

FOUNDED IN 1916

COLUMBIA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Museum & Library Part-time Staff

Connelly Holmes
Nicholas Nasser
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COLUMBIA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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CCHS UPDATE 2022



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Members and Friends,

It's no exaggeration to say 2022 has proved a dynamic year for the Columbia County Historical Society. In February, we enthusiastically welcomed Lisa Weilbacker as our new executive director. Formerly our curator of collections and properties, Lisa's outstanding career includes service as executive director of Historic Hudson and curator of New York City's invaluable Park Avenue Armory Collections. Lisa, we are so fortunate to have you! In late spring, in-person events resumed successfully after more than two years. To introduce Lisa to the community and mark the reopening of our "Federal Style" exhibition, we welcomed a great crowd to the James Vanderpoel House. Our annual First Columbians celebration migrated from June to September, this year dedicated to raising funds for essential landscape remediation needed at the Luykas Van Alen House. Huge thanks to honorary chairs Katrina and Stephen Lang and our hardworking event committee for making this one of the most successful parties in CCHS history. As trustees, I stress here that our major job is to raise money to run the Society and thus constantly support our mission of preserving, exploring and communicating our rich county history. To that end, I am pleased to report that CCHS membership is enthusiastically growing. Board membership has increased as well, and we have recently established a new Advisory Board. Finally, I and the trustees want to recognize our wonderful CCHS staff, volunteers and members, who continued their service and support while our properties and exhibitions were shuttered. Our grateful thanks for your dedication to CCHS.

Alexandra Anderson
President, Board of Trustees

EXHIBITIONS & COLLECTIONS NEWS

Coming in 2023, the **Henry & Susan Livingston Gallery** will debut as a new exhibition space located on the second floor of the CCHS museum dedicated to displaying collections to further and fulfill the mission of CCHS. We are truly thankful for Henry and Susan's steadfast support and we look forward to using the space to present the cultural heritage of Columbia County.



Susan Senecah & Van Calhoun

We are thrilled to announce our collection has grown this year thanks to a sizable donation of historic objects from **Van Calhoun and Susan Senecah** of Chatham. The extraordinary collection spans multiple generations of the Birge family beginning with Hosea Birge, who migrated to Chatham from Connecticut in the late 18th century and served as one of General Washington's Life Guards during the Revolutionary War. Mr. Calhoun is a direct descendant of Hosea Birge. The farmhouse that Birge built in 1842 still stands in Chatham, and CCHS has sponsored the application for a historical marker to commemorate Birge's legacy.

In addition to the historical objects, Mr. Calhoun and Mrs. Senecah have also generously donated a gift to support a part-time curator to manage and interpret the collection. Our deepest gratitude to the family for bestowing this important piece of Columbia County history!

2021 CCHS SUPPORTERS

\$25,000 and Above

Henry & Susan Livingston, III

\$10,000 to \$24,999

Hudson River Bank & Trust
Foundation
Sam Pratt

\$3,000 to \$9,999

Alexandra Anderson
Donna & Alvin Knoll
Henry H. Livingston
Jack Shainman
John S. Knott
Joseph & Angela Schmidt
Madeleine Vanderpoel Findlay
Peter Davidson
Robert Peduzzi & Diane Smook
Scott Shallo
Stephen and Kristina Lang

\$1,500 to \$2,999

Albert & Carol Knoll
Ben Che & Donna Moylan
F. James & Nora Tuttle
Katherine Sharp Borgen
Kristin Gamble
Paul Cassidy & Vernon Evenson
Peter Kindler
Randy J. Tryon
Richard S. Ryan
Sheldon Evans & Martha McMaster
Todd Ottman

\$1,000 to \$1,499

Berkshire Taconic Community
Foundation
Albert Bellenchia & Jennifer Wall
Bob & Nina Green
David B. Forer
Donald J. Marshall
Jim & Mary Ann Pianelli
John B. Carroll
Mark & Ellen Levy
Mary M. Rynerson
Peggy Lampman
Richard and Alice Gochman
Scott Eskwitt
Stuart Peckner
Tom & Sharmila Tuttle
Wheelock Whitney



