

President's Message

Welcome summer! I think we are unofficially into summer, although summer does not officially arrive until the solstice on June 20th! We had a great start to our program lineup! Vice President, Juanita Bryant, presented the first program of the year on April 18th and treated us to Stroopwafels (waffles) and presented a very interesting history of Dutch Cooking. I tried my hand at making Boterkoek (Dutch Butter Cake) and, for those that asked, I will share the recipe with you at our next meeting. In May, Brenda Shufelt presented the History Room at the Hudson Area Library. Unfortunately, I had an unexpected hospital visit (I am feeling much better) and could not be at the program, but the reviews were outstanding and the information very informative! Thank you, Carol Biernacki, for setting this up for us!

Our programs continue to line up nicely for our season and we hope to see you! June's program will feature Ted Hilscher who will interview Henry Lambert, a long-time dairy farmer and provider of dairy in Columbia County. June is National Dairy Month, and I can't think of a better way to celebrate than with homemade milkshakes! Our July program will be presented by Van Calhoun on the reconstruction project at the Hudson-Athens Lighthouse, initially called the Hudson City Light. The Hudson-Athens Lighthouse is celebrating 150 years! It is one of the remaining two lighthouses that stands in the middle of the beautiful Hudson River. We will enjoy the view of the lighthouse at our Annual Picnic at the Hudson Powerboat Association on August 15th, 12 noon. Please RSVP to Pat Hart at our June or July meeting, or by phone at 518-828-6747. Please let Pat know if you can bring a dish to share by Monday, August 12th. Mark your calendar! We will not have another newsletter until September.

Greenport Historical Society is now on Facebook!! If you have a Facebook account, please look us up and like! To date, we have 106 followers! Thank you, Juanita Bryant for setting this up for us!

Finally, we will be distributing the proposed changes to the constitution at our July 18th meeting. The changes were drafted back in 2019. We would like to ratify the proposed changes. If you cannot make the July meeting, please send your email address to lynnmarie.hart@yahoo.com so that I may send you a copy of the document. Voting will take place at our annual picnic on August 15th at the Hudson Powerboat Association.

Wishing you all the best for a happy and healthy summer!

Lynn

Lynn Hart, President

ARCHIVE NEWS: Spring cleaning and research

May's archival work covered acquisition and preservation! Thanks to Jane Martin who started a much-needed review of a file cabinet drawer of previous acquisitions. She uncovered many items acquired in previous decades in need of acquisition numbers to get on a holdings list. June Houghton is working her way through those, such as Lone Star records and Lambert Farm photos. Guy Apicella completed hours of preservation work on a fragile book. Also, thank you to Pat Hart for her support.

We have had several research requests. Please check out this photo from the 1930's. This gentleman bravely fought in the ringside for five minutes for \$5! We identified the roads by Greendale for his family and worked on tracking down where he may have fought. His name as a fighter was Luigi Cisteros. If you have any info on him or the fight scene back then, please let us know. Thanks especially to Sal and Guy for giving us clues.

Carol Biernacki, Collection Chair



Membership

We welcome new life member Joanne Bartolotta and yearly member Louis Hannett.

2024 dues are now due. Dues are for the current year, no matter when you pay them. Yearly dues are \$15 per person or \$100 per person for a Life membership. You can pay at a meeting or mail to: Greenport Historical Society c/o Patricia C. Hart, Treasurer, 520 Route 66, Hudson NY 12534. We depend on your support for operating expenses.

Newsletter

As you've noticed, we've been trying to do bimonthly newsletters to save on postage. First class letters will cost \$.73 beginning July 14th. This newsletter contains information on our annual summer luncheon. Please save the information and mark it on your calendars as there will be no August newsletter. Our next and last newsletter for the year will be out in September.

Greenport Historical Society Annual Picnic Thursday, August 15th at Noon - Hudson Boat Club

Members and friends are cordially invited to an enjoyable afternoon at the Hudson Power Boat Association on the beautiful Hudson River. Please RSVP to Pat Hart at (518) 828-6747 by Monday, August 12th with the number of people coming and if you can bring a dish to share.

This is your only notice. Please post somewhere as a reminder!



Cliffside Dairy: The Lambert Farm and Milk Bottling Plant

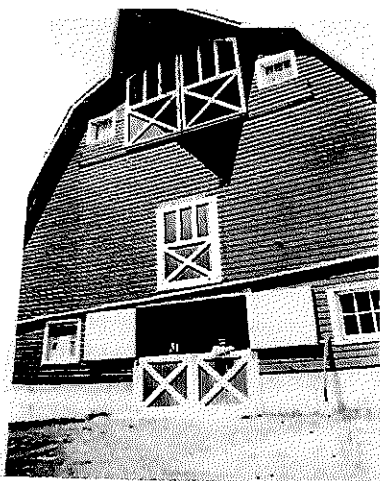
Greenport Historical Society

Thursday, June 20th, 2024

6:00 p.m.

Greenport Community Center – Town Hall Drive

With his father, Phillip, Henry Lambert operated the seven generation family farm and milk bottling plant in lower Greenport. Ted Hilscher, professor emeritus of history at Columbia-Greene Community College will be interviewing Henry "Hank" Lambert about owning and operating the Greenport farm. In recognition of National Dairy Month, we will be serving homemade shakes.



Closeup of barn front. Notice the fine detail on the doors and hayloft.

Hudson-Athens Lighthouse Restoration Project

Greenport Historical Society

Thursday, July 18, 2024

6:00 p.m.

Greenport Community Center – Town Hall Drive

Construction began on the Hudson City Light in 1872 and completed in 1874, when Henry Best lit the light for the first time. 200 plus pilings were driven vertically into the river bed, and a brick building was built on a wood framework under the water with a granite foundation on top of that. It was surrounded by rip rap to prevent water intrusion. Over time, currents, tides, ice flows, and more recent massive turbulence of bigger, deeper commercial vessels which must travel to and from Albany, NY have scoured away the protective mud and boulders surrounding the pilings, causing them to deteriorate such that some are no longer attached to the rest of the foundation. Repairs were made between 2007-2009 but did not address the major problem of water intrusion. Erosion continues at an exponential rate. Our engineers say we will begin to lose the lighthouse to the river within 3 years. They are designing a metal barrier to place around the lighthouse. It is estimated to cost between 8 – 10 million dollars. The National Trust for Historic Preservation recently placed it on this year's list of 11 Most Endangered Historic Places.

Van Calhoun, HALPS' board member, and chair of the Lighthouse Restoration Committee, will bring us up to date on the project, sharing the sophisticated process engineers went through and proposed solutions, as well as the current plan for a 100 year fix. Work is about to begin on phase 1. Van is a lifelong resident of Chatham, a history enthusiast, and avid reader. He has been active on Town Committees, is a self-trained architect and builder and worked with national wholesale mortgage banks as a trainer and specialist in FHA, HUD and VA construction and renovation loans. He is a descendant of Hosea Birge who settled Birge Hill Farm in 1782. A new farmhouse was built in 1842, specifically designed to house 2 generations. Van and his children were the 7th and 8th generations that grew up there.

