



Village of Chester  
47 Main Street  
Chester, NY 10918

September 2023

1915 Erie Station  
845-469-2591

[www.ChesterHistoricalSociety.com](http://www.ChesterHistoricalSociety.com)

founded 1964

The Chester Historical Society is a nonprofit organization as qualified under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. 100% of your charitable dollars go to support programs.

*The Chester Historical Society's Mission is to:*

*Promote the rich heritage of the Village and Town of Chester, New York through the acquisition, restoration and preservation of its historical places, documents and recordings of oral history. Provide educational programs for school children, community organizations and all those individuals interested in local folklore and history. Exhibit collections of artifacts, pictures, newspapers and recorded oral histories to the general public.*

Find Us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/ChesterHistoricalSociety](http://www.facebook.com/ChesterHistoricalSociety)

email: [Chester\\_historical@mac.com](mailto:Chester_historical@mac.com)

Hudson River Valley Heritage

[www.nyheritage.org/organizations/chester-historical-society](http://www.nyheritage.org/organizations/chester-historical-society)

Editor: Ginny Privitar. Layout: Clif Patrick. Contributors: Nancy Hom George, Clif Patrick, Leslie Smith, Georgina Robillard  
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## SAVE THE DATES

- **Sunday, October 15: Penny Social at 1 p.m.**, at the Chester Recreation Center on Laroe Road. Don't miss this one; you'll be surprised at what you might find. Take a chance on incredible finds for yourself or a friend. Great value for penny tickets. **Doors open at 1:00 p.m. Calling begins at 2:30 p.m. Admission is \$5 and includes 2 sheets of 25 tickets each. Additional tickets are \$2 each or 6 for \$5.**
- **Saturday, October 7, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.**; rain date **Oct. 8, Chalk it Up! Village of Chester Arts (VOCA) presents a free sidewalk chalk drawing festival** at the 1915 Erie Station Museum on Winkler Place, next to the Heritage Trail. Join us: all ages are welcome to show their creativity. No supplies needed; we will have them available.
- **October 14-28 Village of Chester Arts (VOCA)**, and the Chester Historical Society present "**Hunt for Art-United**" at The 1915 Erie Station Museum. Did you miss this summer's exhibit of local artists' paintings throughout downtown Chester, celebrating our rich history? Now is your chance to see all twelve of them, collected in one place for two weeks only. There will be a **closing reception for the VOCA arts exhibit on Saturday, October 28, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** Refreshments will be served.
- **Sunday, October 29:** Last chance to see our fascinating Sugar Loaf exhibit.
- **Monday, November 13: Our Annual Dutch Treat Dinner** at 6 p.m. at the **Rustic Wheelhouse**. All are welcome. See below for further information.
- **Sunday, December 3: Tree Lighting** at 4:30 p.m. Welcome in the holiday spirit with friends and neighbors.
- **Saturday, January 13, 2024: Annual meeting and election of officers.** 2:00 p.m. Snow date Jan. 14.

The Erie Station Museum at 19 Winkler Place is open Saturdays 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and Sundays 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. through Sunday, October 29. We need volunteers to welcome visitors to the station. Please let Norma (845 469-4674) or Georgina (845 469-7317) know when you can volunteer. When you volunteer, please make sure that you have visitors sign in and make sure you log in and out.

Regular Society Meetings are held on the first Wednesday each month at 7 p.m. at the lower level of the library and on Zoom. Let us know if you would like to take part in the Zoom meeting on your computer or phone.

**Welcome New Members:** Orion Blake and Brenda Hicks Hush.

There are 173 current members in our society and we welcome newcomers at any time!

**Membership Dues** have increased for 2023 and are \$20 for individual membership and \$30 for family. Help support our mission and free programs with your membership.

**Mail:** Although our office's physical address is now 93 Brookside Avenue, to keep our mail secure, we will continue to use the following as our mail address.

**Please send your renewal, first-time dues, mail or contributions to:**

The Chester Historical Society  
47 Main Street  
Chester, N.Y. 10918  
Attn: Sue Bahren



**The Society's August 23rd program on "*Early Inhabitants —the Lenape*"**  
*was very well received.*

In conjunction with our 2023 exhibit "**SUGAR LOAF**," which focuses on the history and people of the hamlet, this program informed attendees about some of its earliest inhabitants, the Lenape, native Americans who lived in the area for hundreds of years prior to European arrival. Members of the Wolf clan of the Ramapo Lenape Tribe lent authentic, traditionally made items to our season's exhibit.



