Let Us Welcome the New Year with a Tidbit from a WWI Soldier

Footprints of Generations.

This soldier is not from Plattekill - but struck a heart chord within. If only all battles and disagreements could be done with a snowball fight ~ the world would be a much better place. This illustrated holiday letter from Salvatore Cillis, held at the New-York Historical Society, is one of many that the soldier-artist wrote to friends, co-workers, and family during World War I. Cillis immigrated to New York from Italy as a 9-year-old, and worked as a sign painter before he entered the service during World War I.

He described himself as “half an artist, three-quarters of a sign painter,” but his letters’ beautiful watercolors indicate that he might have been too modest in describing his talents. In this New Year’s letter from Camp Upton, in Long Island, Cillis describes the epic snowball fight that inspired his watercolored letterhead. He and his fellow soldiers at training camp began the battle as a way to stay warm. Cillis assessed his own performance in combat:

“I would have shot down three men in the first fight if it took place, and in the second brawl if they had shot at me a real cannon ball I would have come out of that battle with no brains.” In the next year, Cillis was to see non-snowball-based warfare in France, fighting with the 306th Field Artillery. Happily, he made it through the war, and lived to be an old man; Cillis died in 1966. You can read more about the Cillis letters at the New York Historical Society website (https://www.nyhistory.org/)
Elverhoj Arts & Crafts Colony

On October 15th we welcomed noted historian Dr. William B. Rhoads, co-author (along with Leslie Melvin) of the new book, Elverhoj, The Arts and Crafts Colony at Milton-on-Hudson. Dr. Rhoads shared amazing artifacts and stories of Elverhoj’s rich history as well as never before published images of the historic site.

Elverhoj (Danish for “hill of the fairies”) was an Arts and Crafts colony established on the picturesque west shore of the Hudson River in 1912 by Danish American artists and craftsmen led by Anders Andersen. Little known today, the colony achieved a national reputation before World War I. The Depression dealt a fatal blow, despite the help of Eleanor Roosevelt, and the property was acquired by followers of the charismatic Black leader Father Divine, becoming one of his popular “heavens.”

The Clintondale Friends Meeting House’s original stained glass windows have been generously donated for preservation to the Plattekill Historical Preservation Society. These windows are breathtaking and have the original Quaker family names inscribed. We will be looking to restore the windows for display - there is a need of re-leading which is a big undertaking. Thank you to the Clintondale Christian Church. Visit: clintondalechristianchurch.org

Author Dr. William B. Rhoads with the Plattekill Historical Preservation Society. Interested in a copy of his new book? Elverhoj, The Arts and Craft Colony at Milton-on-Hudson, visit amazon.com

Visit: clintondalechristianchurch.org

Walkway Over the Hudson (formerly known as the Poughkeepsie Bridge, Poughkeepsie Railroad Bridge, Poughkeepsie–Highland Railroad Bridge, and High Bridge) is the world’s longest and highest steel cantilever bridge spanning the Hudson River between Poughkeepsie, New York, on the east bank and Highland, New York, on the west bank. The Walkway Over the Hudson has donated to PHPS local historic images and artifacts to preserve for generations to come. We look forward to working with the WOTH ambassadors to make this display vital to the community.
On November 25, members of the Clintondale Fire Department, along with family and friends, gathered at the firehouse to dedicate two Memorial Benches to long-serving former members Shirley Anson [1939-2021] and Preston “Mickey” Palazzo [1943-2022]. Fire Chief Rick Brooks spoke of the accomplishments of these beloved members. Anson, who joined the department in January 1981, became the second female member of a fire department in Ulster County. She took all of the required firefighting training and was a Top Responder year after year. Seeing that there was a need for daytime drivers, Anson became a driver of the Rescue, Tanker and Engine Trucks.

Anson also received the Firefighter of the Year Award in 1992 and in 1998 through 1999 was elected as Treasurer of the Board of Fire Commissioners for the department. Chief Brooks said Anson showed a deep love for the history of her town by serving as the Town Historian and was the Founder and President of the Plattekill Historical Preservation Society. Her daughter Jami is now holding that position, carrying on her legacy.

