

2019: Another year becomes history

As each year passes we have the enormous responsibility as historians of considering the present and the future. What shall we choose to remember and memorialize? What shall endure for future generations? We invite you to read about our work in this newsletter and online. Give, through membership and gifts, to the full degree you see value in leaving an intellectual and historical legacy for the future! ~ Bill Jeffway, Executive Director

2020 Focus: Women's Voices & Talents

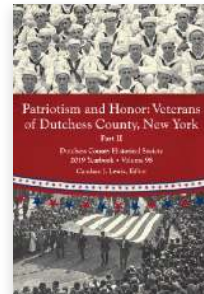
We are celebrating the 100th anniversary of women winning the right to vote nationally by looking at the contributions of Dutchess County women through their political voices and their wide ranging talents. The recent collections gift of the paintings, drawings, letters, and books of LaGrange's 19th century painter Caroline Morgan Clowes was met with a successful fundraising campaign that allows us to restore Clowes' paintings, and legacy. We will shortly announce a September 2020 exhibition of her work at the Barrett Art Center, Poughkeepsie. Many other elements of the year-long program are in development. We invite you to watch for notices of activities and get directly involved as a volunteer.

Lessons of Service & Sacrifice for High School Students, Others

We are very excited to have begun development of set of educational tools that include videos and discussion guides based on all the research we've done on WWI in preparation for the exhibition, "Over Here: the Untold Stories of the Men, Women and Children of Dutchess County During the World War 1917 to 1919." This is enabled by a \$10,000 grant from the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution through the sponsorship of the Mahwenawasigh Chapter, Poughkeepsie, and a \$5,000 sponsorship from Central Hudson. As well as \$10,000 in other fundraising. Contact us if you are interested in supporting this.



2019 Yearbook: PATRIOTISM AND HONOR: VETERANS OF DUTCHESS COUNTY, NEW YORK PART II. This year's book continues the theme of veterans of Dutchess County in the twentieth century. Thus we report on soldiers, sailors, and airmen of World Wars I and II and the Vietnam War. For example, included are the tale of a brave airman of the Great War shot down over enemy territory, the investigation of a box of artifacts to reconstruct a soldier's service in WWI, a story of Dutchess County African Americans who fought in WWI, and a multi-generation family with men who served in World Wars I and II and the Vietnam War. The Articles section of general history includes the story of an ongoing, local relationship with Nagaland, India, a builder in Hopewell Junction, and a unique 1860 artifact, the election year of Abraham Lincoln.



In Memoriam: Julia Hotton We are sad to report the passing of Julia Hotton on August 5, 2019, age 86. She had been a valued member of the Board of Trustees at the Dutchess County Historical Society for over six years. A 1954 graduate of Syracuse University's College of Visual and Performing Arts, Ms. Hotton was active all her life as a museum professional, cultural historian and visual arts specialist in Manhattan, Brooklyn and Hudson Valley. She had a broad reach into an array of artists, scholars, educators, business and social leaders, which brought a unique richness to her work.



On the Upper East Side of Manhattan she created the Manhattan East Gallery of Fine Arts, for established but unrecognized artists. She was the Assistant Director for Interpretation at the Brooklyn Museum during a critical period in the 1970s. She served at New York Public Library's Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture as curator and manager of its Art and Artifacts collection. She was curator of "Without Sanctuary: Lynching Photography in America," at the New-York Historical Society (2000). She was Scholarly Advisor to the New-York Historical Society's landmark exhibition, "Slavery in New York" (2005 and 2006). At DCHS, we have been grateful for Julia's for kind, even-tempered presence and her unflinching scholarship. She has contributed two articles to our yearbook in recent years. She is survived by her daughter Tanya Hotton.



View our pilot interview at
www.DCHSNY.org/i-served



NEWSWORTHY

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Your Newsletter Team
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Meloye Moore
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www.DCHSNY.org

Dutchess County Historical Society Annual Awards Monday, October 28, 2019

5:30 drinks, 6:00 dinner, 8:00 finish ~ Locust Grove, 2683 South Rd. Poughkeepsie 12602
\$135 per person · Table accommodates eight
RSVP to Bill Jeffway by October 15 · cell: 845-293-7711 · bill.jeffway@dchsnyc.org
DCHS · PO Box 88 · Poughkeepsie, NY 12602



Hosted By Denise Doring VanBuren
President General, National Society of
the Daughters of the American Revolution

