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Historian's Report for activity in July 2025

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

Gina Chiusano and I mounted the new Harmon Showers exhibit at the 1915 Erie Station. Showers befriended Hambletonian 10, a notoriously difficult stallion, and cared for him for 20 years (1856-1876). He maintained his conditioning, drove, and rode him under saddle, and handled him in the stud. Harmon Showers was only inducted into the Harness Racing Hall of Fame this year, despite his name being indelibly linked to that of the great stallion - a long overdue recognition.

On July 8th, I participated in a photography session conducted by the Chester Conservation Advisory Council at Knapp's View.

In collaboration with Colleen Rydell of the Orange County Veterans Service Agency, I re-embarked on a mission to locate the grave of World War I veteran Edward J. Thomas, who passed away in Chester on October 7, 1962. Our objective was to ensure that his government-issued marble grave marker, which had been discovered during renovations of the former Chester Memorials, Inc. property, could be properly placed.

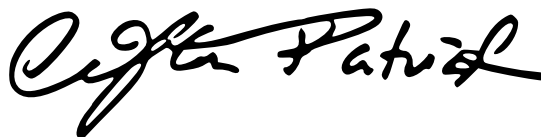


On July 11th, I had the privilege of attending the long-overdue U.S. Army Military Rights ceremony at the gravesite of long-time Chester resident Robert E. Meillard, who was born in 1899 and passed away in 1993. Meillard was a decorated World War I veteran, having served in both the United States and French Armies.

Gina Chiusano, Lynn Bernberg, and I, as a group, attended the webinar titled "Enhance Your Visitors' Experience: Create Your Own Free Digital Guide with Bloomberg Connects," hosted by Gaylord Archival on July 17th.

Furthermore, I provided Maureen Clary of South Carolina with maps and other pertinent resources to facilitate her search for the landholdings of her patriot ancestor, Alexander McMurtry. McMurtry's property was recorded as in Cheesecocks Patent lot 13 or 318, potentially situated in the vicinity of Blooming Grove-Chester-Monroe.

Respectfully submitted,



Cc: Linda Zappala, Town Clerk, Town of Chester.
Aaron Lefkowitz, Historian, Village of Chester