

Columbia County HISTORY & HERITAGE

SPRING 2002

Volume 1 Number One

Published by the Columbia County Historical Society

IN THIS ISSUE:

On Our Cover
"Salting Sheep"

PAGE 3

"ye People Very Much
Inclined to mutiny"
Columbia County and the
1689 Leisler Rebellion

PAGE 4

The One-Room
Schoolhouse

PAGE 6

News of the
Columbia County
Historical Society

PAGE 8

Columbia County
Historical Society
Development Campaign

PAGE 10

History Around the County

PAGE 12

Collections Highlights

PAGE 14

Columbia County
Historical Society
Events Calendar

PAGE 15



Columbia County HISTORY & HERITAGE

COLUMBIA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Susan Gerwe Tripp <i>President</i>	Arthur Baker
John B. Carroll	George N. Biggs, III
Marian Guerriero <i>Vice Presidents</i>	Albert Callan
Carole Mott <i>Secretary</i>	Nancy Clark
Woodruff L. Tuttle <i>Treasurer</i>	Pamela Cohen
Stephan M. Mandel <i>Assistant Secretary</i>	Henry N. Eyre, Jr.
Sheldon Evans <i>Assistant Treasurer</i>	John Hannam
	Willis Hartshorn
	Beth O'Connor
	Richard Ryan
	Samuel O.J. Spivy
	Colin Stair
	Harry van Dyke
	David William Voorhees

STAFF

Sharon S. Palmer *Executive Director*
Helen M. McLallen *Curator*
Ruth Ellen Berninger *Educator*

COLUMBIA COUNTY HISTORY & HERITAGE EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor

Henry "Jim" Eyre

Assistant Editors

Julia Philip
David William Voorhees

Editorial Committee

Arthur Baker
George N. Biggs, III
Stephan M. Mandel

Design and Production

Ron Toelke
Ron Toelke Associates

Columbia County History & Heritage is published by the Columbia County Historical Society and is mailed to all members of record at the time of publication. Copies may be obtained, as available, at \$2.00 per copy from the Society offices at the Columbia County Museum, 5 Albany Avenue, Kinderhook, New York, 12106; 518-758-9265; www.cchsny.org

Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.,
Saturday 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Welcome to our newest initiative, *Columbia County History & Heritage*. The Board of Directors of the Columbia County Historical Society and I hope that all of you will find this new publication both interesting and timely. We have long sought to bring to the residents of the county a publication that shares information on the dynamic preservation efforts that are taking place in Columbia County and imparts a knowledge of the rich history that we all share.

Respecting the traditions of the past, *Columbia County History & Heritage* harkens back to the original *Bulletin* of the Society, that was published from January 1928 to April 1959. We are deeply indebted to Ron Toelke Associates, for the impetus to undertake this publication. Many thanks go to Ron for his generously donated talents that account for the artistic integrity and design of the magazine.

It is our intent to publish articles on local historical societies and their programs, and on unusual and little known segments of the county's history and events. We urge everyone to contact us with schedules of upcoming events and programs of interest. As well, we hope that our readers will submit articles related to historic events, preservation issues and efforts and the people who have been a powerful force behind the long and colorful heritage of Columbia County.

Columbia County History & Heritage is the first visible sign of our fund-raising efforts and development program. We are beginning a serious drive to raise monies that will enable us to continue and broaden our educational programs, outreach, and library services. As well, we are seeking desperately needed funding that will help us to maintain, preserve and protect our four historic properties. It is an immense undertaking and we welcome all of your good-will, thoughts, ideas, and donations. We will only succeed if we have your help.

Susan Gerwe Tripp
President
Board of Directors

Our Mission

The Columbia County Historical Society is a private, not-for-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of the history and culture of Columbia County for its residents and visitors.

It is the Society's goal to encourage understanding, knowledge, and preservation of the county's heritage through the acquisition and conservation of historic lands, buildings, objects and documents, and the sponsorship of research, publications, exhibitions, and educational programming. To help achieve its mission, the Society owns, maintains, and interprets to the public buildings and collections of historical significance, and operates a museum that includes exhibition galleries and an extensive research library.

Salting Sheep

or a Portrait of Sherman and Lydia Griswold c1837

By James E. Johnson (1810 – 1858)

by Jim Eyre

Our cover portrait of Sherman Griswold (1790-1864) and his wife, Lydia Dean (1784-1845), is very large (93 ¾" x 49"), and is certainly the largest of the ten portraits by James E. Johnson in the Columbia County Historical Society's collection. It has the added distinction of bearing another title, *Salting Sheep*, for that is the very activity being performed by the Griswolds in the painting. Handed down with the portrait is a description of this custom, which holds that the men of the Spencertown community, where the Griswolds lived and farmed, would give salt to their sheep every Sunday after church.

The benefits of feeding salt to livestock were recognized during the 19th-century. *The Barn-Yard, a Manual of Cattle, Horse and Sheep Husbandry*, published in 1866, stated "Salt in my judgment, is indispensable to the health of sheep, particularly in the summer; and I know not a flock-master among the hundreds with whom I am acquainted, who differs with me in this opinion. It is common to give it once a week while the sheep are at grass." The idea that this task was performed on Sunday, however, seems apocryphal. No documentary evidence has yet been found to support the story, which may have its origin

in an effort to explain the presence of this well-dressed couple in a pasture. The painting, with its combination of fine clothing and sheep, nonetheless dramatizes the importance of sheep to the community of this period.

During the first half of the 19th century, wool growing and cloth manufacture were major industries in Columbia County. Sherman Griswold was in the business and at one time

owned ten farms in the area. One of these farms, the Hatfield Farm, located in Spencertown, is shown in the background of the portrait, and the farmhouse survives to this date. In 1837 Griswold sold most of his properties and invested in a railway across Columbia County to the Berkshires. The Hudson and Berkshire Railroad failed and most of the enthusiastic investors lost their investments. However, it seems likely that Griswold may have had some assets in reserve for the portrait was completed by Johnson around 1837. In fact, land records suggest that Griswold was never impoverished, and in 1855 he owned another substantial farm near Spencertown.

The first half of the 19th century had seen the popularization of art in America as

well as things native-made. Portraits were no longer the exclusive preserve of the upper classes and paintings began to decorate the homes of an increasingly affluent and educated middle class. Itinerant or rural painters were more frequently found in the prosperous towns of counties like Columbia.

Born in Sandy Hill in Washington County, New York, James E. Johnson settled

Portraits were no longer the exclusive preserve of the upper classes...

in Kinderhook in 1846. According to local tradition, Johnson boarded at 19 Albany Avenue and possibly taught at the Kinderhook Academy. In 1852 he married Sara Ann Van Vleck, the daughter of a wealthy Kinderhook merchant and landowner with seven farms in Columbia County. He moved into their spacious home (now the National Union Bank of Kinderhook) and lived there until he died in 1858. The 1855 state census lists his occupation as "artist".

