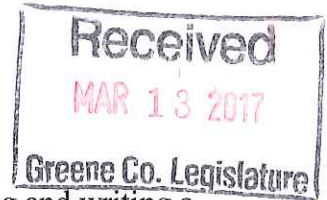


Greene County Historian
Annual Report for Calendar Year 2016



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 two county newspapers; *The Daily Mail* and the *Windham Journal*. 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 close to 400 columns. Some people have encouraged me to publish a sampling of my columns in a book at some future date.

The book co-authored by my wife Wanda and me; *Legendary Locals of Greene County* was released in late 2014. To date over 1000 copies have been sold. The net proceeds from sales through book signings and sales by the Greene County Historical Society were 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 was 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.

In 2016 I was also asked by the Greene County Administrator to author an up-to-date history of Greene County in about 4000 words. The piece was to be used as a section of applications being sent to credit rating agencies. The purpose of making these applications is to raise the county's credit score. The credit ratings are important when the county seeks to borrow money for capital improvement projects. A draft of my part was submitted in October.

I have also taken on responsibility for ensuring the exterior of the 1706 Van Loon House in Athens is refurbished. It is the oldest house in Athens and is owned by the Greene County Historical Society, but because of many other priorities, the exterior has been neglected and become a bit of an eyesore. I have arranged to get several windows repaired, and in the spring prison labor will scrape the loose paint, masonry will be repaired, and a fresh coat of paint will be applied. After that, I am hopeful that a community group will show an interest in using the building for some purpose.

This fall I was approached by two groups about helping to get sites on the National Historic Register. One site is the Mansion Street Cemetery in Coxsackie and the other is the site of the Catskill Mountain House. In the case of the cemetery, I am currently working on the application with another person from Coxsackie. I hope to join forces with the Mountain Top Historical Society on the second application in 2017.

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

Presentation for the Onteora Chapter of the DAR (1/19/16)
Cairo Historical Society's State of the Union Dinner (2/29/16)
Fund Raising Event for the Pratt Museum (4/3/16)
Local History Book Club (4/11/16)
Time with a film maker doing a documentary on the gangster Vincent "Mad Dog" Coll (5/24/16)

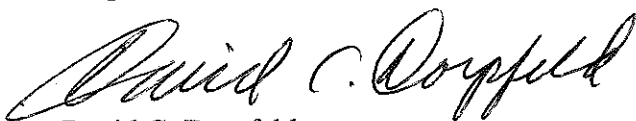
Annual tour of homes in Coxsackie sponsored by the Greene County Historical Society (6/4/16)
Presentation for the Windham Historical Society Annual Meeting (6/6/16)
Prattsville Museum July 4th weekend event (7/2/16)
Local History Book Club (7/11/16)
Opening exhibit at the Athens Cultural Center (7/16/16)
Ceremony at the County Court House to unveil pictures hung there ((8/5/16)
Local History Day at the Mountain Top Historical Society (8/20/16)
Presentation by Wanda Dorpfeld on the Van Bergen Overmantel at the Ravena Historical ((9/11/16)
Greene County Historical Society's Heritage Craft Fair (10/2/16)
History Summit at the New York State Museum (10/14/16)
Pratt Museum Founder's Day dinner (10/15/16)
Coxsackie-Athens CAFÉ event (10/22/16)
Presentation for the Henrick Hudson DAR (11/28/16)
Coxsackie Christmas by the River (12/4/15)
Athens Victorian Stroll (12/10/16)
Local History Book Club (12/19/16)

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 Windham Historical Society, the Pratt Museum and the Mountain Top Historical Society.

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 referrals 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 terms of time spent at my job, in 2016, I spent 546 hours doing the work of Greene County Historian compared with 579 hours the previous year, a decrease of 5.7 percent. The prior year my hours increased 14 percent.

Respectfully Submitted



David C. Dorpfeld
Greene County Historian