

To: Kirkwood Town Board Members  
From: Karen A Ferguson, Town of Kirkwood Historian  
Date: December 30, 2024  
Re: Year End Review of Activities/Accomplishments

Per State Guidelines, here is an overview of some of the activities and/or accomplishments that I have completed as the Town Historian for the year 2024.

- Successfully secured and managed the Small Community Grant of \$25,000 for School #2 for repainting of building and addition of wheelchair ramp
- Successfully secured a grant from the Pomeroy Foundation for Kirkwood's First Historical Marker which was awarded for School #2 and in turn held a Marker Dedication Ceremony in October
- Assisted the Sons of the American Revolution by researching information on Revolutionary War soldiers buried at Kirkwood Cemetery for a Patriot Burial Marker (to be dedicated Spring 2025)
- Partnered with NYG&B for the digitization of 4 boxes worth of historic Town documents dating 1824-1921
- Hosted a field trip at the museum for the Windsor Central High School
- Hosted private tours for the Colesville Historical Committee and two different family reunions
- Submitted monthly articles for posting on the Town website, several Facebook pages and posting hard copies at Town Hall
- Maintained the "Historian's Corner" on the bulletin board in Town Hall Meeting Room
- Regularly attended monthly meetings of Town Board and Planning Board and occasionally Zoning Board
- Responded to approximately 20-30 phone calls and emails with regard to information on various properties and family history (double from last year)
- Attempted to pinpoint location of the original grist mill by hiking Fitch's creek during the dry months searching for artifacts
- Attended all monthly KHS meetings and events (as well as advertise and type the agenda/minutes)
- Updated flyers for KHS membership and typed annual newsletter for KHS
- Created a docent script to make tours easier for volunteers at the KHS
- Submitted several applications on behalf of KHS for Path through History Open House Event, Food Permits, and Broome County Community Improvement Grant

- Attended State Historians Conference on Long Island
- As Region 10 Coordinator for the historians in Broome, Chemung, Chenango, Schuyler, Tioga and Tompkins County, hosted the first regional meeting in 7 years. Additionally in this role, I assist in maintaining the State website of local historians and work to create relationships with other local historians for collaboration purposes and clarification of duties
- Participated in and/or served on the committee for Town events such as Veterans Day Celebration and Hometown Christmas
- Conducted research to clarify the proper spelling of Hays Avenue and also the history of Frito lay for their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- Received a record number of donations of documents, pictures, genealogy, books and other materials for preservation totaling over 30 items (some of which will be housed at KHS)

Plans for 2025 include:

- Guest speaker for the Daughters of the American Revolution in March
- Continue to collaborate with the Town of Conklin for the 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration in 2026
- Host annual Region 10 spring meeting
- Attend conference for Association of Public Historians of NY (to be held in September)
- Continue to establish relationships with other local historians to promote Town of Kirkwood history
- Work closely with the KHS to preserve and acquire historical artifacts for the museum
- Continue publishing monthly articles
- Organize files – ongoing
- Respond to inquiries – ongoing
- Conduct interviews with various citizens in effort to preserve history