

**President’s Message**

As you can see, the Museum’s newsletter has gone through a dramatic change. We elected to simplify, in order to bring you the most relevant information in a more concise manner. We hope that this new format makes it a more enjoyable read. We may eventually offer an online version of the newsletter distributed via email, but decided to hold off. I invite you to attend the Museum Opening on June 20<sup>th</sup> and June 21<sup>st</sup>. We will open our Rhinebeck schools exhibit, which we have all been busily working on, as well as our annual garage sale held at the Quitman House that weekend. And once again, if you have historical materials you would like to donate, please reach out to us and let us know. I hope to see you at the Museum this summer! -- ELIZABETH CLARKE

**Curator’s Message**

The Museum continues to receive donated objects and ephemera from local residents. Among the latest was a Boy Scout flag from a former Rhinebeck troop. It was donated by Rhinecliff native Geraldine (Kipp) Brown of Rhinebeck. Hanging from its finial are the tags stating that it was used in several parades and that they won ribbons for their participation. This will be a fabulous addition to the Boy Scout material already in the collection from the Frost, Stickle and Mann families of Rhinebeck. If you have material to donate to the Museum, please call Steven Mann at (845) 876-6892.

**Garage Sale Fundraiser and Opening**

The Museum will have its annual opening on Saturday, June 20, 2015. The opening will coincide with a large multi-family garage sale on its front yard that day and on Sunday, June 21, both days 9-4. The Museum will be open during that time. The exhibit will feature photographs and historical material related to Rhinebeck’s many public and private schools over the years. Admission is free, light refreshments will be available during the day. To share space on the lawn and sell your wares and treasures, call Steven Mann at (845) 876-6892 -- \$15 for 1 or \$25 for 2 days, for a space which fits two large tables or four card tables. Please bring your own tables and chairs.

**Annual Auction**

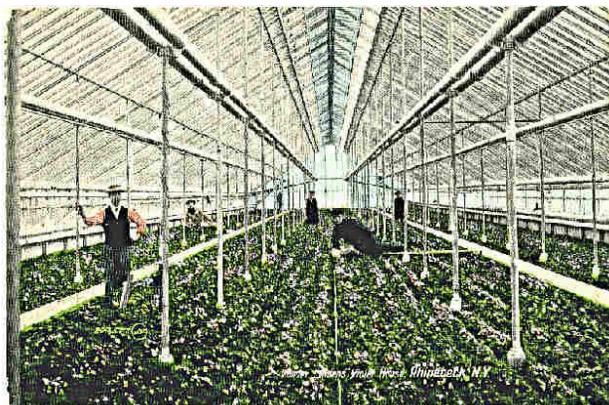
This year’s annual auction will take place in October on a Saturday with a fall theme. Once again we will be working in cooperation with the Chancellor Livingston Chapter, National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution. The date has not yet been set, however donations of quality jewelry, artwork, antiques, collectibles, gift baskets, gift certificates, and hand crafted items are being accepted. Please call Steven Mann at the above phone number to discuss a donation. Further information will be provided in the September newsletter and in local printed and social media sources.

**Facebook**

The Museum has its own Facebook page with numerous followers. We will continue to use it to promote our events. Please “like” us on facebook – Museum of Rhinebeck History. Feel free to share old photographs and discuss our town’s incredible rich history.

**Garden Club Presentation**

On the evening of Wednesday, May 27, 2015, President Elizabeth Clarke and Curator Steven Mann presented information on Rhinebeck’s Violet Growers to the Rhinebeck Garden Club of which he is current president. The discussion of the violet kings – Saltford, vonderLinden, Coon, and Trombini, types of violets grown, phases of the industry in Rhinebeck, and reasons why the violet growing stopped at various times. A show and tell was included which showcased parts of a violet house taken from one on Ackert Hook Road, and various equipment used in violet production, including Ethan Coon’s “Battleax”. On the morning of Monday, June 8, a walking tour of the village followed, showing the site of some of the larger violet operations and other violet growing sites, from Mulberry Street over to Park Plaza.