\$500 to \$999

Barry M. Herbold
Bruce Shostak
Charles Hewett & Charles Olbricht
Colin Stair
Deborah Shakotko
Francis Greenburger
Fred Schroeder
Glenda Ruby
Glenn & Cheryl Schnackenberg
Heidi S. Fiske
James Guidera & Ed Parran
Joan C. Kelly
John Gross
Maynard & Kay Toll
Phil and Birgitta Sherman
Philip & Betsy Eisenberg
Pooky Amsterdam & Tony Jones
Rima Bostick
Robert Colannino
Thomas & Marlene Murdock
Tom & Olga Moreland

\$100 to \$499

Aimee Strunk-Reinoehl
Albert & Mary Santini
Alexander Lunney
Alexander Muresanu
Amy Barr
Andrew Gates
Barbara L. de Mare
Beth Bergin
Beth Van Alstyne Ellis
Carolyn Lassiter
Casey Powers
Charles & Adelia Geiger
Christine S. Pomeranz
Christopher Atkins & Lauren Letellier
Cristabel Gough
Damon & Mary Ellen Hern
Daniel Bauman
Daryl Lee & Chris Warnasch

David Marden
David Sokosh
David E. Tripp
David and Julia Pickett
Deborah E. Lans
Denise & John Dunne
Donald Dubac
Doris J. Gearing
Edward Sullivan & Clayton Kirking
Edwin M. Truman
Edwin and Barbara Simonsen
Elizabeth G. Winthrop
Elizabeth & Richard Livingston
Elliot Spitzer
Fern & Andrew Pellettieri
Frederick Reif
Gary & Dale Bernstein
George H. Vollmuth
Gert Doriot
Gia Albergo Delmar
Gilbert Raab & Carol Calvin
Harvey J. McCagg
Heather Lloyd
Helen & Henry Freedman
Herbert D. Simons
Hermes Mallea & Carey Maloney
J. Thomas Allison
J. Pierre Gontier
James Joseph
James P. Mandaville
James & Bonnie Dunham
Jamie Callan
Jane Alexander & Ron Bayer
Janet Wynn
Jay Finkel
Jean & Daniel MacKay
Jeff Bailey & John Lillis
Joanne Dunne Murphy
John Kinnear
John C. McCreight
John M. Schobel
Judith Ackley Whitbeck
Julia Jayne Joseph
Karen & Roy Carney
Kathleen E. Johnson
Kathy & Andrew Berkman
Kenneth Kramer
Kevin Albert
Larry Peltz
Larry & Carol Biernacki
Lauree & Gregory Hickok
Laurie & James Gambee
Lawrence Divney
Leah B. Lenney
Leah & James Lieber
Lee F. Jamison
Lynn & Marjorie Van Buren
Margaret Davidson & John Stein

Margie Laurie
Mary Keegan
Max Friedman & Thomas Romich
Michael O'Hara
Michael & Monica Hampton
Dianne Young
Neal A. Baillargeon
Nicole Vanderpool
Norma Shirley
North Chatham Free Library
Norwig & Michelle DeBye-Saxinger
Page Roe Barroll
Paul M. Barrett
Paul Trautman M D
Paula E. Pugliese
Peter Jung
Peter Reed
Peter & Abby Coffin
Phil & Joanna Giltner
R.O. Blechman
Randall M. Correll
Renate Reiss
Richard J. Dorsey
Richard Rubinstein & Katherine Kolbert
Richard & JoAnne Bilotti
Rita & Wolf Jakubowski
Robert C. Ollman
Rosalie W. Hemingway
S. Donald Zaentz
Sally J. Laing
Sally Sanderlin
Sara & Barry McWilliams
Sean Decresconzo & Lally Stephanie
Silda Wall Spitzer
Sophie Pullan
Stanley Gotlin & Barry Waldorf
Sue Kelly & Carol Sloan
Susan Goodfellow
Susan & Pavel Hillel
Suzanne & James Aisenberg
Suzanne & Robert Carroll
Terence & Cathy Farrell
Tricia Healy & David Mitchell
Wendy & David DellGrottaglia
Wenona & Lester Rochester

Friends

Aaron McDonald
Alan & Roselle Chartock
Alfred & Joanne Bartolotta
Alvin W. Sheffer
Andrea Rutherford
Ann M. Scharoun
Anne & Leon Hoffman
Anne Van Dyck Nauman
Benjamin Feldman
Bertha J.S. Petith