Preston Palazzo, known affectionately as ‘Mickey,’ joined the department in January 1966. During his more than 60 years with the department, Mickey served in numerous positions, including past Chief, but his most enduring role was that of a Mentor for new members. Chief Brooks said Mickey’s, “positive outlook and professionalism carried into his training of all our members and drivers and spilled over into his beloved community of Clintondale. Mickey always had a story to tell that inevitably taught you a lesson [about] something he learned that he wanted to pass along.” Mickey was Fire Chief in 1985 and served on the Board of Fire Commissioners from 1998-1992. Chief Brooks said the Memorial Garden, where the benches were placed, was installed many years ago. When Anson passed, the department began talking about doing something more to honor her, “and that’s what started it. I think it was Patti [Brooks] who came up with the idea of a bench in her honor, and when Mickey left us shortly thereafter, they decided on a second bench. Now the name of any firefighter of honor can be placed on these benches and it makes the garden more of a welcoming place.”

Mary Palazzo said her late husband was dedicated, not just to the Fire Department, but to everything in Clintondale, “He was Clintondale from the minute he was born and he wanted to see the whole village thrive and do well,” she said. Mary said it is no wonder that Mickey loved the Clintondale Fire Department because he was born and grew up in a house directly across the street from the firehouse. “He hung around with everybody and when he was quite young he officially joined and everything about him was fire department,” she said. “As men and women got busy working and the ranks thinned, he was trying to recruit people because he was very, very concerned that Clintondale be able to maintain its independence and not have to merge with Highland or New Paltz; when I say he was about Clintondale, he was about Clintondale.”

Shirley Anson’s daughter Jami, said the Clintondale Fire Department means home to her family, pointing out that her family has had a presence in Clintondale for seven generations. Her father Robert “Butch” Anson is a life member of the fire department and having the benches named after these two friends, “means the world to me and it meant a lot,” Jami said. Jami said Shirley and Mickey belong, “like these benches because they were really good friends ... It was meant to be.” As the ceremony came to an end a rainbow appeared in the sky, a fitting finale to an emotional remembrance. 
The New York State Grange began in 1873 as a fraternal service organization for farm families, and many rural communities in the state quickly formed local chapters. The earliest Grange in the town of Plattekill, known as the National Grange of the Patrons of Husbandry #390, is believed to have formed in the fall of 1875 or spring of 1876. There is not a great deal of recorded information about this early organization, although it is believed to have met in Modena. In his 1949 "History of Modena," the late historian Kenneth Hasbrouck notes that "the old hotel sheds, located between the hotel and the old post office, had room for the many wagons which brought people from miles around to Grange meetings. Over the sheds Grange meetings were held."

In 1902, the Plattekill Grange #923 was organized, and by the following year, a Grange Hall was constructed on Church Street. The building soon became a community center, serving as both a meeting hall and a store. The store operated on Wednesdays and Saturdays so that members could purchase goods and animal feed at what an early local newspaper described as "nearly wholesale prices."

With nearly 200 members by the 1920s, the Plattekill Grange became known as the largest Grange organization in Ulster County for many years, County-level meetings were often held in the Plattekill hall, as well as many community dinners, dances, card parties and other events. By the time the Plattekill Grange celebrated its seventy-fifth anniversary in 1977, membership was still more than 180 members strong and included a Juvenile Grange for the youngest members.

The Clintondale Grange #957 was formed in 1903 with 24 charter members. The organization rapidly expanded and
soon moved from holding meetings at the homes of various members to looking for a permanent home. By 1911, the Clintondale Grange purchased what was known as the Ellis Building (later the I.G.A.) for the sum of $1800. Nearly twenty years later, with a membership of over 200 members, the Grange purchased the Clintondale Improvement Association building on Mill Street.

The new building featured a stage, meeting room, kitchen and dining hall that allowed the organization to host a variety of events. The 1959 History of the Village of Clintondale describes the Clintondale Grange Hall as “a community center where church groups and other organizations have public suppers with as many as 300 having been served at the large clam bakes. Dances, minstrels, wedding receptions, Farm and Home Bureau meetings, movies, Halloween parties, home talent plays and graduation exercises have been a part of its history in addition to the regular bimonthly Grange meetings.” By 1968, however, with dwindling membership, members of the Clintondale Grange voted to sell their hall and returned to conducting meetings in the homes of members. By the early 2000s, a small group of members met in the Town of Plattekill Senior Center, before eventually disbanding altogether.

