

The Dutchess Historian

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Dutchess County Historical Society

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The Dutchess County Historical Society is a not-for-profit organization welcoming both new and returning members.

Its mission is to collect and preserve the county's history for residents, scholars, researchers, visitors, and future generations.

Dutchess County Historical Society manages two 18th century dwellings and operates the Franklin A. Butts Research Library along with publishing a newsletter, annual yearbook and special journals.

DCHS also maintains a photograph and object collection, mounts changing exhibits and sponsors historical trips, lectures, seminars, house tours, history awards, and books sales as well as providing leadership and support for many other collaborative heritage and history education projects.

President's Message



Candace Lewis, President

On August 22, 2010, seventy people were seated on folding chairs under a simple tent in a field in Stormville, New York. Another twenty-five or thirty people were gathered around the perimeter. All of us huddled against the assault of a violent summer storm that sent down torrents of water pouring off the edges of the tent, collapsing the tent poles and sending nearby people into action to right them again. We had gathered for the rededication of the Slave Cemetery of the Storm Family sponsored by the East Fishkill Historical Society and the Black History Committee of the Dutchess County Historical Society. We listened to opening talks by Malcolm Mills of the East Fishkill Historical Society and Lorraine Roberts of our own Black History Committee. They were followed by the keynote speaker, the Honorable Albert Rosenblatt who spoke about the institution of slavery as witnessed in two contrasting court cases. He examined how the United States Supreme Court (in the infamous Dred Scott case holding African-Americans to be property in Missouri, a slave state, and hence not people) was distinguished and rejected by the New York Court State of Appeals as inapplicable to a free state.

As is so often the case, our bodies were one place, while our imaginations were another. We listened to the story of Eype Schouten, a black slave buried in the cemetery, one of only two individuals in the cemetery whom we can identify today. When, during the American Revolution, a band of Tories raided the Storm farm and hanged her master in the attic to die, Eype later crept up to him and cut him down, saving his life. We only know the bare outline of the story. What was the motivation for this act of kindness carried out within the dehumanizing institution of slavery? We don't know, but we can be thankful for the fact that the story and the identities of the people have been preserved. It would be wonderful to be able to fill in the empty spaces in the Eype Shouten story. Perhaps someday someone will do just that.

That was a beautiful, if stormy, day and a reminder to me, at least, that the primary mission of our historical society is to preserve and present the artifacts, facts, and stories of the past. We have several goals and, in my term as President of the Board, I hope to articulate those goals. Among them three stand out for particular attention right now. We want to produce programs—like the Stormville Slave Cemetery Rededication—for our members and the general public that preserve and present aspects of Dutchess County history in interesting ways. We want to increase our membership. We want to increase financial support for our institution whether it is from fund-raising events, grants, or gifts.

Always underlying these activities, we must remain vigilant in protecting, preserving, and exhibiting our collections of objects, archives, photographs, and library materials. We publish an important Yearbook each year with essays on subjects of Dutchess County history. In addition, we are the stewards for two historic houses, the Clinton House for New York State (*continued on page 3*)

DCHS Announces Annual Awards Recipients

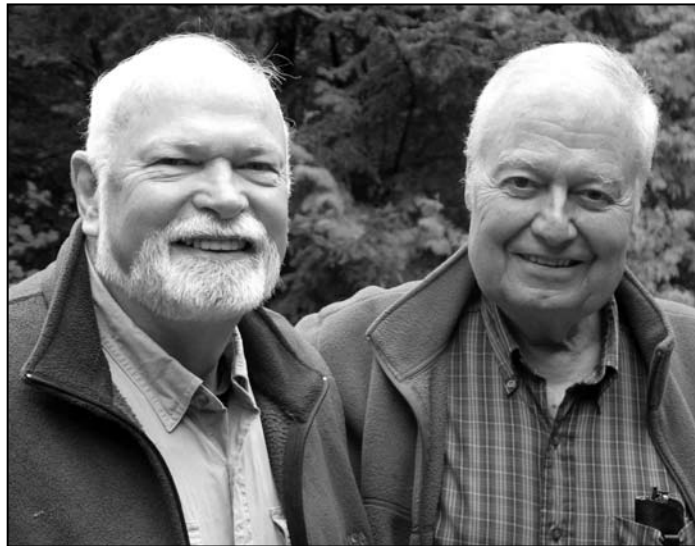
Four local history supporters will be honored at the annual awards dinner of the Dutchess County Historical Society on Thursday, October 28th at the Dutchess Golf and Country Club in Poughkeepsie.

