

Exploring Rhinebeck #1 ~ by Nancy Kelly

The Rhinebeck Town Historian takes us on a tour of the
northern part of the Old Post Road

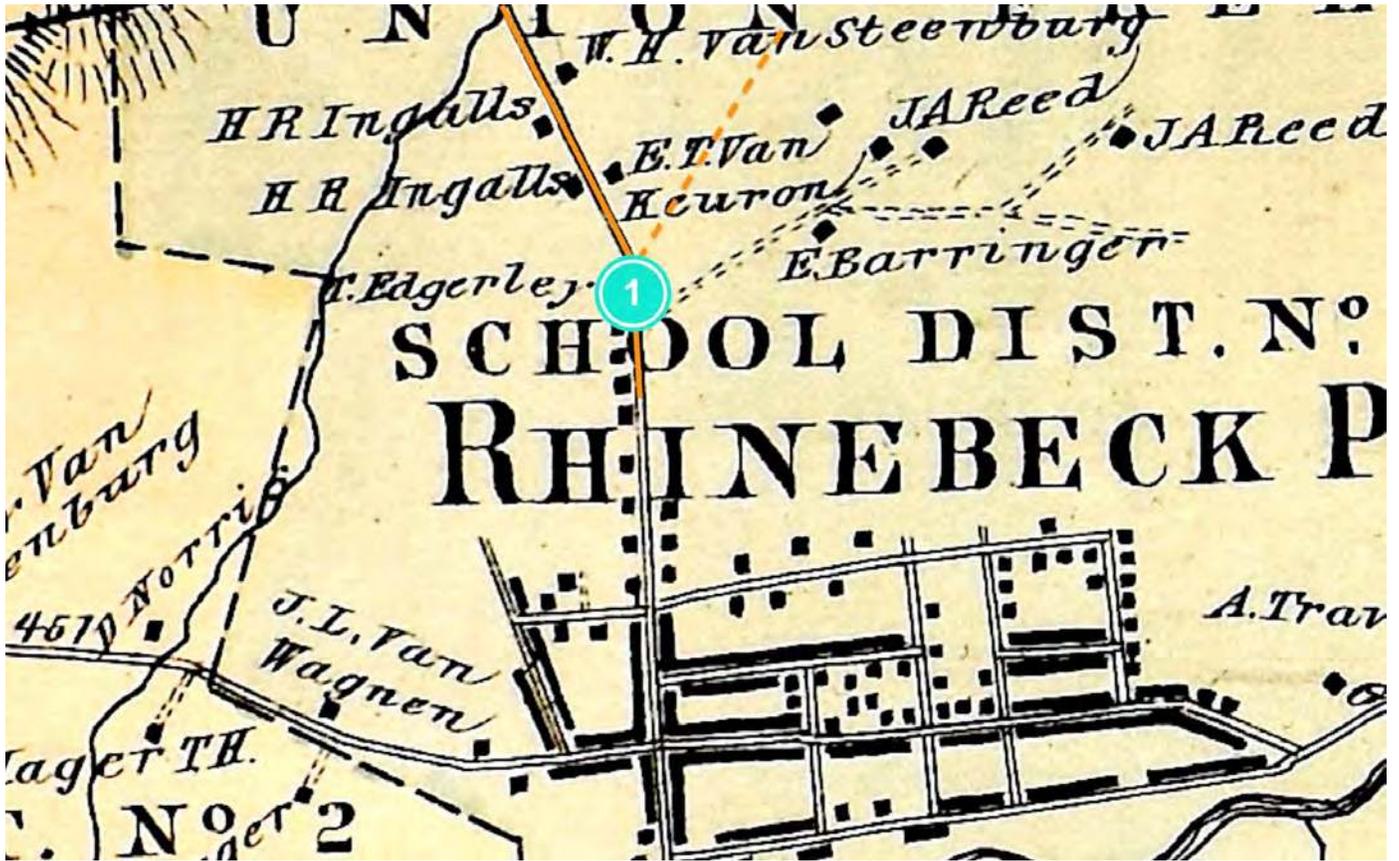
StoryMap & contemporary photos by Bill Jeffway,
Director, Dutchess County Historical Society

May 2020

Old Post Road North

The Post Road from Broadway in NYC, north through Albany
was built in 1755 to carry mail and provide a land route north
along the Hudson River. (*"A Road through Time"* Richard
Figiel, *Silverthread books*, 2018, p.87-90).

