2024 Annual Report of Greene County Historian
Submitted by Jonathan Palmer

Introduction:

This is my fourth annual report submitted as Greene County Historian for the period covering 1/1/2024 to 1/1/2025. This reporting period was primarily defined by a new focus specifically on programming, balancing it with a new separate 9-5 job that precluded me from attending to historian business during regular business hours. During this reporting period I have either corresponded, provided reference assistance, or held in-person meetings with every municipal historian working in the fourteen towns and five villages that comprise Greene County excepting the Towns of Halcott and Cairo. At the end of this reporting period there were no appointed municipal historians for the the Village and Town of Catskill, and Villages of Tannersville and Hunter.

Lectures, Public Events, and Presentations:

Total Attendance for public events and lectures: 600

1/13 - Lecture for Friends of Historic Saugerties

1/14 - Lecture for Ravena-Coyemans Historical Society

1/25 - Panel talk at Left Bank Ciders

2/17 - Lecture for Cairo Historical Society

3/8 - Lecture for D&H Museum

3/16 - Lecture for Hudson-Mohawk Vernacular Architecture

3/24 - Served as judge for Hudson Valley Student History Event in Dutchess County.

4/21 - First Annual Greene County Municipal Historians Conference.

5/18 - Lecture at Beattie-Powers House.

5/28 - Coeymans Hollow Lecture with Don Teator of Greenville.

5/30 - Spoke for Hudson-Athens Lighthouse Event.

6/1 - Attended and Photographed Hudson-Athens Lighthouse 150th Boat Parade.

6/7 - Attended New Netherland Institute Dinner at Fort Orange Club

6/8 - Lecture for Athens Community Day

6/10 - Lecture for Greenville Local History Group

6/27 - Meeting for Teacher's Conference Planning at Thomas Cole NHS.

7/18 - Lecture on board Schooner Apollonia

7/21 - Lecture at Zadock Pratt Museum

8/2 - MC for Hudson-Athens Lighthouse Charity Event

8/15 - Lecture on board Schooner Apollonia

9/15 - Spoke at Sloop Eleanor charity event.

9/22 - Lecture for Greene County Historical Society

10/6 - Lecture for Albany Institute of History and Art

10/13 - Mount Hope Cemetery Event

10/20 - Pints and the Past for Catskill Comedy Weekend.

10/27 - Lecture for Zadock Pratt Museum.

11/1 - Catskill Cemetery Tour.

11/20 - Lecture for Bethlehem Historical Society.

12/14 - Athens Cemetery Tour.

Reference Assistance/Public Interactions:

This past year I continued to receive and field inquiries about property and house histories from new local homeowners. These inquiries represent the largest portion of email and phone inquiries I receive as historian - genealogical questions represent the second largest number of requests.

I was extremely pleased to be able to assist the Thomas Cole National Historic Site with the preparation and execution of a Teacher's workshop held on their site. I led a primary source activity element of the program and was interviewed afterwards for documentation of the event by site staff.

This year also marked the resumption of annual meetings of the municipal historians of Greene County. Ray Beecher, the third County Historian, held several group meetings during his tenure that were not resumed following his death. This year the appointed historians met for a morning in Windham to conduct a meet and greet, familiarize each other with their work, and to discuss issues, common problems, and resources. A repeat of this event is planned for 2025.

Scholarship/Publications:

This past year I began drafting a short publication designed to give property owners detailed instructions on resources and methods for conducting house history research. This publication will also serve as a primer for anyone looking to immerse themselves in some of the more prominent physical and online resources related to Greene County.

I was also pleased to prepare a very well-received lecture on the bicentennial of the Catskill Mountain House. This lecture has been given several times for different organizations, and has been recorded and made available on youtube for the public to view.

End of Summary Report