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Saturday, August 1, 2026

Historian's Report for July 2026

Dear Supervisor Holdridge and Board Members,

Following is a brief summary of the highlights of the Town Historian's Office activities in July 2026.

Public Ceremonies, Commemorations & Events

- Attended a tribute in Upper Greenwood Lake honoring local historian, naturalist, educator, and Sterling ironworks authority Doc Bayne on the occasion of his eightieth birthday.
- Lorraine Hom memorial: Installed and attended the dedication of a memorial plaque honoring Lorraine Potter Hom at the 1915 Erie Station. Lorraine, a Chester native, was a former long-time Village of Chester Historian and Orange County Historian office staffer.
- Attended the "Voices of Liberty – Sugar Loaf" performance on July 19.

Exhibits & Historic Preservation

- Coordinated the acquisition and transfer of a pristine unused 1950s-'60s cardboard Arden Farms Egg carton to the Orange County Historical Society, whose offices are located on the site of the former Arden Farms.

On July 24th, I assisted David Stevenson in photographically documenting the existing conditions of the 1915 Erie Station gutters as required by the New York State Dormitory Authority, the funding agency for the Skoufis Grant to renovate these gutters.



Public Inquiries & Research Assistance

- Assisted several researchers with genealogical records and land mapping for early local families, including the Duryea, Foster, May, and Vail lineages connected to Chester.
- Nominated several historic Chester properties for inclusion in the Town's Cultural, Environmental, and Historic Properties Registry and the Community Preservation Fund listing.
- Provided practical advice on portable and overhead scanners to the Orange County Historian's office for possible collaborative projects.

Publications, Exhibits & Special Projects

- Sugar Loaf History Book Update: Met with Jeff Zahn, David, Nick Zungoli, and Dr. Richard Hull at Exposures Gallery to plan an updated edition of "Sugar Loaf – 1700–1997: The Enduring Vision."
- Contributed the 1940's photo Sixteen Black Chester Meadows Dirt Farmers to the Brewster-Carmel Garden Club for an upcoming History of Hudson Valley Farming display.
- Discussed preliminary concepts for a future Hambletonian/Rysdyk exhibit at 19 High Street in Chester.

Professional Development & Continuing Education in July:

- "Policies, Procedures, & Collection Management Planning" by DHPSNY.
- "Watch a Conservator Perform Professional Paper Repair Techniques" by Gaylord Archival.
- "3D Scanning for Libraries and Museums" by Capital District Library Council.
- "Municipal Employee TotalCare EAP Presentation" by ESI Employee Assistance Group.

Respectfully Submitted,



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