Vassar College Professors Emereti Harvey K. Flad and Clyde Griffen will receive the Helen Wilkinson Reynolds award. They are co-authors of *Main Street to Main Frames: Landscape and Social Change in Poughkeepsie* published in 2009.

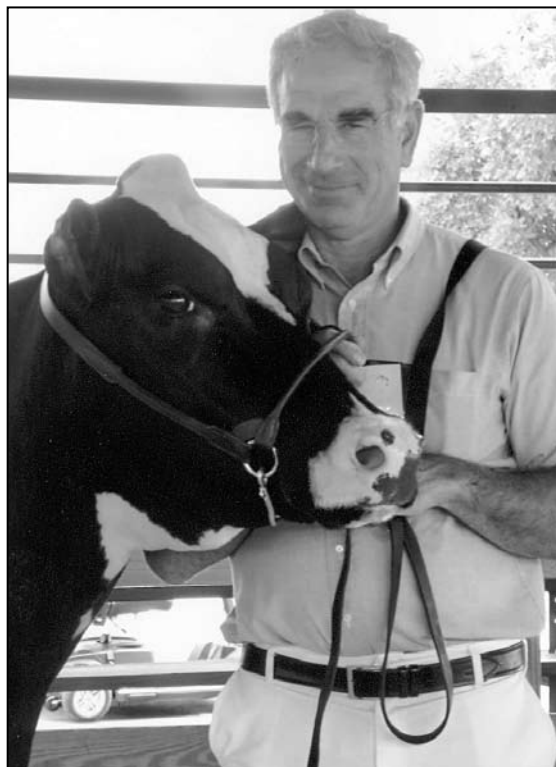
Dr. Flad is Emeritus Professor of Geography, having taught courses on cultural and historic landscapes and environmental and urban planning from 1972 to 2004. He received his B.A. from the University of Colorado and his M.A. and Ph.D. from Syracuse University. His scholarship related to Hudson Valley history includes articles on Matthew Vassar's Springside estate, Mohonk Mountain House, urban renewal in Poughkeepsie and the Hudson River School of Art, as well as legal testimony on the aesthetic impact of numerous development proposals. He was also involved in the prize-winning film "Hyde Park," and has been a consultant to numerous museums and art galleries and lectured internationally. Dr. Flad has received a Ford Fellowship, Fulbright Award and the Russel Wright Award for Environmental Preservation.

Dr. Griffen is Lucy Maynard Salmon Professor Emeritus of History, having taught at Vassar College for 35 years. He received his B.A. from the State University of Iowa and his M.A. and Ph.D. from Columbia University. With Sally Griffen, he co-authored *Natives and Newcomers: the Ordering of Opportunity in Mid-Nineteenth Century Poughkeepsie*. Dr. Griffen edited *New Perspectives on Poughkeepsie's Past: Essays in Honor of Edmund Platt*, published by the Dutchess County Historical Society in 1987. He also co-edited *Meanings for Manhood: Constructions of Masculinity in Victorian America*. He has received a National Science Foundation grant and a Fulbright Fellowship to New Zealand. He previously received a Dutchess Award from DCHS.

