

# Quitman Resource Center for Preservation, Inc.

www.quitmanpreservation.org

Vol. 31 No. 2

NEWSLETTER

Fall 2018



1798  
Quitman  
House

#### QRC Officers

Conrad Fingado, President  
Linda Stanley, Secretary  
Carole DeSaram, Treasurer and  
Membership  
Richard James Gasper

#### QRC/Palatine Farmstead Committee Members

Conrad Fingado, Chairman  
Peter Dykeman  
Joanne Engle  
Nancy Kelly, Advisor  
Bill Lazzarotti

#### Consortium of

#### Rhinebeck History

Nancy Kelly, Chairperson  
Steve Hubbert, Computer  
Technician  
Mary Hathaway  
Eleven Organization Members

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**YOU ARE INVITED!**  
**December 13: 5:00–7 PM**  
**Holiday Open House at**  
**the QRC**

### PRESIDENT'S LETTER by Conrad Fingado

In these past six months, we have seen a number of setbacks, not the least of which is the retirement of one of our trustees, Kay Verrilli. Kay is well known by many of our members and by the community and has been active with the QRC since its inception. Although unable to attend our meetings this last year she graciously opened her home and hosted a number of our meetings during the winter months of the past few years. Her experience and insight have proven invaluable and she will be sorely missed. I speak for all of us when I say thank you Kay for all your years of service and we wish you the best of luck. I invited Marilyn Hatch to remind us all of Kay's generous contribution to the QRC:

### Kay Verrilli Resigns After 32 Years of Service

With Kay's letter of resignation, it is time to reflect back on her many years of dedicated service to the Quitman Resource Center for Preservation, Inc. (QRC).

Kay joined the QRC Board in 1986 soon after the QRC had received a notification from the Trustees of the Stone Church's lawyer to cease work and vacate the premise of the "Parsonage" of the Stone Church (the Quitman House). There had been a loss of several members from the Board that year and suddenly there was an urgent need to fill these vacancies. I cannot remember who made the suggestion to ask Kay to join the board, but ask I did and was pleased to receive an affirmative response from her. The fact that we were facing a legal challenge did not deter Kay from accepting our invitation. Such a challenge was and still is a part of her DNA.

It wasn't until the spring of 1987, that a court date was set for our lawyer to defend our right to continue the restoration of the Quitman House and its property. We had spent hours in the court house reviewing deeds and found the deed for the Parsonage that was instrumental in defining the acreage of the property. When our court date finally arrived, Kay joined John & myself in the gallery listening to the proceedings. We were well prepared, but anxious about the outcome. After the judgement was handed down by Judge Benson stating that the property was to be "dedicated to the Town of Rhinebeck for Historic Purposes," the three of us were surprised and needless to say speechless. At lunch, on our way back to Rhinebeck we sat amazed at just what had happened and started at that point to make plans as to how we were to go forward.

Kay was exactly the person we needed, for she brought to the board critical organizational skills and important personal contacts. She was the go to person to edit all correspondence, including the newsletter. For years she served as our Vice President and chaired many committees. Whatever task was at hand, Kay was always there to help and offer advice. In 2000 when the Q House was ready for occupancy, Kay took a prominent role in establishing the Museum of Rhinebeck History and served as a representative from the QRC's Board to the Museum.

In Kay's resignation letter, she thanked the present board "for continuing the care of the Quitman House as an outstanding example of historic preservation and a resource for those who want to follow the restoration standards it sets."

It is with heartfelt thanks to Kay for her 32 years of dedicated service on the Quitman Resource Center's Board.

**Marilyn Hatch**

## **PRESIDENT'S LETTER continued...**

On a positive note I am once again happy to announce that the Frost Fund has granted us 100% of what we need for Phase Two of our restoration efforts in room 103 at the Farmstead. Work has already begun on restoring the trim, fireplace mantle and cubby cabinet. Repair to the plaster on the north wall will follow. Next will be the fabrication and installation of exterior trim and siding on the north gable end of the house. Evidence of two garret windows was discovered following our Phase Two grant request but will be included in our current efforts and hopefully funded by future grant requests. The chimney from phase one will be completed in the spring following the tree removal.

The rain this summer and fall has also caused its share of difficulties. We have been waiting for Dave's Tree Service to execute his very generous offer to remove the large spruce at the Farmstead but the rain has prevented the ground from drying out enough to allow Dave's trucks on the grounds. It will happen after the ground freezes! We lost our frost-free hydrant at the Farmstead this summer as attempts to repair it proved impossible and our plumber Steve Houghton from Milan has now replaced it. Our rider lawn mower has also gone south so we are requesting that anyone who has a used or new one and would like to donate it, please do so!

