

History Advisory Committee  
August 31, 2024

Attendance: Hank Himelright, Alvin Sheffer, Rich Coons, Tony Albino, Bill Shannon, Yvonne Crawford, Tom Shannon

- Ground penetrating radar project: Tony gave an update. Dr. Larry Brown had to postpone the project due to medical issues. Will update everyone if we are able to complete the project this autumn. Alvin suggested some other professionals who might be interested in similar projects.
- Chimney update: the Town Board approved Dave Bathrick Masonry's quote. Tom reached out to Anthony with the news. Hank will follow up with Dave Bathrick.
- GCS centennial: Tom submitted a column to the Columbia Paper. The GCS History Club is working on a time capsule that will be buried at the end of this school year.
- Legends and Lore signage: Tom suggested a Legends and Lore sign about an ox roast said to have been held on the hill in what is now Hettling Park after news of victory at Yorktown reached Clermont in 1781. Will reach out to Dawn Brownson.
- Chris Nolan project: Chris Nolan, Dawn, Tom, and two representatives of the Stockbridge Munsee met on Zoom recently to discuss a potential Livingston-Clermont-Germantown focused project highlighting Mohican history. Two ideas that came out of it are doing a public appeal to people who have private collections of projectile points and other artifacts to let us photograph and document them. An annotated bibliography of quality secondary works about the Mohicans was also suggested.
- NAGPRA process: Tom is not sure if any formal repatriation requests were received by the Town after the notice was published in the Federal Register in July. If that is the case, the next step is unclear.
- Austerlitz Historian, Tom Moreland, will step down from his post in October due to health issues. Tom Shannon will take over Tom Moreland's role as the facilitator of quarterly meetings of the Columbia County historians.
- Tom mentioned the NPS Semiquincentennial Grant Program and will research the opportunity before next month's meeting.
- Oral histories: Tom picked up a tripod and wireless microphones. We will work on scheduling one interview every Saturday morning and see how that works out.

- Front garden: Yvonne spoke about the work she has done recently in the front garden, pulling out grapevines and other weeds while saving the rose bushes.
  
- Recent donations: Steven Rockefeller donated a nice wooden and glass display case, along with much printed material about American history bound for the GCS high school library. Tom recently picked up all of the Columbia County - related materials at Mary Howell's house and has been working on sorting it all by town. In that massive batch of material were many more original William Wilson letters from the late 1700s and early 1800s. Wilson was Chancellor Livingston's overseer, responsible for the day to day operations of his estate. We all agreed that after digitizing them, we should reach out to the Clements Library at the University of Michigan about donating them there, where the vast majority of Wilson family papers reside.
  
- Upcoming Events:
  - Sept. 14th, 10 AM - Tom will do a Zoom presentation about the Hank Jones collection and the lost graveyards of East and West Camp for the Ohio Chapter of Palatines to America.
  - Sept. 14th, 12 PM - Tom will talk briefly at "Tea at Clermont" about the Marquis de Lafayette's Sept. 16th, 1824 farewell tour visit to Clermont and Arryl House.
  - Sept. 22nd, 2 PM, PATH weekend, Rockefeller History walk at KEEP preserve.
  - Sept. 28th, 5 PM to 9 PM - WAC get together at Ice House Landing.
  - Oct. 5th, 10 AM to 6 PM - NY Chapter Palatines to America Fall Seminar at the Parsonage and Germantown Library.
  - Oct. 11th, 5 PM to 9 PM - A Phantasmagoric Dusk: campfire and other activities at the Parsonage. Readings by Gabe Balkan and Matt Mercier.
  - Nov. 9th, time TBD - Tom and Emily Majer event at Quittner.