The Dutchess Award will be presented to Dr. Sam Simon, an orthopedic surgeon



Professors Harvey Flad and Clyde Griffen



Dr. Sam Simon

turned dairy farmer. Dr. Simon graduated from the University of Rochester, St. Louis Medical School and completed an orthopedic residency from the University of Pittsburgh. In 1977, he started a solo practice as an orthopedic surgeon in Poughkeepsie with an expertise in total joint replacement and internal fixation of the spine for scoliosis and trauma. Raised on a dairy farm in Middletown, NY, Dr. Simon bought Plankenhorn Farms in Pleasant Valley in

1995 and after retiring from medicine in 1998, started his own dairy farm. He also co-founded the Hudson Valley Fresh cooperative with Patrick Manning to provide a sustainable wage to dairy farmers in the region. It now includes nine family-run dairy farms representing 5000 acres of open space. He has been active in a number of community organizations—including St. Francis Hospital, the Bardavon 1869 Opera House, Temple Beth-El, and the New York Holstein Association.

The Business of Distinction Award will be given to the *Poughkeepsie Journal*. The *Poughkeepsie Journal* just celebrated its 225th anniversary and is the oldest newspaper in New York state and the second-oldest in the nation.

The *Poughkeepsie Journal* covered New York State's ratification of the Constitution at the Poughkeepsie courthouse on June 17, 1788 where delegates Alexander Hamilton, Philip Van Cortlandt, Chancellor Robert R. Livingston, and Isaac Roosevelt (FDR's great-great grandfather) gathered at this historic meeting. In the 1820s, the paper's editors were on record as calling for the abolition of slavery—40 years before it became reality. On December 4, 1860,

because of the demand for news created by tensions related to the oncoming Civil War, the paper, which had been a weekly, became a daily publication.

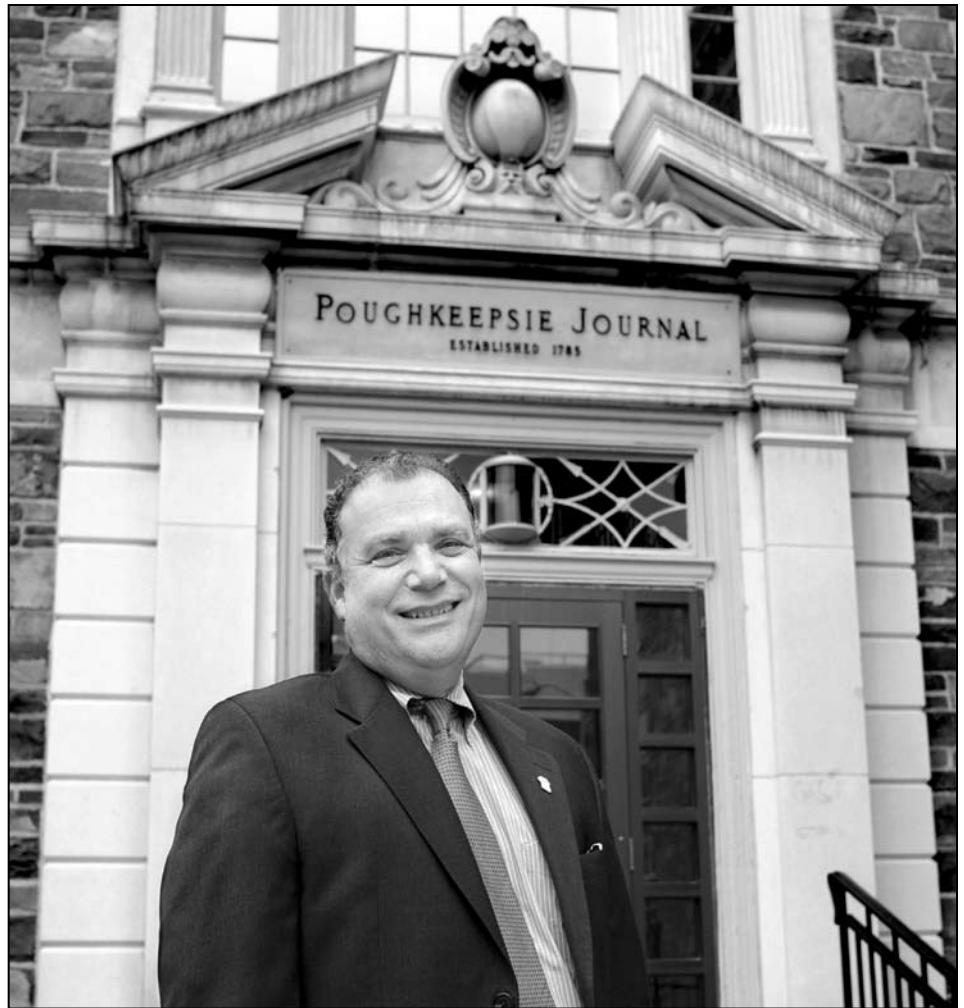
In 1977, the Speidel Company-owned paper was purchased by Gannett. The *Journal* became a morning publication in 1980. The *Journal* in the last 20 years has been an ardent spokesman and leader in preservation