Thank you to all our volunteers, funders and to our members for your efforts and donations.



**Shown here at a yard sale at the Farmstead: Conrad Fingado, Nancy Kelly, Joanne Engle.**

## **LECTURE AT THE STARR LIBRARY**

The Museum of Rhinebeck History and the QRC sponsored an illustrated talk at the Starr Library on November 4<sup>th</sup>. The Reverend Mark Issacs of the Wurttemberg Lutheran Church spoke about John Anthony Quitman, born in Rhinebeck in 1798, son of Reverend Quitman, who became a Major General and Stateman of the South leading up to the Civil War. He died at his home in Natchez in 1858. A very interesting piece of history related to Rhinebeck and the Quitman Resource Center.

**Linda Stanley**

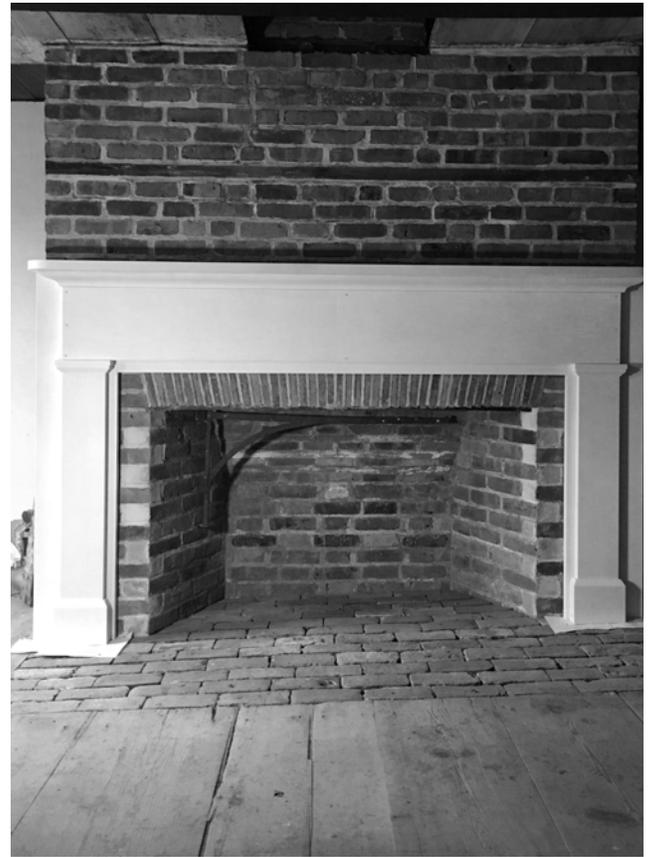


**The Rhinebeck Legion Band, led by Conductor Connie Kessel, offered us a wonderful program of band music for our annual Ice Cream Social once again this year.**

## **WE NEED YOU!**

The QRC is looking for more board members, especially those interested in historic research and preservation. Since both Kay Verrilli and Ferris Cook have resigned from the Board we are eager to find new people to join us. If you would like to talk to someone about joining, please contact either Carole DeSaram at 845-876-7472 or Linda Stanley at 845-876-8074. And/or please come to the Christmas party on Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> and meet us in person!

# PALATINE FARMSTEAD PROGRESS REPORT



**Detail of the new mantelpiece and a look at the old one.**



**The fire box in the west room which is the model for the restored one on the east side.**

**The fire box and hearth in the east room are finished. Conrad Fingado rebuilt the bricks parts, and Richard Gaspar made the mantle piece, including the large “under mantle moulding” and the smaller moulding called the “plinth upper moulding.” (The plinths are the vertical portions of the mantle on either side which resemble flat columns.)**

## Mission Statement

The Quitman Resource Center for Preservation, Inc., herein after referred to as the QRC, advocates for the rehabilitation, preservation, &/or the restoration of the historic resources in the Town of Rhinebeck, including its historic structures, documents, & artifacts, by providing preservation workshops,



1798  
Quitman House

## Membership Renewal

Name \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 25 Friend

Address \_\_\_\_\_ \$75 Patron

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_ \$20 Senior

E-mail/Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$150 Benefactor \_\_\_\_\_ \$1000 Life Member (May be given over a 4-year period)

### My membership contribution is to go to:

\_\_\_\_\_ Unrestricted \_\_\_\_\_ Palatine Farmstead \_\_\_\_\_ Consortium of Rhinebeck History

*Checks may be made out to QRC.*

*Send to Membership Chairperson at PO Box 624, Rhinebeck, NY 12572*

**Quitman Resource Center for Preservation, Inc.**

**PO Box 624**

**Rhinebeck, NY 12572**

***www.quitmanpreservation.org***

**(845) 871-1798**