Carol Hogg
 Catherine Mikic
 Christine Garner
 Claudia Krisniski
 Columbia Greene Community
 College Library
 Cynthia Martin
 David Laurence DuBois
 David McGhee
 David Scott Petersen
 David & Valerie Itkin
 David & Wendy Fuller
 Diane C. Bliss
 Don & Carol Downey
 Donald & Ann W Eberle
 Elaine Kline
 Elizabeth T. Burdick
 Elizabeth Chapman
 Elizabeth Martin & family
 Elizabeth Y. Harrison
 Elizabeth B. Leckie
 Erika B. Tipple
 Faruk Ortabas
 Florence E. Tharman
 Frances Ingraham Heins
 Frederic & Darlene Lee
 Gail Rheingold
 Gary Leveille
 George J. Prokopiak
 Georgette Turner
 Gilbert V. Gott
 Huntley F. Gill
 Irene Stone
 James E. Benziger
 James M. Gaughan
 James Hannon
 James & Nancy Scherer
 Jameson Baughman
 Jane E. Deane
 Jane Herzhauser
 Jane Prusso
 Janet R. Malouin
 Janice Abate & Jim Nadel
 Jim Hoon
 John Craggs
 John E. Harder
 John & Mary Bradley
 Johnna & William Camp
 Joseph E. Browdy
 Judy Ferris Walker
 Julia Forrest
 Karen Lemes
 Laurence A. Klein
 Lewis & Gretchen Rubenstein
 Linda Frick
 Lucinda Christman
 Lucinda Hastings
 Maria Ausherman

Mark M. Orton
 Mark Katz
 Marny Janson
 Martha Bliss Ehlers
 Martin A. Epstein & Ellen Jouret-
 Epstein
 Mary Luft
 Mary Ann & Richard McLoughlin
 Mary Louise Perkins
 Mary Louise Kalin & Louis Asekoff
 Max Cane
 Melissa Davis
 Merrill K. Johnson
 Nancy J. Lang
 Nancy H. Somers
 Nicholas Hudson
 Olaf & Johanne Andersen
 Patricia DeMar Hauver
 Paul Bailey-Gates
 Peter A. McGrath
 Peter McKenna & Karen McGraw
 Philip & Karen Ivory
 Phyllis Nichols
 Public Library Chatham
 Raymond & Evelyn Shortsleeve
 Richard Ellis Hand
 Richard K. Wallace
 Richard L. Williams
 Robert F. Bisson
 Robert Gelles
 Robert D. Gross
 Robert & Patricia Altman
 Robert & Patti Norris
 Robert & Rae Gilson
 Roberta Dunlaief
 Roberta J. Jacobson
 Roberta Brandes Gratz
 Rosemary Peduzzi
 Ruth Piwonka
 Sara Cashen & Tony Muoser
 Sharon Almstead
 Stephanie H. Bernheim
 Stephen D. Gardner
 Sue Delp
 Susan L. Campbell
 Susan Gladstone
 Tamara Rusoff-Hoen
 Terence Law & Llewellyn Young
 Thomas & Geraldine Mabley
 Valerie & Fred Knecht
 Vangie R. LeFever
 Walter E Boright
 Warren Applegate & Kathleen Long
 William A Meier
 William & Suzanne Nieman
 William Roos & Scott Olsen
 Wingate Jackson



Two additional narrative panels
 installed in our **Cultural Heritage
 of Columbia County** exhibit at the
 CCHS Rural Properties.

The exhibit is free and open to the
 public 365 days per year from dawn to
 dusk.



INTERNS AT WORK

Shannon Ragone

I interned at CCHS in the summer of 2018. CCHS taught me great curatorial practices with hands-on experiences, from collections to exhibition planning, and inspired me to pursue a master's degree in Museum Studies at the Cooperstown Graduate Program. I was welcomed back to CCHS as Associate Curator upon graduating in 2022. I'm now specializing in Interaction Design, and hope to apply my new digital skills to build immersive exhibition experiences in museums.