of the natural beauty of the Valley and the Hudson River—suggesting several initiatives later adopted by governmental agencies. The resulting environmental impact has helped keep the valley a worldwide tourist destination.

Barry Rothfeld was named president and publisher of the *Poughkeepsie Journal* in May 2004, returning to the newspaper where he served as executive editor from 1990-94. He was recently named “Publisher of the Year” by Gannett Co., Inc.

He is chair of this year’s United Way campaign and also is vice-chair of the organization’s Board of Governors. In addition, he serves on the board of the Dutchess County Economic Development Corporation, the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce, Vassar Brothers Medical Center, Pattern for Progress, the Bardavon 1869 Opera House, and Miles of Hope.

A graduate of the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, he holds a bachelor’s degree in history from Queens College where he graduated magna cum laude and was editor-in-chief of its student newspaper. In addition to his newspaper activities, he has taught journalism at Marymount College, the State University College at New Paltz and Ithaca College.



Barry Rothfeld

Please save the date and join us in honoring these outstanding contributions to our community on Thursday, October 28th at 6 pm at the Dutchess Golf and Country Club. Tickets are \$125 per person. Call 471-1630 for reservations.

President’s Message *(continued from page 1)*

and the Glebe House for the City of Poughkeepsie. Another important objective will be to mount an engaging and effective celebration for our 100th anniversary in the year 2014.

To work with us, we will have a new Executive Director, Betsy Kopstein-Stuts, beginning this September. She will be replacing John B. Garrity, III, who is leaving to return to school. Betsy has had over 15 years of professional academic administrative experience at Vassar College where

she served as the head of the Field Work Office. She has also been the president of nine organizations and has served on twelve boards. She was District Governor of Rotary District 7210 in 2001 and 2002, supervising over 2,000 Rotarians in eight counties. She was the second woman to be elected to this position. She has been the President of Poughkeepsie South Rotary (1999, 2006), the President of Catharine Street Center (2008-2010), President of Temple Beth-El (2007-2009), Vice-President of Mill Street Loft (2005, 2006) to

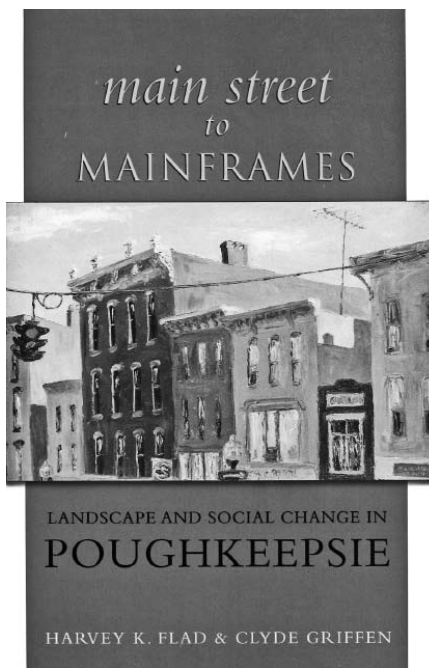
mention but a few of her community commitments. She is a native of Poughkeepsie, a graduate of Poughkeepsie High School. She also holds a B.A. degree with a major in History from the University of Michigan and a M.A. degree in Education from the University of Pennsylvania.

