

Museum of Rhinebeck History

Celebrating Rhinebeck's Rich Heritage

Volume XVII, No. 2

June 2010

New Exhibit Opens June 5th

The Museum will open its new exhibit on Saturday, June 5th at 6:00 PM. It will be a homecoming of sorts, because a major focus will be the 250th Anniversary of the Wurtemberg Lutheran Church. The Museum is located inside Quitman House, and the original owner, the Rev. Dr. Frederick Quitman, was the pastor of the neighboring Evangelical Lutheran Church of St. Peter the Apostle, better known as The Old Stone Church. St. Peter's was the mother church which supplied pastors for area Lutheran congregations, including St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Wurtemberg, and Rev. Dr. Quitman was among the pastors who travelled south to Wurtemberg to hold services there.

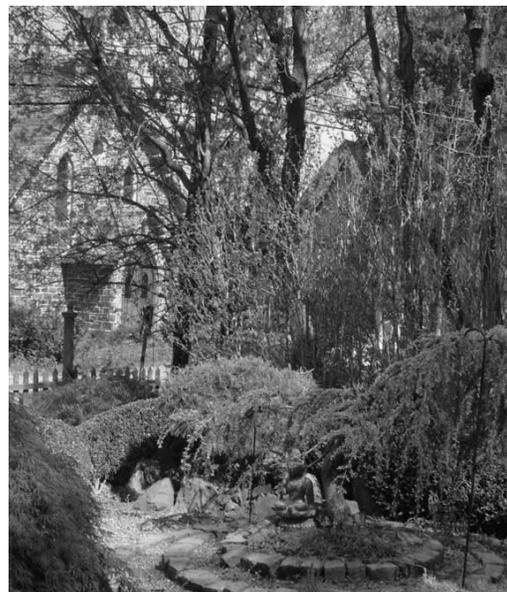
On June 5th, the tables will be turned and Rev. Dr. Mark Isaacs will be making a trip north to our opening to make a few comments and to join us in viewing the new exhibit. Many of the items are from the Wurtemberg Church's archives and are on display to the public for the first time. The exhibit also includes numerous documents, photographs, and artifacts from the Museum's own archives, and the exhibit is an opportunity to celebrate not only the church but the Wurtemberg area of Rhinebeck and the families who were prominent both in the community and in the church congregation.

At one time, there had been a Wurtemberg Shed Association, an organization responsible for the structures initially built simply to protect horses and buggies while their owners went into the church for services. These later became

highly sought after storage locations. A painting of the sheds, some of the early certificates, and minutes of the organization's meetings are on display. *(continued on page 2)*

House & Garden Tour June 12th

Peeking through the lush greenery of a pocket garden hidden in the center of Rhinecliff, we see the recently restored Riverside Methodist Church, now a private home. Both are venues on the Museum's House and Garden Tour that kicks off at



9:30 AM Saturday June 12th (Sunday June 13th if rain) with a free continental breakfast at the DAR House *(continued on page 3)*

New Exhibit (*Cont'd from page 1*)

Another intriguing item in the new Museum exhibit is the church's Honor Roll of members serving in World War I. It's nothing fancy—on a large sheet of white poster paper, there is the soldier's name, next to it a small photograph of him in uniform, and a signature. Much of the ink has faded over the years, but the men still look at us as they must have at the congregation who passed by the poster every Sunday as they entered or left the church, very likely wondering if the young men would return safely from the war.

Numerous items on display originate with the Frost family, including an early tintype of Henry Frost—the family was originally Quaker, and we see him wearing a traditional Quaker hat with white collar and the upper part of what would have been a long black jacket. The original tintype is the size of a cameo, only 1 inch x 1.5 inches. The picture was taken at J. S. Woodbridge Photographic Gallery on Montgomery Street in Rhinebeck, and although it's undated,



we believe it to be from about 1870.