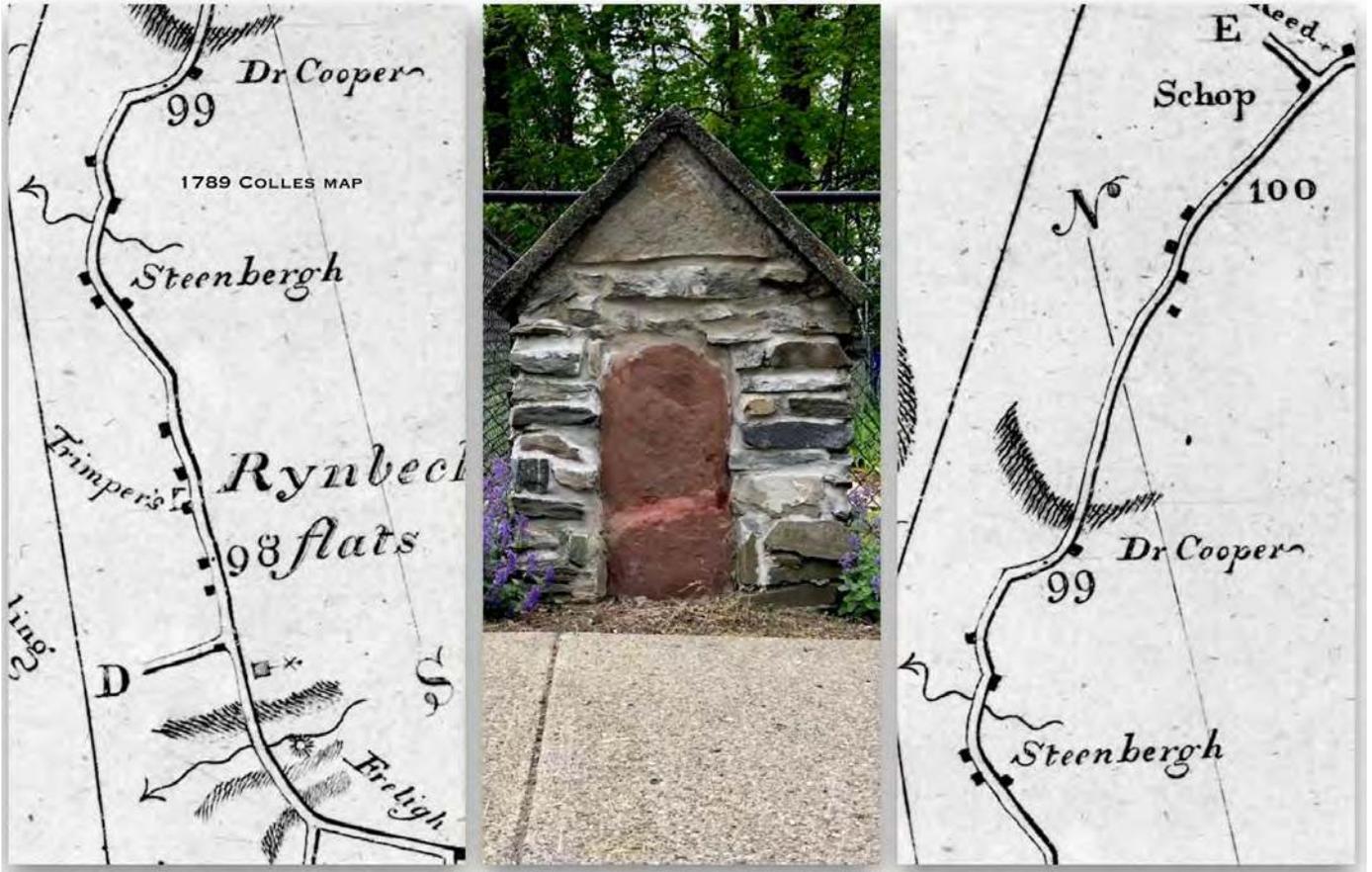




1 Begin just north of Rhinebeck Village

Begin in the village of Rhinebeck at the intersection of Montgomery Street and Route 9/ Springbrook Ave. In front of the hospital.