Jessica Gavitt



CCHS showed me how my education and experience could be applied to different career paths, and helped me figure out which of those paths I'd like to take. I've continued working part-time for CCHS, primarily as editorial director for *Columbia County History & Heritage* magazine, and I've also been working as records manager at the Albany County Hall of Records.

Connelly Holmes

I began as an intern at CCHS in the summer of 2021 for my master's in Library and Information Science program. I was immediately met with a welcoming atmosphere that helped me grow and develop. I had incredible training in collection development, curatorial skills and the framework of a historical society museum.



Nicholas Nasser

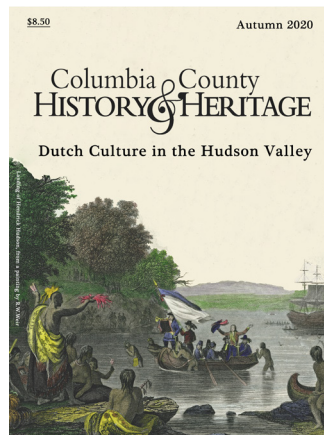


I began interning at CCHS in 2020. As a senior majoring in history at UC Santa Cruz, CCHS has given me the experience and path to pursue my career back home in New York.

The amazing people and availability of resources here has allowed me to explore a variety of roles throughout the past two years. I couldn't have asked for a better or more interesting experience.

Reagan Schweppe

I interned with CCHS during the summer of 2022 and had an amazing time. Lisa Weilbacker taught me so much about collections management, historical research and everything else that goes into running a historical society. I'm now a senior at Columbia University majoring in history. I hope to work in a museum someday, ideally in an educational role.



It's been a very exciting year at CCHS for many reasons, and we're particularly excited about the new direction for the award-winning *Columbia County History & Heritage* magazine. We recently launched our first digital issue, a new tradition that will help us expand readership and establish more sustainable practices. It's our hope to publish one digital issue each year, in addition to our annual print issue, so that we can share with our members even more content on Columbia County's rich cultural heritage.

We were honored to dedicate our inaugural digital issue to the late **Ruth Piwonka** and **Roderic Blackburn**, highly esteemed historians and beloved friends to all who knew them. Readers will find a compendium of the many articles that Ruth and Rod contributed to *History & Heritage* since its inception, and we hope you all enjoy them as much as we do. And stay tuned for our upcoming print issue, to be released during spring 2023. A consistent CCHS intention during this past year has been to strengthen our relationships with all of Columbia County's town historians, so it seemed only right to dedicate this upcoming issue to the historians. We will be inviting each of them to share with our readers their favorite stories or histories — an homage to all of the unique towns and villages that together make up our wonderful community.

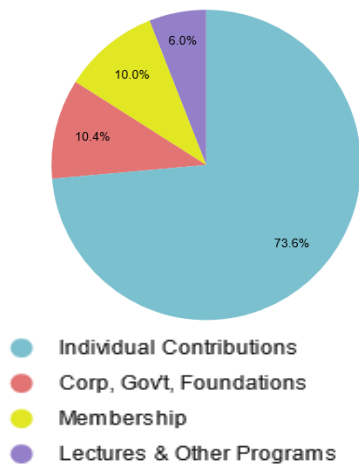
2022 UPDATE

FINANCIAL POSITION

The physical assets of the Columbia County Historical Society include its collections of more than 15,000 works of art and other historical objects and furnishings; 60 acres of land in Columbia County; and four historic properties: Luykas Van Alen House, Ichabod Crane Schoolhouse, James Vanderpoel ‘House of History’ and the CCHS Museum & Library building.

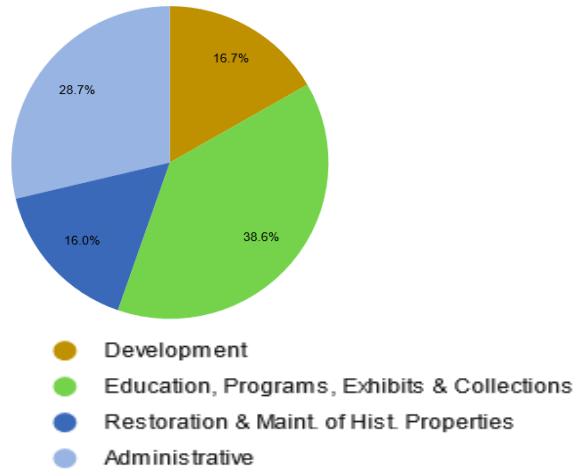
At year end 2021 the Historical Society’s current liquid assets, consisting of restricted and unrestricted cash funds, totaled \$76,447, and liabilities totaled \$49,235.

