

**HOPEWELL VALLEY HISTORY AWARDS**  
**Eligibility Criteria and Guidelines for Nominations**  
(Approved by HVHS Board 13 April 2021)

The Hopewell Valley History Awards program is established to recognize publicly the important and varied contributions of individuals, groups and organizations, and businesses to preserving the history of the Hopewell Valley community, making it more accessible to the public, and promoting its greater public appreciation. The following criteria and guidelines are intended to help in matching potential nominees to the right award category, and to distinguish differences between the categories.

The HVHS History Awards Committee will produce an award nomination form which shall be completed for each potential nominee and submitted to the Committee for review and selection. HVHS anticipates that there will be an annual cycle for awards nomination, selection, and public presentation beginning in 2021. The schedule for the annual awards cycle will be announced by the HVHS in its web site, published in its Newsletter, and disseminated widely to the community through local news media, and to other groups and organizations in Hopewell Valley who share an interest in heritage.

The HVHS History Awards Committee acknowledges with sincere gratitude the support and many contributions of HVHS board members as well as the board of the Hopewell Museum in developing and launching the History Awards program.

**Distinguished Service Award**

- **Distinguished Service Award to HVHS (and/or HM), one annual award recognizing lifetime or long (10+ years) service internally to one or both history organizations by members, officers, etc.**  
**The award shall be named in honor of David Blackwell.**

**Eligibility criteria—**

- a. Ten (10) or more years' cumulative service directly to HVHS and/or HM and/or other local history organizations in support of HVHS's mission and program.
- b. "Distinguished" service implies that a nominee's contributions have been exceptional, with notable achievements or contributions that have had a widely recognized, clear, positive impact in advancing the public mission, programs and projects of HVHS, and/or improving HVHS's internal operations (such as outstanding service as a board member, officer, committee chair, or appointee).
- c. Service to HVHS in a non-elected or non-appointed position may also be considered in determining eligibility for DSA.
- d. Nominees shall have been members of HVHS in good standing during the period in which their direct service occurred.
- e. Financial support for HVHS or donations to its collections alone (e.g., charitable giving, bequests, gifts of collections, etc.)—without having done direct, personal service in support of the Society's mission, programs and projects—will not qualify a person for DSA nomination. Significant financial contributions or donation of collections to the Society may be considered in determining eligibility for nomination, provided other

- forms of outstanding direct service have been performed. See Outstanding Support for Hopewell Valley History Award (OSHVHA) below.
- f. Nominations should enumerate and clearly describe in writing a nominee’s exceptional service contributions.
  - g. DSA may be given jointly to two or more persons who have worked very closely together in providing service to HVHS in advancing its mission and programs.
  - h. It is anticipated that only one (1) DSA will be granted in any given year. If the Awards Nomination/Selection Committee feels that there are two or more equally deserving nominees, they should give weight to such urgent factors such as the age and relative health of the nominees in deciding which to honor in the current cycle. Deserving nominees who are passed over for such reason in the current cycle may be carried over for consideration in future years. It is also conceivable that there may be no (0) DSA recipient in a given annual awards cycle if no one is considered deserving in that cycle.
  - i. Nominees may be living or deceased.
  - j. All references to HVHS in the above criteria should be understood to mean HVHS and/or HM and/or other local history organizations.

## **Award for Service**

- **Award for Service to Hopewell Valley History to HVHS (and/or HM), one or more annual awards recognizing outstanding achievements or shorter-term service internally to one or both history organizations by members, officers, etc.**  
**The award shall be named in honor of Betsy Errickson or Phyllis D’Autrechy.**