*Featured speakers: Dennis "Windtalker 2" DeFreese & Peter "Wetegakil N'Lishuwaah M'axkwak" DeGroat.*

According to Sue Bahren, she enjoyed learning about the Lenape heritage, and it was exciting to see the many items the women in the tribe made, continuing tradition and graciously lent to our exhibit.

If you haven't seen it yet, **treat yourself** by visiting the Erie Station Museum to see our **2023 exhibit on SUGAR LOAF**, which includes facts, information, stories, collections, and history of not only the Sugar Loaf area, but also the people who have made Sugar Loaf their home throughout our history.





The 1915 Erie Station Museum is open Saturdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Sundays 1 - 3 p.m. through October 29.

Please donate and help support us to maintain our mission, document our history and provide free programs to the public. The Chester Historical Society is a nonprofit organization as qualified under Section 501(c) (3) of the IRS code. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

**Future newsletters:** The Society would like to switch over to e-mail only to reduce postage costs. Members who receive the newsletter via mail and have access to e-mail will be encouraged to send us their e-mail addresses.

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**Many thanks** to all who helped move our archives and equipment to 93 Brookside Ave., our new office. Thanks, too, to **Sue Bahern, Judy & Alan Barry, Lynn Berenberg, Doug Carter, Colleen Collins, Joe Delaney, Dean Krzymowski, Clif Patrick, Rick Ramsdell, Bill Schilling, Leslie Smith, Dave Stevenson** and **other volunteers** who are making the building habitable.

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## President's Corner

Thank you to all the people who responded to our June appeal letter by volunteering their talents and giving monetary support. The Society depends on the generosity of its members and the community.

While in many nonprofits members pay dues and a paid staff does the work, as a volunteer-based nonprofit, members of the Chester Historical Society pay their dues and then get to do the work themselves. And it is this altruism and dedication that has kept our Society going for nearly 60 years.



Several organizations track philanthropy in the United States, but you can get a quick picture of how individuals, corporations, and foundations give to support social needs by visiting Wikipedia as the site outlines the history of philanthropy in this county, which dates back to the 1600s, and also collects the statistics from these various organizations. The site <https://www.definefinancial.com/blog/charitable-giving-statistics/> gives the statistics for 2023 in a nutshell. Please take a

look, the findings are interesting. For example, Americans gave \$471 billion to charities in 2020, and 80 percent of donations to charities and nonprofits come from individuals.

Again, the Chester Historical Society's fundraising relies heavily on member and community support. This year, our two yard sales brought in nearly \$2,400 and our appeal letter about \$4,300. Next up – the annual Penny Social. Hoping to draw a larger audience, we've changed the day and time for this year's Social. It will be at the Chester Recreation Center on Sunday afternoon, October 15th. Doors open at 1 p.m. and calling will start at 2:30 p.m. It's a family event with items for all ages. Refreshments will be served. Please join us for a fun-filled afternoon that helps to fund the Society!

*Nancy Hom George*

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Thanks to **Georgina Robillard** and **E.J. Szulwach** for making our station gardens beautiful.





## *1857 Curtis Zopher Winters House, 93 Brookside Ave. highlights since the June Newsletter*

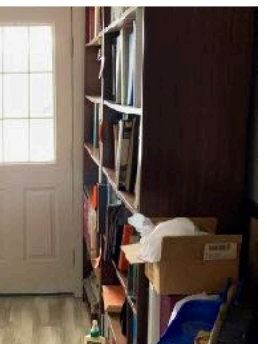
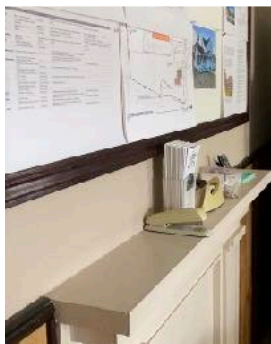


- With this wet summer Clif Patrick and Doug Carter got lots of exercise mowing the grass.

- Colleen Collins, Judy & Alan Barry, Lynn Bernberg and Leslie Smith continued prepping the apartment for repainting.

- Clif refurbished and reinstalled the window screens; installed a new faucet at the kitchen sink; made some progress refitting the apartment bathroom; replaced the fluorescent light fixtures in the office area with LED troffer panels and added basement lighting.

- Thanks to Leslie, Judy & Alan, Clif, Rick Ramsdell, Bill Schilling, Sue Bahren, Nancy George, Ginny Privitar, Marcia Faber, and apologies to anyone we missed who had a hand in transitioning our office and archives from Village Hall to 93 Brookside! And a hearty thanks to the Village Street





Crew: Joe DeAngelis, Joe Privitera, and Jason Bell, who moved our office furniture and cabinets.

