250 Committee on April 29th. Tom is still working as his assistant, a member of the ColumbiaNY250 Committee, and Chair of its Marketing Subcommittee.

- The ColumbiaNY250 Research Guide is now online for your perusal. It is a work in progress and will grow over time.  
<https://historian.columbiacountyny.com/research-guide-columbiany250>
- We have a lot more Reformed Church documents on loan for digitization, including the 1728-1737 and c. 1801-1849 churchbooks.
- Events:
  - May 18th, Hudson Mohawk Vernacular Architecture visit to Parsonage.
  - May 27th, 10 AM or so, Tom will offer remarks at the Memorial Day ceremony prior to the parade.
  - June 1st, 5 PM, Tom will speak about connections between the Palatines and the Clermont, or Lower Manor, Livingstons. Chancellor's Dinner.
  - June 6-9th, Palatines to America Conference, Albany. Visit to Germantown Library on June 9th.
  - June 15th, 5 PM, Walking Tour of the Second Lutheran Cemetery, PATH Through History Weekend.
  - July 6th, Independence Day celebration at Palatine Park. The History Department will have a display table.