Unlike the mask-like character seen in portraits by some of the plain painters of his day Johnson's faces were modeled and highlighted to show contour, and skin texture, though age and character remained disguised. Little attempt, however, was made

to portray realistic fabrics or hair texture. Clothes were in the then fashionably dull colors for adults, while children frequently wore bright or white colors. His backgrounds showed his interest in landscape but also his unperfected skill in handling them.

Most of his sitters were members of prominent families in Columbia County and known to Johnson. Eight Spencertown portraits and seventeen from the Kinderhook area attest the impact of the artist on the community. However, some portraits for clients outside the county are known, including those of the Henry B. Merrell family of Sackets Harbor, New York, and Janet and Robert Lathrop, children of Gideon Lathrop, a steamboat captain from Albany who later moved to Stockport.

The Johnson paintings are often on display at the Columbia County Historical Society Museum and Library in Kinderhook where inquiries and visits are welcome. The Griswold portrait is on permanent display on the museum's second floor.

The author has based much of this article on James E. Johnson: Rural Artist and A Visible Heritage, by Ruth Piwonka and Roderic H. Blackburn and available for purchase in the Museum Shop. ♡

“ye People Very Much Inclined to mutiny”:

Columbia County and the 1689 Leisler Rebellion

by *David William Voorhees*

Travelers disembarking at the Hudson River hamlet of Claverack Landing (now the City of Hudson) in the 1680s were met with a landscape that was lush and welcoming. Four miles inland at Claverack Creek were “fine farms” with the tillable land “very delightful and pleasant to look upon.” But just below this veneer of peaceful serenity were seething tensions brought about by jealousies over land grants as well as deep seated religious differences.

In the half-century preceding 1689 Europeans first settled the area of present-day Columbia County. In 1649, while the region was still under Dutch control, Patroon Kiliaen van Rensselaer purchased much of the land in the county from the Mohicans. In 1657 Major Abraham Staats purchased land from the Mohicans at Stockport Creek. By 1661 Kinderhook had been settled under Beverwijck’s (as Albany was then known) jurisdiction. In that year Dirck Wessels, Peter van Allen, Jan Luycasen, and Jan Hendrick De Bruyn acquired land extending south from Kinderhook, and in June 1662 Jan Fans van Hoesen received a patent for a tract that included most the present-day City of Hudson and part of Greenport.

After England’s Duke of York, who later became King James II, acquired the region

from the Dutch in 1664, differences between Dutch and English inheritance laws brought many of the Dutch land grants into question. Two grants made by England’s government in the 1680s created additional bitterness. In 1684 King James II’s Roman Catholic governor, Thomas Dongan, confirmed to Robert Livingston two thousand acres on Roeloff Jansen’s Kill and 600 acres at Taghkanic and in 1686 granted him manorial rights as payment for a debt. In 1685 Philip Schuyler was granted a patent for 800 acres lying along the Great New England Path. When in 1688 King James II incorporated New York into the mega-colony of the Dominion of New England, with the seat of government transferred from New York City to Boston, all property titles were again called into question. To secure titles, New Yorkers now had to petition for new patents from Boston at the uniform

quitrent of two shillings, six pence per hundred acres. Until this time most of the patent and grant holders, with the exception of the Staats and Van Hoesen families, resided in Albany and oversaw their estates as absentee landlords. Not surprisingly, then, the burden fell on the small farmers, who were in the midst of a severe agricultural depression and whose farms and welfare were at stake. Naturally, tempers were high.

It is necessary to remember that in 1688 most of Columbia County remained very much part of the Dutch cultural world. In the seventeenth century the Dutch body politic split into factions between the supporters of the town regents and supporters of the House of Orange. In these protracted disputes, politics closely aligned with religious doctrine. Strict Calvinists, who stressed a personal conversion to Christ and pietism,

supported the House of Orange, while the followers of more liberal covenant theologies supported the regent class. Politics and doctrine intertwined in New York as in the Netherlands. The agricultural peoples who settled Columbia County were, like their counterparts in Europe, attracted to a popular piety. The absentee landlords, who also made up the Albany government, tended toward the more liberal doctrine. Hostility to the Albany Convention on ideological and legal grounds was thus well in place in Columbia County by summer 1689.

In early November 1688 the Protestant William, the Dutch Prince of Orange, crossed the English Channel with an invasion force of 21,000 men and quickly unseated his Papist father-in-law, England’s King James II, who fled to France for safety. By February 1689 New Yorkers knew of the success of the invasion, and in May several militia companies seized control of New York City’s fort from King James’s regular troops. During the following weeks the militia captains, as a Council of War, called for a convention of representatives to “Concult what might be best & most advantageous for the welfare of the country & the protestant religion.” In late June a convention of delegates from New York City and the adjacent counties, known as the Committee of Safety, assumed provincial control. The Committee then elected sen-



Abraham Staats house (c1660 or later), from A Visible Heritage, by Ruth Piwonka and Roderic H. Blackburn, (CCHS, 1977)

ior New York City militia captain Jacob Leisler to serve as commander in chief of the province while awaiting orders from England's new Protestant monarchs, William and Mary.

The government of Albany, meanwhile, decided to act on its own until receiving orders from England and formed a convention under the leadership of Mayor Pieter Schuyler, an appointee of King James II's government. Because Columbia County was at that time part of Albany County, and thus fell under the jurisdiction of Albany, events in Albany would have particular impact on the course of the uprising in this region.

The New York version of England's 1688 Glorious Revolution, or, as it is more popularly called, Leisler's Rebellion, was now well underway. Leisler and his cohorts were quick to manipulate the unrest in Columbia County and the hostility toward the Albany Convention. In October 1689 the New York City Committee of Safety sent Jacob Milborne with fifty militiamen to Albany to bring the "former creatures to the late government" under their control. Before leaving for Albany, Milborne sent letters to Kinderhook and Claverack with promises that the people there would receive equal privileges in the fur trade and wheat bolting, privileges that Albany's regents had denied the communities in order to maintain their monopoly. When visitors arrived in Columbia County in the late fall of 1689 they "founde ye People Very Much Inclined to mutiny."

Milborne arrived in Albany on November 9. Marching into the crowded city hall, he gave a rousing speech in which he stated, "it was in [Albanians'] power to Free

Themselves from that Yoke of arbitrary Power and Government... of that Illegal king James, who was a Papist... and that now the Power was in the People to choose new Civil and Military

It is necessary to remember that in 1688 most of Columbia County remained very much part of the Dutch cultural world.

Officers as they Pleased... and therefore they must have a free Election." Such thinking, according to then current English constitutional theory and its adherence to the divine right of kings, as one Albany critic noted, meant "All Authority turned upside downe."

At this point, the Staats family, who were hands-on landlords on their property at Stockport Creek, emerged as leaders of the region's Leisler faction. A mob chose Joachim Staats to demand that Milborne's troops, then billeted outside the city, be admitted into the community. Staats's efforts failed and Milborne was forced to retreat to New York City after a group of Mohawks friendly to the Albany Convention threatened to attack his militiamen. Joachim would continue to promote Leislerian interests in Albany. (In 1711 he would marry Leisler's daughter Francina.)

