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March 31, 2026

## Historian's Report for March 2026

**Dear Supervisor Holdridge and Board Members,**

Here's a brief overview of the Town Historian's Office activities in March 2026.

### **Public Programs & Community Engagement:**

- Attended a lecture by **Prof. Cory Harris** on the **Orange County Mastodons** at the Goshen Public Library and Historical Society Friends on March 14.
- **Distributed** official **Orange County 250th booklets** to several venues as we approach local milestones.
- Attended a St. Patrick's Day talk by **Robert McCue** at Loughran's Irish Pub on March 17, sponsored by the Beaver Dam Lake Neighborhood association.

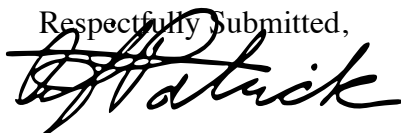
### **Public Inquiries & Consultations:**

- Consulted with **Jon K. Leonard** about preserving **Revolutionary War Signal Fire** sites in Orange County, focusing on securing support and regional collaborators.
- Assisted **Maureen Edelson** in researching the first Irish settlers in the region, specifically pinpointing the location of the **Charles Clinton farm** in "Little Britain."
- Investigated a brick excavated on March 18<sup>th</sup> from the grounds of the **1915 Erie RR Station** in Chester. Preliminary analysis suggests it may have been part of a shipment from the **Brigham Brothers brickyard** (East Kingston, ca. 1888–1925). <https://hub.catalogit.app/chester-historical-society/folder/entry/brigham-brothers-brick>  
This find aligns with the reconstruction of downtown Chester, which prioritized "fire-resistant" materials after the catastrophic fires of **1877, 1881, and 1889**.
- Collaborating with a research team (Jim Baird, Mike Baird, Lynn Bernberg, Sameer El-Rifai, and Gina Chiusano), to reconstruct the history of the **1779 Continental Army Armory at Chester** using documents from the **National Archives** and **Library of Congress** recently uncovered by **Gina Chiusano**. We are deciphering rosters and military orders to "flesh out" the story of this extensive operation. This armory operated near the Yelverton Inn for roughly five months in 1779 and was a crucial Revolutionary War infrastructure in our backyard. The Roadside historic marker just mentions one day: August 5<sup>th</sup>: <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=34327>



### **Publications:**

Completed and submitted a short history of the "**Produce Building**," built a little over one hundred years ago, for an upcoming Chester Historical Society Newsletter. It details the building's role in Chester's agricultural legacy and its decades-long transition.

Respectfully Submitted,  


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