

## **The Dutchess County Historical Society Is Looking for Authors**

Roger Donway, Director of Publications

“No one but a blockhead ever wrote, except for money.” So said Samuel Johnson. It is not literally true, of course. But having been a freelance author for the last forty-years I believe that it expresses a healthy sentiment.

Therefore, as the new director of publications for the Dutchess County Historical Society (DCHS), I have decided to offer an all-too-modest honorarium of \$250 to authors of full-length (2500+-word) articles that are accepted for publication in DCHS’s yearbook. Authors of shorter articles and book reviews will receive proportionately smaller honoraria, with amounts calculated by article length and authorial effort.

### **What I Am Seeking**

Accepted articles will focus on some significant person, event, or aspect of Dutchess County history but will not focus on information generally familiar to citizens of Dutchess County. Authors should especially avoid material that focuses largely on the last half-century, for I doubt that we can have a sufficient perspective on that period to understand it as history.

Accepted articles will be enjoyable, engaging, entrancing, or intriguing, and to that end authors should remember the journalistic adage that “people are interested in people.” Articles should be written at a level that is accessible to the generally educated reader but should nevertheless be documented thoroughly. Preference will be given to essays that make effective use of primary-source material, and authors who identify effective graphic material for their essays will enjoy an edge over those who do not. Articles that repeat material previously published in the DCHS yearbook will have a lesser chance of acceptance than those that do not, and essays that repeat material recently published in our yearbooks will have little chance of being accepted. Authors who wish to examine previous DCHS yearbooks or the yearbooks’ index should call 845-471-1630 to schedule an appointment to visit Clinton House, 549 Main St., Poughkeepsie.

In addition to articles and book reviews, I am also seeking material for a new Documentation section. Oral history (which is exempt from the fifty-year ban) would fit in here; so would historically important documents for which the author provides an introduction and annotation. In addition, I am, in principle, open to accepting other genres that effectively convey historical truth: poems, short stories, or photographic essays.

### **Submissions and Queries**

An author who wishes to publish an article in the DCHS yearbook should write to me at [dchseditor@hotmail.com](mailto:dchseditor@hotmail.com) for a style sheet. An author who wishes to query me about his idea for an article should send me a statement of the topic and theme that he intends pursue, an outline of the proposed article, and a proposed title and first paragraph. If I believe that the proposed article is worth pursuing, I shall send a reply with my suggestions, although with no commitment to publish the final product.

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