- Two hundred twenty-one volunteer hours were recorded at #93 on 66 of 92 days June thru August. And we were open to the public on 36 of those days.
- Note: The weather was extremely oppressive which inhibited work on many days. The basement remained dry, even with the large amount of rain that fell on us this summer.

*Leslie & Clif*



**Dutch Treat Dinner:** Mark your calendar. This year's **Dutch Treat Dinner** takes place at 6 p.m. on Monday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at The Rustic Wheelhouse, 38 Main Street, Chester. Dinner includes salad and bread, entree, coffee and dessert for \$51 (this includes tax and tip but not any alcoholic drinks). The four choices for entree are: lasagna, chicken Marsala, penne a la vodka, or parchment-baked salmon. Please mail your choice of entree and your check made payable to the Chester Historical Society by November 1st to: Chester Historical Society, 47 Main Street, Chester, NY 10918.

## Research from Leslie

### A Monument to the American Form of Government: The Maple Avenue School

By Leslie Smith

The 1936 Maple Avenue School is our topic, in a temporary departure from our descriptions of families who once lived in the Winters/Lawrence House at 93 Brookside Avenue (the new location of Chester Historical Society offices.)

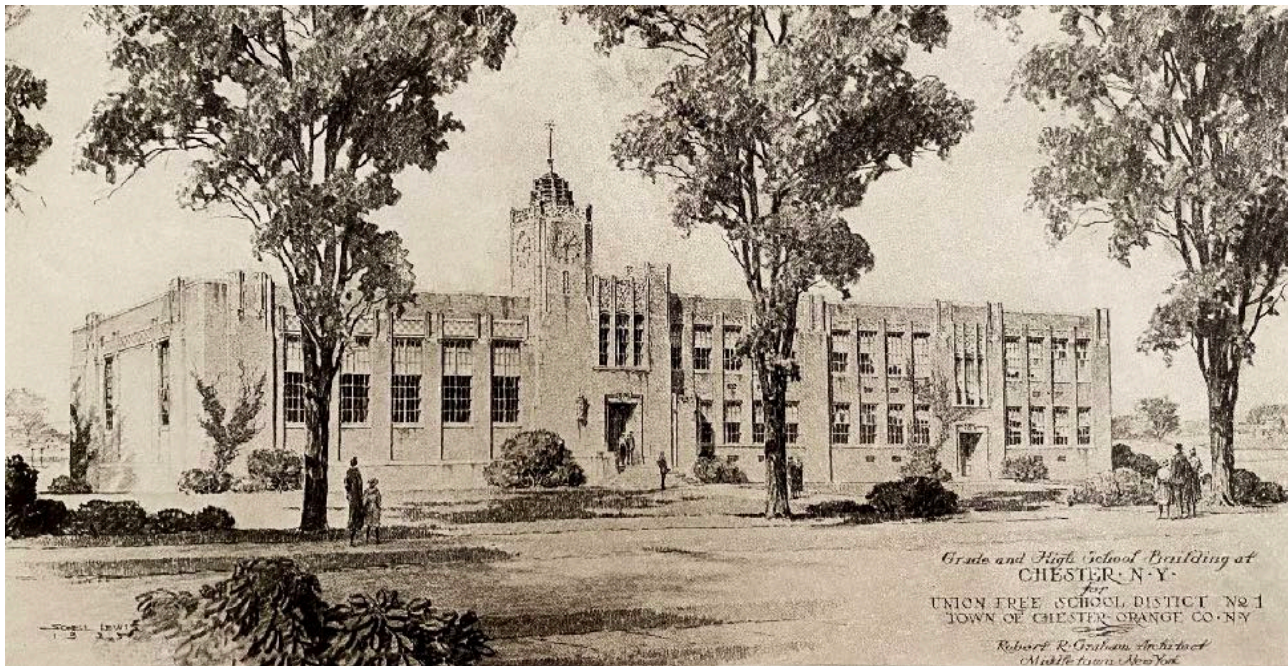
An unfortunate severe weather event on July 3rd brought the 1935/36 Maple Avenue School back into sharp focus when serious damage to the 1965 annex's roof occurred...

Described as "A Monument to the American Form of Government," the Maple Avenue School, in a talk by Chester W. Campbell of the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works (PWA), at the School's dedication on August 18, 1937, Campbell went on to say "Education is the cornerstone of our American standard of life and you people of this district have erected a monument to that ideal."

Although somewhat neglected, the "monument" still stands. The importance of the 1936 Maple Avenue School to Chester as well as its architectural significance and the fact that it is State and National Register eligible follows. My hope being: a greater appreciation for this significant historical asset.



