



NEWSWORTHY

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Spring 2018

**A Publication
of the
Dutchess
County
Historical
Society**

Your Newsletter Team
Bill Jeffway
Candace Lewis
Melodye Moore
John Desmond

www.DCHSNY.org

2018: Year of the Veteran Earns Attention

On November 4 of last year, on Veterans Appreciation Day, the Dutchess County Historical Society, in partnership with the Dutchess County Executive, County Historian and County Director of Veterans Services, announced the program "2018: The Year of the Veteran." The program includes a commitment from DCHS to work with historians and historical organizations in each of the 30 municipalities in the county to document as many of the World War I artifacts and stories that can be found and to find prominent and imaginative ways to share them.

This program allows DCHS to embrace several things it is committed to as part of a major re-launch to the community. First, it allows us to begin digitization of our collections. Second, it allows us to commit to "curate" certain topics through permanent online exhibition on a completely reconstructed website: www.DCHSNY.org. Third, it allows us to reinstate the long-standing practice of having local honorary Vice Presidents as a means to collaborate in sharing ideas, resources, and collections content.

Among the most positive reactions was the embrace of the idea by the Dutchess County government as a partnership idea, as mentioned above. The response of local media has been sincere and thorough, featuring not just the news of the program but also our photographs.

All this attention has prompted individuals from across the county to come forward with artifacts and stories, ranging from soldiers' letters home to parents and lovers, posters, postcards, and medals. We are able to digitally copy all these artifacts so that we can leave the most personal items with the families yet share the soldiers' stories with everyone.

We are also laying the foundation for and establishing the method of best practices and shared capabilities to capture living veterans' oral histories. This ambitious, ongoing project ensures we do not end up a century behind in understanding their important stories.



May 1 ~Annual Meeting~5:30 pm

Wallace Center at the FDR Presidential Library & Museum, Hyde Park

5:30 PM BUSINESS MEETING ~ All welcome, voting limited to DCHS Members

The DCHS Annual Meeting consists of summary reports from officers and Executive Director. Then moves to member votes for Trustees, Officers, and "local" DCHS Vice Presidents.

Welcome: President Michael Gordon
Approval of Last Year's Annual Minutes
President's Report: Michael Gordon
Executive Director's Report: Bill Jeffway
Treasurer's Report: Eugene Fleishman
Nominating Committee's Report: Lou Lewis

Floor vote of DCHS members

New Trustees 2018-2021
Slate of Officers 2018
Local Vice Presidents

Board of Directors

Michael Gordon, President
Lou Lewis Esq., Vice President
Eugene Fleishman,
Treasurer
Christine Crawford-
Oppenheimer, Secretary
Christine Altavilla
David Dengel
Julia Hotton
Tom Lawrence
Dr. Candace Lewis
Dr. Werner Steger
Elizabeth Strauss
Elizabeth Wolf Esq.
EX OFFICIO:
Dr. William P. Tatum, III

Advisory Board

Rob Doyle
Steven Effron
Eileen Hayden
Brad Kendall
Steve Lant
Dr. James Merrell
Dr. Dennis Murray
Al & Julia Rosenblatt
Fred Schaeffer
Dr. Paul Sparrow
Denise Doring VanBuren
Mary Kay Vrba
Brad Weaver



6:00 PM PROGRAM

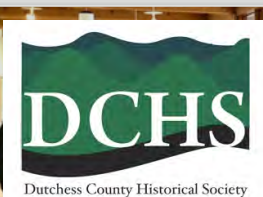
**Getting to Know My Great-great-grandfather Fred:
His coming of Age on a Pine Plains Farm via Honolulu**

By Justin Kemp with Melodye Moore



Fred Knickerbocker was always a presence in the Kemp home, but a cache of personal letters and photographs reveals a story of either youthful idealism or naivety, depending on your view. Drawing from family conversations, as well as hundreds of letters and photographs, we gain a very personal insight into a young man from a Pine Plains farm at the turn of the last century, who heads off to war without telling his parents. His experiences, which are warmly captured, expose the completely unexpected trajectory of his journey, reading more like a Mark Twain novel than family history. It is carefully researched and beautifully told as only a family member could. Followed by comments from County Historian William P. Tatum, III who puts that personal experience in a larger historical context.

