

Museum Matters

2009 UPDATE OF ACTIVITIES AT THE PEEKSKILL MUSEUM

Re-Dedication

On March 17th, over 50 of our loyal members braved the chilly weather to gather on our back lawn to help celebrate the re-dedication of the freshly restored Herrick House. Vice President Cal Schlick reviewed the details of the three year project and gave well deserved recognition to all those who helped us navigate the unfamiliar waters of Grant administration and historic restoration. John Beers, our prime contractor on the project, was on hand to explain the various stages of the complex job and point out the minute details that were addressed to preserve the authenticity of the historic building. With proper care, the Herrick House could well survive to witness the turn of the next century.



Chauncey M. Depew

Chauncey is one of Peekskill's most distinguished sons. Born on Main Street in 1834, he graduated from the Peekskill Academy in 1852 and went on to receive a law degree from Yale. His career included: NY State Assemblyman and Secretary of State, Two term U.S. Senator and President and Chairman of the New York Central railroad from 1885 to 1928. He greeted President elect Lincoln when he stopped in Peekskill in 1861 and is credited with swinging a majority of NY state votes for Lincoln's re-election. He was the principal speaker at the dedication of the Statue of Liberty in 1886 as well as the opening of the Chicago World's Fair among other significant events. He was early to recognize the value of science and technology to the future of the United States and many of his speeches are as relevant today as they were over 100 years ago. We are currently displaying our collection of Depew memorabilia as well as a number of portraits and photographs from his lifetime. You are encouraged to visit the museum to learn more about this dynamic Peekskill citizen.

The Wizard of Oz

L. Frank Baum attended the Peekskill Military Academy for two uncomfortable years, 1868-70. He was an impressionable, fragile young man and did not fit into the harsh, structured life of the Academy. His father withdrew him from the school and he received no further formal education during his lifetime. He did, however, take with him some vivid memories of Peekskill. One of these is the "yellow brick road" that greeted him when he first set foot in town. We will be conducting a Wizard of Oz show on September 12-13. Evan Schwartz, the author of a new book on Baum will hold a book signing at the museum. Look for more details of the event as we develop the program.