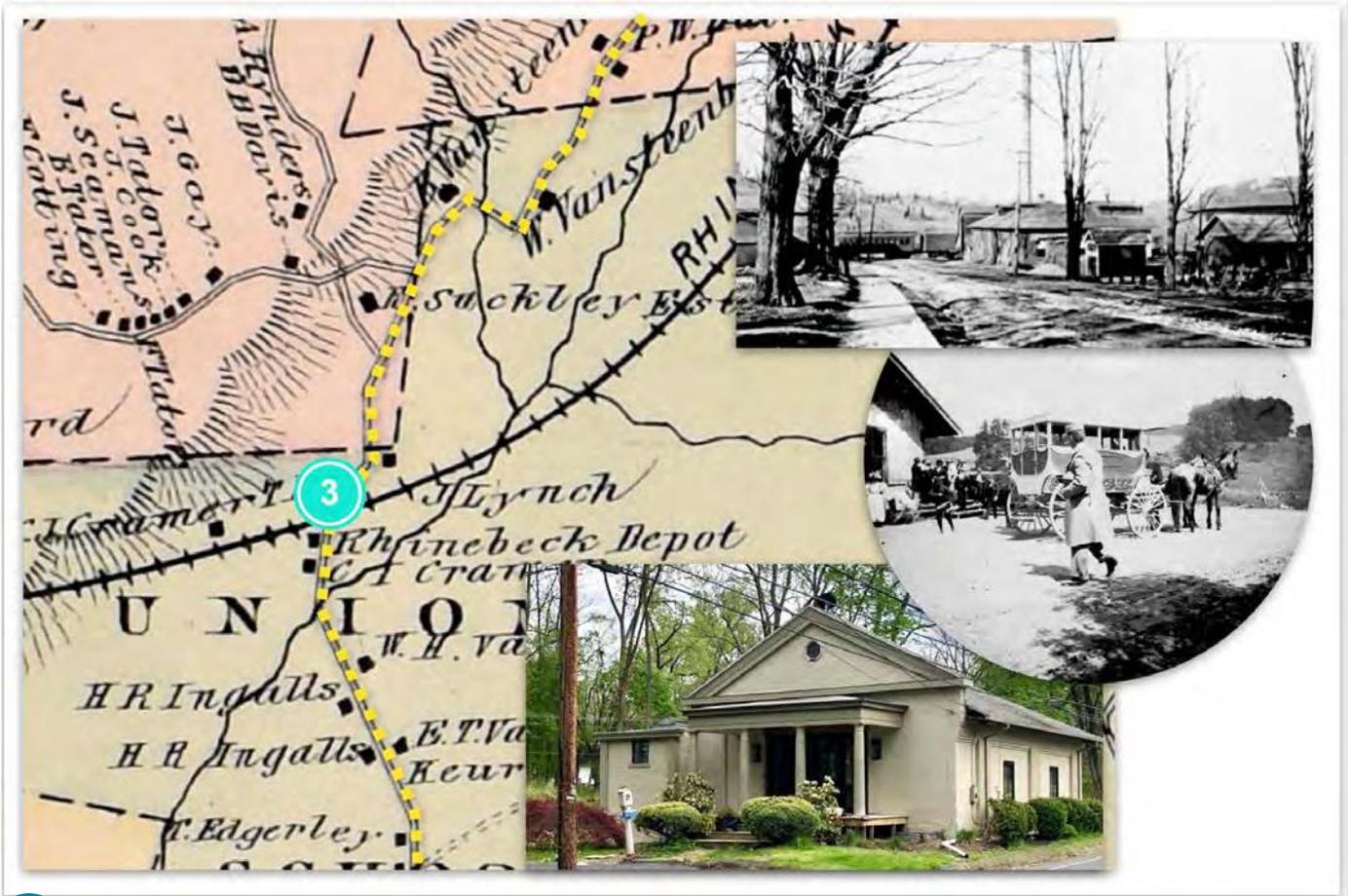
Route 9 was constructed c.1926 by NY State and led traffic north out of Rhinebeck. It cut through the flat area, known as Astor Flats to the east of the Post Road, going more directly north. 1876 Grey & Davis map.