I hope you will all welcome her to the DCHS family.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Candace J. Lewis".

Candace J. Lewis, Ph.D.

Book Review



MAIN STREET TO MAINFRAMES: LANDSCAPES AND SOCIAL CHANGE IN POUGHKEEPSIE by Harvey K. Flad and Clyde Griffen. Albany, New York: State University of New York Press, 2009.

In *Main Street to Mainframes: Landscapes and Social Change in Poughkeepsie*, Harvey Flad and Clyde Griffen have provided a fascinating story of Poughkeepsie, examining and analyzing the changes and continuities in Poughkeepsie in the twentieth century. As

long term residents of Poughkeepsie, they reflect a personal devotion to its history and its culture. Both hold the position of Professor Emeritus at Vassar College—Flad in Geography and Griffen in American history.

The authors seek to show how time and space, as reflected in society and landscape, have come together in this one city and the surrounding region in the 20th century. Twentieth-century Poughkeepsie can only be understood with a knowledge of the pre-1900 history of Poughkeepsie, the period in which Poughkeepsie was transformed from an agricultural market town to a small city whose main social identity was Main Street. Congress would later call the Hudson River valley “the landscape that defines America.” In the 19th century it played a major role in the developing story of Poughkeepsie. The Hudson River waterfront and the banks of the Fallkill Creek were the focal points of diversified industry, with Matthew Vassar first locating his brewery there in 1830. The authors’ words give a vivid picture of the existing industry in this time and place.

Immigration, transportation and industry would bring major change to the city. By 1870, twenty three percent of Poughkeepsie’s population were immigrants. Germans, Irish, and African Americans were joined later in the 20th century by Italians, Poles, and Latinos. The social structure was changing, but the authors identify patterns of accommodation that helped the city move toward the 20th century and to rebound from the periodic economic downturns. Industrialists and entrepreneurs such as Matthew Vassar and Harvey Eastman not only sought economic growth, but became philanthropists. This in turn, led them to be active boosters of the city.

Flad and Griffen noted that by 1900, industry had just about disappeared from the waterfront and the appearance of trolley lines

helped to refocus Poughkeepsie. The intersection of Main and Market Streets became the center of the urban structures in the city. Main Street had become the Main Street of our memories—the major retailing location for the city and the region—and remained that center for most of the first half of the 20th century.

In 1940, the landscapes and social structures associated with Main Street began to dramatically change. IBM made the decision to build outside the city. This shifting of industry outside the city, with the growing importance of the automobile, caused major land use change. Residents moved outside the city looking for new homes, better schools, and as Flad and Griffen noted, looking “in some cases for racial homogeneity.” Retail business followed as the malls on Route 9 grew. By 1951 the authors describe a city where the population had peaked at 41,000. In the next decades, the city declined as the county grew.

Flad and Griffen isolate two other major factors which contributed to the decline of Main Street and the change of the landscape. Class and race had become factors in the changes facing the city. The federal Model Cities and Urban Renewal program seemed to offer solutions to the socioeconomic problems facing the city, but the politicians and residents could not agree on the goals. The conflict arose between physical planning and social programs. The authors believe that, between 1960 and 1974, these programs further destroyed the historical landscape of Poughkeepsie, with 1,300 dwellings demolished. Their conclusion was that, by the end of the 1970s, the socioeconomic makeup of Poughkeepsie had been reshaped.