William's invasion of England had also initiated war with France, which supported James II's claim to England's throne. Preparations were now undertaken for a French invasion. Forts were constructed at Kinderhook Village and Pompoenik. A midnight French and Indian raid on Schenectady in February 1690, which left

most of that community's inhabitants dead or captured, created panic. On March 20 the Albany Convention capitulated to Leisler and the government was turned over to a commission headed by

Joachim Staats, Jan Hendrick De Bruyn, Johannes Provoost, and Jacob Milborne.

Leisler now began a crackdown on opposition. Reformed ministers who preached passive obedience and James II's manorial patentees suffered particular harassment. Labeled "Popish Trumpets" by Leislerians, many were forced to flee. Among these was Robert Livingston, who had benefited from his friendship with James II's Catholic governor, Thomas Dongan. Leisler, however, believed that he acted within a legal framework. After all, William's declarations justifying his invasion of England called upon magistrates to disarm Catholics, dispossess them of office, and treat those found "with Arms" or holding civil or military office "contrary to the laws of the land," and those aiding them, as criminals and punish them accordingly.

Leisler then called America's first intercolonial conference to meet in New York City to deal with the threat of French Canada. Fitz-John Winthrop of Massachusetts was appointed general of the land forces to invade Quebec. In July 1690 Winthrop with a Connecticut contingent arrived in Kinderhook after marching a week "through the difficult and almost impassable parts of

the wilderness." Here they were met by officers from the Albany garrison, who escorted them to that city. Winthrop's campaign was a disaster and Leisler had him imprisoned. Nonetheless, Leisler's own administration was reaching its end. His opponents had gained the ear of the new incoming royal English governor, Henry Sloughter. Sloughter, upon arriving in New York City with royal troops in March 1691, quickly crushed the movement and imprisoned its leaders, including Jan De Bruyn and members of the Staats family. In May 1691 Leisler and Milborne were executed for treason by hanging "til halfe dead" then beheading.

For Columbia County the repression of the Leislerian movement was momentous. The manorial powers of that faction who had opposed Leisler were greatly enhanced. Although in 1695 Parliament reversed the treason sentence against Leisler and pardoned those in prison, the die was already cast for Columbia County's future. A golden age of the manor lord in Columbia and adjoining counties had dawned. ♣



Detail of portrait of Robert Livingston (1654-1728), attributed to Nebemiah Partridge, 1718, from A Portrait of Livingston Manor, 1686-1850, by Ruth Piwonka (Friends of Clermont, 1986).

The One-Room SCHOOLHOUSE

by Sharon S. Palmer,
Executive Director
Columbia County Historical Society

Since 1986 the one-room schoolhouses that once dotted the rural landscape of Columbia County have been the subject of my research and occasional slide presentations throughout the county. I discovered a variety of building styles in each township and hamlet of the county, with assistance from many local residents. From the simple wood shingled structures often found on county crossroads to the solid brick buildings built to stand the test of time, the schoolhouses can often be seen today, if you know where to look. Some of them have vanished, but many exist as homes, farm buildings, lonely ruins, or museum sites. I was fortunate enough to capture several county schoolhouses on film before they completely disappeared from the landscape.

In celebration of this important part of our community's heritage I would like to share with you information gleaned from local residents as well as from my research conducted at the New York State Library. The following are excerpts from a report I prepared for the Columbia County Historical Society in 1986 and a more recent article.

America's rural schools have been the backbone of education in this country for more than two centuries. Small district schools were an integral part

of the community as they served the families of the immediate vicinity. Even as late as 1913 one half of America's school children were attending one-room schools. Students came from all walks of life. Even former president Lyndon B. Johnson attended a one-room school in Texas in 1912.

The more isolated the location, the more important a role the schoolhouse played...

Our rural schools practiced what today's educators are encouraging, smaller classes and programs that allow students to progress at their own rate. Family values, strength of community, and cultural continuity were inherent in the one-room school atmosphere.

The teacher's abilities, the community's resources, and the students themselves determined the quality of

education. Older students assisted younger ones, a method we call peer teaching today. Children learned from each other as they listened to recitations by each grade level (often eight grades) in front of the entire student body. One teacher taught all grade levels and served as principal, nurse, art and music instructor, as

well as gym teacher. Strict discipline was the rule. Teachers commanded respect and parents supported them. During oral interviews with former students, willow switches were mentioned, though they had no memory of this form of punishment ever being practiced.

The more isolated the location, the more important a role the schoolhouse played, often making it the heart of the

community. The schools provided a sense of place, bringing students and parents together for social occasions, meetings, plays, and other events. The schoolhouse fostered community spirit and created a family-like atmosphere. Residents felt an intense personal pride in their district schools.

At the turn of the century the concept of standardization began to take hold in rural areas. Schools introduced the Palmer Method of Penmanship to achieve greater legibility. Arithmetic took a practical turn when used to solve problems such as the value of a crop or how many bushels twenty acres will yield. Recitation and elocution were stressed, as well as history, geography, spelling, and reading. McGuffey's and other "readers" instilled values in the student's young minds.

Close on the heels of standardization came a push to consolidate the school districts into larger centralized districts serving families in a wider geographic area. Progressive educators sought to eliminate rural schools in order to provide a more efficient education system. Better roads, automobiles and school buses were eliminating the need for rural schools within walking distance.

Columbia County's rural schools became the victims of this change in the early twentieth century as New York politicians and educators took an interest in improving educational opportunities for all rural children. The one-room district schools, established by the Common



The c1850 Ichabod Crane Schoolhouse stands on the Van Alen House grounds, Rte. 9H, Kinderhook. The Society conducts school programs and guided tours from May through October each year. It served as a one-room school until 1945.

School Act of 1812, slowly disappeared as larger central school complexes replaced them.

Beginning in the 1920s the rural schools were intensely scrutinized by Progressive leaders who sought to improve society through scientific reform. Governor Alfred E. Smith, agreeing with the experts studying the one-room schools, felt they had become a cause of grave concern to educators and thoughtful parents. Large, centralized schools, with the benefit of state financial aid, would provide equal education for all, improved social development, safe transportation, better courses and improved facilities.

Columbia County's centralization process progressed slowly from the first vote in New Lebanon in 1928, where four districts centralized, to the 1950s. Germantown Central School initially centralized in 1931 with three districts, annexing thirteen more in the 1940s and 1950s. Twenty nine districts formed the Roeliff Jansen Central School in 1931, becoming the state's largest school district to date. An editorial in the Hudson Daily Star commented; "The little one-room schools... which were so generally held in affection, are slipping behind the march of progress... it was not as efficient an educational machine as this new institution." In 1946 the Ockawamick Central School was created from fifteen rural districts. (More than two decades later, in 1969, the Roeliff Jansen and Ockawamick districts centralized further, becoming the Taconic Hills Central School.)