*July 3, 2023 Roof Damage to 1965 annex, Maple Avenue School. Photo by Leslie Smith*



*Maple Avenue Grade and High School Building from Architecture And Design Vol. IV, No. 18  
Issue Devoted to the work of Robert R. Graham, Architect.*

Keep in mind in the year 1934, The Great Depression was in its fifth year when the school issue became central in Chester, for most, jobs and money were scarce; for residents to consider a new school in such times was a daunting prospect.

In that Spring of 1934, after an inspection of the 1907 Oakland Avenue School, State inspectors recommended fire escapes at Oakland Avenue. The implication being a demand.

The Oakland Avenue school was overcrowded. They were operating with double sessions. There was a lack of classroom space; no auditorium; no gymnasium.

An editorial in the “Chester News” raised the question: New School? Another building? Fire escapes? Addition or separate structure? There was mention of a gymnasium; room for classrooms in additional subjects. “Chester News” readers and residents in Chester were asked to consider these things. In other words, regarding the school, there were additional important issues to be addressed.

Lorraine (Potter) Hom attended Oakland Avenue starting at age 5 in first grade. She doesn't remember it all that well, but says there wasn't an auditorium. There was a big hallway and the classrooms radiated off of it. (It sounds like she's describing a large foyer or lobby). When they had a Christmas pageant or the like it was in that hallway. There wasn't a gym and the ball fields were behind the school.

When I interviewed George Feldner (class of 1933) in August of 2001, he was telling me about the buildings along the west side of Main Street in the lower village. The Knights of Pythias building (now 18-20 Main Street) was the location for Friday and Saturday night silent movies. After sound was introduced to films, he said, the balcony there was removed and the space was opened to social activities. The high school used it for basketball. It was not the right dimensions but was the best they could do at that time. Because we had no full gym at that time, all they had was at the top under the slope of the roof (attic). Later, he said, they stopped using that and went on to the produce building.



Edward Otterstedt told Tom Dowling in an oral history interview (4/3/2009) that there was no auditorium at Oakland Ave and that they played basketball in the old produce building. Ed was in the last (1936) class that graduated from the Oakland Avenue School.

The Chester UFSD website in its History of the 1907 School states: "In the attic was a gymnasium used for "physical training" classes. Basketball teams, drama productions, and social functions found accommodations at the Produce building and the Knights of Pythias Hall in the business district."

On June 19, 1934, the Board of Education met, and the session decided that Robert R. Graham of Middletown, a school architect of wide repute, be engaged to study a plan for an annex to the present building, the necessity for a newer and more spacious building being realized. These were first steps toward a new school building.

In December of that year, a committee of twelve citizens of the school district were invited to sit with the Board of Education to discuss the school question. Four options were debated:

1. Fireproof annex to Oakland Avenue
2. Grade unit on separate site
3. New High School, grades at Oakland
4. Grade and High School on new site

It was their finding, as a group of interested taxpayers, that a new building on a new site known as the Miller site, providing that taxes were not made excessive; was advisable for Chester in regard to an educational system. Architect Graham was authorized to take first steps with Albany.

Forty Community Club members met on February 6th of 1935 at the American House; architect Graham outlined the four plans, cost of an annex: \$100,000. It would include auditorium, gym and recitation rooms. He said a new school - new site: \$162,000 (no more than the debt limit of the district). Oakland Avenue cannot be added to. A new school must provide for expansion. Described in detail: a new school would have an auditorium/gymnasium and eight classrooms, four recitation rooms, shop, office, science lab and homemaking room.

Graham pointed out that the state has clamped down on use of the present gym, it cannot possibly be used.

The Oakland Avenue School was very overcrowded. Clifford Haight, district superintendent, brought up the fact that the Chester school may not be retained by Albany which is working to centralize public schools. He also spoke about financing. He spoke about the gain from increasing attendance which, in turn, would increase state aid \$\$.

As part of the strategy to increase attendance, contracts were signed with Sugar Loaf, Lake Station and the Ridge schools to educate and transport children from those districts for one year. This would add about eighty children to the already overcrowded school.

The Community Club voted in favor of a new building on a new site. The secretary was directed to communicate the favorable vote with J. H. Hixon, director of the Building and Grounds Division of the State Educational Department in Albany.

Editors of the Chester News had come out in favor of building and informed their readers of the possible loss of a school in Chester due to present conditions at Oakland Avenue and Albany's push for centralizing the public schools.

