

Dutchess County Fair Exhibit

This year's exhibit at the Museum will be devoted entirely to the Dutchess County Fair and the Fairgrounds, formerly known as Springbrook Park. A large collection of material recently given by several donors will be showcased. Some of these photographs date back to the 1920s and were part of the large collection owned by Robert Asher which was acquired last year at auction by an anonymous donor and donated to the museum. Another part of the material was recently donated by a prominent Rhinebeck family from their private collection.

This year the museum has assembled a committee to help prepare the exhibit. Thus far the committee includes Janice M. Stickle of Rhinebeck, local photographer Molly Ahearn of Clinton Corners who is assembling a printed representation of the history of the fair for publication, Beverly Burroughs Kane of Rhinebeck, Kimberley Elting Smith of Clintondale, and Steven Mann. Cynthia S. Baer of CS Productions in Rhinecliff will be providing professional services related to the exhibit.

Should you have objects to loan for the exhibit other than fair ribbons, please call 876-6892, or email smann2@hvc.rr.com. Objects such as trophies, pendants, material related to the church booths, midget car and stock car races, the 4-H/Agriculture, or other aspects of the fair and its property are being sought. Those loaning material will be acknowledged in the exhibit, the brochure, and in the local newspaper, unless anonymity is requested.

New Officers for 2007

Longtime trustee Ellen Hubbert was elected as the 2007 president of the Museum board. Lida Traver-Landy remains vice-president, Janice W. Scriber recording secretary; Mara Marrero from Citizens Bank as treasurer, and Janice M. Stickle as corresponding secretary. Ada S. Harrison will continue her role as the Museum's curator, a position she has expertly filled for many years. Kay T. Verrilli, Michael Frazier, and Steven Mann will also serve as trustees. Due to retirement, openings remain on the current board. Should you be interested in being considered for possible museum trustee, please call the Museum at 871-1798.

Welcome Michael Frazier

Mike Frazier joined the museum in November 2006. He retired after serving ten years as superintendent of the Abbott Union Free School District in Irvington-on-Hudson, NY. Prior to that, he had served closer to home 20 years as superintendent of Rhinecliff Union Free School District, who had provided educational services to the residents of Pius XII Holy Cross Campus. Mike originally taught American history and English when Pius XII took over Cardinal Farley Military Academy in late 1971. He came to Rhinecliff from the Midwest, where in the late '60s and early '70s he had taught English to high school students in northwest Indiana and Chicago.

Frazier (Cont'd.)

Mike is better known to Rhinebeck residents for his role in planning and zoning. From 1978-97 he served as chair of the Village Planning Board, then from 1997-2002 as village

trustee, holding the responsibility for planning and zoning. He chaired the committee that drafted the Village Master Plan and chaired the Village Zoning Commission. He served as treasurer of the Dutchess County Planning Federation from 1982-2002. He recently joined the board of the Rhinebeck Historical Society and is its treasurer.

Michael is married to Cecily Frazier, a teacher at Edson Elementary School in Kingston. His son Peter and daughter Eva are Rhinebeck High School graduates. Peter is a doctoral student in operations research and financial engineering at Princeton University. Eva graduated from Whitman College with an art degree and paints in Portland, Oregon.

DAR/Museum to Host Second Village House & Garden Tour

Thanks to the generosity of several village homeowners, the first village garden tour was held last June. We are also indebted to the advertisers in the program who helped to make the event possible. Flower potting demonstrations by Lynn Lobotsky of Wonderland Nursery and Florist in Rhinebeck, and a series of raffle items and a 50/50 were among the highlights of the day. This year a similar event is being planned by the committee. It will be held June 24, 2007, rain or shine. A second newsletter will be printed in early June with further information, and it will be put on the museum website. If you have a garden or house that would be appropriate to be shown for this exciting event, please call Lida Traver-Landy at 876-3867. We are possibly interested in a late 20th century modern house and an old barn that is safe and has historic significance for the tour.

Museum Website Gets Over 500 Hits First Six Months

Thanks to the knowledge and leadership of Northeastern University student Steve Klebanoff retired IBM employee Steve Hubbert, both of Rhinebeck, and a monetary gift from an anonymous donor, the Museum now has a quality website. The site, which will be updated in the near future, provides information on museum hours, membership opportunities, exciting events, and the year's exhibit(s). One can log on quite easily by going to the internet by keying in rhinebeckmuseum (one word), and it is currently the first listing. Through this website one can also email the museum with questions related to the collection, donation of objects, genealogy, a specific house or building in town, etc. These questions are then given to the appropriate museum volunteer or if assistance is needed, forwarded to Town Historian Nancy Kelly who graciously continues to provide valuable assistance and guidance to the museum board and has extensive knowledge of our town and area's history.

DAR/Museum Preparing Three Books for Print

In an exciting announcement by the Trustees, a three-part printed series is being prepared to serve as a fundraiser for the Museum and the Chancellor Livingston Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution. Through the generosity of the surviving grandnieces of Helen Reed DeLaporte, a compilation of her writing is being prepared for printing. The first volume will provide a look at the people of the town of Rhinebeck who she wrote about, and it will focus on early settlers and World War I veterans from Rhinebeck and Rhinecliff.

DAR/Museum (Cont'd.)

This grouping is being published through the generosity of local donors. It is hoped that

enough money will be raised so that the actual sales of the books will be complete profit to be evenly shared between both organizations. Should you wish to donate and be listed as a financial contributor for the first book, please contact Steven Mann who is coordinating the effort. The actual publication process is being coordinated by Rhinecliff resident Cynthia Saniewski Baer of CS Productions. An announcement will be made in the local press when the first hard-covered volume is ready to be sold publicly.

