

**MUSEUM OF RHINEBECK HISTORY
SEPTEMBER 2016 NEWSLETTER**

President's Message

It has been an eventful couple of months. We opened for the season on June 18 and had over 60 visitors that day. The exhibit on farming in Rhinebeck is wonderful and people have enjoyed learning about Rhinebeck's agricultural past and present. Welcome to our two new board members, **Dianne Closs** and **Deborah Eisenberg**. We have also had some wonderful events. Open a Box of History, where we examined and researched objects in our collection and presented about this history to our visitors and Game Night, where we gathered to play board and card games. Fun was had by all who attended. We are also preparing for our October 8 tag sale and the October 22 Harvest Auction. We invite you to participate as a vendor in the tag sale or donate items for the sale or auction. We continue with our mission of preserving Rhinebeck's history, and we cannot do this without you, so please remember to send in your membership forms, and if you have any items that you feel should be part of the Museum's collections no matter the size, please let us know. Thank you!

Welcoming Our Two New Trustees

Diane Closs has recently joined the Board of the Museum of Rhinebeck History. A Rhinebeck native who feels fortunate to have been raised in the village and attended Rhinebeck Central School. She graduated from SUNY Plattsburgh and was employed for 28 years at the Dutchess County Department of Social Services as a Case Supervisor in Children's and Adult Services.

Although she resides in Hyde Park, Rhinebeck is where her heart and soul remain. After the death of her father's first cousin and family historian, **Barbara Frost**, Diane wanted to honor Barbara by getting involved in this historical aspect of her beloved town. Volunteering to be a docent at the museum seemed like a good way to start. She is now looking forward to being on the Board.



Photo of Diane Closs Provided By Diane.

We were also lucky to welcome **Deborah (Wanzer) Eisenberg** to our board in July. We will feature her bio in our next edition. Please welcome Deborah to our Board when you see her the next time around town!

Tag Sale – Vendors Again Wanted!

Saturday, October 8, 9-3. Just \$20 per vendor per space, at the Museum, 7015 Route 9 (just north of Stone Church Road). To reserve space, call or email us.

We are always looking for donated yard sale items to sell to profit the Museum. Please call the Museum at 845-554-6331, or email us at museumofrhinebeckhistory@gmail.com. We can arrange for pickup or arrange to help you with drop off.

Also, the Museum will be open the day of the sale from 10AM -3PM, feel free to drop in and see the exhibit after shopping.



Elizabeth Clarke, Steven Mann and Mara Marrero at the June tag sale; Photo courtesy Brenda Klaproth

This Year's Exhibit – Farming in Rhinebeck

So far this year's exhibit on farming has been



very well received by our members and the public. Over 100 people have already gone through it, on the day of our

Photo from Museum's Permanent Collection

opening/tag sale and on most Saturdays from 1-4 (we are closed Fair and Labor Day Weekends).

Among the displays is a visual tribute to the Traver Family of Primrose Hill Road, a variety of farm implements, a sampling of photographs from the Grasmere Farm on Mill Road, and images from the Astor Farm appraisal of 1959. We have also included an early film footage of Grasmere Estate when it was up for sale many years ago, prepared for prospective buyers, which was converted to DVD in recent years so that it could be shared with you today.

Annual Charity Auction -- October 22, 2016

If you have not attended our annual auction before, consider doing so this year! Mark your calendars. The event will begin at noon with silent auction and festivities and live auction preview. The live auction itself will begin at 2:00 and should no more than half an hour. **Frank Gaglio of Barn Star Productions**, producer of the Rhinebeck Antiques Show, will be our celebrity auctioneer! And don't forget to take something home from our home cooked bake sale to freeze for the holidays or enjoy for the weekend dessert.

We are still looking for a few quality items that can be added to the live auction. Pottery, hand made items, antique furniture, quality artwork, quality glassware – antique or designer, rare books, and new pocketbooks are always good. In addition, we will have our annual gift baskets and other specialty items that are donated from local vendors and merchants. To donate, please call the Museum at 845-554-6331, or email us at museumofrhinebeckhistory@gmail.com.

A trustee will get back to you as soon as possible. We need to have all items in hand no later than October 1, 2016, so contact us today.

Doughboy Restoration and Maintenance

About a decade ago, Museum President Steven Mann called neighbor **Dorothy Bahret** of the Rhinebeck Garden Club regarding the possibility of having the Garden Club help maintain the area around the beautifully restored Doughboy and the war memorials. Former Trustee **Alan Coon** coordinated the effort with support of the Museum, and many members and friends donated generously to make this happen. Alan spent many hours researching old newspapers and other records to accurately name all of the veterans from the past wars who are remembered on these tributes.

Through labor and expertise of the Rhinebeck Garden Club and annual funding from the Village of Rhinebeck which pays for the plantings, this important collaboration has continued. The Museum wishes to thank the Garden Club's Chairperson **Kathy Krumenacker** and to remember the late **Alice Doyle** who was Co-Chair. Through their efforts and volunteers from the Club, this beautification effort continues. Members donate their time during the growing season to water, weed and dead head the plants to keep it looking stellar.

The next time you are in town, feel free to stop by the Village Park on East Market Street and enjoy the history and beauty of the spot. You might be surprised to see the name of a friend, neighbor, or relative on the memorials.

DID YOU KNOW?

. That the Dows family of Rhinebeck came from New Rochelle? A very important photo of the Tracy Dows and his siblings in front of the "old homestead" in New Rochelle is in the Museum collection.