In March of 1935, Board of Education President J. F. Hadley was informed that preliminary plans for the new school had been approved in Albany and they were now free to place the proposal before qualified electors in the district. Robert R. Graham could proceed with drawing up complete plans. Philip Rorty was engaged as consulting and advising attorney. Peter Bush, engineer. Richard Miller was consulted on Miller site price. Options were taken on the Miller property and the desired Episcopal Church property.

In July the Board of Education (BOE) authorized Robert Graham and Philip Rorty to proceed with negotiations to secure a federal grant for 45% of the entire project cost. By September, BOE president Hadley had signed the application for federal loan and BOE authorized Graham and Rorty to give any needed information to feds.

In October, Chester was honored with an outright federal grant of \$104,000 of PWA funds, 45% of the \$232,000 school project. It was the largest grant for educational purposes received in Orange County outside of the cities. The remaining \$128,000 could be borrowed from the fed at 4%.

Architect Robert R. Graham was at work on a pamphlet to inform voters, which would describe the entire project.

At the BOE meeting 9/29/35 Graham was instructed to proceed with completion of the plans, complete the pamphlet and they set October 10th for the vote on the school proposition.

All of these proceedings were reported in the local newspaper, and tremendous enthusiasm built for the new school. Questions were answered at the open Community Club Meeting. Seventy men were in attendance. The eight page pamphlet was placed on counters in the village stores and house to house delivery was made.

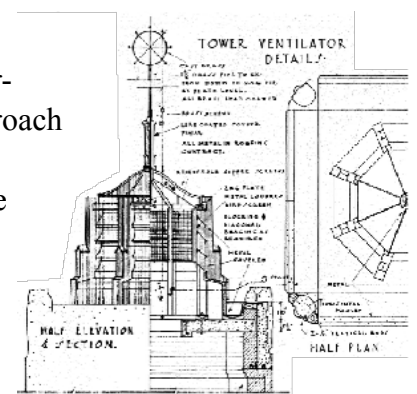
The vote was held on October 16th. The result was an overwhelming yes for the new school. There were long lines and 275 votes were cast in the first hour. A total of 353 persons cast votes in the 2 1/2 hours polls were open. Never in the history of the village had there been such positive interest in a matter concerning the community! The vote was 10 to one in favor of the proposition. More than 2/3 of qualified voters cast votes.

Shortly after results were announced, fire sirens and church bells sounded all through the night throughout Chester! The yes vote included the eight acres of land, construction and equipment for the new school.

Construction of our two story yellow brick Maple Avenue School began February fourteenth 1936 after breaking of ground December sixteenth 1935.

## Architecture of the Maple Avenue School

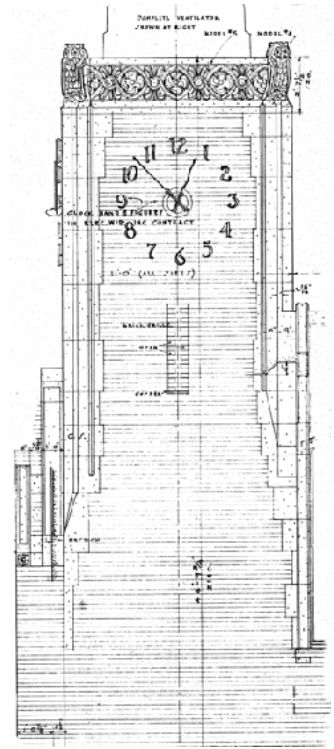
Described in the New York State Cultural Resource Information System as an intact example of Art Deco-inspired institutional architecture. The School is constructed of a yellow-hued brick with cast stone detailing, the building combines Art Deco detailing with Gothic motives [sic] and retains a considerable amount of its original character-defining features. The school's design represents a distinctive and unusual approach to educational design from this period and is largely intact, based on the information submitted, to the initial 1935 building campaign. Built in 1935, the Chester Junior/Senior High School is eligible for listing on the State and National Registers of Historic Places under category "C": embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction; or represents the work of a master; or possess high artistic values; or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose component may lack individual



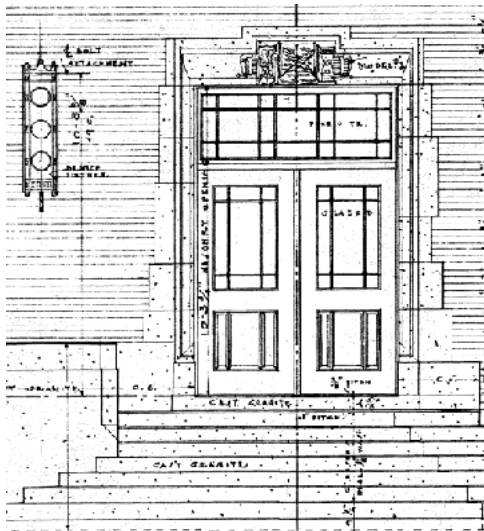


distinction.

