

GREENE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
ANNUAL REPORT TO THE GREENE COUNTY LEGISLATURE
FOR THE YEAR 2024

Prepared by Society President Robert C. Hallock

The Greene County Historical Society operates the Bronck Museum, the Vedder Research Library, and the Greene County Historical Register. In 2024 the Society received \$5,000 from Greene County. The funds helped to promote Greene County and the Greene County Historical Society.

2024 was a challenging year. In January our Curator, after 50 years of service, decided to retire. In February our Librarian left, taking a job out of the County. Our search for a new Librarian was successful and our new Librarian started in April. Our search for a Tour Guide and Event Coordinator to replace the Curator was long and unrewarding, resulting in one applicant.. We hired that one in September and she quit two weeks later. The result was our retiring Curator agreed to work as the Tour Guide three days a week and volunteers worked weekends for the season and then full time after our Curator broke her collarbone.

Despite the personnel problems we still had a full schedule of tours and events for the 2023 season. Lex Gray and the Urban Pioneers presented *Music of the 1880's and 1980s* in June. In July a program on *Beer and Beer Making* paid homage to Pieter Bronck's beer making in Beverwyck in the 1650's. The Meadow Ridge Heritage Barn and its Hay Press was the subject of a program on hay making in Greene County in September. Our annual Heritage Craft Fair drew about 1,000 attendees on October 1. The Dutch Funeral, including a visit to the family cemetery, held in late October and The Chilly Willy Tours celebrating preparations for winter celebrations, in November were fully sold out. A new event , Special Curator Tours dealing with several subjects were also almost sold out for the most part.

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The newly opened Newberry Hotel in Coxsackie has been a good partner for the Society since opening in mid 2024. Many of their guests have visited the Museum and the Newberry has agreed to promote the Museum to their guests.

Incidentally, the Newberry will be featured in the next article of the *Quarterly Journal* in a look at the Newberry site past and present. The *Quarterly Journal* is sent to Libraries and Historical Society's across the country, as well as members of the Society.

Historic restoration work was done on the Kitchen Dependency and the Victorian Horse Barn. Repairs were made on the Education Center as well.

The Vedder Research Library, named for the first County Historian, Jessie Van Vechten Vedder, has people from across the State, Nation and World come to do research. The Library is one of the premier research sites in the Hudson Valley. Our collections continue to increase and we are now looking at movable shelving as a way to increase our collection space. The oldest collection item, a deed to property in Staten Island, dates to the 1650's. One frequent researcher, originally from Athens, is having a book published in October 2024, *Hudson Valley Reckoning*, by Three Hills at Cornell University, dealing with slavery in the Hudson Valley. Photographs and paper items from the Library collection will appear in the book .

The Greene County Historical Society had a good year. We thank the County for their support of our activities.