By the end of the century, service industries provided a new adaptation to changes. Educational institutions became major employers, historical and cultural tourism began to thrive, while health care became a major employer in the region. The IBM that had earlier

Theirs is a local history not only with a past. It is a local history that helps us to believe that changes in the city will also continue to bring adaptations in the future.

reshaped the area was now a part of the change. From 31,042 jobs in 1985, IBM had fewer than 10,000 jobs in the valley by the end of the century. The service sector approach included even IBM as it moved to customer service. Always the past and the future are connected. The authors found that by the end of the 20th century, 25 million visitors a year to the city and county translated to an economic impact of 600-936 million dollars a year for the county.

Flad and Griffen conclude that Main Street might be able to once again bring community back to the city, although it will never attract the number of shoppers it attracted at *(continued)*

(book review continued) the beginning of the twentieth century. Their final question is “whether the cities of the Mid-Hudson Valley can regain their historic sense of place and centrality in the region’s political, economic, social, and cultural life.” They conclude that, whatever the answer to that question, “their previous history makes it probable that they would be adapting to major change in their future as they had in the past.” The authors clearly achieved

their goal of showing the change and continuities that formed Poughkeepsie in the twentieth century. They made the story of the city come alive as they placed faces on the participants in this urban drama. Their knowledge and scholarly abilities have produced a unique local history. There is a local history not only with a past. It is a local history that helps us to believe that changes in the city will also continue to bring adaptations in the future. Main Street will

probably not become the Main Street that we remember from the early 20th century. The authors see a future influenced by tourism and high technology in the entire region, buttressed by a belief that its citizens can adapt to changes in the future as they had done in the past.

— by Ken Moody

Message from New DCHS Executive Director Betsy Kopstein Stuts

I am excited to be your new Executive Director and look forward to meeting all of you. I hope that the Dutchess County Historical Society again becomes the focal point for education about local history, a receptacle for archival material and a vital meeting place with lectures, field trips and other events.

During my 25 years as coordinator of Academic Field Work at Vassar College, I often sent interns to DCHS to work as docents for educational programs or as curatorial assistants with the accessioning of Society collections. I hope to continue to work with interns from Vassar and Marist.

Since I was born in Poughkeepsie, as was my father, I feel a great love for the Hudson Valley—its past, present and future. I hope you will join me as rededicated volunteers to bring new and stimulating programs to our community. Feel free to share your ideas with me.

Please also extend a warm welcome to Intern Hannah Behrens. Hannah is a candidate for a Master of Arts in Medieval Studies at Fordham University and a graduate of Smith College. She has been a history instructor and archivist at Westover School in Middlebury, CT and an archive intern at Wilderstein Preservation in Rhinebeck.

And finally, kudos to Lorraine Roberts on her selection as recipient of the Alexis de Tocqueville Community Service Award given by the United Way of Dutchess County at their campaign kickoff breakfast September 10th. Lorraine is chair of the DCHS Black History Committee and former DCHS board president.



Open House Poughkeepsie

An opening reception for “Open House Poughkeepsie,” a two week long community arts festival celebrating the revitalization of middle Main Street, was held on the Clinton House lawn on July 16th. Co-sponsored by Hudson River Housing and DCHS, the reception featured art exhibits, music, dancing, and food in honor of the rebirth of five blocks of Poughkeepsie’s Main Street between Academy Street and Pershing Avenue. Performers included Ballet Folklorico Mexicano (pictured at left), M*Power Elite Dance Troupe and Los Caribenos. DCHS also sponsored a Main Street history walking tour and book signing as one of the festival events.

Rhinebeck Cemetery History Project

Vassar College professor Dr. Brian McAdoo will conduct his fall Geology/Physics class using Section E of the Rhinebeck Cemetery as the field study site for this year's digital underground survey. From 12 noon to 5pm each Thursday (weather permitting), the class will meet at the cemetery and utilize various non-invasive, geophysical methods and equipment to determine the number of graves and the nature of their burial. Dr. McAdoo has collaborated with DCHS by conducting two previous Geology/Physics classes at the Slave Cemetery of the Storm Family in 2005 and the St. James Churchyard (southeast corner) in 2007.