At first glance, the school building appears as a large yellowish monolith. But with its yellow brick facade, stone coped parapets, linear bands of windows, decorative cast stone detail, cast granite asymmetric quoins, chamfered corners and distinctive clock tower you will notice many of the art deco (also known as “style moderne”) features: color (yellow), abstract geometric patterns (the checkerboard bands above the auditorium windows), the cast stone ornamentation. Gothic intention can be seen in the clock tower with its spire, the fantastic bronze light fixture to the left of the main entrance, the strong verticals created by the brick piers flanking the windows.



*Detail from the original blueprint*



*Detail from the original blueprint*

Planned for the cast stone element above the primary entrance an owl, an open book with crossed quills and an hourglass.

The owl represents wisdom, intellect and scholarly pursuits; its ability to see in darkness signifies enlightened minds capacity to navigate through ignorance and uncover truth.

The open book is a universal symbol of learning, it represents the flow of information and is viewed as an invitation to explore the written word.

The quills are symbolic of the transfer of ideas, thoughts and discoveries across generations; the importance of documenting and sharing knowledge embodying the idea that education is a lifelong journey. This symbol encourages individuals to engage with the wealth of knowledge available to them.



*Detail from the original blueprint*

The hourglass - The top of the hourglass represents unlimited potential. While full with life's sand anything and everything seems possible. The future is brightest when we start with the broadest learning. No limits. No boundaries. Zen Buddhism teaches us the important concept of beginner's mind, approaching everything with an attitude of openness, eagerness, and lack of preconceptions.

## The Architect

Robert R. Graham, was nationally known as a school architect. Mr. Graham is known to have designed more than forty buildings in New York State. He was the architect for our Maple Avenue School in Chester and its "sister" Twin Towers School in Middletown. Other schools he designed are: Richmondville, Cincinnatus, Hancock, Tupper Lake, Downsville, Newfield, Roscoe, Dundee, Naples, Montpelier VT., Goshen, Tannersville, and Southfields. One of his outstanding projects is the Franklin Delano Roosevelt High School in Hyde Park which drew warm praise from President Roosevelt who he worked with on the project.

In 1940, the National Advisory Council on School building problems named Mr. Graham one of the ten best architects in the school field in the nation.

Mr. Graham was born in Tarrytown, NY July 27, 1891. The family moved to Ellenville before 1910 (his father was employed at the reformatory). He graduated from Ellenville High School and subsequently from Syracuse University with a B.A. degree in 1914. He studied advanced design at Atelier Corbett in New York. After his graduation from Syracuse, Mr. Graham was with the State Architect's Office in Albany as a draftsman for a year (1914-1915); then identified with Ernest Flagg, architect of New York City, followed by association with John Russell Pope, architect, also of New York City. In 1917, he enlisted with the U.S. Naval Militia and served on

the USS San Diego from the autumn of 1917 until July 19, 1918 when the vessel was sunk by a German U-boat off of the coast of Fire Island. After four hours in the water he was rescued. He then attended the fifth officer's Reserve class at the Naval Academy until the end of the war. He was an ensign in the Naval Reserve. Since 1919, Mr. Graham followed his profession as an architect in Middletown, NY specializing in the construction of school buildings.

He was married in Ellenville July 6, 1918 to Greta Rapp, high school teacher and daughter of a long established and reputable Ellenville grocer. Their son, Alfred Rapp Graham

was born in February of 1927. The family vacationed each summer at Blue Mountain Lake in the Adirondacks. In 1929 Graham bought "the Tuscarora" a retired seventy-five foot, double-decked steamboat. Beached on the northeastern shore, it was renovated by the prominent architect to be his summer home. It was used for many years by four generations of the Graham family.



*Twin Towers School, Middletown, NY*







Robert Graham died on November eighth 1943 at his home at 25 Prospect Avenue in Middletown. He was fifty two years old.

*If anyone has a copy or knows the location of a copy of the Robert Graham pamphlet, or Page 5 of the May 17th 1935 issue of The Chester News, I would really appreciate being permitted to scan those two items.*

### **News from the past from the pages of the *Independent Republican***

Spelling and punctuation are as they appear in the originals. *There were lots of accidents reported, home, horse, auto and train-related. Prices and taxes were low. Photos were appearing in the newspaper, along with the traditional sketches. Sadly, there were Ku Klux Klan activities spanning decades.*

#### **Before 1923**

From the week of 8-28-1873:

An unexpected feature of a church lawn festival at Chester was the discovery of an infant that had been abandoned in the carriage of a prominent citizen. Reprinted in the Aug. 28, 1923 Brief Retrospect column of the *Independent Republican*.