The two Grange chapters in Plattekill often worked together and supported efforts of the State and Pomona, or County, Granges. One of the initial common causes was the support of new state restrictions on hunting in the early 1900s. Members of the Plattekill and Clintondale Granges worked with the Pomona Grange to help support the passage of a state hunting license law. Farmers noted that without regulation, their fields, fences, crops and livestock were often harmed by hunters who did not respect property lines. They fought to keep the bill requiring hunters to be licensed and restricted to certain seasons, putting themselves directly in opposition to firearms manufacturers who were trying to have the new law repealed. Ulster County Grangers told one reporter in 1908 that the new law reduced trespassing and damage and forced hunters into being “gentlemanly and law-abiding.”

Another trait the Plattekill and Clintondale Granges shared was a noted emphasis on and support for local history. Both groups often hosted lecturers, slideshows and plays that
depicted life in the Town of Plattekill in years gone by. (The Plattekill Grange continues to support this today, and features a small local history museum in the Grange building as well as housing the Plattekill Historical Preservation Society.)

In later years, with the decline of agriculture in Plattekill, Grange members shifted their focus to other areas, such as education, health and safety. Members of both organizations donated handcrafted items to local hospitals and provided elementary school students with dictionaries and other school supplies – continuing their longstanding tradition of service to the community. Although the #390 and the Clintondale Grange are now part of Plattekill’s past, the Plattekill Grange #923 continues to remain active and serve the community. In 2023, the Grange building on Church Street celebrated its 120th birthday and the Plattekill Historical Preservation Society hosted a meeting celebrating the rich history of this organization.

For more information & our photo gallery ~ visit our website at plattekillhistoricalsociety.org

Do you have memories, photos or materials of past grange family members or friends in your home or attic? Please contact us at plattekillhistoricalsociety@gmail.com We would love the opportunity to digitize or scan to preserve for generations to come.

Donate NOW. Preserve our culture and history for generations to come. Your support matters more than ever. Every contribution helps fund all facets of our mission and enables us to continue serving the public.

Thank you for your generosity! You can now donate online at www.plattekillhistoricalsociety.org

PHPS THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION 2023 ~ DATES FOR 2024 COMING SOON!

SAVE THE DATE!!! - FRIDAY NOVEMBER 15 - DETAILS FOLLOWING SOON!

CELEBRATE WITH HISTORY | FRIENDS | FAMILY | GREAT AUCTION PRIZES | AMAZING FOOD & MORE!

THANK YOU TO MINARD’S FOR THE AMAZING CIDER & CHEF NICK COPPOLA (COPPOLA’S LA FANTASIA RISTORANTE) FOR HOSTING.
Grange Candied Orange Peel (1737 Recipe)

- 5-6 thick skinned Oranges
- 2 Cups Sugar, plus some for dusting
- 1 Cup Water
- 2 Tablespoons Salt.

Peel the oranges, removing as much of the pith as possible. You can cut the orange peels into strips if you prefer. Soak in salt water for 10 minutes, rinse well. Stew the peels in fresh water, for about 15 minutes and drain. Repeat stewing and draining process. Place the peels in the stewpan once more, add the sugar and water and simmer until peels are tender. Remove peels and dry in a sieve for 10-15 minutes. Coat in granulated sugar.

From the Town of Plattekill’s Historian - Libbie Werlau

On the Town of Plattekill Historian’s Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/historiantop), I will be sharing images from a very special album, once owned by Plattekill schoolteacher Wilma Klein. Mrs. Klein passed away on December 25, 2000, and in 2019 local resident E. Decker brought it to the Plattekill Historical Society’s Plattekill Day table. We are so grateful for his foresight in bringing it to our attention, as all too often artifacts such as these are simply discarded. This photo album is an absolute treasure, containing pictures from Mrs. Klein’s first few years of teaching (at the one-room Prospect Hill School, 1933-1939, and the Unionville School, 1940-41) to her final year at Plattekill Elementary School in 1972. There are so many familiar faces and names (including my own mother and several relatives!)... I hope you enjoy looking through this album as much as I have!
Why is Historical Society Newsletter now called the Plattekill Dash?