Valatie, Kinderhook and Chatham faced strong opposition within the villages where residents strongly identified with their existing Union

Free Schools. They feared losing their identity to a system of mass education. Advocates of the new system formed committees, conducted surveys and circulated petitions to promote centralization and to bring the issue to a vote.

A growing population and rising taxes finally convinced voters that larger schools and state aid were desperately needed. By a vote of 1,119 to 511, eighteen districts formed the Ichabod Crane School District in 1954. Chatham Central School District was created in 1955 from twenty-four districts by a vote of 765 to 141.

A new sense of pride emerged as students benefited from the improved social and academic opportunities of the centralized schools. On the other hand, one former student of a one-room school recalled in an oral interview: "When I went to high school (in the newly-formed central school) it took me four years to get comfortable with so many people!"

Interest in the one-room schoolhouse is very apparent today with visitors to Columbia County seeking out the historic c1850 Ichabod Crane Schoolhouse, owned and operated by the Columbia County Historical Society. It is restored to its early 20th century appearance, including artifacts from one-room schools throughout the county. The Society's educator, Ruth Ellen Berninger, conducts school programs there, where today's students learn the Palmer Method of Penmanship, recite lessons on the "lesson bench," and discover the differences between this and their own school experience. The schoolhouse sits on the Van Alen House property on Route 9H, Kinderhook, and is open to the public during the summer



The Riders Mills Historical Association is restoring this late 18th-century brick schoolhouse. It served as a school into the 1950s.

months and by appointment.

The existing structure, which once stood at the intersection of Route 9H and Fisher Road, was moved to its current site in 1974 on a flatbed truck. In the early 19th century an earlier school stood on the former site when Jesse Merwin taught there and welcomed visits from his friend, Washington Irving. Merwin, believed to be the prototype for Ichabod Crane in Irving's *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, informed his friend that a new school had been erected in place of the old, familiar one. Irving responded in 1851 with dismay over the loss of the old building. Jesse Merwin died in 1852 and is buried in the Kinderhook Cemetery.

Following centralization in 1945, the schoolhouse stood empty until 1952 when a special radio broadcast was aired

from the site. Honored guest Eleanor Roosevelt dedicated the spruced-up structure as a community center, where events were held for the next decade. Several years of neglect followed, until the Town of Kinderhook moved the schoolhouse to the Van Alen House grounds in 1974 under the auspices of the Columbia County Historical Society.

Concerned residents, who understand the value of preserving county history, are also caring for the Rider's Mills, Clermont, Ancram, Red Rock, Austerlitz, Copake, and other schoolhouses. Memories of the little buildings scattered throughout the county, where so many of our residents were educated in a family atmosphere, remain strong. A poem by Phillip Engel, published in the CCHS Bulletin in 1944, thoughtfully reminds us of our county's rural heritage. ♡

School House by the Road by Phillip A. Engel

The children going to the district school
 Afoot, and fed on nature's hearty fare,
 Are set in line for just as high a goal
 As children are allotted anywhere.
 Why rob these rural children of their scene,
 And substitute a playtime on the street?
 In doing so, their birthright looks too mean.
 They will choose mates who find a farm no treat.
 When once they turn their back on perfumed field
 And all that has been theirs, fresh aired and free,
 Its essence will be foreign in its yield,
 And secondhanded in its potency.
 The country has a tongue, and things to say,
 Why lead the children of the soil away?

News of the Columbia County Historical Society

COLUMBIA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESERVATION HERITAGE AWARDS

In 2001 the Society initiated the annual Preservation Heritage Awards. These recognize organizations and persons who have made a significant contribution to preserving the heritage of Columbia County. If you know any person or organization that you would like to have considered for this annual award, please contact the Society at (518) 758-9265. All nominations for this year must be submitted by the end of July, 2002.

The following were the recipients of this award during 2001:

The Clermont Town Board, for their efforts in restoring and preserving three historic properties in the heart of that town.

Dominick Lizzi, Valatie Village Historian, for his varied efforts in fostering a renewed awareness of local history of the village.

Roy Shannon, whose sketches have enhanced the historical displays assembled for many events in the Town of Stuyvesant.

Mary Howell, Livingston Town Historian, for her efforts in establishing the Livingston History Barn as a new home for the many historical objects she has collected over the years.

The Society is proud to recognize the above for their historical preservation efforts.

SOCIETY BESTOWS FIRST ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Columbia County Historical Society awarded a \$1,000.00 scholarship to

Frederick Sutherland, who will be graduating this year from Hudson High School. This is the first of an annual award by the Society to a high school student exhibiting exceptional interest in the study of local and regional history. This scholarship must be applied for through the guidance department at the student's school. Mr. Sutherland will be attending Boston University this fall. All of us in the Society wish him well in his future endeavors.

If you are interested in being considered for this award, please contact the guidance office at your school.

SOCIETY IS RECENT RECIPIENT OF THREE GRANTS

Society Awarded Prestigious Federal Grant

The Columbia County Historical Society has been awarded a competitive General Operating Support Grant of \$56,996.00 from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, a Federal agency located in Washington, D.C. The Society's grant was one of 178 awarded nationwide from a total of 826 applications received by IMLS.

Robert S. Martin, the new Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services, said, "With more than \$15,512,000 going to 178 exemplary museums, IMLS continues its long tradition of recognizing and supporting the best of museum service in America."

Museums must demonstrate outstanding performance in all areas of museum operations to qualify for a General Operating Support grant. They are one of the

most sought-after museum awards of the Institute of Museum and Library Services, an independent Federal agency that fosters leadership, innovation and a lifetime of learning.

This grant award allows the Columbia County Historical Society to continue to offer a variety of educational programs to the local and regional community, to keep the research library and exhibit spaces at the Columbia County Museum open to the public year-round, and to maintain its high standards of collections care.

Upstate History Alliance Awards Society Technical Assistance Grant

The Columbia County Historical Society was recently the recipient of a technical assistance grant of \$1,500.00 from the Upstate History Alliance. This grant will permit the Society to lead a collaborative project to engage museum educators from Clermont and Olana State Historic Sites, Martin Van Buren National Historic Site,

and the Shaker Museum and Library in the creation of an educational kit for middle school children.

Lower Hudson Conference's Conservation Treatment Grant

As noted on page 14 of this publication, the Society was awarded a grant of \$1,726.00 by the Lower Hudson Conference to conserve the historic silk banner, designed and made in 1919 for the Daughters of the Columbia County Historical Society, the predecessor to what has become the Columbia County Historical Society.

The above grants are a testament to the professionalism of the staff and to the importance of the Society's activities and collections. In addition to the funding these awards carry, the Society appreciates the honor bestowed on us by being considered worthy of recognition by the above three organizations. ♣



Frederick Sutherland, Hudson High School senior, received the first annual \$1,000 scholarship from the Society for excellence in the study of history. He will attend Boston University in the fall. Pictured are his parents, Frederick and Linda, and Harry van Dyke, member of the Board of Directors, presenting the certificate.

