

Skene Manor Newsletter

Whitehall Skene Manor Preservation, Inc.

8 Potters Terrace, Whitehall, NY 12887

Skene Manor is open every Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 12pm - 4pm. We look forward to your visit. Have lunch, go on a free tour, visit the Gift Shop and enjoy the spectacular view of historic Whitehall, N.Y.

Castle Cryer

Autumn 2016

Dear Friends and Supporters,

During the summer, I happened to be at Skene Manor to assist in giving a tour to a group who had arranged a special luncheon. The atmosphere inside was bright and cheerful, but outside it was overcast and threatening rain which began to pour down just after the visitors moved toward their automobiles.

As the water cascaded from the roof, I decided to check the windows in the second floor library/guest room because there had been reports that leaks were becoming more than serious in that area. Clearly, the rain water was not being channeled in the right direction. Instead of being carried away by gutters and downspouts, it was running over the edge of the roof and turning back to run down the walls and the window frames. Aha!, I said to myself, no wonder the windows have been rotting away.

Thankfully, work has begun to replace those windows. However, we cannot take advantage of those television advertisements for a whole house of windows for under \$200 each! The new windows for Skene Manor, in addition to being decidedly not standard size, must be custom made and approved by the experts who govern our landmark status. Of course, challenging as it is, the restoration of Judge Potter's house to its 1874 magnificence is our main objective. Each of the replacement windows for the upstairs library will cost about \$4,000. A staggering sum, we know, especially when we consider other windows which may need the same attention. Additionally, we hope to begin replacing the aluminum storm windows with the wooden ones that were originally on the house. These will cost about \$1,500 each. Of course, work to repair the elaborate gutter system has also begun so that we can avoid having the same problem again. You may have noticed the big orange platform lift moving around the house. These structural repairs tax our capital reserves greatly.

We are always investigating foundation and government grants for historic and architectural restoration. We have been fortunate in the past to have received some wonderful gifts. However, we also need to show that we are able to attract donations for our work from individuals as well. So we are asking that you consider a donation toward our restoration work. As you know every dollar donated and every bit of profit from the activities at Skene Manor is used for the maintenance and restoration of this great house.

The all-volunteer effort to Save Our Skene has come so far and done such beautiful work in the last 21 years. While continuing that work, we need to assure that what is done will last as long as the original work that Judge Potter commissioned for his castle on the hill. Please join us.

Sincerely,

Richard F. Brewer, President

***Plan ahead now for next year!
Skene Manor is a unique and
beautiful place to host your next
Special event, Anniversary or Class
Reunion!***

***Please call 499-1906 for more
information.***

ON THE WEB

You can also visit Skene Manor on the web at
www.skenemanor.org
and let us know if you would like to receive the
newsletter electronically
or visit us and like us on Facebook.