As a part of an authentic learning project, the students will use a "total station" to establish the locations of anomalies within the site as well as the graveyard boundaries. Also, students will learn to utilize instruments including a magnetometer (a scientific instrument used to detect and measure any magnetic activity in its vicinity), a ground penetrating radar (an instrument that uses radar pulses to produce an image of the ground below the surface) and a resistivity meter (an instrument that can measure how strongly a material opposes the flow of electric current). These instruments allow the students, as budding scientists, to search for surface and subsurface soil properties, which may indicate the presence of graves.

In 1853 Mary Rutherford Garretson, at the time of the death of her parents, Catherine Livingston Garretson and the Reverend Freeborn Garretson, gave a half acre of land for the burial of "people of color." As a

result of assembling and analyzing data from this area by means of a Geographic Information System, the Rhinebeck Cemetery Association and the Dutchess County Historical Society's Black History Committee will be the beneficiaries of the data collected as well as the historical research completed by the Vassar students. This is expected to add to the bank of knowledge about individuals buried on this land. At the conclusion of the project, the students will give a public presentation on their findings at a date to be announced by Dr. McAdoo. — by Lorraine Roberts, Black History Committee Chairperson



2010 Year Book Now Available

We are pleased to announce the publication of the 2010 Dutchess County Historical Society Year Book, *In Their Own Words: Telling Dutchess County History* edited by historian and writer Holly Wahlberg. The focus of this year's book is oral history and first person narrative. Ms. Wahlberg and other writers have brought to light a number of fascinating stories as told by those who actually witnessed history as it unfolded. These striking first person narratives and oral history interviews come from the distant and not-so-distant past to enlighten us about Dutchess County history. Many who tell their stories in this volume do so as the result of a deeply felt awareness of their unique position as participants in an extraordinary national event or momentous cultural shift. Only by telling these stories, can they carry out what they define as their sense of responsibility to future generations. Others share their sense of privilege at having known and loved a unique Hudson Valley landscape or celebrity. Some give voice to hardship and discrimination in testimony that once would have been routinely excluded from mainstream historical accounts. The book's lively array of subjects includes Civil War battlefield experiences, student life in the opening years of Vassar College, ice yachting on the Hudson, 19th century medical care, newspaper reporting, John Burroughs as a Dutchess County neighbor, guarding the Roosevelts, the 19th century shopping experience, early elder care, Black history, the Warhol era, the Poughkeepsie railroad bridge, ethnic baking, and more. Books are available for \$15 from DCHS (call 471-1630) or at Amazon.com or local independent bookstores.

IN THEIR Own Words



TELLING DUTCHESS COUNTY HISTORY

Edited by Holly Wahlberg

Fall Bus Trip to New York City

On Saturday, October 23rd, the Black History Committee is sponsoring a bus trip to lower Manhattan to visit the African Burial Ground and Visitor Center, the National Museum of the American Indian, the Korean War Monument, and Fraunces Tavern and Museum. The bus will depart from Hudson Plaza (TD Bank North) at 8am and is expected to arrive at Dutchess Mall, Fishkill (TD Bank North) for a second pickup at 8:30am. At the conclusion of the tour, the bus will leave NYC at 4pm.

Bus reservations are limited and available for \$40 per person before October 15; reservations postmarked after October 15 are \$45 per person. All sales are final. Checks should be made payable to DCHS and mailed to DCHS, Box 88, Poughkeepsie, NY 12602. Reservations will be acknowledged by telephone contact or Email before October 21. Lunch on tour day is the responsibility of each participant.