Dear Mother and Father.
forgive me for going without letting you know.
Do not worry



**PLEASE RSVP when convenient,
but by April 12, if you can, to help us plan**
bill.jeffway@dchsnys.org
 or cellphone 845-293-7711



**UNPUBLISHED 1919
PHOTO OF FDR REVEALED**

May 1 ~Exhibition Opening~6:30 pm

Wallace Center at the FDR Presidential Library & Museum, Hyde Park

6:30 PM EXHIBITION OPENING ~ \$20 suggested donation
Light refreshments & wine

In recognition of the 100th anniversary of the end of WWI, DCHS, with the support of a generous, anonymous donor, had over 300 glass plate negatives from that period digitally scanned and restored. A careful selection has been turned into high-quality prints and images that will be on display starting May 1, then travel town-to-town across the county.

One of the most important to emerge is a never-before published photograph of then-Assistant Secretary of the Navy Franklin Delano Roosevelt, marching with purpose and pride in the September 1919 "Welcome Home" Parade on Main Street in Poughkeepsie.

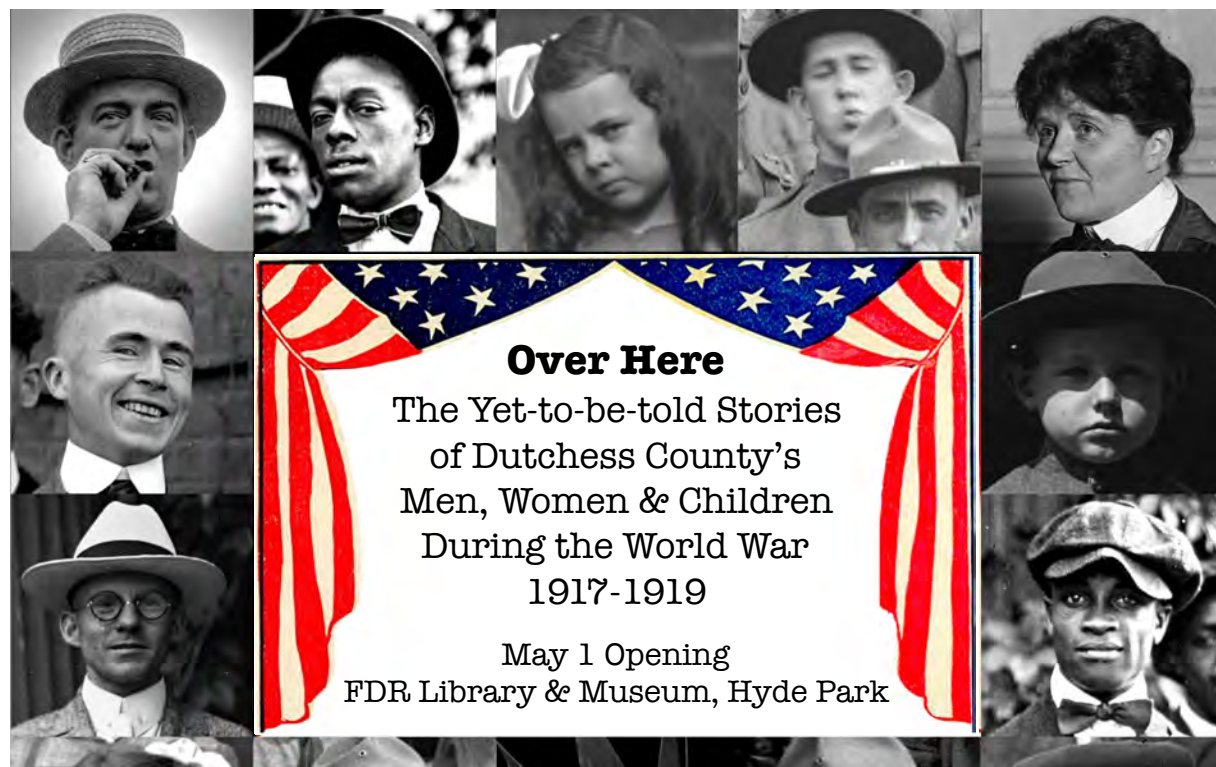
The story of the men, women and children of the "World War" has not been fully told. Two planned histories, "New York's Part in the World War," meant to be published by NY State, and a history of Dutchess County War dead, meant to be published by local and NY State American Legion historian and professional photographer, Reuben Van Vlack, were never published. This is our effort to close the gap for Dutchess County, through the extraordinary photographs of Mr. Van Vlack. They were a gift of fellow WWI veteran, C. Fred Close, who, among many other life achievements, served as County Sheriff for a total of 25 years.