But he said what mattered most of all was the dash between the years - for that dash represents all the time that they spent Earth.

Shirley V. Anson, past President, was a woman of grace and love. We are here to honor her legacy and her mission of preserving our important local history.

One of the things we did appreciate about Shirley is how she always shared her facts, wisdom and encouragement everywhere she went. The Anson Family had this poem read at her funeral. Just think now - "How are you living your ‘Dash?’ What is it that will fill all the moments of time from the beginning of your life, to the end?” How will we each change the world by preserving its history? As we embark on this new year 2024, whether you have heard this poem before or not, we encourage you to take a minute and read the words carefully.

Think about your own ‘Dash.’ Think about the history of our Plattekill and how rich the dash is within our area. Do you want to give more of your time? Your talents? Your photos and stories of families and history? How can you continue to live out and build your own unique history and legacy?

So in memory of all “The Dashes” through history - and for the future - welcome to our premiere Newsletter called the “Plattekill Dash” Let us make the dash between the years last for generations to come!

Check out Linda Ellis’ poem - THE DASH (upper right).
In April, we welcomed back author Anthony Musso! Mr. Musso to discuss his latest book, *Mothball Fleet on the Hudson: The Post World War II National Defense Reserve*. During World War II, the United States Department of the Navy increased its fleet of ships to nearly 7,000. They were manufactured at an incredibly fast rate by a female workforce that replaced male workers who entered the military – collectively dubbed Rosie the Riveter. But that large ship production left the Navy in a dilemma at the end of the war. What should be done with such a vast and, for the most part, unnecessary fleet?

In 1946, the National Naval Defense Reserve Fleet was established and eight sites around the nation were selected to store the ships, maintain them, and keep them ready for action in the event of a national emergency. Among the eight locations was the Hudson River in Tarrytown, local residents simply called it the Mothball Fleet. At its peak in July 1965, 189 vessels that saw action around the globe during World War II were anchored at Jones Point, side-by-side in neatly arranged rows that spanned the river for several miles south. Through the years, as the nation became involved in various conflicts such as in Korea and Vietnam, several ships were brought back into service. As ships came and went, the Mothball Fleet in the Hudson attracted considerable attention. Interested in getting of Tony Musso’s Mothball Fleet on the Hudson, visit: [https://mussobooks.com/mothball-fleet-on-hudson](https://mussobooks.com/mothball-fleet-on-hudson)

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Beyond the Stars with Deborah Hanlon

Friday March 22 | DOORS OPEN AT 6 PM.

FUNDRAISING MEDIUM GALLERY ~ DEBORAH @ 7 PM - 9:30 PM

LOCATION - PLATTEKILL HISTORICAL SOCIETY - UPSTAIRS VENUE THEATER
WHERE: 127 CHURCH STREET, WALLKILL, NY 12589 | TICKETS: $60

INCLUDES BEVERAGES on Each Table with Delicious Charcuterie Selections/Salads/Light Snacks/Desserts

VENMO: @LillyRaeBrand

FUNDRAISER - RAFFLES, PRIZES, LILLY RAE BOTANICAL ORGANIC SKIN CARE BASKETS FOR PURCHASE
100% PROCEEDS SUPPORT ~ EMILY MARTIN’S TUITION TO JOHN HOPKINS (DETAILS BELOW)

The National Student Leadership Conference has invited Emily to the Aerospace summer program at John Hopkins University in Maryland!

HOSTED BY

BUY TICKETS DIRECTLY at plattekillhistoricalsociety.org

In an effort to offset the costs associated with the program and make this amazing opportunity a reality, we are having this gallery fundraiser.

Emily will be able to explore NASA, design, build and launch aircraft's, learn the fundamentals of of coding, meet the scientists and engineers behind the scenes and so much more. Upon completion she will receive a certificate of completion, 3 college credits & a letter of recommendation from John Hopkins and the NSLC.

For more information call/text: 845.303.4011 | email lillyraebrand@gmail.com

MONEY ORDER/CHECK MAIL TO: Emily Martin c/o Plattekill Historical Society, PO Box 250, Cliftondale, NY 12515

*Attendees are not guaranteed a message from Deborah, but she will do her best to keep you entertained, informed and intrigued.