News of the Columbia County Historical Society

THE SOCIETY NEEDS YOU

The Columbia County Historical Society depends upon volunteers to help it in its many endeavors. We are seeking individuals with experience and interest in any of the following areas to contact the Society and volunteer their time and effort. Don't hesitate to contact us even if you think that your background is not suitable. We can explore with you our needs and your interests to determine how best you can help us.

If you are skilled in typing and/or inputting materials into computers, you could help us manage and catalogue our collection. Museum or archival experience would be helpful. Please call Helen McLallen, Curator, at 758-9265. She will be happy to discuss in more detail the type of assistance needed and what is required.

We need people who have an interest in either writing or presenting educational programs to help the staff Educator in this important outreach effort. If you have an interest in developing such programs or working with students, please contact Ruth Ellen Berninger, Educator, at 758-9265.

Finally, the Society can use help handling a wide variety of tasks in its library and office at the Museum in Kinderhook. If you would like to assist us in these areas, please call Sharon Palmer, Executive Director, at the telephone number shown above.

Compliments of



HARRY DENNIS HAMM

It is with great sadness that the Board of Directors and staff of the Columbia County Historical Society note the passing of their dedicated volunteer and friend, Harry Dennis Hamm. For the past nineteen years Harry spent three days each week in the genealogy library at the Columbia County Museum answering written requests the Society received from all over the world. These letters were from families seeking information on their ancestors and Harry took full advantage of the genealogy library to meticulously search for answers. He was always very proud that his efforts resulted in letters of appreciation and donations to the Society. Despite his and his wife Mary's declining health in recent months, he remained in close contact with the Museum and maintained his interest in our genealogy work.

A few years ago Harry met with long-time friends from Valatie, his hometown, searching for information to be "saved for the future." He worked tirelessly sketching by hand a detailed map of the village showing places and names



remembered from his youth. This map is currently being indexed as a historical resource for future generations.

Harry's legacy will also live on in the paintings of local scenes that he donated to the Society's collection, from Valatie street scenes to historic buildings in the community. The Society was very proud to exhibit many of these paintings in the museum gallery in the summer of 2000. Many of us will remember Harry as the creator of the holiday raffle dollhouses that he donated over the years. They were very special to him as well as to the winners.

The Board and staff wish to thank the family for naming the Society as one of the recipients of memorial donations in Harry's memory. In light of his service and interest in genealogy research, all donations will be applied to acquiring additional resources for the genealogy library. Harry will be remembered fondly for his warm friendship and unfailing dedication and will be greatly missed. ♡

Columbia County History & Heritage is interested in hearing from you — if you have articles, pictures, or other items about Columbia County history and cultural heritage suitable for publication, please let us know. The Editorial Board will review all submissions, and all submissions considered for publication are subject to editing. We regret that we cannot guarantee publication.

Want to advertise in *Columbia County History & Heritage*? Call 518-758-9265 for more information.

Society Begins Major Development Campaign

By Nick Biggs

The Columbia County Historical Society has undertaken a critical three year effort designed to achieve the following four general goals:

- Expand the membership base and increase the benefits of membership;
- Increase awareness of the Society throughout the county and reach out to new constituencies;
- Increase financial support for the Society; and
- Realize program initiatives in such areas as education, restoration and preservation, collections, publications and exhibitions.

The Society over the past 85 years has played an integral part in the Columbia County community. During 2001 nearly 15,000 persons attended various events sponsored by the Society, our education and outreach efforts reached 3,000 students, and more than 4,000 persons visited the Society's museum and library to view exhibitions and for historical and genealogical research. Also during the year the Society awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to a deserving college-bound student, presented awards to several individuals and groups in recognition of their preservation efforts, exhibited three centuries of Columbia County portraits from our collection, and presented four showings of the historic Monthie slides at various locations. In recognition of the Society's importance to this region, the Institute of Museum and Library Services awarded us an operating support grant this past year—testifying to the quality of our programs and to the profes-

sionalism of our staff.

Although we at the Society are proud of what we have accomplished, we also recognize that we must do more. We must grow, expand the programs and services that we offer, restore and preserve our historical sites, add to our collections and library, and continue to make these resources available to the Columbia County community.

MEMBERSHIP

A membership drive will commence this spring with letters going out to a large number of residents. This is in addition to the current successful practice of identifying newcomers to Columbia County and offering them the opportunity to join this Society.

In addition, a new "benefits ladder" has been created which makes membership at each level more valuable. For instance, membership at the Patron's level of \$100 will, in addition to standard membership benefits, entitle the member to reciprocal privileges at other museums and historic properties.

If you would like to be a member of the Society or if you know someone that you believe would be receptive to

joining, please phone Rita Laffety at (518) 758-9265.

BULLETIN AND WEBSITE

Another improved benefit to members is our new publication, *Columbia County History and Heritage*. This publication is designed to provide members with informative and interesting articles about the history and heritage of the county and about the activities of not only this Society but of other groups involved in preserving the culture of this unique area.

We are quite excited about this new publication and welcome any comments that you might have. Also, if you would like to submit an article about some aspect of the history of Columbia County or would be interested in working on future issues, please contact Jim Eyre at (518) 851-9151 or Julia Philip at (518) 851-6351.

We are also in the process of creating a new website. Our new web address is www.cchsn.org. This should be up and running by May 25 and we hope that you will visit it periodically for updated information and program schedules.

NEW EVENTS

We are introducing two new events this year. One will be Collectors' Day, open to the public, on September 21, 2002 at the Society's Vanderpoel house in Kinderhook. We are offering collectors throughout the county the opportunity to display part of their collections and to discuss these with interested attendees. We hope to attract large numbers of exhibitors with a wide range of different collections. If you would like to exhibit your collection at this event, please call Jim Eyre at (518) 851-9151. Please understand that we may not be able to accommodate all who would like to do so. Yet, please call as soon as possible if you have a collection and would like to be part of this event.

During the Society's annual greens show at Christmas, we will be sponsoring a tour of houses in the county decorated for the holidays. Information on this new event will be forthcoming this fall.

FUNDRAISING

The Society has operated over the past several years with an extremely tight budget. We are proud of what we have been able to accomplish. However, we are at a critical stage in that we are faced with a major need for increased funding in order to offer a broader range of services, programs and events and to continue to restore and preserve our four major historic sites. Hopefully, the new membership drive will substantially increase the membership base and help alleviate the need for operational funds.

More importantly, the Society has completed a num-

Continued on page 11



The restoration of the c1820 James Vanderpoel House, Route 9, Kinderhook, is one of the goals of the development committee's efforts.

Book Review:

GREAT HOUSES OF THE HUDSON RIVER

Published by Bullfinch Press in association with Historic Hudson Valley
With an introduction by Michael Dwyer

This is a magnificent volume which beautifully portrays the great estates of the Hudson River Valley offering some of the finest examples of grand-scale nineteenth-century American architecture and landscape design. The houses, built by the leading architects of the day, were country retreats for Livingstons, Roosevelts, Rockefellers, Vanderbilts, and Astors, among other illustrious families. With glorious river views and grounds that sprawl over hundreds of acres, most of the estates are now open to the public.

