

Main Identity

From: "Brian G. McAdoo" <brmccadoo@vassar.edu>
To: <winddrifter@earthlink.net>
Sent: Sunday, December 18, 2005 1:30 PM
Subject: Ginny Buechele

Devon Foley
Box 306
Hughsonville, NY 12537

Dear Ms. Foley:

Please allow me to give my unqualified support for Virginia (Ginny) Buechele, who has been nominated to receive the Mahwenawasigh Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution's Historic Preservation Medal. As you well know, Ginny redefines the term "tireless advocate" for things forgotten that should not be. I think that by awarding this honor to Ginny, you just might be raising the bar a bit too high, making it difficult for others to follow!

I had the pleasure of working with Ginny on the Brier Hill Cemetery at the site of the former Dutchess County Poorhouse. Ginny had been researching the history of some of the inmates, and when discovered that I was looking for a site to teach my Vassar College applied geophysics class, she latched on and would not let me go until I agreed to survey this cemetery. (Every other year, this class surveys a different abandoned cemetery. Ginny learned of our efforts after completing a survey of the Ulster County Poorhouse cemetery two years earlier.) Every week, she braved the elements to help the students with their work- be it clearing brambles or poison ivy, setting up the equipment, or even once, bringing pizzas to the site after a particularly long day! She was absolutely invaluable in leading the historical research side of the project- something that I am not skilled in and that Ginny knows inside and out. Without her, we simply would not have been able to complete the project. In the end, we discovered evidence of over 800 graves that had been forgotten, including the grave of one Robert Schofield, an African American Civil War veteran who was denied proper burial in a Veteran's cemetery because of the color

12/18/2005

of his skin.

Again, I think you will be quite lucky to find an advocate for the preservation of local history than Ginny Buechele. She is charming, intelligent, tireless and driven. Because of her efforts, and the efforts of others of her ilk, the Hudson Valley is a much richer place.

If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Brian G. McAdoo

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Dutchess County Historical Society

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December 14, 2005

Ms. Devon Foley, Assistant Registrar
Mahwenawasigh Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution
Box 306
Hughesonville, NY 12537

Dear Ms. Foley:

Your Chapter's plan to honor Virginia Buechele for her work in the field of history is to be commended. Ms. Buechele has devoted considerable time, effort and dedication to a broad area of preservation work in Dutchess County. She brought to public attention the threat to the Fort Homestead by developers in the Town of Poughkeepsie and created a body of research on the house and cemetery to back up her claim on the importance of the two pre-Revolution sites. The Poughkeepsie Town Board has designated Landmark status for the Fort Homestead. Ms. Buechele's work was instrumental.

Buechele has worked with Vassar College Professor Brian McAdoo to uncover the location of the graves in the cemetery of the Dutchess County Infirmary and has been involved in its restoration. This cemetery had been neglected, overgrown and the graves unmarked by name, only numbers. Using ground penetrating radar, graves were located and plotted.

Ms. Buechele has utilized her skills as a genealogist to provide support for her research. It is for these reasons that Dutchess County Historical Society presented her with the Helen Wilkinson Reynolds Award in 2004.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Eileen M. Hayden', is written over the typed name.

Eileen M. Hayden, Executive Director