



**Ravena Coeymans Historical Society  
15 Mountain Road  
PO Box 324  
Ravena, New York 12143**

In 1998 local residents Bob Wade and Tony Lento spoke about the rich history of the Town of Coeymans. It was after that conversation that Bob reached out to some members of the community who had expressed a desire to establish a society for the preservation of artifacts and ephemera. On 8 July 1998, at the Village of Ravena offices, Bob Wade chaired an initial meeting with a number of community members: Present at that meeting were Suzanne Celella, Mary Driscoll, Edna Falkner Kniffen, Anthony Lento, Mary McCabe, Laszlo Polyak, Bonnie Ruso, Marie Sturges and Dennis Whalen.

What followed that initial meeting was the organization of what we know today as the Ravena Coeymans Historical Society. That early group obtained nonprofit status, wrote a constitution and by-laws, filed a charter with New York State Education Department. A certificate of incorporation was filed on the 19<sup>th</sup> of January 1999. The first board of Trustees were Harry A. Sturges, Anthony Lento, Dennis P. Whalen, Bonnie Ruso, Mary C. Driscoll, Mary McCabe and Mary Farinelli. The society was granted its provisional charter in 1998 and received its absolute charter from the State of New York Education Department on July 28, 2008. The Village of Ravena provided three former classrooms on the second floor of the Ravena Municipal Building (the former Ravena High School) which, became home to the Historical Society Museum from 1998 until 2017.

In January of 2017 the Ravena Village Board voted to approve the relocation of the Ravena Coeymans Historical Society Museum to the former auditorium located in the rear of the building on the ground floor. On March 11, 2017 a group of volunteers assisted and the societies holding were moved to the new space. After many months of work the space was transformed into the new museum and offices and a grand opening was held in December of 2017.