

2017 HISTORIAN'S REPORT

DAY TO DAY

I receive inquiries by mail, phone & e-mail on a regular basis. The activities continue to multiply each year. I often receive phone calls from the press with inquiries regarding stories they are preparing. I am also contacted by authors who are writing books about local subjects.

Many inquiries are focused on questions about Rhinebeck families or information about events or historic buildings in the town. Brochures were prepared about these subjects and continue to be available on the Town website, linked to the Historian's page:

<http://www.rhinebeck-ny.gov/files/Family%20History%20-%20Rhinebeck.pdf>

<http://www.rhinebeck-ny.gov/files/Dating%20Your%20House%20-%20Rhinebeck.pdf>

LOCAL HISTORY ROOM, Historian 10AM-3PM Tuesdays

I maintain hours at the Starr Library Local History room on Tuesdays except when I am out of town. Beverly Kane, from the Museum of Rhinebeck History and other volunteers are also at the local history room and fill in for me when I am not available.

I continue to update the online research links at <http://starrlibrary.org/local-history/>

MISCELLANEOUS INQUIRIES

Inquiries have been received from Title Companies, Probate, Engineering Companies and Environmental Assessment preparers. The information which I provide allows them to prepare reports and recommend decisions about the use of historic properties.

COMMITTEES

I continue to work with the Consortium of Rhinebeck History and the Palatine Farmstead Committee.

I have been attending Planning Board meetings and Zoning Board meetings and providing comments at their public hearings for Historic sites for which applications have been received. There seems to be much activity which has centered on very significant sites in the town. Many of the proposals will be continued through the coming year.

EXHIBITS

- Exhibit re: 75th anniversary of the building of the Town Hall on E. Market was on display at the Town Hall for part of the year, followed by Historic Photos for 1918.
- An exhibit in honor of the 50th anniversary of the Rhinebeck Garden Club was displayed at both the Town Hall and in the Post Office Lobby. In the second half of the year an exhibit was placed in the Post Office commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Chancellor Livingston Chapter of the NSDAR in Rhinebeck.
- KIOSK placed near the Municipal Parking Lot offers a map and display regarding historic sites in Rhinebeck Brochures are placed in special boxes on the kiosk. This kiosk was funded by a grant from the Frost Foundation.
- Olin Dows -I served on a committee that organized 2 exhibits of work by the Rhinebeck artist who also produced the art at the Rhinebeck Post Office. The first exhibit was Aug 19-26 at Barrett Art Center, Noxon Street Poughkeepsie. The second exhibit,

World War II Art of Olin Dows as held Nov 8-19, Gallery at Rhinebeck, 47 E. Market St. Rhinebeck.

A booklet about Olin Dows, his work and the exhibit was prepared and sold along with Tote bags featuring a photograph of Olin. Both exhibits were well attended.

TALKS

November 1, 2017 I gave a talk at the State Conference for Municipal Historians in Poughkeepsie. The title of the talk was "Influence of the 1710 Palatine Emigration on New York State and Dutchess County.

Sept 2017, The New York Chapter of the Palatines to America meet in Rhinebeck. I gave a talk to them about the Palatines who settled in Rhinebeck c.. 1712. There were 35 families when the census was first taken in 1718.

April 2017 Dutchess County Historian Will Tatum organized a series of talks about Prohibition in Dutchess County. I presented one in April at the Beekman Arms, focusing on Prohibition in Rhinebeck.

I also met with Will Tatum, Dutchess County Historian and Kayla Burch of the Beekman Arms. And discussed their planned "Ghost Tour." I attended a Ghost Tour in the fall which focused on the Beekman Arms and its clientele and later met with the theatre director who was planning a tour in the village.

Nancy Kelly, Rhinebeck Town Historian