### **Eligibility criteria—**

- a. Less than ten (10) years’ cumulative service directly to HVHS and/or HM and/or other local history organizations in support of HVHS’s mission and program. AFS nominees may be considered eligible for a single outstanding service achievement or contribution, or for multiple ones considered cumulatively.
- b. “Service” implies that a nominee’s contributions have been outstanding, with achievements or contributions that have had a recognized, clear, positive impact in advancing the public mission, programs and projects of HVHS, and/or improving HVHS’s internal operations (such as outstanding service as a board member, officer, committee chair, or appointee).
- c. Service to HVHS in a non-elected or non-appointed position may also be considered in determining eligibility for AFS.
- d. Nominees shall have been members of HVHS in good standing during the period in which their direct service occurred.
- e. Financial support for HVHS or donations to its collections alone (e.g., charitable giving, bequests, gifts of collections, etc.)—without having done direct, personal service in support of the Society’s mission, programs and projects—will not qualify a person for AFS nomination. Significant financial contributions or donation of collections to the Society may be considered in determining eligibility for nomination, provided other forms of outstanding direct service have been performed. See Outstanding Support for Hopewell Valley History Award (OSHVHA) below.
- f. Nominations should enumerate and clearly describe in writing a nominee’s outstanding service contribution(s).

- g. It is anticipated that there may be multiple AFS recipients in any given year; there will be no limit on the number of nominees considered or awards given. It is also conceivable that there may be no (0) AFS recipients in a given annual awards cycle, if no one is considered deserving in that cycle.
- h. Nominees may be living or deceased.
- i. All references to HVHS in the above criteria should be understood to mean HVHS and/or HM and/or other local history organizations.

## **Outstanding Support for Hopewell Valley History Award**

- **Outstanding Support/Advocacy to/for Hopewell Valley History Award, one or more annual awards recognizing service both internally and externally; e.g., local politicians, businesses, partner and allied organizations, spotlighting:**
  - **public policy and budgeting decisions and actions advancing the cause of Hopewell Valley history by elected and appointed officials and boards, commissions in county and local government**
  - **local businesses that provide financial or in-kind services in support of local history programs and projects (e.g., Hopewell Valley Heritage Weekend)**
  - **successful programs and projects involving partnerships and/or alliances with other local historical or non-history organizations (e.g., Howell Living History Farm, Stoutsburg Sourland African American Museum (SSAAM), FoHVOS, Watershed Institute, HV Arts Council, Washington Crossing Park Association, etc.)**
  - **major donors to the collections of HVHS and/or HM**

**The award shall be named in honor of Caroline and Donald Woodward (both former mayors of Hopewell Township who were early supporters of HVHS and local history).**

### **Eligibility criteria—**

Nominees for the Outstanding Support for Hopewell Valley History Award (OSHVHA) shall meet one (1) or more of the following criteria:

- a. Public actions, policy and/or budgetary decisions, and demonstrations of support and/or advocacy for the cause of preserving, promoting, supporting, and making more accessible the history of the community. Such demonstrations may be directly in support of the mission and programs of HVHS, but do not need to be. For example, a public official, business owner, or allied organization that actively supports an effort or undertaking that advances history preservation, access, and appreciation in ways that align with the general mission and programs of HVHS—even if done independently—should be eligible for nomination. History-supportive actions and decisions by members of New Jersey’s congressional delegation, state legislators, members of the Mercer County Board of Commissioners, and members of the Mercer County Cultural & Heritage Commission would qualify.
- b. Sponsorship of history programs and projects financially and/or through in-kind services. Sponsorship may be for HVHS programs and projects directly, but need not be, provided the sponsorship is public and quantifiable.
- c. Active participation in partnership and alliances that advances history preservation, access, and appreciation, even if done under a broader umbrella of programs or project

- to benefit the community, such as preserving and protecting the environment, promoting cultural and arts appreciation, improving civic engagement, etc.
- d. Major support to HVHS and/or HM through donation of funds, collections, or in-kind services.
  - e. Eligibility of nominees shall not depend on being past or current members of HVHS, although membership may be a factor considered in evaluating potential nominees.
  - f. Eligibility of nominees shall not depend on being resident or based in the Hopewell area.
  - g. Nominations should enumerate and clearly describe in writing examples of a nominee's activities in support of Hopewell Valley history.
  - h. Nominees may be living or deceased.
  - i. There may be no (0) OSHVHA recipient in a given annual awards cycle, if no one is considered deserving in that cycle.

