

Quitman Resource Center for Preservation

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From the President's Corner

At the beginning of this year, the Winnakee Land Trust moved its offices from the Quitman house to larger facilities in Rhinebeck Village. Winnakee ran out of space to accommodate their staff. The group will be missed as they were a good tenant. They provided daily life in the building and with that, added security to the building and its contents

The Quitman house will still have occupants. Hudson River Heritage has informed the Quitman Resource Center that they will continue to occupy their second floor office. The Museum will continue their occupation, and John and Marilyn Hatch will continue to occupy the apartment. A possible new tenant is considering the use of the smaller space on the second floor.

The exterior of the house is in need of paint and repair. Therefore, our next project is to have the exterior of the building painted professionally.

Ernie Steubesand, QRC President

QUITMAN RESOURCE CENTER BOARD

Ernie Steubesand, President
Kay Verilli, Vice President
Carole DeSaram, Treasurer
Marilyn Hatch, Secretary/Director
June Vanderlaan, Newsletter Editor

Calendar of Coming Events

YARD SALE - Fri., April 29, 9 AM TO 4 PM and Sat., April 30, 9 AM to 1 PM - at the Quitman House to benefit the Palatine Farmstead. (See article)

HERITAGE WEEKEND - Sat. and Sun., May 14 and 15, 10 AM to 4 PM. Tours of the Palatine Farmstead house and barn.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL - Sat., July 9, 6 PM to Dusk - on the south lawn of the Quitman House. Rhinebeck Legion Band will perform.

PROGRESSIVE DINNER - Sun., September 18, 4 PM to 7 PM. Reservations required. (See article).

LET'S GO DEUTSCH - Sat., September 24, 10 AM to 4 PM. (See article).

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

The 25th annual Ice Cream Social will be held on the south lawn of the 1798 Quitman House on Route 9 north of the village of Rhinebeck on Saturday, July 9th, 6 PM to dusk. Bring your family and recapture the feeling of an "old time" ice cream social. Your participation will benefit the Quitman House preservation activities.

The house will be open for viewing during the event and entertainment will be provided by the 45-piece Rhinebeck Legion Band at 7 PM, filling the night with music under the lantern lights. People can bring picnic suppers to enjoy on the lawn. Guests can bring blankets if they wish. Chairs and tables will be available. Feel free to bring your own chairs, if desired.

Ice cream and homemade cakes will be available at the social for a small fee.

Admission and parking are free and the event is open to all ages.

Fourth Annual Quitman Preservation Award

This year it was our pleasure to recognize two recipients.

The first award was presented to Sally Mazzarella. The following are excerpts from the recognition given.

Sally began her public service in 1973 when she was appointed to serve on the Town of Rhinebeck Planning Board. She continued her service on this board for 22 years with a myopic vision directed at preserving Rhinebeck's cultural and historic heritage.

The following is only a partial list of the organizations to which she generously gives of her time, her guidance, and inspiration.

1977 - Member of the Shore Lands Task Force who's goal was to develop the 20 mile Scenic District along the east shore of the Hudson River from Staatsburg to Clermont. This organization was the first Quitman House tenant.

1979-80 - she was a member of the Rhinecliff Dock Committee. This project was an exercise in perseverance in which the end reward was the beautification of the Rhinecliff river front.

1989 - Sally was a co-founder of the Winnakee Land Trust and has served as its president to this date.

2002-2009 - Chairman of the Comprehensive Plan Committee for the Town of Rhinebeck.

Somehow Sally found time to give her tireless effort to work with granting agencies and private citizens to create a park for the Rhinebeck community on land adjacent to the Starr Library. It has aptly been named the Thompson-Mazzarella Park.

2009 - For the anniversary celebration of Hudson's voyage up the Hudson River, Sally chaired the Walkway over the Hudson committee - With her guidance, the long term dream of turning the Poughkeepsie rail bridge into a walkway became a reality.

Sally has dedicated 45 years preserving Rhinebeck's historic and scenic resources.

Finally, we recognize Sally Mazzarella for making an exception to the Winnakee Land Trust guidelines to hold the Preservation Easement for the Quitman House. Those of us who have worked to restore and preserve this Rhinebeck landmark can only express our appreciation knowing that the future of this property will be protected in perpetuity for "Historic Purposes".



Sally Mazzarella (right) receiving award from Marilyn Hatch (left) and Ernie Steubesand.

The second Quitman Preservation Award went to Winnakee Land Trust.

As mentioned, the Winnakee Land Trust was formed in 1989 and occupied the office space in the Quitman House which was originally used by the Shore Lands Task Force.

Since 1989, Winnakee has, one site at a time, accepted Conservation Easements of over 32 properties representing more than 2000 acres in the Northwest corner of Dutchess County. Most notable may be the Burger Hill Park which is the highest point in Rhinebeck and contains 76 acres.

Also in Rhinebeck, Winnakee has worked to protect River Rd., thus creating the scenic bike route which winds its way along the road. More than half of their easements are in the Town of Rhinebeck but others exist in Staatsburg and Hyde Park.