Come JOIN US on March 22 with Deb Hanlon and HELP Emily’s DREAM come true!
**Plattekill Historical Schedule ~ January 2024**

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<th>SUNDAY</th>
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**Technically today is 123123 (December 31, 2023)**

1. **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**
   - Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation.

2. **Trivia Question**

4. **PHPS Work Party - 12 PM to 4 PM.**
   - **GRANGE BOARD MEETING following work.**

5. **PHPS Board Meeting - 6:30 PM.**
   - **Interested in being a board member - please reach out!**

6. **Benjamin Franklin Day**

7. **Martin Luther King Jr. Day**

8. **Interested in becoming a PHPS Board or committee member?**
   - This Historical Society Board is a fun, collaborative and hands-on group, whose members are dedicated to preserving and promoting Plattekill history. For more info about this opportunity, please contact:
   - Jami Anson @ 845-401-9469 or email plattekillhistoricalsociety@gmail.com
Annual Historic Show N’ Tell

This program is FREE and OPEN to the PUBLIC. Light refreshments served.

Join the Plattekill Historical Society on Saturday, February 17 for our annual “Show and Tell” program! At this popular event we invite members of the community to bring an item of historical interest to discuss! Last year’s contributions included antique guns, blacksmithing tools, vintage toys and a presentation on artifacts located in Plattekill while metal detecting. What will 2024 bring? Stop in and find out! Show and Tell will begin at 1 PM. For more information, please call 845-389-7998, visit the Plattekill Historical Society Facebook page or our website at www.plattekillhistoricalsociety.org

Saturday, February 17th ~ 1 PM to 4 PM
Location: 127 Church Street, Plattekill (off Route 32)
Plattekill Historical Society Headquarters
### Plattekill Historical Schedule ~ March 2024

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<td>Women’s</td>
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<td>Read Across America Day is celebrated every year on March 2nd, which is the birthday of American author Dr. Seuss.</td>
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<td>History Month</td>
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<td>Author Glenn Kreisberg: Spirits in Stone - Stone Mysteries of the Hudson Valley</td>
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<td>DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME STARTS</td>
<td>Harriet Tubman Day</td>
<td>PHPS Board Meeting - 6:30 PM. Interested in being a board member - please reach out!</td>
<td>Valentine’s Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saint Patrick’s Day</td>
<td>Spring Equinox</td>
<td>PLATTEKILL became a Town on March 21st, 1800, by an act of the New York State Legislature. Plattekill was the ninth town to be formed in Ulster County. It was named for the Plattekill stream located in the southern portion of the town.</td>
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<td>PALM SUNDAY</td>
<td>World Theatre Day</td>
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<td>Good Friday</td>
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<td>March 31 Easter Sunday</td>
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JOIN US
Saturday - March 9th
1 PM to 4 PM

Native American Stone Structures
of the Catskill Mountains

with author
Glenn Kreisberg

Scattered throughout the wooded uplands of the Catskill Mountains are a large number of standing lithic structures that have mostly been ignored by conventional archaeologists. Often dismissed as colonial era stone walls and field clearing piles, these formations are increasingly emerging as part of a Native American tradition of ritual building practices that reflected a sophisticated world view and sociocultural belief system. This program presented by author Glenn Kreisberg, focuses on presenting locational data of potential Native American sacred sites within the Catskills and surrounding regions, in order to discern patterns in their construction techniques, environmental positioning, and event-specific structural alignments related to sky observation.

Author will have limited books for purchase at event.

1 PM on Saturday, March 9, at the Plattekill Historical Society building (127 Church Street in Plattekill/Wallkill for GPS purposes). For more information, call 845-389-7998, visit the Plattekill Historical Society Facebook page or plattekillhistoricalsociety.org
# Plattekill Historical Schedule ~ February 2024

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**February**

Black History Month

- **1** National Freedom Day
  - Abraham Lincoln signed a joint resolution by the House and Senate that proposed the abolition of slavery.