## **Student of Hopewell History Award**

- **Student of Hopewell Valley History Award, (in addition to, or incorporated with existing HVCHS Scholarship Awards) one or more annual awards recognizing student research, writing, service projects, or artistic expressions and endeavors involving Hopewell Valley history, recognizing:**
  - **high school students (e.g., encompassing existing Scholarship Awards)**
  - **college students**
  - **graduate students**
  - **a history project by an Eagle Scout (Scouts BSA), Gold Award (Girl Scout), or other youth development program**

### **Eligibility criteria—**

Nominees for the Student of Hopewell Valley History Awards (SHVHA) shall meet one (1) or more of the following criteria:

- a. Performed research and/or writing (published or unpublished) focused significantly on the history of the Hopewell Valley area within the context of formal school, college, or university studies.
  - Nominations would require supporting letters of endorsement from the students' teachers or professors
- b. Performed a project advancing preservation, access, or public appreciation of historical collections, properties, or sites involving Hopewell Valley history. May include:
  - internship with HVHS, and/or HM, and/or another area organization/group whose collections or mission encompass Hopewell Valley history in a significant way
  - archival preservation, arrangement, and description projects
  - photographic or video documentation projects
  - architectural projects
  - oral history projects
  - genealogical projects
  - historic property or site clean-up or interpretive projects
  - community projects primarily focused on local history

Nominations would require supporting letters of endorsement from the students' organizational leader (e.g., faculty, teacher, scoutmaster, 4-H club leader, local official, etc.)

- c. Hopewell Valley history-themed artistic expressions and endeavors (visual, musical, or performing arts).
  - o Nominations would require supporting letters of endorsement from the students' organizational leader (e.g., faculty, teacher, scoutmaster, 4-H club leader, local official, etc.)
- d. Nominees may be, but need not be members of HVHS.
- e. There may be no (0) SHVHA recipient in a given annual awards cycle, if no one is considered deserving in that cycle.

## **Public History Award**

- **Public History Award, one or more annual awards recognizing anyone who contributes significantly to advancing public knowledge and appreciation for Hopewell Valley history, including:**
  - o **public presentations and programs**
  - o **teaching in local schools**
  - o **archaeology**
  - o **genealogy**
  - o **architectural history**
  - o **oral history**
  - o **material culture**
  - o **published books and articles**
  - o **advancing government policies and funding to preserve and promote public history**

**The award shall be named in honor of William L. Kidder.**

### **Eligibility criteria—**

Nominees for the Public History Awards (PHA) shall meet one (1) or more of the following criteria:

- a. Performed research and/or writing (usually published) focused significantly on the history of the Hopewell Valley area, outside the context of formal school, college, or university studies. For the purposes of this award category, research, writing, editing, publishing, and presenting on archaeology, historic preservation, architectural history, oral history, material culture, and genealogy are included.
- b. Presented public lectures, power points, seminars, talks, tours, and workshops, etc. focused significantly on the history of the Hopewell Valley area. Presentations may be live (in-person or virtual) or recorded (e.g., YouTube, podcasts, etc.). Such presentations may be for scheduled programs of HVHS, as well as teaching classes and leading tours for groups in local schools, libraries, community or senior centers, scouting groups, 4-H clubs, etc.
- c. Provided curatorial and/or interpretive services in museums, libraries, and historic sites focused significantly on the history of the Hopewell Valley area
- d. Developed and maintained web sites or content for web sites focused significantly on the history of the Hopewell Valley area.
- e. Advocated for public policies and funding for preserving local history and promoting public appreciation therefor.
- f. Nominees may be, but need not be members of HVHS.

- g. Nominees may be living or deceased.
- h. There may be no (0) PHA recipient in a given annual awards cycle, if no one is considered deserving in that cycle.

## **Historic Preservation Award**

- **Historic Preservation Award, recognizing a residential or commercial property owner (possibly one in each of the three municipalities) who has done distinguished work in preserving a historic structure or archaeological resource on—or eligible for listing on—the National Register, or a local register of historic places.**
  - **Partner with the historic preservation commissions in each municipality to select worthy nominees**

### **Eligibility criteria—**

Nominees for the Historic Preservation Award (HPA) shall meet one (1) or more of the following criteria:

- a. These criteria shall be developed during the coming year in consultation with representatives of the historic preservation commissions in three local municipalities.
- b. There may be no (0) HPA recipient in a given annual awards cycle, if no one is considered deserving in that cycle.