

Museum of Rhinebeck History

Celebrating Rhinebeck's Rich Heritage

Volume XV, No. 1

Spring 2008

President's Message

I was a little surprised that the Museum Board would choose someone as new to the Board as myself as the new President. My immediate predecessors, Ellen Hubbert and Steven Mann, had already done quite a lot for the Museum before they stepped into this role. More importantly, once in the role of President, they both found innovative ways of successfully addressing the two challenges that constantly present themselves to the Board: 1) the need to raise sufficient funds necessary for the Museum to serve not only its own membership but the broader community that might benefit from the items we hold in our collections; and 2) the need to expand the collections and to share them, through exhibits, publications, and other means, so that residents of and visitors to Rhinebeck can more properly understand and appreciate the local history. Fortunately for myself, both Ellen and Steven remain on the Museum Board, so that I can continue to learn from their experiences in my own efforts to address those same two challenges.

Many in the community make it possible for the Museum to function as well as it does. We are particularly indebted to the Church of the Messiah for continuing to allow us to use its space to hold our monthly Board meetings during the colder months of the year. The Museum must also thank Dorothy Bahret and the Rhinebeck Garden Club for their work in organizing volunteers to landscape and plant with flowers the area around the World War I Doughboy Statue on East Market Street--their efforts to enhance the attractiveness of that site calls

attention to the importance we place on properly honoring those who left Rhinebeck--many never to return--to serve their country. Most of all, thank you to the many members of the community who continue to donate their cherished treasures to us.

The Museum is preparing a new brochure that emphasizes the variety of items in the collections, as part of an effort to bring more visitors to the Museum. Our exhibit opens June 6th. We hope you will be able to join us.

Mike Frazier

County Historians Elect Steven Mann

Current trustee and former Museum recording secretary and president Steven Mann was elected president of the Dutchess County Historical Society at its annual meeting on Saturday, April 5, at the Starr Library in Rhinebeck. Town Historian Nancy V. Kelly, who with her husband Arthur received the Society's 2007 Helen Wilkinson Reynolds Award for their meticulous search for historical truth, was the keynote speaker, addressing the Palatines coming to the Rhinebeck area in the early 18th century.

Mann, a permanent resident of Rhinebeck since 2000 and a weekender six years prior, is a native of Catskill.

New Museum Board Members

Welcome, Barbara Harrison and Eva McClenahan. The Museum Board recently filled vacancies created by the resignations of Lida Traver-Landy and Alex McKnight. Both Lida and Alex had contributed in very significant ways to the Museum, and Lida will be continuing to serve on the Museum's Advisory Board.

Both of the Museum's new board members are long-time residents of Rhinebeck. **Barbara K. Harrison**, born in Poughkeepsie, spent her elementary school years there, moved to Ohio during WWII, moved to Rhinebeck in 1950, and married Jack Harrison, a veteran of the fighting in the South Pacific. Barbara studied accounting at Krissler Business Institute, then kept the accounts for Russell Fuel and Heating for 25 years--oil was 16 cents a gallon when she started. She also handled accounts receivable for Ruge's Oldsmobile, and worked for Sherri Shaw at the Elegant Villager for 27 years. She is an ardent needlepointer, and annually serves as a judge at the Dutchess County Fair, and is a long-time parishioner of the Church of the Messiah.

Eva McClenahan is a native of Kingston, and like Barbara has been living in Rhinebeck since the 1950's. The family name is no doubt familiar to anyone in Rhinebeck who has ever worn glasses, since Eva's husband, Jim, was the village optometrist for 40 years. Eva is the parent of six, all graduates of Rhinebeck Central School, and "all doing well," she tells us, "thanks to a good school system and great school teachers." The McClenahan family traveled extensively throughout the USA

and many of the islands, visiting many historical sites. As a result, antiques and historical literature are two of her great interests. In her spare time she is a care giver and a volunteer member of the Braille Center at 3rd Lutheran Church. Eva is looking forward to working with the members of the board and being an asset.

Progressive Dinner

The Museum of Rhinebeck History and the Quitman Resource Center will once again be jointly sponsoring a Progressive Dinner. The date is **Sunday, September 7, 2008**. There will be 2 locations. The first, Mansakenning, a Classic Revival Mansion, will be open from 4:00 to 5:30 PM, for a delicious sampling of Rhinebeck Wine, hearty hors d'oeuvres, and carving stations. Later, from 6:00 to 7:30 PM, dessert, coffee, and tea will be served at a former Riverside Chapel, the Rhinecliff Methodist Church, now a private residence.

There will be a maximum of 100 tickets available. Tickets reserved by August 24, 2008 are \$35. If tickets are still available after that date, the cost will be \$40. There are no refunds.

Please make checks payable to the Quitman Resource Center and mail to Brenda Klapproth, 132 East Market St, Rhinebeck NY 12572.

Please call Brenda Klapproth at 845-876-2436 with any questions. Parking at both sites is limited--we recommend car pooling.

2008 Board of Trustees & Advisors

President--Mike Frazier
Vice-President—Vacant
Recording Secretary--Janice Scriber
Corresponding Secretary—Janice Stickle
Treasurer—Mara Marrero
Curator—Ada S. Harrison
Cathleen Boehm
Barbara K. Harrison
Ellen Hubbert
Eva McClenahan
Steven A. Mann
Kay T. Verrilli
one vacancy

Advisor—Nancy V Kelly
Advisor—Marilyn Hatch
Advisor—Brenda Klapproth
Advisor—Lida Traver-Landy

Docents Needed

The Museum needs more docents to keep the Museum open through the summer until the end of October. A docent is a volunteer who works with a Museum 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.

If 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 the 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 from 2 to 4 PM, June through October 2008.

Museum Calendar May to October 2008

Friday, May 23 and Saturday, May 24, 2008

Memorial Day Yard Sale

(rain date May 25) (see article page 4)

Friday, June 6, 2008

Museum Opening

Prominent Rhinebeck Families

(see article page 4)

June through October 2008

Museum will be open all Saturdays and Sundays
from 2:00 to 4:00 PM

Sunday, September 7, 2008

Progressive Dinner

(see article page 2)

Memorial Day Yard Sale

Dates are **Friday, May 23rd and Saturday, May 24th**, 9 AM to 5 PM, with Sunday, May 25th as a rain date.

Location will be 132 East Market Street in Rhinebeck.

The Museum is soliciting your donated items, and any baked goods also. We also need to have you come out and buy what is being sold. To donate items, please attach a label marked MRH to all items, and call Mike Frazier at 876-7462. Items need to be marked and delivered to 8 Sunset Road no later than Wednesday, May 21st. For baked goods, we obviously need them to be freshly baked, and would like to coordinate the baking schedule. Please contact Ellen Hubbert at 876-3548.

Annual Museum Opening & Exhibit

The Museum will celebrate its annual opening this year on **Friday, June 6th** from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. Please come and bring your friends.

The Museum exhibit, currently being prepared by Steven Mann and Janice Stickle, will consist of a variety of items selected from the Museum collections that explain what life was like among a sampling of prominent Rhinebeck families, among them Astor, Milroy, Morton, Frost, Tremper, Scism, Cookingham, and Schermerhorn.

After opening day, the exhibit will be available for viewing every Saturday and Sunday from 2:00 to 4:00 PM, through the month of October.

Museum of Rhinebeck History
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