From the 1690s to 1794, the African Burial Ground was the resting place for about 15,000 free and enslaved Africans. It was uncovered in 1991 and dedicated as a National Monument in 2007. The tour will include the burial ground and the Visitor Center located in the Weiss Federal Building. At the Visitor Center all entrants are required to pass through a security check.

A security check is also part of admission to the National Museum of the American Indian, an arm of the Smithsonian Institution, which has an opening of a new exhibit: "Infinity of Nations." The museum offers an opportunity to explore the cultures and contributions of peoples native to America. After the Indian museum, participants will walk a short distance to the Korean War Monument for an oral presentation about Charles Johnson, an African-American Dutchess County native who graduated from Arlington High School and made the supreme sacrifice in 1953 by saving the lives of two of his school mates. The last stop is the black-owned 1719 New York City landmark building, Fraunces Tavern & Museum. Samuel Fraunces, a freed black, was host to General George Washington, John Adams, and others as they planned strategies for the Revolutionary War. After visiting the tavern, the bus tour will depart New York City for Fishkill and Poughkeepsie. —by Lorraine Roberts, Black History Committee Chairperson



Artist's impression of the African Burial Ground National Monument

Meet the New DCHS Board Members

Julius Gude is an engineering management professional with 37 years of experience in semiconductor product process and equipment engineering at IBM, Micrus and Philips corporations. Julius was born in Oslo, Norway, where he attended engineering school. He transferred to the University of Colorado where he received his BS and MS degrees. He stayed in the United States and became a US citizen. He now lives in LaGrange with his wife, Carla. Julius enjoys volunteering, skiing, biking, furniture building, and home repair.

Jeh Johnson has practiced architecture since 1962, mostly in the Hudson Valley. He has been a partner with Gindele and Johnson and LeGendre, McNeil and Johnson and is now in practice by himself. A graduate of Columbia University, where he earned a Bachelors and Masters degree in Architecture, Jeh lives in Wappingers Falls with his wife Norma. He is currently a board member of the Children's Home and the Town of Poughkeepsie Historic Preservation Commission, a past board member of Scenic Hudson, HUB Bank, Poughkeepsie Savings Bank, and the Town of Poughkeepsie Planning Board. Jeh was a senior lecturer in architecture and Africana Studies at Vassar College and has lectured on the architecture of African-American churches to a variety of audiences. He has received numerous awards, including the ERVK medal.



Dutchess County Historical Society

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Visit us on the web at:
dutchesscountyhistoricalsociety.org

SAVE THE DATES:

Bus Trip to Manhattan to visit
African-American historical sites
Saturday, October 23 (8am-6pm)

Annual Awards Dinner
Thursday, October 28 (6pm)
Dutchess Golf and Country Club

Glebe House Holiday Party
Sunday, December 12 (2-4pm)

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Highlight from the Collection: Canton Bowl

(Memorial to Balthus Van Kleeck; Purchase, 1972)

In this fall's newsletter, we highlight an item from the Glebe House collection—a porcelain bowl with multi-color decoration of a type usually referred to as “Canton ware,” named for the port from which it was shipped. Wares like these were made from the 17th through the early 20th centuries in a number of kilns in southern China and then sent to ports like Canton (modern day Guangzhou) and Amoy (modern day Xiamen) for shipment to Japan and Europe.

Our bowl, 9 ½ inches in diameter, is made of white porcelain with cobalt blue decoration with overglaze enamel colors in bright orange, red, and green. The bowl rises from a strong vertical foot to a wide flaring bowl with a slightly everted lip. The decoration on the exterior of the bowl is derived from Chinese history with rocks surmounted by bamboo and flowers. The particular rock forms suggest a magical garden in which one could live forever.

A work like this would have been appreciated for the simplicity of its shape and for the vibrancy of its color which remained bright years, even centuries, after its manufacture.

One can understand why it would have been collected and treasured by an early American family such as the Beardleys, De Riemers, or other who lived in the Glebe House in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