☼ Friday night at 10:30 o'clock, passing motorists to the number of several hundreds stopped at **Scott's Corners** on the Cochection turnpike and watched a large cross burning on a neighboring hillside. No Klansmen were in sight. Reprinted in the Aug. 28, 1923 Brief Retrospect column of the *Independent Republican*.

☼ Mrs. B. R. Conklin was seriously injured at Chester when a runaway team crashed into the rig she was driving. Reprinted in the Brief Retrospect column in the Aug. 28, 1923 issue of the *Independent Republican*.

**From the week of 8-28-1883:** The automobile of Bernard H. Cullen, of Chester, struck the car of Jacob Hause, of Arlington, N.J. and a truck of Sol Ellerin, on East Main street, in Middletown, Friday night. Reprinted in the Aug. 28, 1923 Brief Retrospect column of the *Independent Republican*.

**Both below from the week of 9-4-1893, reprinted in the September 4, 1923 issue of the *Independent Republican*.**

☼ New York newspaper reporters sent 60,000 words by telegraph in reporting the Halliday murder. (1893)

☼ E.H. Harriman was arranging for an excursion to the World's Fair at Chicago via the Erie, at \$15 for round trip, including lodging. (1893)

**From the week of 9-4-1903:** Mrs. Ann E. Van Duzer stood so close to the railroad track at Firthcliffe when a train passed that her skirts were caught on a car step and she was dragged under the wheels and instantly killed. Reprinted in the Brief Retrospect column of the September 4, 1923 issue of the *Independent Republican*.

**From the week of 9-11-1873:** Figures just given out showed that Rysdyk's Hambletonian had yielded the sum of \$267,000 in the stud [fees]. Reprinted in the Brief Retrospect column of the Sept. 11, 1923 issue of the *Independent Republican*.

**From the week of 9-11-1903,** Reprinted in the Sept. 11, 1923 Brief Retrospect column of the *Independent Republican*.

☼ An item announced that there were as many as 50,000 automobiles in use in this country and the number was increasing at the rate of 1,500 a month. Reprinted in the Brief Retrospect column of the September 11, 1923 issue of the *Independent Republican*.

☼ The school tax rate for district No. 1, town of Chester was \$13.25 per \$1,000.

## During 1923:

- ☼ **Klan after Saloon Keepers.** Residents of Highland were given a thrill early Friday morning, when a party of about 20 white hooded and white robed figures, in approved Ku Klux Klan style, tried to throw a scare into the proprietor of an ex-saloon in the village. A party of civilians assisted in the ceremonies. It is said that the disturbance started at midnight continuing until 2 o'clock in the morning. From the Aug. 28, 1923 issue of the *Independent Republican*.
- ☼ **Baggage Truck Hit by Train.** A baggage truck was struck by the Middletown Flyer express at Greycourt station, Monday morning, but luckily no one was injured, baggage master Frank Edwards jumping to safety when he saw the approaching train. From the Sept. 4, 1923 issue of the *Independent Republican*.

**An article in the September 11, 1923 issue predicted the future of air travel:**

**Air Commuting in Ten Years.** Experts Predict Development like Autos, 1905-1915.

**People can Live Anywhere.** Airplanes will be used for business and pleasure in the United States within the next ten years on a scale commensurate with the extension of automobile traffic between 1905 and 1915, it is predicted in a statement issued by the Department of Commerce.

Experts of the Bureau of Standards say that people of moderate wealth will find air machines useful for commuting, for business trips and for week-end and vacation trips. Portion of an article in the September 11, 1923 *Independent Republican*.

## The Chester Historical Society

Town and Village of Chester  
47 Main Street

Chester, New York 10918

1915 Erie Station 845-469-2591, Office 845-469-2388 (Tuesdays 10-11:30 am)

email: [chester\\_historical@mac.com](mailto:chester_historical@mac.com), url: [www.ChesterHistoricalSociety.com](http://www.ChesterHistoricalSociety.com)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ChesterHistoricalSociety](http://www.facebook.com/ChesterHistoricalSociety)

The Chester Historical Society's mission is to:

Promote the rich heritage of the Village and Town of Chester, New York through the restoration and preservation of its historical places, documents and recordings of oral history. Provide educational programs for school children, community organizations and all those individuals interested in local folklore and history. Exhibit collections of artifacts, pictures, newspapers and recorded oral histories to the general public.

