

### **President's Message**

Thank you for your continued support over the past year! We have continued to present and preserve Rhinebeck history in our most recent exhibit about Rhinebeck's schools, both public and private. We present a different side of Rhinebeck this year, in Rhinebeck's Agricultural Past. Nature is a major part of Rhinebeck's history and culture and we are proud to remember its farming past and present. We will also be adding a new exciting event to our schedule, Open a Box of History. We will be opening up our boxes so that you can all see the fascinating and diverse objects that make up our permanent collection.

We have also updated our website and have a new phone number, to better respond to our community. We are still located at the Quitman House, but now we can be reached off site with our new phone number and new email address. We hope that you get in touch with us! Krista Miller has left our board to pursue a career in public libraries. We wish her all the best in her career and thank her for her service and gracious agreement to remain an advisor. We have also lost one of our founders, Ada Harrison, who began this organization in order to preserve Rhinebeck's history. While I never had the pleasure of knowing Ada, I will continue to carry on what she started. We ask your support in our endeavors and hope that you will continue to participate through donations, membership and events. Thank you!

### **New Museum Telephone/Email**

The Museum has a new telephone number which makes us much more reachable. It is a cel (845) 554-6331. The new email, which our president will be accessing regularly for the Board, is [museumofrhinebeckhistory@gmail.com](mailto:museumofrhinebeckhistory@gmail.com).

### **This Year's Exhibit**

After discussing this topic for many years, the Museum has chosen this year to mount an exhibit on farming and agriculture. It coincides with the 2016 calendar with photographs of animals from the collection. Credit must be given to Lida Traver-Landy, who strongly encouraged the Museum to address this topic as early as 2003. The exhibit and curatorial committees felt that now was the right time as they had enough photographic and three dimensional material to show and make this a fabulous show. There will be a few loaned objects and those will be noted as such, in order to make the exhibit of a higher quality. And a small exhibit case will be used on the lower level of the Starr Library with more information. Dates of our opening can be found on our calendar listing.

### **Volunteers Welcomed and Needed!**

We wish to thank Rhinebeck native and Rhinebeck High alumnus Diane Closs who continues to work with us as a very knowledgeable docent. Diane is a cousin of our late benefactor, Miss Barbara Frost, who donated the Frost Collection to the Museum following her brother Benson's passing. Many locals will remember Diane's parents Bob and Kay, and her Uncle Don, who was a village mayor. We also thank Paul Niedercorn and our advisor and former Treasurer, Brenda Klaproth, who help open and close the Museum during the season. Both Brenda and Paul have been active members of the Rhinebeck community for many years and continue to give of themselves.

We are looking for volunteers who would be interested to work on research projects, serve as a docent, or perhaps fill a board vacancy (the board meets 10 times a year on the third Tuesday evening of the month). In the

fall, we could use volunteers to help take down the exhibit and help return the exhibit room to rights. And we always are in need of volunteers to come and help with our events, especially our fall auction. If you are interested, please feel free to contact us using the new information provided. Training is provided for all of these volunteer opportunities. A knowledge of Rhinebeck history is not required, but chances are you will learn quite a bit in a short time working with us.

### **Website and Facebook Page Updates**

Rhinebeck High alum Steve Klebanoff continues to manage our website, and President Elizabeth Clarke will be helping with updates to keep it more current. The address to the site is [www.rhinebeckmuseum.com](http://www.rhinebeckmuseum.com).

Beverly Kane manages our Facebook page, and recently she posted a variety of images of the estates Wyndclyffe and Ellerslie, and they got a great response with some comments. We now have over 650 likes. Please follow us if you are a Facebook user, we get input from people residing all over the world!

### **Remembering Elma Williamson**

Just as we were mourning the loss of our beloved friend Ada Harrison, we learned the next day that our member and colleague, Elma Staley Williamson passed away at 94 years. She was a Rhinebeck native, and retired here many years ago after having a successful career in magazine advertising while living in New York City. Her parents operated Staley's Cottage Guest House. To her stepchildren and their families, and to our colleagues at the Rhinebeck Historical Society, we offer our sincerest condolences. The family will hold a private springtime service. Over the years, Elma shared her remembrances and information on topics such as Hog's Bridge and Mount Rutsen in Rhinebeck, the post office, schools, and citizenry. Her memory was excellent, her information priceless.