*Postcard image of interior of vonderLinden’s Violet House, Museum of Rhinebeck History Permanent Collection.*

**Four Main Types of Double Violets**

Marie Louise	founded 1865
Duchesse de Parme	founded 1870
Lady Hume Campbell	founded 1875
White Swan/Swanley White	founded 1883

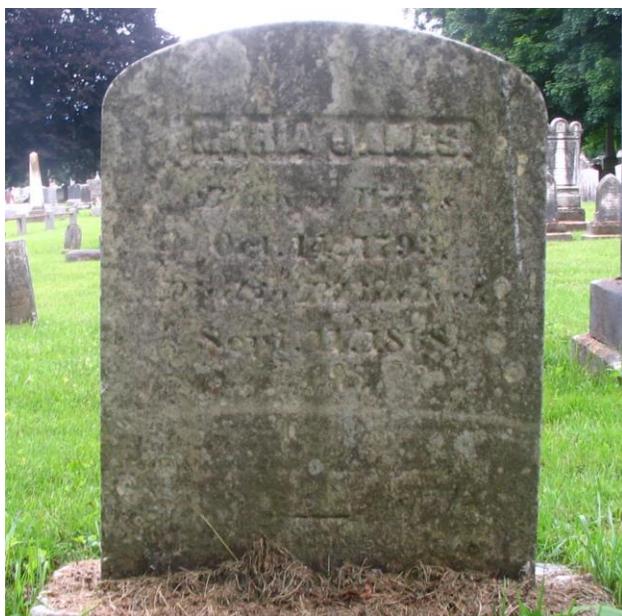
All four types can still be found in England.

**Docents**

The Museum will be open Saturdays from 1-4 PM during the summer (closed Fair Weekend and the weekend before, and Labor Day weekend). We can always use more docents. To volunteer, please call our Volunteer Coordinator and Treasurer, Mara Marrero at (845) 797-5070. It is a fabulous opportunity to learn more about our local history, meet some of our residents and visitors to town, and see behind the scenes some of the objects and historical material that is not currently being shown. We only ask for a few hours from your entire summer.

### **Maria James by Steven Mann**

One recent hot May morning Beverly Kane, Alice Benson, and Steven Mann were working on the first sample of a gravestone survey taking place under the auspices of the Friends of the Rhinebeck Cemetery. We decided after meeting with Superintendent Gary Slater the previous week to start in Section D, the oldest in the cemetery. The first plot was purchased by Mary Garrettson who donated at least two pieces of land in what is now the Rhinebeck Cemetery – Sections D and E. The first stone we came to belonged to one of two local women named Maria James, one being a noted local poetess, the stone, however, belonging to her mother.



*This is the gravestone of Maria James, mother of the poet, who is buried behind the Road stone wall at the Rhinebeck Cemetery, Photo by Beverly Kane.*

I remember reading about Maria James over a decade ago when researching Rhinebeck estates and the Garrettson family of Wildercliff. She was from Wales and had been a personal maid of Miss Mary Garrettson, daughter of Methodist minister Rev. Freeborne Garrettson and his wife, the former Catherine Livingston of Grasmere. Maria's mother is said to have operated a boarding house out at Slate Quarry for Welsh miners, 7 miles east of Rhinebeck.

**Museum of Rhinebeck History**  
**P.O. Box 816**  
**Rhinebeck, NY 12572**

In her book Wales, and Other Poems (1839), Miss James writes the following on page 94:

### ***A Town in Dutchess County***

My first is a river\*, long famous in story;

It flows where the French and the Germans unite;  
'Twas ceded to France in the days of her glory;

Though now it is German, by title and right.

My second is part of a name, [o]f that has yielded  
The incense of worth, where his ashes repose,

Who entered the wilderness, planted, and builded;  
And made it to blossom and bud as the rose.

My whole, it is a spot on the face of creation,  
Where industry banishes want from the door;

Where the axe, and the plough, and the mill-wheel  
in motion,  
Bring fullness of bread to the poorest of poor.

--1834 \*Rhine. F Beekman,

### **Frost Memorial Fund**

We wish to thank the Trustees of the Frost Memorial Fund for generously supporting our grant application for a new laptop computer. The high-speed computer with an external disk drive will allow easier administration and usage of our growing database with photographs, of items in our large collection. Both siblings, Benson and Barbara Frost, were longtime members of the Museum, and we are fortunate to have been given a large portion of their collection of important papers related to town history during Miss Barbara Frost's lifetime.

### **Did You Know?**

Wurtemberg is the name of a town in Germany?

The surname Traver, one of the original Palatine families to Rhinebeck, was Treber?

The late Town Historian DeWitt Gurnell, aka Uncle DeWitt to locals, was also a pharmacist?

George and William Saltford, brothers from England, were the original Rhinebeck violet kings? They were followed by vonderLinden, Coon and the Trombini Brothers, in order.

Did you remember to renew your membership?

Please join us June 20-21 at our open house and fundraising multi-family garage sale.