

Clifton Patrick
Town of Chester Historian

119 Brookside Ave

Chester, NY 10918

Phone/fax 845-238-9740 e-mail: historian@thetownofchester.org

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Historian's Report for August 2026

Dear Supervisor Holdridge and Board Members,

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

Public Inquiries & Historical Research

- Collaboratively engaged in extensive research with the Vermont Historical Society (Gail Wiese), Rutland Railroad Historical Society (Bill Badger), and others in a so far unsuccessful attempt to identify a 19th-century photograph of a "Chester Railroad Depot." This is an unusually tall single-story depot, with jerkinhead/clipped gable construction.
- Responded to public inquiries regarding rumors that the famous Dutchess Quarry Cave fluted point was for sale at auction. Clarified that the item in question was a modern resin replica (Pete Bostrom/Lithic Casting Lab) while the authentic artifact remains safely in the New York State Museum collections.
- Prepared a package of historical maps and photographs of the W.A. Lawrence house, cheese works, and impacts from Quickway right-of-way takings from the "Brook View" farm. Research was also conducted on 57 Main Street (Samuel Hadden/Potter property) and the Slaughter farm.

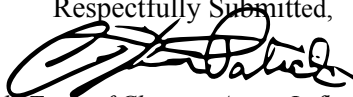
Municipal Collaborations:

- Compiled a historical background package on the Peter Townsend homestead for Village of Chester Planning Board Chair Gene Winters and Village Historian Aaron Lefkowitz.
- Revolutionary War 250th Planning: Attended the 250 Stakeholders meeting at the 1841 Courthouse in Goshen.

Outreach & Community Engagement

- Composed articles and provided feedback for the Incorporated Orange County Chapter of the New York State Archaeological Association and Chester Historical Society newsletters.
- Promoted local archaeological initiatives, including the Black Rock Forest Bearmore Site workday, and provided media publicity photos for the upcoming Orange County Historical Society program on Chester's Revolutionary War Artillery Encampment.

Respectfully Submitted,



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

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