



ANNUAL REPORT - June 12, 2005

What an exciting year this has been for those of us who volunteer regularly at the cottage and for all of you as members. We've had more than our share of projects, open houses, lectures, exhibits, acquisitions, parties and serious requests for information from our email. Each one has been entirely satisfying and I can truly say that we have had fun.

A quick review of the year begins with David McCullough's annual village history tour for the new teachers entering our school system. I rode along this year and learned a thing or two myself. October brought several open houses, one for the reunion classes of '54 and '64 who came to the cottage and for some stalwart souls who went on a history walk on Sunday and then returned to enjoy the video tape of the 'Miss Pingrey' lecture from the 2004 annual meeting.

October also brought National Archives Week which we honored by opening the building to showcase our state-of-the-art archive and offering instruction on how participants could preserve and care for their own personal and family archives of documents, photographs and artifacts. Beyond that the skies cooperated and provided an eclipse for our fall "Moonwatch" which we co sponsor with the Westchester Amateur Astronomers Association in Draper Park. It was an outstanding occasion.

November 7th saw the opening of our new exhibit "Two Women's Views" featuring the artwork of Helen Patterson Williams and Winifred Murphy. Winifred's sister was delighted to see her sister's artwork and impressed by how many examples we had on display.

Mid December we enjoyed our traditional holiday party when we served lunch to all the volunteers whose occasional work makes it possible to address and stamp all the pieces of mail which we send your way. We are truly grateful for their loyalty and diligence and I believe you are too.

Moving on the new year (though begun before) Sue Smith and her committee kept busy on the Museum in the Streets walking tour. Choosing points of historical significance, locating photographs of 'how it looked when' and finally reviewing David McCullough's inspired text took a lot of time. Happily we are able to report that at the present time the signs are being produced and we anticipate an early fall dedication of our new walking tour. The generosity of those of you who contributed to this undertaking and the grant funds procured by Sue's applications are sincerely appreciated by all of us.

Winter also saw intense efforts to organize and prepare for the Mary Allison Archive Project Campaign. We have Jennifer Stern to thank for the wonderful, creative video on Hastings' history which I hope you have all enjoyed.

So far, in spring we have enjoyed another Moonwatch and are looking forward to our annual meeting when Hastings author Robert Sullivan will speak on "The Nature That The Hudson River Painters Painted – Then & Now". We are also busy reviewing the six

submissions for the Dan Rile Award presented by eighth grade Social Studies students. Topics include several important oral histories, a paper with photographs of local monuments, an essay on the Fife, Drum and Bugle corps from parades long ago and a paper with photographs of part of Main Street. It will be very difficult to choose for the quality of the work is outstanding. In addition we expect to receive an independent research paper on the effects of the Korean War on Hastings from one of our HHS Seniors and a photo montage of both sides of Warburton Avenue from Main Street to Broadway by Stacey Lapis, an Ardsley High School Senior doing an internship project.

Muriel Olsson has been in touch by email with a French doctoral student who has now completed the first half of his PhD. thesis on Lewis Hine. He hopes to visit Hastings this summer because the second half is to emphasize Hine's biography. And once again Muriel has served to reunite family members – two cousins from the Chrystie family, one of whom has sent a description of the Chrystie mansion, located where the Food Emporium and 555 and 565 Broadway now stand. The other has sent a copy of the family history found in the family bible.

And so it goes! We have more to reveal but space is limited. Please check your HISTORIANS for further information and know what pleasure it gives us when you keep in touch. Thanks for your interest.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Thompson
President