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Historian's Report for activity in March 2025

Dear Supervisor Holdridge and Board Members of the Town of Chester:

Ms. Chiusano and I continued our collaborative project, a research internship with a Chester Academy student, Erika Alban focused on George Seely, which this month included an expeditions to research deeds at the Orange County Clerk's office and Seely family graves at the Chester Cemetery.



Gina Chiusano with Erika Alban in Chester Cemetery.

I had the pleasure collaborating on the development of an official Village of Chester Flag with Angela O'Neil, Chester Village Clerk; Aaron Lefkowitz, Chester Village Historian; Betty Ann Reilly, Chester Village Deputy Mayor; Chris Battiato, Chester Mayor, Rosemary Van Der Meulen, and Grayson Reily, citizens.

Ceremonial Landscape Researcher David Johnson formally added me to several research permits including those issued by the NYS Museum, Palisade Interstate Parks Commission, among other agencies. I assist Mr. Johnson in this research on sites in our vicinity.

I attended the following:

- Workshop 1: "Introduction to Quiet Dangers in the Historic House," by Stephen Tilly, Architect, Dobbs Ferry NY & Rochambeau Headquarters, Hartsdale, NY. 3/11/2025.
- Association of Public Historians of New York State Region 3 meeting at the Woodbury Community Center, 3/22/2025.



APHNYS Region 3 Meeting Photo by Alex Prizgintas, Town of Woodbury Historian.

- “State Paleontologist Winifred Goldring and Making Fossils Come to Life” webinar, 3/25/2025.
- “Digital Preservation Special Interest Group” moderated by Jennifer Palmentiero, Digital Services Manager, Southeastern New York Library Resources Council. 3/26/25.

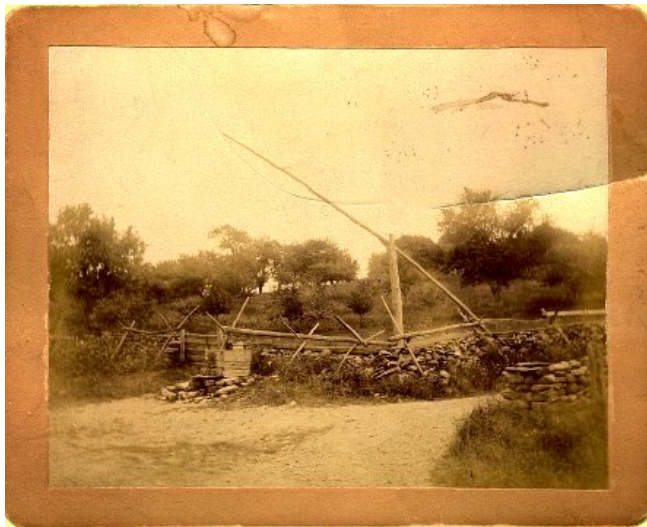
Here are several of the more interesting inquiries that I provided responses to in March.

- Hambletonian’s Obelisk Repair: I examined the obelisk’s condition after 25 years from Hurricane Lloyd damage repair in 1999 at the request of Alan Ackerman of Irmo, South Carolina. Expert advice is required to determine when further action will be needed.
- Ellen Shortess Memorial Garden bench: I repaired damage from a fallen tree limbs.
- East Chester Station, Elgin Butter Building, and Chester Lumber RR Siding Details: I provided photographs, maps, and additional information to Ken Michaels, Planning Chair, W.I.M.R.R.Club, for their project to model the East Chester - Lehigh & Hudson River Railway right-of-way environs, circa 1950.



Hambletonian's Obelisk - current condition.

- Cultural Research Request: I provided data to Aaron Lefkowitz, Village of Chester Historian, in response to an inquiry from a Cultural Research consultant regarding 42 Brookside Avenue.
- Well Sweep: I received a request to restore the Well Sweep at the intersection of Kings Highway and Well Sweep Lane. Rebuilding the Well Sweep, which is one of the few surviving colonial period public wells in Orange County, would make a great Eagle Scout project!



Old Well Sweep near Sugar Loaf. Dated Summer of 1892.



Well Sweep on 2024-08-12.

Respectfully submitted,