2 99 Miles from New York City

Following Montgomery Street, we come to a reconstructed mile marker, number 99 on the left side of the street.

Shown are sections of the 1789 Christopher Colles survey of the Albany Post Road, the mile prior to the 99 marker (left side of photo) and the mile after the 99 marker (right side of photo).



3 Where the railroad passed

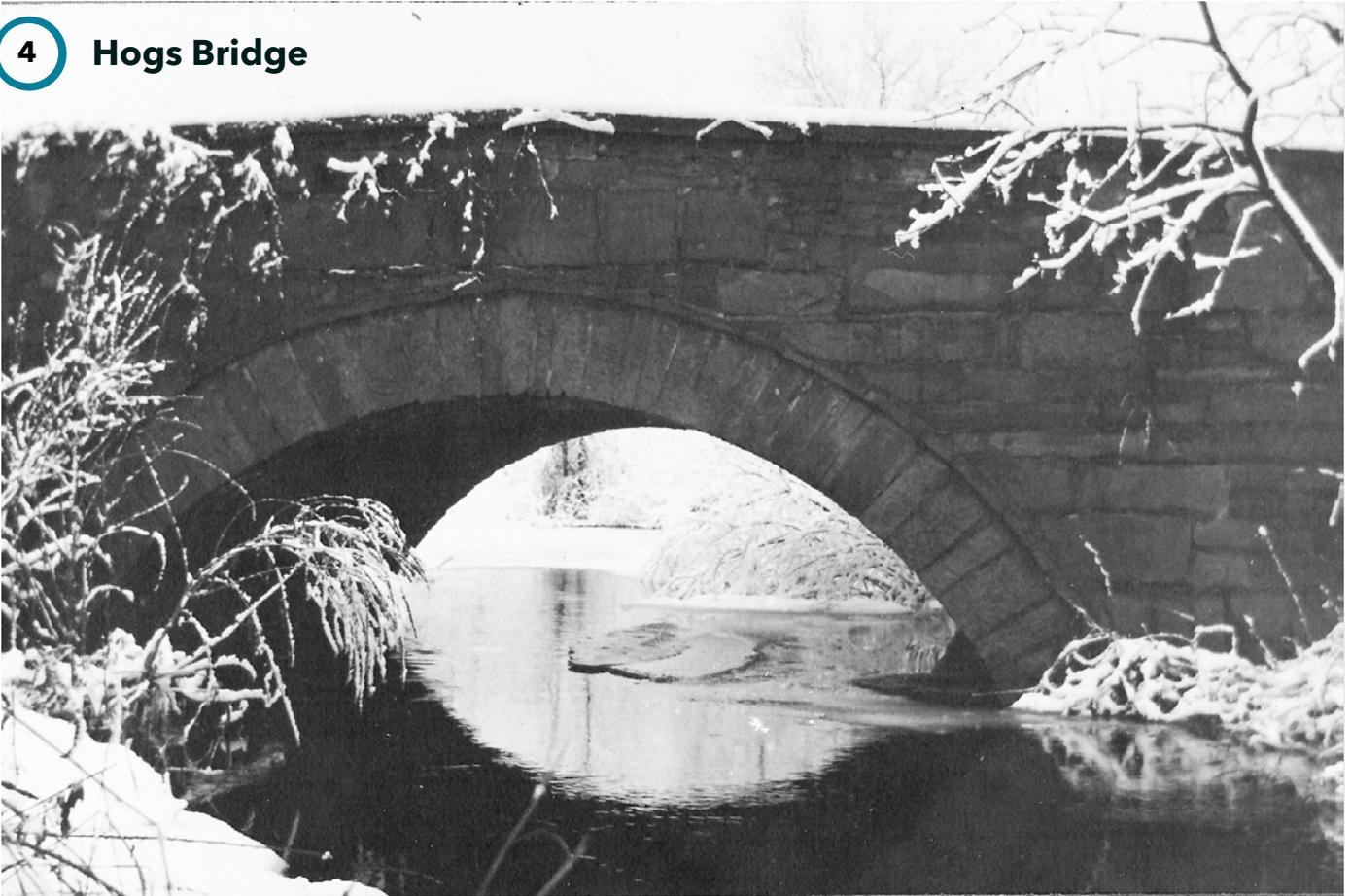
As the road dips down the incline to the Rhinebeck Kill, we pass a masonry building on the right, the former Rhinebeck Gas Company building. (p.59 *“Images of America, Rhinebeck”* by Michael Frazier).

