

Greene County Historian
Annual Report for Calendar Year 2013

Throughout 2013 I continued to keep the position of Greene County Historian before the public by researching and writing a weekly history column called “Greene History Notes” which appears in three county newspapers. The columns help to promote an understanding of the rich history of the county, and I have received many positive comments on them.

My wife Wanda and I also began writing a book on Greene County notables – past and present – which is expected to be published in 2014. People captioned in the book range from the Native Americans which populated this area before the Europeans to those who have made history in the recent past such as Roland Lindeman of the Game Farm fame and the owners of the former Dynabil Industries, now Ducommun. This book will be widely available around the county when it is published and should serve as good way to introduce residents and visitors to our history.

I also continued to serve as a resource and attend a number of events – particularly those sponsored by local history groups as they occurred throughout the year. Some of my activities were as follows:

- Worked with an author from “Kaatskill Life” magazine who did an article on the 350th anniversary of the Bronck House
- Worked with the Bank of Greene County to feature the Bronck House in its Annual Report for fiscal year 2012
- Worked with the Operations Manager at the Bronck House to produce articles about the 350th anniversary of the Bronck House for the Mercantile Magazine
- Worked with Judge George Pulver to obtain artifacts reflecting Greene County’s history to display in the rotunda of the Catskill Court House.
- Helped two groups obtain information to get funding for placing two new historic markers – one in the Village of Catskill and one in the Town on Cairo
- Provided support to the Cairo Historical Society’s Program to place banners honoring veterans in the Town of Cairo
- Helped organize and served as the group leader for a full day bus tour of Greene County for SUNY Albany President Robert Jones and his staff, 3/27/13
- Attendance at the GCHS 2013 Volunteer Recognition Ceremony and Reception, 4/28/13
- Participation in a number of events associated with the Town of Lexington’s 200th Anniversary. Spoke after the parade on 4/20/13
- Attendance at the GCHS 2013 Volunteer Recognition Ceremony and Reception, 4/28/13
- Attendance and participation at the annual meeting of the Greene County Historical Society in West Kill, Town of Lexington, 5/5/13
- Attended the open house at the Durham Center Museum, 5/19/13

- Attended and spoke in Greenville at the Memorial Day Weekend event honoring Civil War veterans, 5/25/13
- Helped organize and worked at the Thirty-seventh Annual Tour of Homes in the towns of Lexington, Jewett and Hunter, 6/8/13
- Helped obtain funding for and attended the 350th anniversary celebration of the Bronck House, 6/16/13
- Attended conference on history tourism in Tannersville, 7/28/13
- Attended and spoke after the parade in Tannersville celebrating the 200th anniversary of the Town of Hunter, 8/31/13
- Helped organize a luncheon for Greene County town and village historians and other interested parties at Catskill Point to discuss recent efforts by the County Clerk's Office to digitize old maps for public access, 9/26/13
- Worked at the Greene County Historical Society Heritage Craft Fair 10/6/13
- Co-chaired and participated in the Civil War themed bus trip to battle fields in the Fredericksburg, Virginia area, 10/11-14/13
- Attended the 2013 regional meeting for the Association of Public Historians for New York State, 10/19/13
- Spoke on Civil War soldiers from Greene County before the Cocksackie Senior Citizens group, 11/18/13
- Attended an open house at the Willows in Athens, 12/15/13

Part of my job, as I see it, is to network with the various historical groups in Greene County. Throughout the year I am continually in contact with individuals from groups such as: Cairo Historical Society, Durham Center Museum, Greene County Historical Society where I also serve as Treasurer, Greenville Local History Group, Mountain Top Historical Society, Oakhill Preservation Society and the Zadock Pratt Museum. These contacts most often involve providing assistance to one another – either they want something from me or I am looking for some help. In the end, this networking helps to cement an ongoing working relationship between me as Greene County Historian and individuals in these groups.

Starting in 2011 the nation began to mark the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. This remembrance stretches over a five year period (2011-2015). To ensure that Greene County provided official recognition of this period, John Quinn and I informally established a Greene County Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee in 2010. At our urging, the legislature followed our lead and passed a proclamation in May, 2011 designating August of each year for the next five years as Civil War Heritage Month and officially establishing the Greene County Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee. I believe we were the first county in New York State to establish such a committee. Work with this committee has occupied a large segment of my time during the last three years as we worked to organize events including this year's Memorial Day weekend event in Greenville, the Heritage Music Festival in Windham in August and the third annual Civil War Battlefield bus trip in October.

Throughout the year I answered dozens of inquiries received by U.S. Mail, e-mail and telephone. Topics are too numerous to list here, but range from ones about Greene

County history to genealogy which are often referred to the Vedder Research Library in Cossackie. I also continue to keep in touch with town and village historians in Greene County and make myself available as a resource when called upon. I find them to be a very dedicated group.

Respectfully Submitted

David C. Dorpfeld
Greene County Historian