**4**

- **6** Historical Society Show N’ Tell
  - 1 PM to 4 PM

**5**

- **7**

**9**

- **10**

**11**

- **13**

**12**

- **14**

**15**

- **21**

**18**

- **19** President’s Day

**20**

- **22**

**24**

- **25**

**26**

- **27**

**28**

- **29** Leap Year

**30**

- **31**

### What does a membership do for you?

Your membership contributes to our cultural Plattekill heritage & history for generations to come. It helps to provide support for our museum and the preservation of maps, documents, photographs and artifacts. And for only $8 a year for an individual. Contact:

- Jami Anson @ 845-401-9469 or email plattekillhistoricalsociety@gmail.com
Society today ~ you’ll be part of the team that is dedicated to saving our local community history for generations to come, educating the public about Plattekill's story, and inspiring our community to visit the places where history happened. Your membership helps ensure that the Plattekill Grange will continue as an historical society and is forever preserved. As a member, you will receive notices about bi-annual newsletter, digital membership and information can be found about how to become a Plattekill Grange Member.
11th Annual Shirley V. Anson Memorial Golf Tournament

SAVE the DATE - Monday, August 19, 2024

2023 ~ Such an amazing event this past year - thank you to the sponsors and foursomes that made this event a great success!! NOW - we are set to tee off for 2024!

The 11th Annual Shirley V. Anson Memorial Golf Tournament for the Plattekill Historical Preservation Society is already in the works. The date is set for Monday, August 19, 2024. 100% proceeds supports the mission of the Plattekill Historical Preservation Society.

This tournament is located at the beautiful Apple Greens Golf Course. Golf with beautiful views of Mohonk Mountain - enjoy the day and preserve your local history. Like what you see? Get in touch to participate or learn more. Email: plattekillhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

Call Robert Anson at 845-883-6118 or call Jami L. Anson at 845-401-9469.

Don’t golf? You can still support by buying tickets to our BUFFET and AMAZING AUCTION. You can register to play, sponsor or come to dinner ~ just visit www.plattekillhistoricalsociety.org/golf for more information.

Peter Bunten

March 18, 2023 we welcomed Peter Bunten, Executive Director of the Mid-Hudson Antislavery History Project (MHAHP). Mr. Bunten’s talk, “Slavery, Antislavery and the Underground Railroad: A Hudson Valley Primer” will examine the history of slavery and antislavery in the Dutchess – Ulster Counties area, and place this local history within the broader national context of slavery and antislavery. Peter Bunten represents the MHAHP with the Underground Railroad Consortium of New York State and is a Trustee of the Dutchess County Historical Society. Before his retirement in 2018, Mr. Bunten was the Education Manager for Historic Hudson Valley. He has a Master’s degree in Historical Studies, with an emphasis on Public History, from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. He is a native of Poughkeepsie.

Executive Director of the Mid-Hudson Antislavery History Project (MHAHP).
MEMBER FORM

Choose your level of membership

Note: Your business/name (if you would like) can be listed on our NEW website

$50 per year Corporate Membership

$15 per year Family Membership
(Covers all families living at same address)

$12 per year Individual Membership

$8 per year Senior Membership
(ages 65 to 79 years)

FREE Lifetime Membership ~ must be 80 years or older

Purchase a Lifetime Membership for $150

Additional Donation: $ __________________________ Total Amount Enclosed: $ __________________________

Please provide the following information to ensure that our membership database is current:

Name: __________________________________________

Address: ________________________________________

City: ____________________________ State: ____________

Zip Code: ______________________ Telephone Number: (____) ______________________

Email address: __________________________

Website (if available): __________________________

Membership Benefits

• The knowledge that you are helping preserve the Town of Plattekill’s heritage and history - now and for future generations

• Voting privileges • 10% Discount on all PHPS sale items • Access to news and programs for local history

• Field Trips, Meetings & Events • 10% Discount on all PHPS sale items

Like us on Facebook: Plattekill Historical Society & PHS Plattekill Grange Restoration Project

Please return this entire form along with your check made payable to: Plattekill Historical Preservation Society (PHPS)

Mail to: PO BOX 250, Clintondale, New York 12515

plattekillhistoricalsociety@gmail.com www.plattekillhistoricalsociety.org

Or better yet, give us a call at 845-883-6118 and we can make arrangements to pick up the forms too.

Meetings will start again in the fall 2022 and will be held the third Saturday of each month at 2 PM, unless otherwise announced.