**Yes, I want to be included as a member of the Chester Historical Society.**

**My new/renewal subscription is enclosed:**

|            |        |                                         |
|------------|--------|-----------------------------------------|
| Student    | \$5    | annually (K-12)                         |
| Individual | 20     | annually                                |
| Family     | 30     | annually                                |
| Associate  | 35     | annually (Not-for-profit or commercial) |
| Life       | 1500   | for life per individual                 |
| Sustaining | 10,000 | or more for life per individual         |



Sugar Loaf Mountain,  
West Face circa 1910

Amount for dues \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Additional gift for historic preservation \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Total** \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Please make check payable to: The Chester Historical Society

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE(S), e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**I would be glad to volunteer my help by:**

- Canvassing for volunteers for our restored Erie Railroad Station.
- Organizing and cataloging materials presently in the Society's collection.
- Providing a program of special interest to our members.
- Storing information in the Society's computer.
- Providing our newsletter editor with articles of local historical interest.
- Researching some of the historic buildings, including the Railroad Station, in the Town and Village of Chester.
- Fund raising toward completion of the restoration of the Railroad Station.
- Acting as Hospitality Guide on weekends at the restored Railroad Station.
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

The Chester Historical Society is a nonprofit organization as qualified under Section 501(c) (3) of the IRS code. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

Printed 3 Wednesday, February 15, 2012

# ***PENNY SOCIAL***



## ***Gather your pennies....***

***It's time for the Chester Historical Society's Annual Penny Social***

**Sunday, October 15, 2023**

**Town of Chester Recreation Center**

**81 Laroe Road, Chester, NY**

**Doors Open 1pm – Calling Starts at 2:30pm**

**Admission \$5 - includes two cards *(additional cards \$2 or 6 for \$5)***

**Great Prizes & Exciting Specials / Refreshments included!**



# *Chester Historical Society*

## *Annual Dinner*



Mark your calendar. This year's dutch-treat dinner takes place on **Monday, November 13th** at **The Rustic Wheelhouse**, 38 Main Street, Chester. Your dinner includes salad and bread, entree, coffee and dessert for \$51 (this includes tax and tip but not any alcoholic drinks). The four choices for entree are: lasagna, chicken marsala, penne a la vodka, or parchment baked salmon. Please mail your choice of entree and your check made payable to the Chester Historical Society by **November 1st** to: Chester Historical Society, 47 Main Street, Chester, NY 10918.



# CHALK IT UP!

**SATURDAY, OCT. 7th, 2023**

**11 AM - 2 PM**

**1915 ERIE STATION MUSEUM**

**NEXT TO THE HERITAGE TRAIL IN CHESTER**

**RAINDATE: SUNDAY, OCT. 8th**

**Join us for a free sidewalk  
chalk drawing festival!**

*Come and  
show your  
creativity  
and Flair!*

 vocaarts

PRESENTED BY



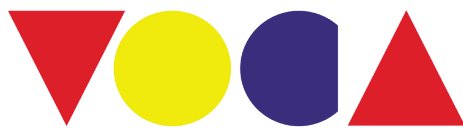
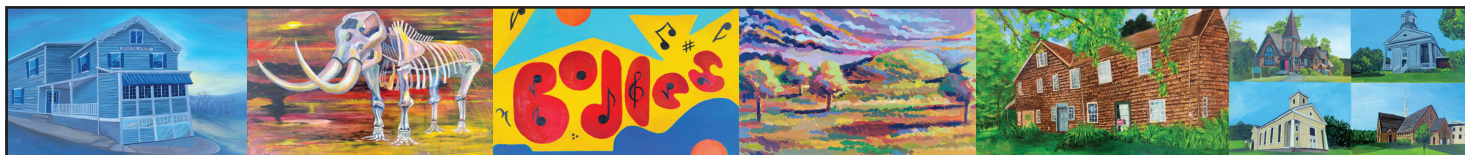
VILLAGE OF CHESTER ARTS

Special thanks to the Chester Historical Society

*All ages  
welcome!  
No supplies  
needed!*

 @vocaarts





VILLAGE OF CHESTER ARTS

and the Chester Historical Society presents

The  
Village  
of

**Chester**

**HUNT FOR ART**

**UNITED!**

Did you miss this summer's exhibit of local artist paintings throughout Downtown Chester, celebrating our rich history? Now is your chance to see all twelve of them, collected in one place for two weeks only at

**THE 1915 ERIE STATION MUSEUM  
19 WINKLER PLACE, CHESTER**

**EXHIBIT: OCT. 14-28**

**COME JOIN US FOR A CLOSING RECEPTION:  
OCT. 28, 10 AM - 2 PM  
FREE REFRESHMENTS**