No one is better suited to help us recognize achievement in local history than “our own” Denise Doring VanBuren. At the end of this year she will retire from her executive position at Central Hudson after 26 years of service. In an extraordinary shift of emphasis, having been elected the 45th President General of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution in June, VanBuren will devote her full time and energy to the 3-year term. Her Dutchess patriotic roots are deep. Her ancestor, Simon Freer, was among those who signed the Articles of Association in 1775 in a very public commitment to the independence of the United States. Her longtime support of DCHS, including being President, allows us to confidently say that her characteristic energy and focus will ensure that the DAR will be vibrant and effective in passing its one millionth member since its founding in 1890. The DAR is open to women who can show they are descended from someone who helped the revolutionary cause between the Battle of Lexington in 1775 and the withdrawal of British troops in 1783. “Helping the cause” could include military service, civil service to the new provisional government, or patriotic service such as donating supplies or giving medical aid. We are grateful for her hosting our event.

**Helen Wilkinson Reynolds Award recognizing
the necessary and accurate search for historical truth
Myra Young Armstead, Ph.D.**

VP for Academic Inclusive Excellence · Lyford Paterson Edwards
& Helen Gray Edwards Prof. of Historical Studies, Bard College



Myra Young Armstead, Ph.D., joined Bard College in 1985 and currently serves as Vice President for Academic Inclusive Excellence and is the Lyford Paterson Edwards and Helen Gray Edwards Professor of Historical Studies. The Organization of American Historians recently named her Primary Researcher on a new project with the National Park Service, which will investigate slavery and slaveholding in Saratoga National Park at the Philip Schuyler Estate from 1702 to 1837.

DCHS was delighted to be invited to participate in one of her most recent collaborations, the exhibition, series of talks, and summary monograph, *Alexander Gilson: From Property to Property Owner*, supported by a grant from the Lumina Foundation. Armstead engaged a wide and varied community by involving her Bard students, Bard’s Montgomery Place Campus, Historic Red Hook, and the Dutchess County Historical Society. The arc of Alexander Gilson’s story reflects his birth in Red Hook in the age of slaveholding in New York, and his subsequent joining and rise to property manager at Montgomery Place, a large slave-owning family before 1827 state abolition. The June 1876 *American Agriculturist* referred to him as “famous” because of his success in breeding double-blossom Begonias, a plant that remains formally named in his honor: *Achyranthes Gilsoni*. His story continues to gain attention.

In the “search for historical truth” in her 2012 book, *Freedom's Gardener: James F. Brown, Horticulture, and the Hudson Valley in Antebellum America*, Armstead transforms the quotidian lines of a diary into a powerful personal story in Dutchess County, in the context of larger influences. The *New York Times*, in reference to the book wrote, “[Armstead] argues, convincingly, that since horticulture was regarded as a craft, Brown should be considered an artisan rather than a common laborer. It was his occupation that allowed him to climb the social ladder, making him part of an informal network that crossed racial, class and gender lines.” Prof. Armstead was editor and contributor to, “Mighty Change, Tall Within: Black Identity in the Hudson Valley.” Authored “Lord, Please Don’t Take Me in August”: African Americans in Newport and Saratoga Springs, 1870 to 1930. She was Participant and Lecturer, Advisory Board for Historic Hudson Valley, for 2019 NEH Teachers’ Summer Institute on “Slavery in the Colonial North.” She serves as *Executive Board Member*, New York Academy of History (since 2007). She serves as *Board Member*, Hudson River Valley Institute, Marist College (since 2006).

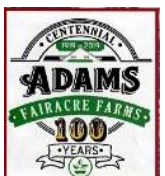
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**Helen Wilkinson Reynolds Award recognizing
the necessary and accurate search for historical truth
Thomas S. Wermuth, Ph.D.**

VP for Academic Affairs
Associate Professor of History, Marist College

Thomas S. Wermuth, Ph.D., joined the Marist College faculty as an Assistant Professor of History in 1992, was appointed Dean of the School of Liberal Arts in 2001 and Vice President for Academic Affairs in 2007. In 2002, Thom co-founded the Hudson River Valley Institute (HRVI) and serves as its Director, overseeing the Institute's development into one of the nation's leading regional history programs.

A Dutchess County native, Wermuth earned a degree in History from Marist College, an MA from SUNY Albany, and a Ph.D from Binghamton University. In 2001, he received the Board of Trustees' Faculty Award for Distinguished Teaching at Marist. For his contributions to New York history, Thom has been inducted into the New York Academy of History.