With more than 200 images in full color and some newly commissioned aerial photographs, this book is an important compilation of the grandest architecture from the region. A full description of the ownership, architecture, furnish-

ings and landscape from its concept to present day accompanies the presentation of each estate. An introduction by architectural historian Michael Dwyer provides insight to the beauty and importance of the houses and their grounds. Extended photo captions highlight the period details in the furniture, textiles, and artwork on display.

The Columbia County Historical Society is particularly pleased to have the Luykas Van Alen House featured with a six page spread. Located in Kinderhook, NY and built in 1737, the Van Alen House provides a rare example of early colonial Dutch architecture. It is a National Historic Landmark owned and maintained by the Society and is open to the public during the summer months.

The book is currently on sale at the Columbia County Historical Society Museum shop in Kinderhook, NY, with a 10% discount offered to members.

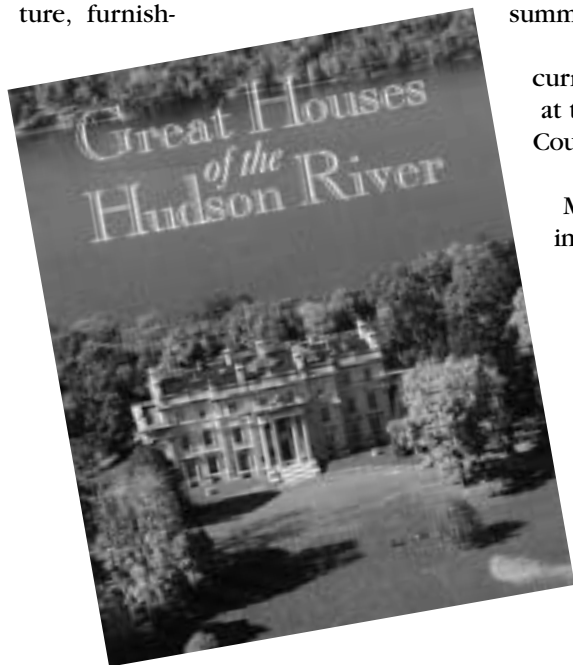
Society Begins... continued from page 10

ber of studies regarding the restoration of its properties. These indicate that we will need \$1.6 million over the next few years. If we can raise the monies necessary, we can restore the Vanderpoel house and Van Alen house and farm to their original and historically correct condition, preserve the Ichabod Crane schoolhouse, and substantially improve the museum and collections. Since all of the preliminary steps have been completed, virtually every dollar expended from now on will result in visible improvements to these sites.


The Society will be approaching certain individuals, companies and foundations this year in order to begin the process of raising the needed funds. All are

welcome to help in this massive effort. If you wish to contribute to the development campaign, please make out a check payable to Columbia County Historical Society, note thereon that it is for the development campaign, and send it to the Society, P.O. Box 311, Kinderhook, NY 12106. If you would like to learn more about the development efforts and discuss how you could best help us, please call Peter Haemmerlein at (518) 758-7123 or Nick Biggs (518) 766-2872.

Although our aims are high and the task is somewhat daunting, the Board of Directors, Officers and Staff of the Society are committed to achieving the goals set out above and to better serving the Columbia County community. We encourage and welcome your support in this major effort.



The Van Schaack House



John V. Hannam
Proprietor

Phone: (518) 758-6118
Fax: (518) 758-2850
hannam@vanschaackhouse.com
www.vanschaackhouse.com
20 Broad St. Kinderhook, NY 12106

A Bed and Breakfast in Columbia County, NY

Pat & Larry Phone (518) 766-3008
Fax (518) 766-9818

CAVAGNARO
CONSTRUCTION Co., Inc.

4228 Route 203 Post Office Box 219
North Chatham, NY 12132

History Around the County

By Julia Philip

RED ROCK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The old schoolhouse which children of East Chatham attended until the early 1940s was deeded to the Red Rock Historical Society this past February. The one room building was built in the late 1880s but fell out of use during the school consolidation undertaken by New York State in the 1930s.

Kenneth Ford was a student at the school in 1918. He is now 94 and still lives in Red Rock.

The building today is a hard walk up a steep (although short) hillside and the two acres of land that come with it are overgrown by young saplings. It is the gift of Jane Endreson and her family who continue to own a nearby farmhouse. The Red Rock Historical Society will hold its annual meeting at 4 o'clock on June 14th at the society's main building, the former Methodist Church on Route 24 to discuss plans to develop this new property.

RIDERS MILLS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

The Riders Mills School House was the first public school built with aid from the New York State legislative act of 1795 that provided for construction of buildings for the free education of children of the state. The schoolhouse was constructed by the North School Society in 1796 on land contributed by Jonathan Rider. The architecture and materials used are unusual. The school house is built of

brick and has a barrel ceiling. The only other school building with this type of ceiling is in Williamsburg, Virginia. Just a year ago the building was listed on both the state and national historic registers and the Association began a major restoration.

Last year the stone foundations and outside brick walls were re-pointed and old flooring and support beams removed so that a new sub-floor could be installed. The early overhead wiring was also replaced by an underground cable.

This year the Riders Mills Historical Association has re-plastered the unusual barrel ceiling, and will paint the interior windows and walls and install antique flooring which has already been acquired. The final step will be the restoration of desks and other schoolhouse articles.

GREENPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The West Tollhouse of the Columbia Turnpike is now the property of the Greenport Historical Society. The Federal building, which stands opposite the former Lone Star Cement plant in Greenport, was constructed in 1800 from limestone quarried from Becraft Mountain which runs behind it. The Hudson City Common Council, which acquired the abandoned quarry as part of its water supply, transferred the tollhouse building to the Society for a token one dollar earlier this year.

The work to document the history and past usage of the building was done by the Greenport Historical Society with Joan Wrigley leading the

effort, and the building is listed now on both the New York State and National Historic Registers.

In 1990 when the building seemed a prey to scavengers, Vincent Wallace organized a small group to stabilize the building and proclaim it "protected property" by inviting students from nearby schools to water-paint welcoming pictures on its windows. School art teachers supervised the work, and the paintings have sent the message that the building is cared for.

In 1800 Hudson was at the height of its commercial prosperity. Only four years previously the city had been designated a Port of Entry for coastal and foreign shipping. Hudson's city fathers were anxious to speed the flow of goods to its port and in April 1800 they engaged three contractors to complete respective portions of the turnpike. The first tolls were collected on November 15th, just over six months later.