The area closer to the creek originally contained a train station for the Rhinebeck & Connecticut Railroad, whose track was on the east side of the creek.

1876 Grey & Davis map. Inset top, Museum of Rhinebeck History. Middle, Rhinebeck Historical Society.

4

Hogs Bridge



We cross the Hog Bridge, so named because the landowner's hogs originally wallowed there. *Photo courtesy Rhinebeck Historical Society.*



5

100 Miles from New York City

Straight ahead is Mt. Rutsen Road. Bear right on the Old Post Road. A 100 mile maker is visible at the intersection (look closely).

Colonial buildings were on the right/east side of the road & 1850 map shows a schoolhouse located there.



Driveway to the left, 75 & 77 Old Post Road, led to a farm identified in 1850 as J. Van Wagner, now owned by the Huber family.

Look for signs of former house sites. John Jacob Astor acquired this acreage and removed all of the houses except for the Cox House. There were 22 buildings along this road on the 1876 Atlas map of Rhinebeck.



7 Cox House

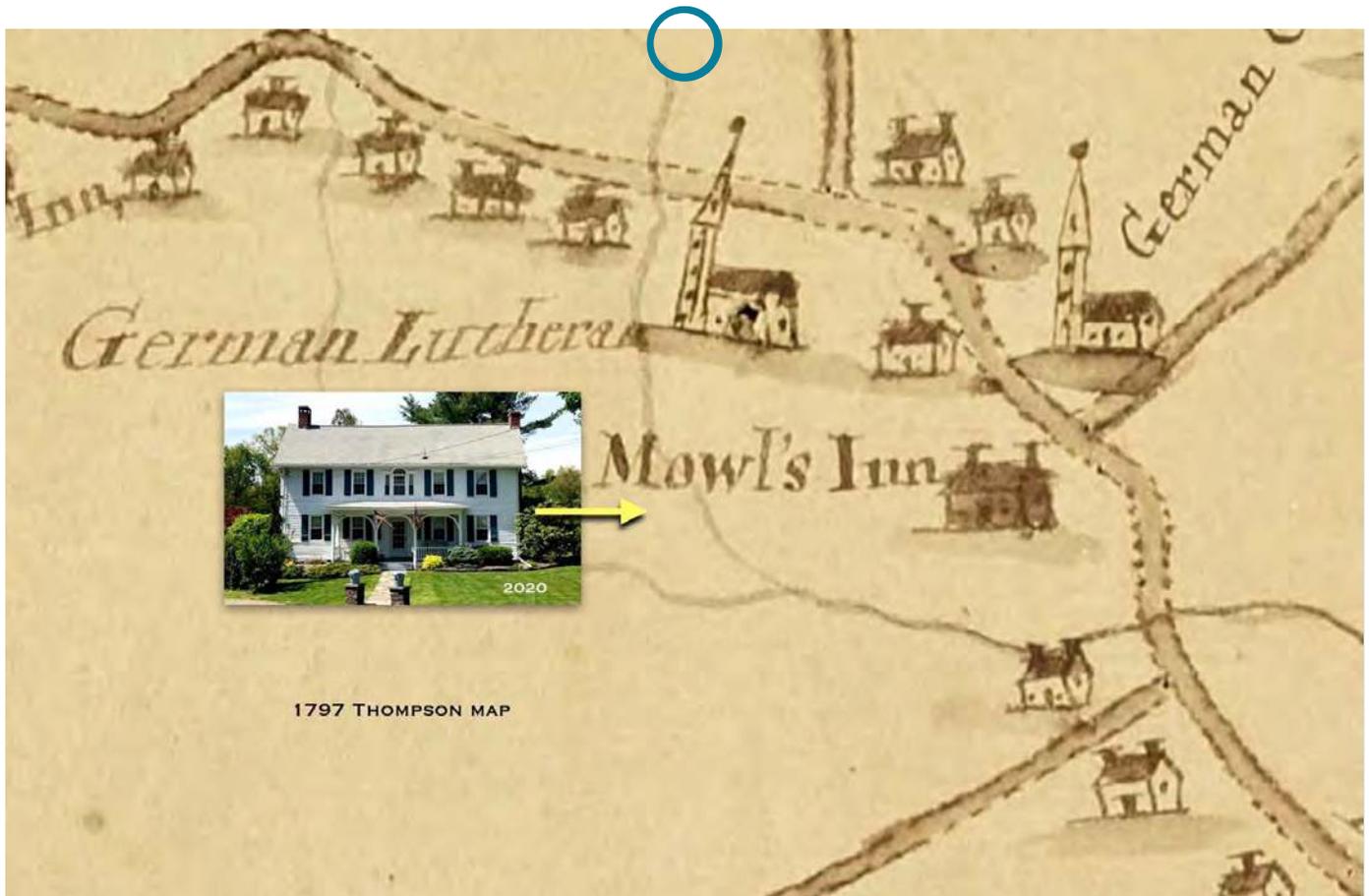
At 163 Old Post Road we notice the John Cox House. Listed in the Multi-Resource Historic District, the stone house is described on page 37 of my book, *“Rhinebeck’s Historic Architecture.”* The Cox is the only surviving colonial structure.

