

**Clifton Patrick**  
**Town of Chester Historian**  
119 Brookside Ave  
Chester, NY 10918  
e-mail: [historian@thetownofchester.org](mailto:historian@thetownofchester.org)

July 1, 2025

## **Historian's Report for activity in June 2025**

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

As a member of the Village of Chester Flag Committee, I participated at the "History table" at the inaugural Village of Chester Day event on June 21, 2025.

Additionally, I recruited Grant Miller, Fort Montgomery State Historic Site Manager, to speak on archeology and the history of the Fort at the September meeting of the Incorporated Orange County Chapter of the New York State Archeological Association in Middletown.

I hosted the 2025 Annual Picnic of the Incorporated Orange County Chapter of the New York State Archeological Association at the Chester Pavilion on June 22nd.

Furthermore, I facilitated the transfer of a Newburgh newspaper collection, dated from 1882 to 1996, to Alan Crawford, Town of Newburgh Historian.

In addition to these activities, I participated in the following:

- In June, I engaged in discussions on the historical significance and importance of the Yelverton Inn in the Inn itself with Professor Richard W. Hull and with Richard Ramsdell's attorneys. These conversations were recorded and portions subsequently posted online by the "Friends of Yelverton Inn" at the following link: <<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRIqVNI6i86MTjZ32nCHluQ>>. The attorneys released four chairs used in 1892 by the first Village of Chester Board to Gina Chiusano and myself that Ramsdell wanted to donate to the Chester Historical Society. Three have been repaired by Dean Krzymowski and are now on display at the 1915 Erie Station museum.
- I participated in a webinar hosted by the Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts titled "Say What? Demystifying Preservation and Conservation Terms with CCAHA's New Glossary" on June 18th, 2025.
- In June, I responded to several intriguing inquiries. One such inquiry involved providing information about William A. Lawrence, Charles H. Green, and Chester cheese production to Stephen O'Leary, a photojournalist affiliated with News 12 Hudson Valley. O'Leary is currently working on a story that explores the origins of Philadelphia Brand cream cheese in the Town of Chester.
- Another notable inquiry involved collaborating with Jerrea Chamberlain from Utah in the search for her great uncle's grave, which was believed to be located in the Chester Cemetery. Her great uncle, Leopold Podlatis, passed away on July 25, 1891, and was interred two days later. Podlatis was a 17-year-old German immigrant who arrived in the United States in May 1891. He subsequently worked on the "Van Sickle" farm near Chester, New York, under the supervision of W.A. Hawthorne. Tragically, Podlatis fell from a tree and was discovered deceased at the tree.



*Clif Patrick with Jerrea Chamberlain at the former "Van Sickle" farmhouse.  
Photo by Paul Chamberlain.*

Respectfully submitted,  