The Columbia Turnpike ran from Hillsdale to Greenport

COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

1. Ancram Preservation Group, Inc. 518-329-1612
2. Austerlitz Historical Society 518-392-5874
3. Canaan Historical Society 518-781-3001
4. Chatham Village Historical Society 518-392-9236
5. Columbia County Historical Society 518-758-9265
6. Germantown Historical Society 518-537-3600
7. Greenport Historical Society 518-828-4656
8. Livingston History Barn 518-828-2969
9. New Lebanon Historical Society 518-794-7675
10. North Chatham Historical Society 518-766-3058
11. Red Rock Historical Society 518-392-6065
12. Riders Mills Historical Association 518-794-7146
13. Roeliff Jansen Historical Society 518-329-2376

History Around the County

where its toll stops were located and where the toll keepers lived and collected the fees. The road was the path for herds of sheep and cattle, wagons carrying hides, grain, hay, fresh produce, home crafts, and any other products that could be sold in the city of Hudson or transported down river from its important river port. The fees seem modest today — nine cents for a wagon drawn by a single horse and \$1 for one drawn by a six horse team. A horse and rider went over for five cents, a man walked for two cents. Sleighs in winter went over for much less (a six horse sleigh was only fourteen cents) because the runners did less damage than wagon wheels.

It is rumored, however, that the original investors got a good return on the \$25,000 they put up to build the highway. It was in operation for over 100 years before the State highway department took over maintenance of the right of way in 1907. ♣

CHATHAM VILLAGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The brick Federal-style building which stands, in some disrepair, along Route 66 approaching Chatham has finally become the property of the Chatham Village Historical Society, which plans to restore the building and develop the four and one half acres of land around it as an agricultural educational museum. The house and the land will replicate farm life in the early 19th century in Columbia County.

The house and farm land that originally surrounded it

was first owned by the VanDeusen family who built the house and lived there from 1812 to 1820. The Society is researching the ownership over the forty years from that time until it became the property of Philo Blinn, a gentleman farmer who bought the property about 1860 and began to develop it as a “modern” and “scientific” agricultural venture. There are three volumes of Philo Blinn’s meticulous diaries at the Chatham Public Library, which record the production and operation of the farm from 1864 to 1872 — a time when farming in the Hudson Valley was the “business to be in.” The diaries will be a starting place for the development of the building and future collections of the Historical Society.

The farm was most recently owned by Clyde and Maude Pulver who bought it in 1950. Later, when the Village of Chatham began to grow closer, farming was abandoned. The property is now reduced to just four and a half acres.

The Blinn-Pulver House is a two-storey building with central hallway and second floor elliptical window that are typical of the American Federal Style. Much of the original interior detail remains, and throughout the building enough of the original material is left to allow accurate reconstruction.

The Chatham Village Historical Society is currently in the process of raising the funds required to study and complete this exciting project. In support of this, a challenge grant of \$3,000 has been offered by Francis Greenburger ♣

➤ The BEE ◀

VOL. V HUDSON, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1810

From the Northumberland ARGUS: the following advertisement was handed in for insertion by a gentleman of this town to whom it was delivered at Deerstown and is inserted as it was received:

CAUTION

To all the fair sex that want information. Know that about the first of June last there came to the township of West Buffalo a man with Mary Mitchell from Munsey who caled his name William Hunter and they resided at Abraham Mitchel’s, a brother of the said Mary, and they beded and boarded as man and wife for about ten days and then left her and come into the part of the town which I lived, in company with Abraham Mitchel, who recommended the said Hunter to be a man of honor and good character, and he paid his addresses to me and after a short courtship I married him without the consent of my firiends. Not long after our marriage I was informed that his name was not Hunter, but David Miller, and that he had four wives, all of them alive. However, he denied his having more than two — and one of them lived at fishing creek in this county by whom he had four children. My situation becoming such as would render me incapable of maintaining him any longer he sent me abroad on business — and in my absence he stole a meal bag and packed up his duds and all my clothes except what I had on and absconded to parts unknown. He may be easily known — he is about five foot eight inches high, has a down-hang look, swarthy complexion and is a lazy, indolent pilfering illeterate, low bread fellow, is a copper by trade, but never works till compelled by hunger, and is a fiddler and runs about from place to place; had on when run away an old blue coat, velvet pantaloons, and an old hat and has a fiddle and gun, the clothes he stole, one suit of white dimity, a number of handkerchiefs, caps, ribben, stockings, and so forth.

ELIZABETH BATY

West Buffalo, Oct. 11th, 1810

*** All the prenters in the state is requested to in Scert the Same



Old Time Advertisements edited by Jim Eyre

Highlights from the Society's Collections

by Helen M. McLallen,
Curator
Columbia County Historical Society

Among our collections is an item which dates to the early years of the Society. It is a silk banner, with the Half Moon logo, designed and made in 1919 for the Daughters of the Columbia County Historical Society. The Society has received \$1,726 toward the banner's conservation from the Conservation Treatment Grant Program, administered by the Lower Hudson Conference in association with the Museum Program of the New York State Council on the Arts. The treatment is being conducted by textile conservator Gwen Spicer of Delmar.

The banner was designed by famed New York City photographer Pirie MacDonald whose wife was an early member and trustee of the society. It is constructed of blue, yellow, and cream silk (the Society's official colors were blue and yellow).

The ship, with its sails billowing, is centered in the upper two-thirds of the banner, with the painted inscription, now partly missing, "DAUGHTERS OF COLUMBIA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY" below. Gold metallic braid and fringe edge the banner, which hangs from a wooden rod trimmed with brass knobs and gold metallic cord and tassels.

The conservation treatment focuses on stabilization and preparation for proper storage, rather than restoration. While its fragility, even after conservation, will still preclude



its use in exhibits, it will be available for occasional limited viewing and scholarly research and examination.

The Columbia County Historical Society began as the Columbia County Women's Society in 1916. Originally a philanthropic as well as historical association, the members sponsored two ambulances in World War I. In 1919 they changed their name to the Daughters of Columbia County Historical Society. They chose as their logo the Half Moon, Henry Hudson's ship, to signify the importance they placed on the colonial Dutch cultural heritage in their Hudson River Valley county. Even in its early years, however, the Society looked beyond the Dutch portion of the county's history as it conducted an extensive county-wide search for a building in which to preserve and display the collection of county artifacts and documents which they hoped to build. In 1925 the Society purchased the home in Kinderhook which it called the House of History (now the Vanderpoel house) and again changed its name, becoming the Columbia County Historical Society.

We have only a handful of artifacts in the collection which relate to the Society's earliest period, prior to acquisition of the House of History. This banner, despite its severely deteriorated condition, is one of the more significant. It is a strong visual reminder of the Society's youthful aspirations and dreams.

✿

Classic Restorations

DAVID J. CAVAGNARO
BOX 931 • NORTH CHATHAM, N.Y. 12132-0931 • (518) 766-4762

STAIR 
GALLERIES

Fine Antiques, Art and Furnishings at Auction

QUALITY CONSIGNMENTS WELCOME FOR FUTURE

P.O. BOX 418, CLAVERACK, NEW YORK 12513 Tel: 518-851-2544 Fax: 518-851-2558

Visit our website for information and sale dates

WWW.STAIRGALLERIES.COM

Columbia County Historical Society Calendar of Events

Please note in your calendars the following events and dates. For additional information regarding these, call the Society's office at (518) 758-9265 or visit our website at www.cchsny.org.