. That the Museum recently acquired a small collection of written material from the Ralph Waterman Bird Club, thanks to the action of our longtime member, Jim Closs of Rhinebeck. Dr. Crosby of Grasmere is mentioned in the material.

KEEP THIS INFO HANDY

The Museum's email to reach all trustees and our offices is as follows:
museumofrhinebeckhistory@gmail.com

The telephone number is (845) 554-6331, and we check messages regularly. This assures faster response than when we had the telephone in our offices. A trustee has the mobile phone available to her after her work hours.

Open a Box of History

The Museum's first session of Open a Box of History was held Saturday afternoon, July 16, at the Museum. **Elizabeth Clarke** and **Beverly Kane** each had a box that they had researched and shared information on with visitors.

Elizabeth's box included about 25 objects, including two very lovely Christmas cards designed by the late Olin Dows. The box also included two pocket watches, one being a woman's gold one with *Kate* engraved on it, belonging to the late Katherine Marquart Frost, wife of the late Mandeville Frost.

Beverly's box included four small day planners belonging to Brooke Marshall Astor from the 1950s (as Brooke Marshall for the earlier two). The one engraved *Brooke* from 1953, the year she married Vincent Astor, included numerous visits to Rhinebeck and her wedding day. The box also included two Southlands Foundation ribbons, one yellow (the older) and one blue, both having been awarded to Stephanie Harrison of Rhinebeck, from Pony Club.

The date and place of the next Open a Box of History will be announced in the October newsletter. Admission to this event is free!



Beverly Kane shows Jean Clarke and Steven Mann the Brooke Marshall Astor diaries. To the top right are the Southlands ribbons donated by the late Ada S. Harrison of Rhinebeck. Photo taken by Brenda Klaproth, courtesy of Beverly Kane.



Elizabeth Clarke shows an interested visitor the contents of her archival box in the historic Quitman parlor. Among the items shown are the advertising paper fan (bottom right) from the Hull family and the children's character soaps (top right) from the Roger Cole family. Photo taken by Brenda Klaproth, courtesy of Beverly Kane.

Mark Your Calendars

The Museum will host a Pampered Chef Catalog Party on **Sunday, November 20, 2-4 PM**. Details will be provided in the October newsletter. Our sales liaison will be **Barbara Henderson** of Red Hook, who many of you know from the historic Red Hook Diner. The Museum will get a generous percentage of each purchase. One need not attend to place an order and support us. Again, more details will follow in October.

Remembering Our Late Vice President

We recently learned of the passing of our former vice president, **Martha Reardon** who was residing in Bangor, Maine. Martha was Vice President during the presidencies of Lida Traver-Landy, Kay Verrilli, and Steven Mann. Her loyalty and commitment to Rhinebeck history has been missed since selling the family home on Montgomery Street, now the site of the Rhinebeck Jewish Community Center. Martha had been an educator at the former Staatsburg School. She was a longtime valuable volunteer at Wilderstein, and was remembered posthumously at a recent event there. Thank you, Martha, for your decade of service to us. Your energy and enthusiasm were always an important part of our success. She was laid to rest in the Natural Burial Ground of the Rhinebeck (Grasmere) Cemetery.

New Ideas Always Needed

The Museum is always looking for new and unique fundraising ideas. We are also looking for new ways to promote history, besides our exhibits, occasional lectures that we've had in the past, and new forum, Open a Box of History. We are also looking for families or organizations willing to help us fund these new programs.

Please feel free to email us at museumofrhinebeckhistory@gmail.com, or call us at the new phone, 845-554-6331. Also, please check our website museumofrhinebeckhistory.com, and like us on Facebook, where we have over 715 followers. Also, look for more changes to our evolving website, including more images.

**Curator to Lead Annual Cemetery Walk/Talk
MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

Museum Curator **Steven Mann** will lead the annual Friends of the Rhinebeck Cemetery Walking Tour on **Sunday, October 16, at 2 PM**. This year's tour will focus on the south end of Section C. This small space has some of the cemetery's most prestigious residents, including the Dows, Delano, Astor, Morton, Adams/Hermance, and Crosby families. The walking is extremely minimal, but the information is quite detailed.

A light reception will follow at the Kane Barn, 54 Mill Road, Rhinebeck, adjacent to the cemetery. All are welcomed to attend!

Photographs from This Year's Exhibit

For those of you unable to come up to the Museum, we are providing a few images from the Farming Exhibit. We hope you will enjoy the brief look at some of the agricultural-related items from our collection. This year there are additions from the Kane, Clarke and Traver families, for which we are grateful.



Four objects from the Museum's permanent collection which would be found on a farm. The object to the back right is a wooden kitchen implement used to stir curds and whey. Photo courtesy of Beverly Kane.



Berry boxes and crate from the Thorne farm that was on the Salisbury Turnpike, apple butter bucket from the Hull family, and apple crate stencil and an old farming book from the Clarke farm on Salisbury Turnpike (latter two on loan). Photo courtesy of Beverly Kane.



Images from the Morton (Ellerslie) Farm and from the Crosby (Grasmere) Farm, and farming postcards with various images. The large scythe with the beautiful wooden handle is on loan from the Kane farm. Photo courtesy of Beverly Kane.



The hall panel and display case – documents from the Astor Appraisal in 1959, objects include a grain box, metal poultry feeders, and wooden poultry crate from the Frost Farm on Frost/Wurtemberg Roads. Photo courtesy of Beverly Kane.