

Connie Clapp

Pillar Gala Remarks - October 21, 2008

Every time you read a book, you hope that it will stir powerful emotions, stretch your imagination, and fill a treasure chest of enlightened information.

Throughout our state there are houses, buildings, farms and landscapes that have truly evocative stories. These stories contain a history of families, religions, political movements, and knowledge that we have accumulated over many generations.

These stories link us to the past and create a bridge to our future.

For example, the Story of Millbrook goes back to the native Americans who lived there, 1697 and a land grant from King William III, the revolutionary war, the underground railroad, a railroad from New York City, great estates, and the descendants of immigrant workers. Millbrook is alive with these stories, and it is important for us to continue to protect them.

Of course, the Preservation League is not the only organization who has worked to make historic preservation a priority, but it is the only statewide historic preservation organization that has the tools, such as Seven to Save and the Preservation Colleagues program to lend a voice to these timeless, important stories.

Since 1974 the League has accomplished much. Unfortunately, due to limited resources, difficult decisions will have to be made and some of the properties will be forever silenced.

However, with your help, much of the historically significant architecture and many scenic landscapes that grace our state will continue to tell their stories for generations to come.

We invite you to look for the stories, and listen to the endless history that echoes throughout our state. Our hope is that they will inspire you to bless the League with your generosity, to contribute your time and your skills, so we can be the strongest advocates for our common heritage.

David and I thank you very much for this honor.