How fortunate that the people of Rhinebeck have all of this information memorialized through the historical society. May she rest in peace.

### **Museum 2016 Calendar Announced**

**Please be sure to keep this near your personal calendar, or put these dates in your iPhone/ android for those of you who have them.**

**Tag Sale/Opening Day of Rhinebeck Farming Exhibit – Saturday, June 18, 9-3  
LOOKING FOR VENDORS TO SHARE LAWN SPACE TO SELL \$15 for members; \$20 for non-members**

**Open a Box of History Event – Saturday, 7/16 – 1:30-3:00 PM at Museum**

**Second Tag Sale August 13, 9-3 AGAIN, VENDORS WANTED, SAME PRICING DETAILS, at Museum**

**Museum Closed Fair Week; Reopens 9/3 and remains open 1-4 PM Saturdays through end of September**

**Fall Auction – Saturday, October 22 (details to follow) at Town Hall; DONATIONS WELCOMED, contact us any time!**

**Did you know?**

**That Slate Dock Road off of the Rhinecliff Road is actually Sleight Dock Road? It is named for the Sleight family who owned much land from Fishkill to Rhinebeck and Ulster County. They were slave owners, sloop captains, and merchants. There was a former slave who lived to over 100 years old in Rhinebeck. She was named Dinah and was probably given the surname Sleight as being owned by the family at one time. She is buried in historic Section E of the Rhinebeck Cemetery.**

**That Section E is on land donated by Mary Garrettson, daughter of Rev. Freeborne Garrettson.**

**What is the Open a Box of History Event? SOMETHING NEW!**

The Museum is going to hold its first-ever Open a Box of History forum. It will be held Saturday, July 16, from 1:30-3 PM at the Museum.

What the program is, literally, is this: an archival box of material will be pre-laid out on a large table, and volunteers will talk about what is in the box. The box can contain well over 25 small objects, or well over 100 photographs. The objects can be as varied as a sewing thimble with Rhinebeck National Bank on it to a Harry Goldsmith milk bottle cap. Members of the audience will be invited to comment on the objects as they are discussed one by one. The event is FREE, sitting space is limited. We will do our best to accommodate everyone. This will be our first attempt at this type of an event. Spend the whole afternoon – view the exhibit half an hour before, or for an hour after. Light refreshments will be offered on the front lawn afterwards.

**A Visual Tribute from Ada Harrison**

*The following photographs were pulled from the many objects that Ada Harrison donated to the museum.*

From top to bottom: (1) Schultz Dock off of Orlot property [RM2001.0064]; (2) Matthias Wurtz Livery Stable [RM1997.0586]; (3) Odell's Store showing horse/wagon [RM1997.0587].



**RESOLUTION WRITTEN IN  
HONOR OF  
ADA (SCISM) HARRISON**

The Rhinebeck Town Board wish to express our appreciation for the contributions of ADA (SCISM) HARRISON, who passed away on February 7, 2016. Ada Harrison contributed much time and talent to the historical organizations of Rhinebeck and the betterment of her native town, Rhinebeck, New York.

WHEREAS Ada Harrison demonstrated a great love of Rhinebeck History and a commitment to its proper preservation for future generations;

WHEREAS Ada Harrison touched the lives of many over her long, rich life;

WHEREAS the Museum of Rhinebeck History was co-founded in 1992, by Ada Harrison, and she served as its first Curator;

WHEREAS Ada served several terms as Regent of the Chancellor Livingston Chapter of the DAR and was an active member of the Rhinebeck Historical Society.

WHEREAS Ada served on the Consortium of Rhinebeck History, helping to guide the member organizations with proper procedures for preservation of their artifacts & archives & encouraged the preparation of their online database:

THEREFORE, be it known that, we will never forget the strong example by which she led, doing all of this in the spirit of contribution to the future of our community and the preservation of its past.

PASSED this evening, the 14<sup>th</sup> day of February 2016.

Rhinebeck Town Board

**Museum of Rhinebeck History  
PO Box 816  
Rhinebeck, NY 12572**