Another intriguing item in the exhibit, also from the Frost family, is a “Report for 3 ½ months ending March 2nd,

1860.” The document provides us with important historical information about Mandeville Frost's level of scholarship, and it is also a testament to the elegant penmanship of the mid-19th century. Out of 169 recitations, the young man is reported to have been perfect 161 times—not a surprise that Mandeville would very soon himself become a teacher. But even more impressive in this document are the tiny hand-drawn bird, leaves, and flowers that accompany



teacher Nathan D. Wilber's elegant handwriting, and at the bottom, he reminds us all that “Idleness like rust consumeth much.”

Much closer to the present, the exhibit includes a 1934 letter from FDR—he can't make the church “Homecoming” event. The President asks Percy Lown, President of the church Board of Trustees, “to convey to all my neighboring ‘Wurtembergers’ my sincere regret and my best wishes for a very happy gathering.”

A short article can't do justice to the wealth of material on display. All are welcome to share in the refreshments and to hear Rev. Dr. Mark Isaacs at the opening on Saturday, June 5th from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. The exhibit will then re-open from 2 to 4 PM every weekend from June 12th through the end of October.

House/Garden Tour (*Cont'd from p 1*)

at 77 Livingston Street in the Village of Rhinebeck. The Chancellor Livingston Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (CLC DAR) is our co-sponsor for the tour, and the revenue we raise is a major fund-raiser for both organizations.

Featured in this year's tour, in addition to the church and Japanese-influenced garden shown on page 1, are a gated Rhinebeck Village garden and country landscapes with wooded paths, sculpture, stone walls and vistas.

In keeping with the Museum exhibit theme celebrating the 250th anniversary of the Wurtemberg Church, one of the homes is a c. 1834 farmhouse immediately north of the church, at 145 Wurtemberg Road--the



original owners were members of the church. Renovations done in 1989 included the addition of a third front door. As you leave the entrance hallway to the left, you enter the dining room, in the older part of the house, where you will see the owners' extensive collection of bird houses, all made by area artists and purchased at auctions to benefit the children of Rhinebeck. Local artists and artisans are well represented in the house.

One of our other homes is "Stonecrest", a rusticated stone and shingle residence with a fascinating Dutch revival

roofline, dramatically located on a high hill south of Rhinebeck and enjoying impressive views of the Hudson and the Catskills. Built



in 1905 as a summer residence by a Brooklyn lawyer and designed by New York architect Lester Cramer, the house was built by the same local firm who did the carpentry at the Church of the Messiah in Rhinebeck. Stonecrest is a prime example of turn of the century homes built by the wealthy NY professional class, contrasting with palatial estates of great industrial families or older homes of traditional Hudson River families.

The Riverside Methodist Church, constructed in 1855, was added to the National Register in 1987. It is a distinctive example of ecclesiastical architecture in the rural picturesque style. Its rustic stone construction, polychrome slate roof, open framed bell tower, buttresses and paired lancet windows with brick trim are characteristic of small stone chapels of this type.

The 3 houses and the 5 gardens open at 10 and close at 4. From 4 to 5, the Phantom Gardener will give a talk on hydrangeas and organic vegetable gardening and heirloom varieties amid their raised bed demonstration vegetable garden. Tickets are \$20 if paid by June 9, \$25 at the door. Mail checks payable to CLC-DAR to 132 East Market St, Rhinebeck, NY 12572, or contact Brenda Klapproth at 845-876-2436 or email bklapproth@hvc.rr.com.

Museum Honors Brenda

One of the most joyful events of the year for our membership is the dinner at which we honor the person who has done the most to advance the cause of local history here in Rhinebeck. Last year's honoree was military historian and veteran Alan Coon, and he followed Tom Daley, Kay Verrilli, and Ada Harrison.

We're blessed with many here in Rhinebeck who devote much of their energy promoting and preserving local history, and this year's honoree stands very tall in that group. On April 25th, with a crowd of more than 70, Museum President Mike Frazier presented Brenda Klapproth with a plaque citing her "for her tireless work and



for the incredible energy she devotes to preserving and promoting our local history." Speakers also included Town Supervisor Tom Traudt, Paul Niedercorn, and Brenda herself. Brenda served as a board member and officer of the Museum for many years, and continues in an advisory board role. For the Museum she organized a lecture series on antiques, held at the Quitman House. And whenever we have organized fund-raising events, Brenda is there to make sure we do it right—one need look no further than the last paragraph of another article in this newsletter about this year's house and garden tour—you guessed it—Brenda is the organizer. Thank you, Brenda.

