

Greene County Historian
Annual Report for Calendar Year 2012

Throughout 2012 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.

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:

Making a guest appearance on Catskill Radio Station (90.7 FM), 1/25/12
Attendance at the Cairo Historical Society “State of the Union Dinner,” 2/18/12
Speaking to the Durham Chamber of Commerce on the GCHS Tour of Homes, 3/12/12
Speaking to the Coxsackie American Legion on CW Soldiers’ Grave Markers, 3/13/12
Attendance at the GCHS Volunteer Recognition Ceremony, 4/15/12
Attendance at a play at GC Community College about U.S. Grant, 4/26/12
Attendance at the Zadock Pratt Museum Board meeting, 5/8/12
Attendance at the Greenville History Group meeting, 5/14/12
Attendance at the annual meeting of the Greene County Historical Society, 5/20/12
Leading a hike through Austin’s Glen, 5/24/12
Serving as Master of Ceremonies for Memorial Day weekend event in Prattsville, 5/26/12
Working at the Thirty-sixth Annual Tour of Homes in Durham, 6/2/12
Attendance at a fund-raiser for Beattie-Powers House, 6/9/12
Attendance at the rededication of World War II monument in Leeds, 7/4/12
Speaking before the play “Dear Friend Amelia” in Windham, 8/3/12
Attendance at a meeting with the CC Promotion Department in Hunter, 8/30/12
Speaking at the Colonel George Watson Pratt Day in Prattsville, 9/15/12
Attendance at the Council on the Arts program in Catskill on the Civil War, 9/15/12
Making a presentation on the CW to the Adult Learning Institute at CG College, 9/27/12
Working at the Greene County Historical Society Heritage Craft Fair 9/30/12
Helping to organize and participating in the CW bus trip to Antiedam and Harper’s Ferry, 10/24-26/12
Attendance at reception for retiring Town of Hunter Historian, Justine Hommel, 12/5/12
Meeting with Hartgen Archeological Associates in the Town of Lexington, 12/13/12
Working at the GCHS booth at Christmas by the River event, 12/12

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, 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 will stretch 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 two years. Many events sponsored and supported by the committee occurred in 2012 including a Memorial Day weekend ceremony in Prattsville and the placement of a wreath on the monument in the Town Park. This event received television coverage as well as a front page in the "Times Union" newspaper.

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 Coxsackie. Other miscellaneous activities included serving as co-chair for both the Greene County Historical Society's Homes Tour in June and the Civil War Committee's bus trip to Antiedam Battlefield and Harper's Ferry in October. In addition, I attended one conference outside the county in 2012: the annual three-day conference of the NYS Association of Public Historians held in Hauppauge, Long Island.

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