South of the intersection with Hook Road was a store which was owned by Peter J. Schultz. His account book, 1824-1846, survives and has been *published by Arthur Kelly (KS-162 kinshipny.com)*. This was a busy intersection when Hook Road led to a dock at the Hudson River.



8 Date stone of 1772

North of the intersection with Hook road we come to #353, the house which had a date stone of 1772 remained as the property of the Hayner family for over 100 years, until 1980. It is now CJ's Pizza. (*Rhinebeck's Historic Architecture p.49*)



1797 THOMPSON MAP

9 Moul's Tavern

Follow the Post Road across Route 9G and observe the building at #377 known as Moul's Tavern. (p. 64 *"Rhinebeck's Historic Architecture"*.)

This area was the original Rhinebeck. Town Board meetings were held at Moul's Tavern for many years.

1797 Thompson map, Rhinebeck Historical Society.



10 Cemetery

Continuing north on Route 9, look to the right at the early cemetery with historic marker. Originally there was a log church building in front of the Old Cemetery. The log building was shared by the Lutheran and Reformed Congregations from 1715-1730.

Revolutionary War graves decorated for Memorial Day, 2020.



11 Palatine Farmstead

Follow Route 9 & Post road north past #6919 Route 9, the Palatine Farmstead, home for generations of the Near-Elseffer family, of Palatine German origin. (p. 46 *“Rhinebeck’s Historic Architecture”*.) Open by appointment.



12 Schoolhouse District 6

Continuing South on lands of the church is the Stone Church Schoolhouse, the former District 6 school, the only Rhinebeck district school which has not been converted into a residence

This served families for quite a large area, some children walking almost 2 miles to school. *Photo, Consortium of Rhinebeck History.*



13 Stone Church

We note a large cemetery and come to St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, now known as Stone Church. The church served the Palatines at the Rhinebeck settlement.

In 1730 the Lutheran congregation acquired the Stone Church land. A log church built here was later surrounded by walls for the current stone church. In 1784, when the building was ready, the logs were removed and the interior completed. (*Inset photo, p. 24 Images of America, Rhinebeck by Michael Frazier*).



14 Stone Church Parsonage / Quitman House

Travel north on Route 9 to #7015 Route 9, the Quitman House.

Caution: If you are driving, the only safe place to pull in and park or turn around is the parking lot of the Quitman House. The Stone Church itself does not have parking and is on a curve in the road.

The Parsonage was built in 1798 on land north of the cemetery, for Rev. Frederick Quitman who served the church for many years. This building, is now used as the Quitman Resource Center and houses the Museum of Rhinebeck History. Exhibits are usually open to view on Saturdays in the summer.

This concludes our tour.

Tour Index Page is www.dchsny.org/nkellytours

