

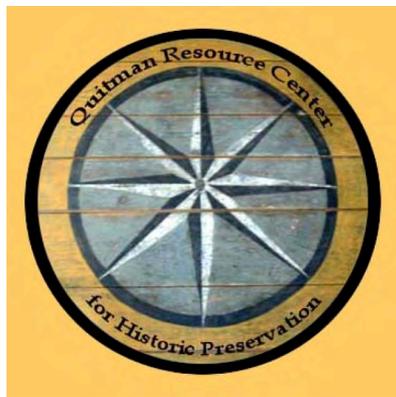
Quitman Resource Center for Preservation, Inc.

www.quitmanpreservation.org

Vol. 30 No. 2

NEWSLETTER

Fall 2017



1798

Quitman House

QRC Officers

Conrad Fingado, President
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Richard James Gasper

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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 EVENT

QRC December
Holiday Open House
Thursday
December 14th

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

by Conrad Fingado

The QRC and the Palatine Farmstead Committee are very pleased to announce that they have once again received a very generous grant from the Frost Memorial Fund.

Late last year, the committee decided to attempt the restoration of Room 103 at the Farmstead. This room was one of two rooms still used by Kathrine Losee during the last decade of her life. It was originally built as a parlor in the 18th century but was converted by Kathrine to a bedroom. Located at the northwest corner, it is adjacent to the old kitchen, to the east. In 1987, a doorway was cut through the adjoining wall so that Kathrine would not have to enter the unheated center hall during the winter. The house never had plumbing or central heat and Kathrine was using a wood stove connected to the parlor's chimney. In 1999, this set up caused a fire that badly damaged the north wall. Repairs were very basic and included the complete demolition of the fireplace and exterior clapboard, which was replaced with half-inch plywood painted white. The room was modernized with foam insulation, sheetrock and electric. Sadly, the last occupant of the Farmstead would live less than a year.

Marilyn Hatch had begun the restoration of Room 103, but never got beyond the demolition of the electric conduit and addition of sheetrock. Her husband John Hatch died earlier this year and she has requested that donations made in his honor be put towards this project.

We decided to split the project into two phases. The first phase will restore the foundation of the north wall, the fireplace and chimney. The second will restore the framing, clapboard, and interior mantle and plaster.

Nancy Kelly our local Historian and advisor made the application to Frost for phase one and they have granted us 100% of the cost for this phase for which we at the Farmstead and QRC are most grateful. The Frost Memorial Fund has repeatedly funded our projects through the years including the recent repair to our metal roof. Work on phase one started this September and will be completed in spring 2018.

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The annual Ice Cream Social was held on July 8, 2017. The Rhinebeck Legion Band, led by Conductor Connie Kessel, offered the town another outstanding program.

PALATINE FARMSTEAD AS SCHOOL HOUSE

Joanne Engle accompanied a local group of ten women, members of Rhinebeck-at-Home, led by **Mary Hathaway** to visit the Palatine Farmstead on a rainy summer day. They had spent the prior half hour at the Quitman Resource Center to tour the Quitman Parsonage and see the exhibits of the Museum of Rhinebeck History. Most of those present were very excited to see the interior of the Farmstead for the first time because it is currently not open to the public except by appointment. There are various stages of restoration to be explained, all of which benefit from continued programs, donations, and a recent grant from the Frost Foundation.

Nancy Kelly, Rhinebeck Town Historian, will be a speaker at the Association of Public Historians of New York State (APHNYS) annual conference on Thursday, November 2. Over the years the conference has been held in a variety of locations in New York State but this year it will be held in Poughkeepsie. Nancy's talk is "The Influence of Palatine Immigration on Rhinebeck, Dutchess County and New York State." The Palatine Farmstead will be featured in the presentation.

Emily Majer brought her Bard class called "Reading and Writing the Hudson" to visit the Palatine Farmstead in late September. After being given a brief history of the Palatines Emily wanted to give them a first hand account of some vernacular architecture. She reported that the students really liked the fact that the farmhouse is a work in progress, and that they can follow the social history through the architectural evolution of the structure. And the fact that it's a lot more accessible than the traditional (ie. fancy) historic homes that they visit, made for a real education! Conrad Fingado was there working on the foundation on the east side of the building. He created a brace, secured on some large nearby trees, so that he could push the foundation stones back into place under the sill. As seen in the photos, the sill was rotten. An old unused 16-foot piece of chestnut from the barn was used to replace the sill with a 7-foot piece; the remainder was used for a framing post in Room 103 at the corner of the fireplace that is being restored.





Tree Work at the Quitman House

The town provided help for pruning of the trees in front of the Quitman House. And we are hoping to remove the large spruce tree at the east corner of the farmstead for fear that it will some day fall on the end of the house currently being restored. Funds need to be secured, or qualified volunteers are sought to donate their talent to this essential job.



Thanks to our volunteers at the Farmstead

Thanks to Conrad Fingado for fixing the pole barn roof, Richard Gasper for replacing the rotten ramp into the barn, Peter Dykeman for yard work, and all for repairing the well. And thanks to Joanne Engle for gardening; Nancy Kelly for grant writing, and Joanne and Nancy for showing and speaking about the farmstead. Thanks to Bill Lazzarotti who is shown here giving a "good morning to you" greeting as he mows the back area of the Palatine Farmstead grounds. A self propelled push mower is used for the area adjacent to the house itself and the frontage along the street. These two machines have had long-term use requiring extensive maintenance that's performed by Bill and another PF Committee member, Peter Dykeman, who is quite handy with a wrench! Peter also assists in grounds maintenance, especially the detail work done with a nice Stihl weed trimmer the Farmstead purchased recently.



Bill Lazzarotti



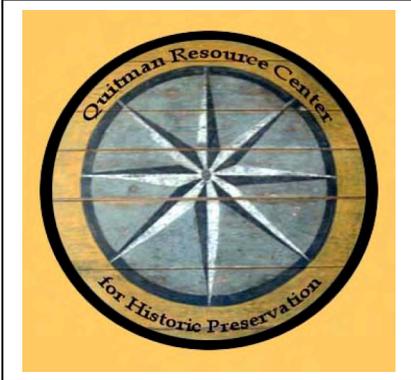
Conrad Fingado



Richard Gasper

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, information & resources.



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

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