Operating Income



Columbia County Historical Society	
Financial Overview, General Operations	
Twelve months ending 12/31/21	
INCOME	
Individual Contributions	175,675
Corp, Gov't, Foundations	24,838
Membership	23,960
Lectures & Other Programs	14,262
Total, Revenues	238,735
EXPENSES	
Development	43,826
Education, Programs, Exhibits, Collections	101,296
Restoration & Maint. of Hist. Properties	41,876
Administrative	75,356
Total, Expenses	262,354
Change in Net Assets, Operations	(23,619)

Expenses



2022 CCHS PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

ZOOM LECTURE SERIES

January 29

Challenges and Obstacles to Researching African American History in the Hudson Valley
Victoria Jimpson Fludd, Lisa Fludd-Smith, Peter H. Smith

February 19

***Life Along the Hudson
The Livingstons in Columbia County***
Pieter Estersohn

March 19

19th Century Photography in Columbia County
A conversation with Photographer David Sokosh & CCHS Executive Director Lisa Weilbacker

April 2 & April 9

***Part I & Part II ~
Uniquely American-The Hudson River School***
Gayle Skluzacek

April 23

***Gotham goes Global:
New York City from 1825 to 1925***
Gary H. Darden, Ph.D.

May 21

***Spaces of Enslavement and Resistance
in Dutch New York***
Andrea Mosterman, Ph.D.

JUNE COCKTAIL PARTY WELCOMED NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LISA WEILBACKER



2022 FIRST COLUMBIANS CELEBRATION



VAN ALLEN HOUSE EPF GRANT & RESTORATION PROJECT



The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation's Environmental Protection Fund grant program awarded CCHS a \$75,500 matching grant to remedy the conservation issues at the Van Allen site which include stabilizing the south wall of the house, restoring the front stoops and returning the front landscape to a sustainable environment. CCHS is actively fundraising to match this EPF grant in order to begin work on the "Moisture Mitigation and Architectural Stabilization Project."

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

FILMING BY MUSICIANS OF
MA'ALWYCK AT THE VAN ALLEN &
VANDERPOEL HOUSES



EASTER EGG HUNT ON THE
VANDERPOEL LAWN



FARMERS MARKET



SCHOOL TOURS ARE BACK

CCHS welcomed the 4th graders from Genet Elementary School of East Greenbush, NY. Volunteer docents Ann Scharoun and Bonnie Dunham conducted tours of the 1737 Luykas Van Alen House where students learned about everyday life in this historical 18th century Hudson Valley Dutch house and experienced what it was like to attend a one-room schoolhouse in the c. 1850 Ichabod Crane Schoolhouse.



ANNUAL MEETING

On October 15, CCHS held their Annual Meeting to a gathering of members at the Vanderpoel House in an effort to pay tribute to the works of Ruth Piwonka and Roderic Blackburn. David Smith spoke of his fond memories of his neighbor Rod who was known for his expertise of Hudson Valley Dutch culture, while Ally Anderson recounted Ruth's many accomplishments as Kinderhook Village Historian and former Executive Director of CCHS.

Also at the meeting, the Board presented the addition of two new Trustees, Sharon Rae and Alex Van Alen and the newly created Advisory Committee comprising Nicholas Haylett, Tim Husband, Peter Jung, John Knott, Bob Peduzzi, David Pickett, Brenda Shufelt and Lisa Fludd Smith.



Columbia County Historical Society a 501(c)(3) cultural education organization founded in 1916 and chartered by the Board of Regents of NYS Department of Education to collect, preserve, interpret and present the history, heritage and culture of Columbia County, New York. In addition to a research library and museum with permanent collections of more than 15,000 objects, CCHS owns and maintains the 1737 Luykas Van Alen House, c.1820 James Vanderpoel 'House of History' and c.1850 Ichabod Crane Schoolhouse.