

Greene County Historian
Annual Report for Calendar Year 2015



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 over 300 columns. Some people have encouraged me to publish a sampling of my columns in a book at some future date.

Last year the book, co-authored by my wife Wanda and me, *Legendary Locals of Greene County* was released. To date over 1000 copies have been sold. The net proceeds from sales through book signings and sales by the Greene County Historical Society are being donated to the society to help fund a handicap railing from the parking lot to the entrance of the library. Overall, writing and promoting the book has been a rewarding experience for my wife and me and has resulted in good recognition of Greene County people who have made history and those who 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:

Business Development Meeting with Columbia-Greene Media Staff (1/15/15)
New Baltimore Conservancy (1/25/15)
Greene County Historical Society lecture (3/22/15)
Civil War Commemoration Program at Ravena School (3/26/15)
Lincoln Funeral Train Concert in Hudson (4/19/15)
Lincoln Funeral Train Event in Stuyvesant (4/25/15)
Local History Book Club (5/4/15)
Book signing at Mountain Top Historical Society (5/22/15)
Memorial Day weekend Civil War commemoration event in Oak Hill (5/24)
Annual tour of homes sponsored by the Greene County Historical Society (6/7)
Meeting to discuss moving Mountain House Exhibit (6/15/15)
Local History Book Club (7/6/15)
Book talk on *Legendary Locals of Greene County* to Catskill Rotary (7/15/15)
Civil War themed event in Windham (7/31/15)
Meeting to plan move of Mountain House Exhibit (8/11/15)
GCHS Event, "By the Light of the Silvery Moon" (8/29/15)
Dedication of History Marker at the Cairo Alms House (9/19/15)
Dedication of the Ashland Firehouse and Municipal Building (9/19/15)
GCHS Annual Heritage Craft Fair (10/5/15)
Greene County Civil War Battlefield Tour to Virginia (10/8-12/15)
Organizing Committee to save Van Loon House in Athens (10/15/15)
Pratt Museum Honoree Dinner in Windham (10/17/15)
Greene County Historical Society Lecture (11/5/15)

Athens Citizens Development Committee Meeting (11/10/15)
Coxsackie Christmas by the River and book signing (12/7/15)

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 and supported activities by other historical societies from time-to-time throughout the year such as the Cairo Historical Society, the Oak Hill Preservation Society and the Durham Center Museum.

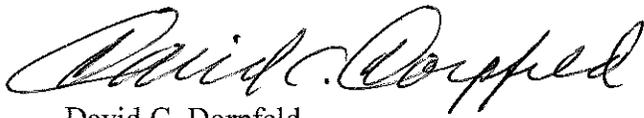
Starting in 2011 the nation began to mark the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. This remembrance stretched over a five year period (2011-2015). To ensure that Greene County was included in this event, John Quinn and I formed the Greene County Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee in 2010. Over 50 individuals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

Annual events held each year have included: Bus trips to Civil War battlefields; Memorial Day remembrance events in Catskill, Prattsville, Greenville, Lexington and Oak Hill in the Town of Durham; and the Heritage Music Festival in Windham. Starting last year I also began working 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 Hudson River. In 1865 hundreds of Greene County folks crossed the river to witness the passing of the train and their pay respects to the slain president.

As enumerated above, I made presentations on Greene County History throughout the year. I continue to remain available to make presentations 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. I find them to be a very dedicated group. Lastly, I regularly receive phone calls and e-mails from people with research and genealogy questions. I answer what I can or provide a referral if I cannot.

Instructions for preparing this report called for me to provide a brief contrast of my activity for 2015 with the previous year. In answer to that, I first have to say that although requests for help and services vary, the type of things I do remains fairly static except when a particular anniversary is being observed. In 2015 for instance, the Town of Athens celebrated its 200th anniversary. I volunteered to serve as a resource to the planning committee and arranged for the Greene County Historical Society to have their annual Home Tour in the town. In terms of time spent at my job, in 2015 I spent 579 hours doing the work of Greene County Historian compared with 508 hours the previous year, an increase of 14 percent.

Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David C. Dorpfeld". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "D".

David C. Dorpfeld
Greene County Historian