

Greene County Historian  
Annual Report for Calendar Year 2014

I have continued to fulfill my responsibilities as county historian 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. Since I assumed this position I have contributed almost 300 columns. Some people have encouraged me to publish a sampling of the best in a book at some future date.

This year the book, co-authored by my wife Wanda and me, *Legendary Locals of Greene County* was released. This entailed several book signing events which were well received. To date almost 1000 copies have been sold. The net proceeds from books sold through book signing and sales by the Greene County Historical Society are being donated to the society. Overall, this has been a rewarding experience and has resulted in good recognition of Greene County people who have made history and continue to do so.

I continued to serve as a resource and/or attend a number of events – particularly those sponsored by local history groups -- as they occurred throughout the year. Some of these included:

Cairo Historical Society's Annual State of the Union Dinner (2/15)  
Coxsackie Republican Club, presentation on Civil War veterans from Greene Co. (2/23)  
Bethany Village, presentation on Greene County (3/26)  
Greenville Civil War Roundtable (4/9)  
DAR meeting and presentation in Athens (4/12)\  
Civil War Memorial Day weekend event in Lexington (5/24)  
38<sup>th</sup> annual tour of homes sponsored by the Greene County Historical Society (6/7)  
History book club in Greenville (8/4/)  
Event in Onteora commemorating the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Mountain Top Historical Society (8/22)  
Beatie-Powers House, presentation by Judge George Pulver ((9/12)  
Coxsackie Republican Club, presentation (9/28)  
Annual conference for APHNYS in Prattsville (10/4)  
GCHS Annual Heritage Craft Fair (10/5)  
History Book Club in Greenville (10/6)  
Dinner hosted by the Prattsville Museum where I was honored (10/18)  
Lincoln Funeral Train Meeting, Stuyvesant 10/25  
Meeting at Masonic Temple in Albany/ spoke on Civil War (11/20)  
Lincoln Funeral Train Meeting, Stuyvesant (11/23)  
Coxsackie Seniors, presentation and book signing for *Legendary Local of Greene County* (12/1)  
Vedder Library, presentation and book signing for *Legendary Locals of Greene County* (12/4)  
Acra, dedication of Thurlow Weed Marker (12/5)

Coxsackie, Christmas by the River and book signing (12/7)  
Prattsville, book signing for *Legendary Locals of Greene County* (12/13)  
History Book Club in Greenville and book signing (12/15)  
Meeting to plan 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Town of Athens (12/17)  
Lincoln Funeral Train Meeting, Stuyvesant (12/28)

With regard to the tour of homes, for the past several years I have used my office to help the society gain financial support from local businesses. I have also been in touch with other groups from time-to-time throughout the year such as the Lexington Historical Society, the Oakhill Preservation Society and the Durham Center Museum.

Starting in 2011 the nation began to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil War. This remembrance stretched over a five year period (2011-2015). To ensure that Greene County is included in this event, John Quinn and I formed the Greene County Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee in 2010. Over 50 individuals and groups were contacted about participating. About 25 people attended our first meeting. Many good ideas were offered and our first official was on Memorial Day weekend, 2011, when a ceremony was held on the court house in Catskill declaring August of the next five years as Civil War Remembrance Month.

Annual events held each year have included: bus trips to Civil War battlefields, Memorial Day remembrance events in different towns, Catskill, Prattsville, Greenville, Lexington and 2015 in Oak Hill, in the Town of Durham; and the Heritage Music Festival in Windham. Starting last year I also started to work with the City of Hudson and Town of Stuyvesant on an event for April 25, 2015 commemorating the day Lincoln's Funeral Train came up the east side of the river. Hundreds of Greene County folks witnessed the passing of the train.

I regularly get phone calls and e-mails from people with research and genealogy questions. I answer what I can or provide a referral if I cannot.

As enumerated above, I made presentations on Greene County throughout the year. I remain available to make presentations of this type when called upon. In addition, from time to time I have served as a resource for media such as "The Hudson Valley Magazine", the "Kingston Daily Freeman" and "Columbia-Greene Media Newspapers." 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.

Lastly, in preparing this report I was asked to include a brief contrast from the previous year. In answer to that, I have to say that although requests for help and services vary, the type of things I do remain fairly static except when a particular anniversary is being observed. This year, 2015, for instance, the Town of Athens is celebrating its 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary. I have served as a resource to the planning committee and arranged for the Greene County Historical Society to have their annual Home Tour in the town.

Respectfully Submitted

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Greene County Historian