Museum Collection Continues to Grow

Through the generosity of our members and the community at large, the Museum collection grew last year by over 435 accessioned objects. Ada Harrison and Kay Verrilli with the help of Janice Stickle have done an outstanding job. Thus far in 2007, well over 100 have been added. We continue to grow by leaps and bounds, and it will not be long before we run out of space. Last summer and fall the Curatorial Team reconfigured the existing space so that the back exhibit room is now a proper storage/office area, with two full storage rooms upstairs, which are quickly getting filled.

Among the objects that we have received are many rare postcards of Rhinebeck, a collection of glass negatives representing the Dows family, a growing collection of Dorothy Knapp first day covers and cachets, two collections of photographs representing the Dutchess County Fair from the 1920s-1940s, several porcelain plates commemorating local churches and historic sites, more material related to the political career of Levi P. Morton, a collection of photographs portraying several local families, a large collection of material representing the Frost family, a collection of color photographs taken from slides of the Cole family and their nursery business in Rhinecliff, extremely rare films of Ankony and Grasmere, and more material related to William Rutsen Carroll and his family (which was found on Ebay). Also, we received from a Milroy descendant/Rhinebeck native a rare safe from the 1850s and a beautiful walnut Victorian sideboard with marble that was in the Wager house on West Market Street. We have also added to our growing textile collection, receiving several garments, period hats, and linens. The Museum is looking for donation of full-sized male, female, and children's mannequins, so if you have one in your closet or attic and want to donate it, please contact the Museum at 871-1798.

A grouping that was not accessioned due to space limitations, but from which important information was obtained and copied, included eight bibles from the Asher, Strong, Hill, and Underhill families. These were purchased on the electronic auction service Ebay, and the essential genealogy information was transcribed and printed. Several documents, including rare family letters, were removed from the bibles and are to be accessioned into the museum collection. The genealogical information is being filed at the Museum, DAR Chapter House, and Starr Library local history room for genealogists. Mrs. Robert (Nee Eleanor Strong) Asher was a Chancellor Livingston Chapter DAR member for many years. Her father, Jake Strong, had been longtime publisher of the Rhinebeck Gazette. The bibles were then given by their owner to a family member living locally so that they would be able to enjoy them for future generations and use them for continued research on the family's rich Dutch and Palatine heritage.

Genealogy Corner

Those working locally on genealogy have several resources at their fingertips. The Consortium of Rhinebeck History is assembling a wealth of material in the Starr Library, which can be found in the lower level of the building. Those wishing to use the material

can contact the Consortium at their new telephone number, (845) 430-4479. This is a cellular phone number which Consortium members will be checking regularly. For now, the room will be open Thursdays, the same day that the Rhinebeck Historical Society archives is usually open by calling ahead of time. More hours will be added in Spring-Summer 2007.

The room will house several local collections. Nancy and Arthur Kelly of Kinship Publishing will be donating their research material to the room. The Kellys have spent several decades working on their collection, and much of the information is related to the Palatine families. Their research has taken them all over the country and other parts of the world. They are nationally known for their accomplishments in the field of genealogy. For several years Steven Mann has compiled information on many colonial families of Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Hudson Valley, and western New York as well as New Paltz and New Rochelle Huguenots, Long Island English Quakers, and many Dutch families of old New York and northern New Jersey, all of whom have roots in the area, which will be provided in the room on CD format. His research is based on the Genealogy of George Hull of Fairfield, CT who came to America with Roger Ludlow and was an original settler of that area. Parts of the family have lived in the mid-Hudson Valley since the early 18th century and George's descendant, Quaker Wakeman Hull served as a Captain.

The Chancellor Livingston Chapter DAR also is a very valuable resource for local genealogy and history. For decades, part of their collection has been housed at the Starr Library and it continues to. They are also the proud recipients of the Mary Huber Frazer Collection, which is over one hundred books and many other resources related to local history. To contact the DAR, please call the Chapter House at 871-1776. Some of the material is still in the process of being accessioned and cataloged at this time. The house will also be open to visitors from Memorial Day to Labor Day, Friday and Saturdays, 2-4 PM. Admission is free, however donations at the door are always graciously accepted.

Docents Needed

In order to keep the museum open mid June through the end of October, the Museum is in need of more docents. At the Museum, a docent is a volunteer who works with a Trustee weekends during the season to help welcome visitors and guide them through the exhibit and the Quitman parlor. We need your help. Age is not a factor.

Should you have a couple of weekend days during the summer to donate your valuable time, we would like very much to speak with you. Please contact our treasurer, Mara Marrero who is also docent coordinator. She can be reached by calling the museum office, 871-1798. Please leave your name, telephone number, and time that you are best reached.

As in the past, the Museum will be open Saturdays and Sundays, 2-4 PM, June through October 2007. Further information will be provided in the spring-summer newsletter.

It's Time for All to Renew Memberships!

The Museum of Rhinebeck History appreciates its members' continued interest in and support for its effort to preserve the history of Rhinebeck for posterity. We were fortunate to have 103 of you send in your annual membership dues in 2006, according to

membership chair Janice Scriber. We hope that we will surpass that number in 2007. Last year the Museum received memberships at the following levels: 29 Individual, 38 Family, 9 Business, 16 Patron, 10 Sponsor, 1 Lifetime.

Annual membership covers the period from January through December of each calendar year. A listing of 2005 paid members and those who gave memorial gifts can be found on the following page. A full 2006 list will appear in the spring-summer issue.

Your annual support for the Museum of Rhinebeck History allows us to cover the costs for use of the Quitman Resource Center, purchase curatorial supplies needed to accession items in the museum collection, and develop annual exhibits open to the community and general public. The Trustees thank you very much and hope you will renew your membership promptly again this year.