Local Vice Presidents

Amenia, Julian Strauss
 Beacon, Theresa Kraft
 Beekman, vacant
 Clinton, Craig Marshall
 Dover, Caroline Reichenberg
 East Fishkill, vacant
 Fishkill, Joey Cavacinni
 Hyde Park, Shannon Butler
 Lagrange, vacant
 Milan, Vicky Lobrutto
 Washington & Millbrook, Jim Inglis & Robert McHugh
 North East & Millerton, Ed Downey & Jane Rossman
 Pawling, vacant
 Pine Plains, Dyan Wapnick
 Pleasant Valley, vacant
 Poughkeepsie, vacant
 Red Hook, Emily Majer
 Rhinebeck Town & Village
 Michael Frazier & David Miller
 Stanford, Kathy Spiers
 Union Vale, Fran Wallin
 Wappingers, Joey Cavacinni

Publications Committee

Candace Lewis, Chair
 Roger Donway
 David Dengel
 Dennis Dengel
 John Desmond
 Eileen Hayden
 Julia Hotton
 Bill Jeffway
 Melodye Moore
 William P. Tatum, III



Over Here
 The Yet-to-be-told Stories
 of Dutchess County's
 Men, Women & Children
 During the World War
 1917-1919

May 1 Opening
 FDR Library & Museum, Hyde Park

"A Drive To Clinton Hollow"

This gift from a granddaughter becomes more poignant when we learn that the grandmother who received it would outlive the younger woman by over two decades. One lived a long life. One lived a short life. But both received very public accolades for their lifetime achievements in advancing the interests of women and girls.

NEW IN COLLECTIONS

DCHS recently received this small, handmade album, without notice, in the mail. The donor, who had been hired to clean out a residence in New Jersey, decided it was better to send it to us than "throw it in the dumpster." Eleven photographs depict buildings, residences and landscapes along the road from Salt Point to Clinton Hollow circa 1905. Clinton Town Historian Craig Marshall pronounced it "a treasure!" The inscription "To My Grandmother," followed by "Nina McCulloch" created a tantalizing mystery. Our research transformed this sweet little memento into a document that led us to the story of two extraordinary Dutchess County women. Both grandmother and granddaughter devoted their lives to social and civic causes advancing the rights and protections of women and girls in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Nina, the creator of the album, was a Poughkeepsie resident and a respected suffragist. Her untimely death in 1918 at the age of 36 came as a result of contracting the Spanish Influenza while in charge of the emergency hospital at the city's Masonic Temple. Nina's social conscience and commitment was likely inspired by her grandmother, Ophelia Shadbolt Amigh. Born in Clinton Hollow in 1839, Ophelia left New York to homestead in Iowa, volunteered as a nurse in the Civil War, and eventually became the Superintendent of the Illinois School for Girls. Research is continuing, two descendants have been located, and plans are underway for a program co-sponsored by the Clinton Historical Society for next year. It is true that every object has a story and this one is a humdinger!



MAY 1
DCHS Annual Meeting
Public Exhibition Opening
FDR Library Hyde Park

PO Box 88
Poughkeepsie NY 12602

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or cellphone 845-293-7711