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Historian's Report for activity in January 2026

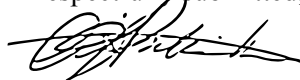
Dear Supervisor Holdridge and Board Members of the Town of Chester:

In January, activities undertaken by this office, including these more interesting ones:

- * Referred a resident of Sugar Loaf to various sources of architectural salvage for vintage hardware needed for her home.
- * Assisted a Chester resident in locating an appropriate repository for his grandfather's Japanese rifle from World War II.
- * Connected a local resident with curators at the New York State Museum, who were able to identify and describe a particularly interesting rock she discovered.
- * Shared information about Lydia McMunn, a Chester resident in the early 20th century, with her great-granddaughter.
- * Responded to a Facebook inquiry regarding the revolutionary period locations of the Woodhull and Strong houses. While I was unaware of the precise locations of these houses raided by the Smith Gang, Dr. Charles A. Huguenin, in his book "The Cowboys of the Ramapos - The Legend of Claudius Smith" published in Pace College's quarterly, vol. 20, No. 3, summer 1969, suggests that they are situated in the southern portion of the Town of Blooming Grove.
- * Connected a Chester resident with Jay Westervelt, of the Sugar Loaf Historical Society, who shared his memories of the former Pine Hill Farm.
- * Provided historical context regarding the hiking trail adjacent to Monksville Reservoir, specifically its connection to Long Pond Iron Works and associated railroads, to Veronica Ditko for her series of "A Rock Solid History" books.
- * I met with Gina Chiusano, of the Chester Historical Society, and Olivia Stemkowski, a graduate student at the State University of New York at Albany, to discuss a project involving the curation of a small, unprocessed archival collection. This project is a requirement for Ms. Stemkowski's master's degree in library science, with a specialization in archival studies.

Additionally, I attended the Chester Village Board Meeting regarding the proposed ICE facility in the former PEP Boys building.

Respectfully submitted,



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