Once again, the Quitman Resource Center for Preservation expresses its appreciation to the Winnakee Land Trust for offering to hold the Preservation Easement for the Quitman House.



Lucy Hayden (left) receiving an award for Winnakee Land Trust from Ernie Steubesand. Marilyn Hatch looks on in rear.

Progressive Dinner - SAVE THE DATE

Once again, this year the Quitman Resource Center for Preservation in conjunction with Museum of Rhinebeck History will sponsor its annual Progressive Dinner. It will be held on Sunday, September 18 from 4-7 PM.

One of the homes will be an example of early Colonial style architecture.

Carl Beach of Great Foods and Company will once again cater the entre' portion of the meal. In the past, we have solicited the local businesses and restaurants for desserts. As this has become increasingly more difficult, this year we are asking members of the QRC to contribute desserts. Since one house is located in apple country, we suggest apple desserts or whatever is your specialty. You may call June Vanderlaan at 876-3322 to let her know that you will be making a dessert for the event.

Cost to attend the Progressive Dinner will remain at \$35 per person if purchased by September 1 and \$40 per person after that date. Be sure to save the date and call Brenda Klapproth for reservations at 876-2436

CONSORTIUM OF RHINEBECK HISTORY

One of the consortium's mandates is to educate its members in the care and proper storage of their documents and artifacts. On Wednesday, March 30, members joined Duane Watson in the tower room at Wilderstein in a hands on workshop to learn techniques in considering and conserving damaged documents. At this workshop, those in attendance learned that the first consideration in a work is to evaluate the item needing repair. It is necessary to determine the importance to your collection, the use of the object, and its priority. During this evaluation, it may be decided that a conservator would be best to do the repair, or that it should be housed in archival storage and left undisturbed. Participants of the workshop were encouraged to bring documents for consideration.

The consortium plans to offer three to four workshops during the year for its members. The public is welcome for a small workshop fee. The Consortium of Local Historic Organizations meets quarterly in the Starr Library ground floor in the history room. For information call 876-4592.



Duane Watson (top, center) leading workshop on preservation of documents

From the Family Quitman, Quitmann, Quittmann Newsletter

The QRC has long been a member of the QQQ Family genealogy organization. Their members are all descendants of a Quitman family spelled three different ways. Their March, 2011 newsletter included information about the Farmstead's Let's Go Deutsch event, the Quitman Preservation Award, and an interesting article about Reverend Quitman's grandson and name sake Frederick Henry Quitman (1830 - 1884), and son of John A. Quitman. (John was born in the Quitman house in September 1799, the 5th child of Frederick and Anna.)

Dieter Quitman, founder of the QQQ Family and contributor of the Family newsletter has assembled information from Gerry Shaw, a descendent of the 2nd Frederick. Some of the following is excerpted from Mr Quitman's article, other information is from the QRC archives.

John and his wife Eliza Turner Quitman had nine daughters and three sons of which six daughters and one son survived. As the last surviving son, Frederick must have found it challenging to live up to the standards of his industrious and famous father who was a hero in the Mexican War, Judge, Governor of Mississippi, and member of the US House of Representatives, just to name a few of his accomplishments. John died in 1858 and was spared the defeat of the south in the Civil War. While governor, he had realized that the balance of power was going to shift to the north anti-slavery states and had proposed seceding from the Union to his fellow southern governors in the 1840's.

As with many wealthy families, Frederick, at age 19, was sent north to Princeton University for his college education. Reportedly, he was not a good student. As was fashionable, after graduation he traveled in Europe. During these travels he met his future wife Mary Louisa Aylett Gardner, from Riverdale, Alabama, where her wealthy family owned a plantation. After their marriage in 1854, Frederick took charge of one of his father's plantations, Live Oak in the Louisiana Terrebonne Parish. Live Oak was a plantation Frederick's uncle Ike Albert (Op) managed for his brother John until his sudden death in 1845.

The following is a summary of Frededick's war record. Captain Quitman was a member of the staff of General

Mansfield Lovell (his brother-in-law), who was the commander of the defense of New Orleans. Once Captain Quitman was ordered to bring an old steamboat packed with gunpowder on the open deck across the Mississippi River to an old half destroyed mud fort, but it was just that night when a northern fleet passed by and shelled the coast. Most of the shells passed over the old steamboat loaded with gunpowder. During the night, the little fort was given up, but Captain Quitman with his men made their way to New Orleans using detours through the swamps, just in time to get out of the Federal Lines and to participate in the great battle of Corinth, MS. It was in this battle that he was promoted to major for conspicuous bravery. He had carried important dispatches in the face of the enemy battle line and his horse had been shot from under him. He was later placed in charge of supplying food for the Confederate Army in his district - a task less dangerous or glorious, but important even if unpopular.