President's Message

We have four important events coming up in the next four months, and we're hoping all will prove popular with our members and with the public at large. We've devoted the majority of this newsletter to those events. A considerable amount of planning has gone into each of them, and we think you will find all of them as entertaining as they are educational.

Planning for the June 5th exhibit started a year ago, when the Museum was approached by the Wurtemberg Church asking about the possibility of a joint exhibit at the Museum. We hold a substantial collection of material from the Wurtemberg area and have received extensive donations of documents, photographs, and artifacts from several families from that part of Rhinebeck, many from Barbara Frost. And the Church has lent numerous items that we think not only fit in well with our own collection but help to explain their context.

Planning for the House and Garden Tour also started soon after the end of last year's tour. The Museum and the DAR worked closely together over many months to select the right combination of homes and gardens. Last year we had over 250 visitors and we hope for at least that on June 12th.

Yard sales have been a fun way to dispose of unwanted items and July 17th we hope to us raise much-needed cash. And the planning for Sept 12th's Progressive Dinner started within a week of last year's event—the two sites we have chosen should prove a delight to everyone.

The planning for those events is done. We now urge all our members to mark your calendars, send in your checks, urge your neighbors to join you. We hope to see you very soon—on June 5th, June 12th, July 17th, and September 12th.

Mike Frazier

MUSEUM OF RHINEBECK HISTORY MEMBERSHIP FORM

PO Box 816, RHINEBECK, NY 12572

Phone: 845-871-1798

DUES INVOICE FOR THE PERIOD January 1 through December 31, 2010

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

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Enclosed is my tax-deductible check in the amount of \$ _____

Please enclose your employer's form if your employer has a matching grant program (e.g. IBM).

Please apply my payment for the year 2010 as follows:

Lifetime.....\$1,000 _____	Family.....\$15 _____
Lifetime option \$250 x 4 years _____	Individual.....\$10 _____
Sponsor.....\$100 _____	Student.....\$5 _____
Business.....\$50 _____	Other.....\$ _____
Patron.....\$50 _____	Added Donation.....\$ _____

TOTAL.....\$ _____

Please make checks payable to MUSEUM OF RHINEBECK HISTORY and mail to the Museum at the address above. Thank you!

PLEASE MAIL THIS IN ASAP IF YOU HAVEN'T DONE SO YET FOR 2010!

NOTE: If you have family archives that you wish to donate to us, please check below and someone from the Museum will be in touch with you. _____

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Yard Sale Saturday July 17TH

On **Saturday, July 17th**, from 9-4, at Quitman House, we're having a yard sale. We'd like household goods, used books, ceramics, holiday decor, small kitchen appliances, collectibles, antique glass, china and the like, and (if in good condition): wallets, pocketbooks, overnight bags, silk scarves, costume jewelry, children's toys.

For pick up or drop off, call Steven Mann 876-6892, or the Museum office weekends, 2-4 PM at 871-1798, or email smann2@hvc.rr.com. Please check those drawers, cupboards, and attics. There are bound to be endless treasures! We are also having a bake sale table. Those goods may be dropped off July 17th between 8-11 AM (we'd like them as early as possible for the crowds). Thanks again for your support.

Progressive Dinner Sunday Sept 12TH

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, September 12th**. From 4 to 7, the Museum will share efforts with the Quitman Resource Center to host a Progressive Dinner at two lovely homes, Maizefield, the David Van Ness House in Red Hook dating from the Revolutionary War, where the main course will be served, followed by dessert at poolside at Bryndlebrook on River Road in Rhinebeck, once part of the Astor Estate.

Tickets are \$35 if payment is received by July 30th, \$40 afterwards. Mail checks payable to QRC to Brenda Klapproth, 132 East Market St, Rhinebeck, NY 12572, or contact Brenda at 845-876-2436 or bklaproth@hvc.rr.com.

Sorry—no refunds.

Museum of Rhinebeck History

P.O. Box 816

Rhinebeck, NY 12572



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