Wermuth's research and teaching focuses on the social and economic history of the Hudson River Valley. He is the author of *Rip Van Winkle's Neighbors: The Transformation of Rural Society in the Hudson River Valley, 1720-1850* (2002) and co-editor of *America's First River: The History and Culture of the Hudson River Valley* (2009). As Publisher of *The Hudson River Valley Review*, Thom contributes to and reviews articles, and is responsible for having elevated the journal to peer-reviewed status. He also edits the book series "The Hudson River: An American Region" from SUNY Press.

Under Wermuth's direction, HRVI presents two annual lectures, the Handel-Krom and Cunneen-Hackett Lectures in Hudson River Valley History, and he played a key role in securing the support and recognition of the National Endowment for the Humanities for HRVI. In summer of 2019, Thom led HRVI's efforts for the conference "1969: When Woodstock Changed the World", a two-day Marist event in partnership with the Museum at Bethel Woods, and the New York State Museum, Office of State History.

Dutchess Award, Edward E. Downey, Esq.

Founding partner of the law firm
Downey, Haab and Murphy, PLLC in Millerton
President of the North East Historical Society



Edward E. Downey, Esq. is a founding partner of the law firm Downey, Haab and Murphy, PLLC, in Millerton. He has been a Director of the North East Historical Society (NEHS) since 2008, and its President since 2012. In that role, he follows the footsteps of his mother, Leola (Lee) Downey, who taught history at Webutuck School including the curriculum devoted to local history. She was a member of the NEHS and served as its President. This Dutchess Award honors exceptional contributions by a county resident to the Dutchess County community, and beyond, in the areas of preservation, history, and/or education.

There is no better example than Ed Downey, who has taken a very broad and inclusive embrace of the community that includes the Millerton Fire Department, the Northeast-Millerton Library, the American Legion, the elementary schools, and businesses. The creation of the *Dine Out For History* program with 5 Millerton restaurants has helped gain additional funding that has allowed the NEHS to move to vastly improved apartment space in their library. Ed's collaborative approach involving DCHS and the Dutchess County Historian with the local American Legion allowed for a very powerful, onsite talk and exhibition. And that collaboration continues. Ed is a lifelong resident of Millerton, leaving only for college, military service (Army 1968 to 1970) and law school. His wife, Meg, is a prior winner of the Dutchess Award, making a historic first for a married couple to each win the award, separately. Congratulations!



**Business of Historical Distinction
Adams Fairacre Farms**

Celebrating 100 years of family business
Pat & Steve Adams

In 1919 Ralph A. Adams and his wife, Mary Rogers Adams, purchased 50 acres of farmland on Dutchess Turnpike in Poughkeepsie, New York, having borrowed \$500. They worked the land, selling fresh produce to area retailers. By 1932 they had four children—Diana, Dorothy, Ralph and Donald—and a successful farmstand. Adams Fairacre Farms was born.

At first they were just selling fruits and vegetables, but soon people were asking for more. "Once you sell the produce, they want cheese, then meats, then a deli. It was a slow, natural progression," said founders' son Donald. "And as we had supplies for the farm, people wanted fertilizer or plants from us, so we added the garden center."

After the passing of the senior Ralph in 1957, sons Ralph and Donald took over the farm. In 1959 Ralph and Donald opened the first Adams store in Poughkeepsie, Today the family tradition of providing customers with quality products and first rate service has grown to four locations: Poughkeepsie, Wappinger, Newburgh and Kingston.

We regret to say that Donald P. Adams passed away just over a month ago, on August 20, 2019. Today the business is still family owned; with sons Pat and Steve serving as CEO and COO respectively and daughter Kathy as Sweet Shop Manager. Pat and Steve will accept the award on behalf of the family and business.



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Dutchess County Historical Society Collections News

Nina Mattern McCulloch. We generally reach back and research certain individuals. But sometimes, it feels like the opposite is happening, that someone is stepping forward to be noticed. Last year we received, unannounced in the mail, the circa 1910 photo album, of the Town of Clinton's Nina Mattern McCulloch, created as her testimony and thanks to her grandmother. It turns out both were high profile leaders in women's issues. Great timing given next year's focus! This year, we received a call that a 4 minute silent movie training video in how to can vegetables (an urgent necessity in WWI) had been discovered. It features none other than Nina Mattern McCulloch. Nina died in the September 1919 from the global flu pandemic nursing others. Her grandmother lived another three decades. We will show the very short film at the Awards Dinner October 28, pending rights release from Eastman.