After swearing a loyalty oath to the Union and Constitution, Frederick obtained restitution of his property and he returned to Live Oak in 1865. In 1880, the Quitman's were living in Atlanta, GA, where the census showed that they had three black servants. It was also in the census that Frederick reported his profession as Civil Engineer. (As a local note: It was Frederick who, after his father's death, took on the responsibility of supporting his two maiden aunts, Louisa and Eliza Quitman, who were living in Kingston at the time of their deaths in 1874 and 1881 respectively.)

Written by Marilyn Hatch

FARMSTEAD NEWS SPRING,2011

1770 DUTCH BARN

The "About Town" community guide to Rhinebeck, Red Hook, Tivoli, Germantown, Hudson and surrounding areas Spring 2011 edition, has a fine article about the Farmstead Barn. The article is titled "Inside the Dutch Barn", and was written by Aaron Ahlstrom. The article has a great deal of input from Farmstead committee members Bob Hedges and Alvin Sheffer.

CALIFORNIA VISITORS

On February 19, 2011, I received an interesting e-mail from Claudia Katz; "My mother and I are coming to Rhinebeck on Sunday, March 13 at 10 AM. We are on a trip from California to NYC, and want to know if it would be possible to see the Palatine Farmstead? We came to Rhinebeck in 2005 and were given a tour of the Farmstead by Nancy Kelly. My mother really wants to visit the Farmstead again to see how the renovations have progressed since we were last there. We are descended from Heinrich Bruchle, who came to East Camp in 1710. My mother's name is Diana Katz, and she sends donations for the Farmstead, and has bought some barn pegs..." How could such a request be refused? I met Claudia and Diana at the Rhinecliff railroad station and drove to the Farmstead. We toured the Farmstead house, barn, and property for about an hour and a half (the snow had been plowed and shoveled this winter to maintain access). I especially showed them the barn wooden pegs and the heavy mallet used to drive them.

The house was very interesting to them as they enjoyed seeing how the house was built and used. Perhaps I can get them to write an article reflecting their impressions of their visit. After an interesting tour, for me as well as Claudia and Diana, I dropped them at 12:15 PM at the Beekman Arms. I recommended the Tap Room as an interesting place for lunch. The staff at the Beekman Arms said they would help recommend some local history to enjoy and arrange for a taxi back to the Rhinecliff railroad station.

We welcome interest in tours of the Palatine Farmstead house and barn. Contact Ernie Steubesand (845) 876-7517.

Submitted by Ernie Steubesand

SPRING YARD SALE - APRIL 29-30

It is that time of year again and we hope to see you all under the tent, on the lawn of the QRC for our annual yard sale/flea market. The Farmstead committee has been holding a spring yard sale for many years. It started in conjunction with the QRC membership and was originally held at the Dutchess County Fairgrounds in the craft building. The space there was originally given each year in good faith to local non-profit organizations for use in their fundraising efforts, but as management changed, so did the

policies. We struggled to make a decent profit, with a smaller space allotted and a larger overhead; the decision was made to use the lawn of the QRC. It is a huge undertaking and a good opportunity for you to join a worthwhile effort.

Donations of furniture, household goods, antiques, rare books, vinyl records, jewelry, rugs, tools, pictures and frames, kitchen utensils and cookware, serving trays, lamps, wooden bowls, metal ware, porch and yard accessories, wicker and rattan, glass and ceramic niceties, crockery, wrought iron pieces, old mirrors, sconces and candlesticks, decorative shelving, unique baskets, quilts, embroidered tea towels or tablecloths, collectors items and oddities of all sorts are being solicited. We prefer not to handle clothing and electronics, but if you have something special, please bring it! The items may be brought to the QRC set-up area on the lawn, weather permitting, on Thursday, April 28 from 3-6 PM, or you may call after April 10 for pick-up. The number to call is (845) 876-3624 or leave a message for Joanne. This is a perfect opportunity to make a tax-free donation and clear some of that clutter from your basement, attic, spare room, or closets. The Farmstead committee has recently regrouped, and is making great strides to accomplish even more at the site in the months to come. So we need your funds, and your help. If you can work at the Yard Sale, the shifts are Saturday 9 AM-noon, 12-2 PM, and 2-5 PM. Sunday is one volunteer effort 9 AM - 1 PM. Please consider helping to sell, displaying the treasures to prospective customers, and sharing your day with us. Call Ernie Steubesand or Joanne Engle with your commitment hours, or just to let one of us know that you'll be there!

Now let's all pray for good weather and good fortune! See you there!

Submitted by Joanne Engle

HERITAGE WEEKEND

The Palatine Farmstead house, barn and grounds will be open to the public during Heritage Weekend, May 14-15, 2011 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Mark your calendars and join members of the Farmstead committee to share, learn and observe our nation's early farming heritage, and in particular, this Palatine Farmstead.

Submitted by Ernie Steubesand

LET'S GO DEUTSCH

Plan to attend "Let's Go Deutsch" at the Palatine Farmstead on Saturday, September 24, 10 AM to 4 PM. enjoy bread from the bake oven, butter churning, house and barn tours, music , and 18th century exhibits and demonstrations. Admission is \$5. Children 12 or under are free. Proceeds will support further preservation and research of the Palatine house and grounds.