

History Advisory Committee
July 25th, 2026

Attendance: Tony Albino, Rich Coons, Yvonne Crawford, Alvin Sheffer, Hank Himelright,
Tom Shannon, Phil Williams

- Archaeology update: there was some email contact on July 17th, 2026. Bard clarified a few points, will discuss internally, and present a plan for return of the artifacts in the near future.
- Newspaper digitization: The majority of the Germantown History Department newspaper collection has been digitized and added to [Hudson River Valley Heritage](#). This was paid for with a grant from the Bank of Greene County and additional funding from Friends of Historic Germantown. We have one more Germantown Post and a number of maps that we would like to have digitized in a future project.
- Theodore Robinson Community Forest update: Town Board member Kaare Christian will be here today to mark out the boundaries of the new parking lot, which will consist of six parking spots. It is located directly across Maple Avenue from the trailhead. This is a requirement of the NYSDEC grant program necessary for the Town to be reimbursed for purchasing the Robinson Forest.
- Valley View Cemetery update: Mowing has been an issue here this year, though it was mowed and weed whacked in the middle of July. This was reportedly the first time it was mowed since Memorial Day. Keeping an eye on the situation.
- Rezoning update: The Town Attorney circulated version 6 of the draft plan and maps to Town Committee Chairs on July 23rd. Tom will circulate these to the History Advisory Committee. Please review and let Tom know your input by Aug. 8th. Tom will prepare a letter with the Committee's input to send to the Town Board.
- Tom prepared a letter of support for the African American Archive of Columbia County in their pursuit of a NYS grant to perform ground penetrating radar, cemetery cleaning, and restoration at the Persons of Color Cemetery and a portion of the Reformed Cemetery in Kinderhook.
- Legislation designating Phase I of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway was signed into law by Gov. Hochul on June 13th. Phase I includes the

entire stretch along the Hudson River, including Germantown. This Committee previously drafted a letter of support for the Byway that was adopted by the Town of Germantown.

- We have received a request from State Assemblywoman Didi Barrett's office for a biography for the annual Women's History publication. Tom is leaning toward Julia Rockefeller, WWII Marine Corps veteran.
- Local Law B of 2026 (A Local Law Governing the Use of Town Parks and Facilities) update: This law was discussed at a public hearing prior to the July Town Board meeting. The law was tabled so that each individual Town property parcel can be specifically listed in the law. The History Advisory Committee recommends that the parcels for the 1767 Parsonage, Cheviot Cemetery, First Reformed Cemetery, Theodore Robinson Community Forest, Ice House Landing, and the old dump on Round Top Road be listed in addition to the four official parks.
- Michael Lucas, Curator of Historical Archaeology at the NYS Museum, visited the Parsonage on June 15th. He took a good look at the artifacts on display with an eye towards including some of them in a NYS Museum exhibit for the upcoming Enslavement to Freedom 1627-1827-2027 initiative.
- Details aren't settled yet, but there will likely be space available for municipal historians to display at the Columbia County Fair. Start thinking about what we want to display.
- Hover grant preparation: we need three price quotes for the desktop computer and two library bookshelves that we requested. Application due on Aug. 1st.
- The Recreation Committee grant application for a pickleball court at Palatine Park was successful. Of note to this Committee is that among the first couple of steps will be a survey of the parcels that make up Palatine Park, as well as a Cultural Resource Management archaeological survey.
- Two new roadside historic markers - first public school in Germantown and the 1778 Loyalist Raid - have arrived from the foundry. To be installed soon.
- Recent Donations: A complete 1920s era baseball uniform from an Elizaville team, initially donated to Greene County Historian Jonathan Palmer. A jpg of the original photograph of the Germantown Train Station c. 1905 used for a postcard,

shared by Ulster County Archivist Jonathan Palmer from the Winchell Collection. The GCS track and field record plaque, donated by Ryan Broast via Hank Himelright. Meyerdiercks property map and love letter donated by Fran Bufi.

- Events:
 - **Sept. 19th at 11:30 AM.** Tom will speak at the Columbia Mid-Hudson Valley Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution meeting in Hyde Park. Subject: the Revolutionary War in Columbia County.
 - **Sept. 26th at 1 PM.** Hudson River Valley Ramble hiking tour of Germantown from the Reformed Church to the Theodore Robinson Community Forest and back. Break at the Parsonage.
 - **Sept. 30th at 8:30 AM.** Tom will present a talk entitled "Revolution on Livingston Manor" at the Association of Public Historians of NYS annual conference in Utica.
 - **Oct. 12th.** Haunted Hayrides.
 - **Oct. 14th.** Potential PATH through History Weekend event.