



**NEWSWORTHY**

Volume I, No. 1  
Spring 2018

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

Your Newsletter Team  
Bill Jeffway  
Candace Lewis  
Melodye Moore  
John Desmond

[www.DCHSNY.org](http://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](http://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



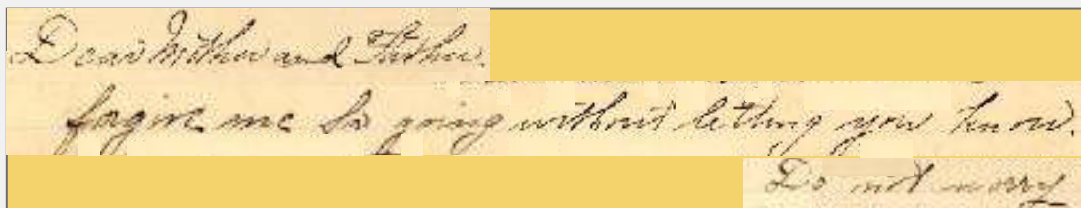
### 6:00 PM PROGRAM

**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.







**PLEASE RSVP when convenient,  
but by April 12, if you can, to help us plan**  
[bill.jeffway@dchsn.org](mailto:bill.jeffway@dchsn.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.

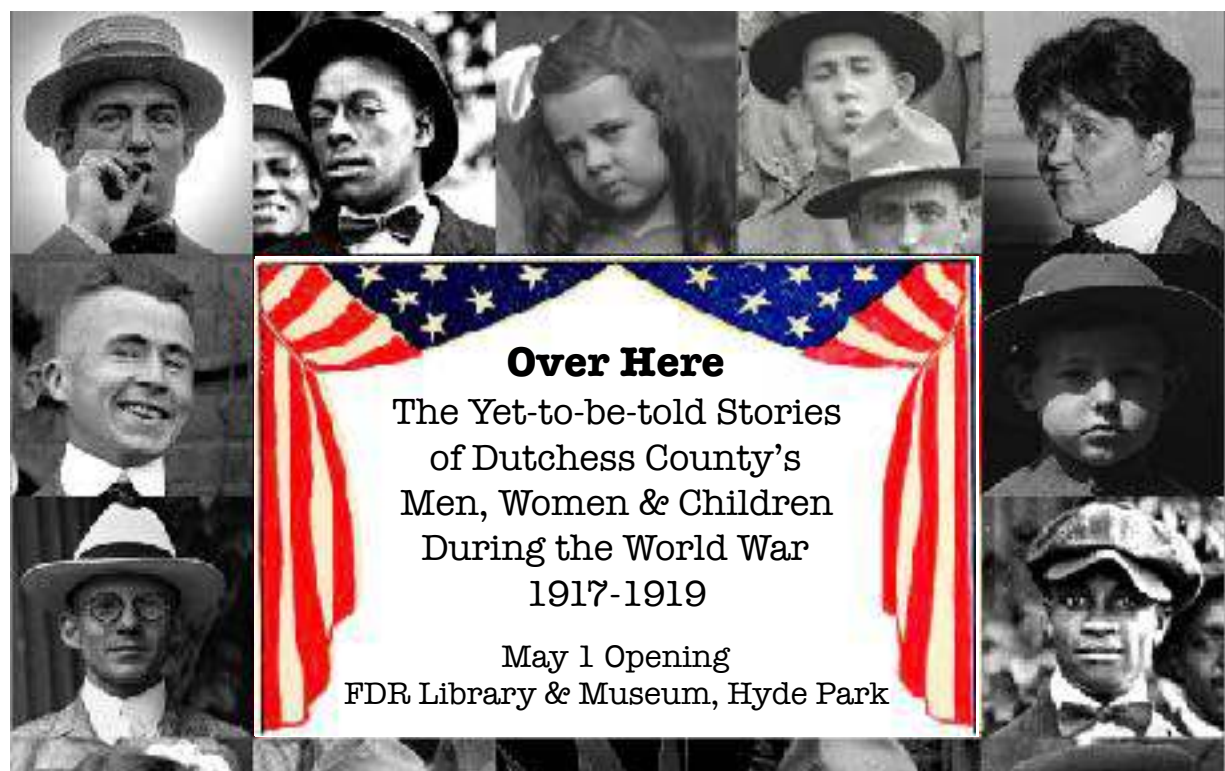
The story of the men, women and children of the "World War" has not been fully told. Two planned histories, "New York's Part in the World War," meant to be published by NY State, and a history of Dutchess County War dead, meant to be published by local and NY State American Legion historian and professional 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 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> 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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