MAY 5

The Society will sponsor a showing of the Monthie slides at 3:00 PM at the First Reformed Church, 23 Kinderhook Street, in Chatham, NY. This presentation will feature Ghent and New Lebanon. Admission is free to the public.

MAY 11

An exhibition of paintings by the renowned local artist, Fern Apfel, entitled "Museum Peace: Reflections on a Collection," will open with a reception with the artist at 4:00 to 6:00 PM at the Columbia County Museum in Kinderhook. This exhibit is funded in part by the Decentralization Program of the New York Council on the Arts. Donations are welcome. The exhibition will run through November.

Ms. Apfel is a visual artist currently working in ink and collage. Philosophically her work speaks to the quality of our daily lives, how the ordinary around us reveals much

about who we are and what we believe in.

The artist has used a combination of water-soluble lithographic inks mixed with collage materials for her finished works. She collected old stamps, envelopes, recipes, letters, pieces of well-thumbed books, and other remnants of the past which have been combined to create paintings and sketches of objects in the Society's collection. The result is a pastiche of image and text—that is at once nostalgic and provocative.

As an additional feature of the exhibition, the Society's Curator will exhibit approximately 30 items from the Society's collection that are represented in Ms. Apfel's contemporary works of art. The visitor will see the objects that inspired the artist and thus will be better able to understand her motivation in the creation of her work. From artifact to study to completed painting, this exhibition will interpret the creative process.

Ms. Apfel studied at The Art Student League in New York City. In 1995 she was the recipient of the Emerging Artist Award from the *Continued on back page*

FIRST COLUMBIANS & ANTIQUES FESTIVAL**JUNE 15**

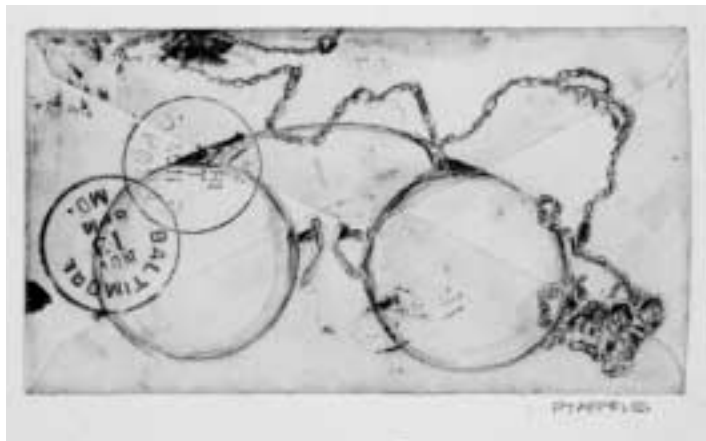
The summer social season in Columbia County will be kicked off with the First Columbian's champagne reception preceding the Society's annual Antiques Festival the next day. The reception will be held from 5:00 to 7:30 PM on the lawn of the Van Alen house just south of Kinderhook on Route 9H. Attendees at this event will preview the dealers' booths that have been set up for the Festival, sip champagne, nibble on tasty hors d'oeuvres and bid on enticing items as the incredible silent auction. For instance, the NYRA has offered a day at the races at Saratoga to some lucky bidder. Also, you will have the opportunity to bid on a balloon ride high above Columbia County donated by Wayne Van Allen and Balloon Meadows, Inc. Admission to the reception will be at \$60.00 per person.

Also, at the reception Benefit Sponsors at \$125.00 per guest and Second Century Circle members will have the added pleasure of "hop-scotch" tours of dealers' booths hosted by knowledgeable experts. After the gala reception Benefit Sponsors will have dinner in one of an amazing array of dining venues including homes featured in current issues of HOUSE BEAUTIFUL, HOUSE & GARDEN, and ELLE DECOR as well as in a current retrospective of the county's most talked about architect. Couple the elegant surroundings with food by Columbia County's best home chefs and you have a heady start to the summer social season.

JUNE 16

The 30th annual Antiques Festival at the Van Alen house on Route 9H south of Kinderhook will be open to the public from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. More than 60 dealers will have a wide variety of antiques for viewing and sale. Come to this exciting festival to seek out treasures to add to your collection and home. Admission will be \$5.00 per person, \$4.50 with coupon (available at the Columbia County Museum).

While the 30th annual Antiques Festival is in full swing at the Van Alen house, a picnic lunch will be hosted in Kinderhook at a Vandepoel house (where James lived while constructing his home on Broad Street). This "Drop in the Bucket" lunch will be for the benefit of the James Vandepoel house maintained by the Society and will be limited in attendance. The donation to this event will be \$30.00 per person. Please phone the Society at (518) 758-9265 to reserve a place at this affair and to receive full information about this "Drop in the Bucket" lunch.



Fern Apfel's "Study, glasses." This pencil sketch will be included in the exhibition.

Columbia County Historical Society Calendar of Events continued

Columbia County Council on the Arts. Her work has been selected five times for Artists of the Hudson-Mohawk Regional exhibitions. Her work is in the permanent collections of the Tang Teaching Museum & Gallery, the Schenectady Museum, the Shaker Museum and Library, the University Art Museum at SUNY Albany and in numerous private collections.

MAY 25

The Society will open the Van Alen and Vanderpoel historic houses for the season. These houses may be toured Thursdays through Saturdays from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM and on Sundays between 1:00 and 5:00 PM. Admission is \$3.00 for adults, \$2.00 for students and seniors, and is free for members and children

under 12. There is a discount if you tour both houses the same day.

SEPTEMBER 15

There will be a presentation of the Monthie slides featuring historic pictures of Greenport. The location of this event is to be announced. A second presentation of different slides of Greenport will be shown on October 6, again at a location to be determined. Both of these shows will be at 3:00 PM and will be free to the public.

SEPTEMBER 21

As noted on page 10 in this publication, the Society will be hosting a new event at which collectors from throughout the county will exhibit portions of their collections and will discuss their inter-

ests with attendees. This event will be from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM and is free to members. It will be open to the public and will cost \$3.00 per person, \$2.00 for seniors and students, with children under 12 admitted free. We hope to have a large number of collectors at this one-day event exhibiting a wide range of collections. Come and see what others have in their col-

lections and compare notes with them.

If you are a collector and wish to participate by showing your collection, we would like to know of your interest as soon as possible. Please call Jim Eyre at (518) 851-9151 to discuss your collection and what you would like to display at this event. After the show ends, you will be invited to a wine reception. ☘



The Antiques Festival at the Van Alen House



5 Albany Ave., Kinderhook, NY 12106

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 12
Kinderhook, NY

Columbia County HISTORY & HERITAGE

For updated information about events and other activities of the Columbia County Historical Society, please visit our website at www.cchsny.org