

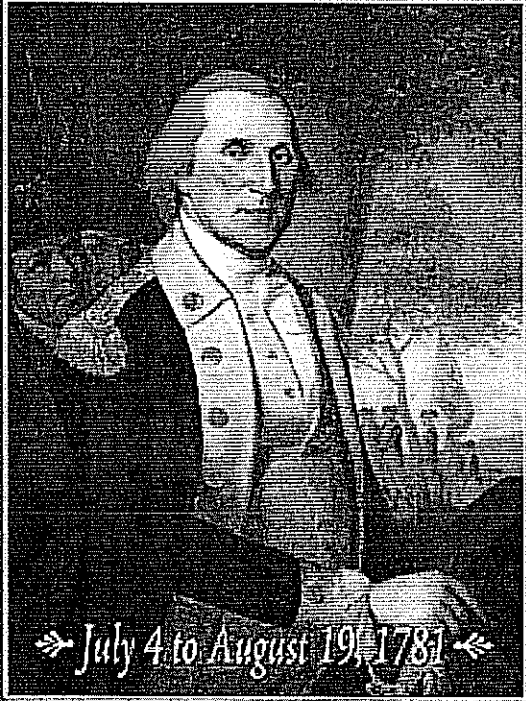
THE FERRYMAN

DOBBS FERRY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



We are honored to announce:
GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON
Has Arrived in Dobbs Ferry!

George Washington
at "Head Quarters, Dobbs Ferry"



July 4 to August 19, 1781

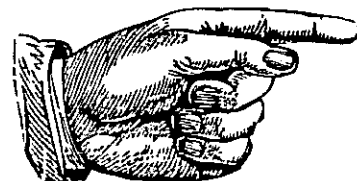
Mary Sudman Donovan
Author of *Well the Day Breaks Year* and *A Different Call*
Original drawings by Larry Blizard

A new book written by
local resident and historian
DR. MARY SUDMAN DONOVAN

with original drawings by
Larry Blizard,

which chronicles the historic
events of the Summer of 1781
in Dobbs Ferry.

Please turn the page to
discover more about the
release of this
exciting publication...



GEORGE WASHINGTON AT "HEAD QUARTERS, DOBBS FERRY" JULY 4 TO AUGUST 19, 1781

George Washington at "Head Quarters, Dobbs Ferry": July 4 to August 19, 1781 is the title of a new book, just published by iUniverse, Inc. Written by Historical Society president Mary S. Donovan with original line drawings by board member Larry Blizard, the book is an account of the time that George Washington's Continental Army troops and the allied French forces under the command of the Comte de Rochambeau spent at the Philipsburg Encampment.

While tents for the troops and officers were spread over a large area, encompassing parts of present day Ardsley, Dobbs Ferry, Hartsdale, Irvington, and White Plains, most of the correspondence that went out from General Washington's Head Quarters was headed "Head Quarters, Dobbs Ferry" or "Head Quarters, near Dobbs Ferry", probably because the ferry was the most easily recognized geographical location at the time. So Dobbs Ferry residents can certainly claim this encampment as an important part of their historical heritage.

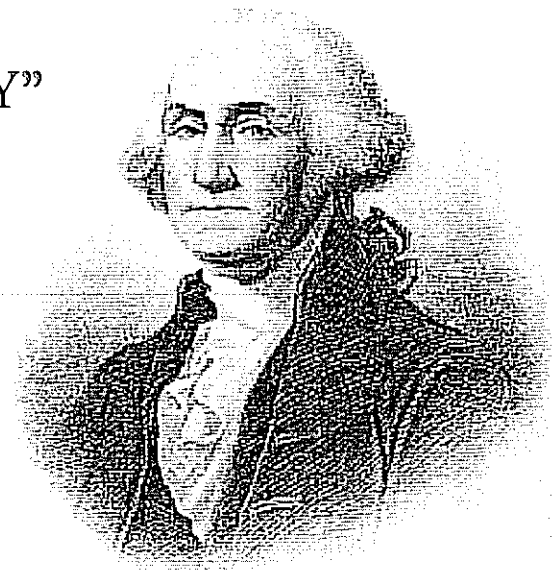
Though most recent Washington biographies include very little information about the period the army was encamped here, it was probably the crucial turning point of the war. For the first time, American and French forces camped together and began to establish means of communicating with each other. The two generals, Washington and Rochambeau, jointly scouted the British defenses on York Island [Manhattan] and laid plans for possible means of attacking the enemy there. And finally, the critical decision to confront the British, not in New York but rather in Virginia where Lafayette was already battling the British General Cornwallis, was made at "Head Quarters, Dobbs Ferry." On August 19th, 1781, Continental Army troops marched from Dobbs Ferry to cross the Hudson River

at a more northern point and then moved south on the western shore to Yorktown, Virginia.

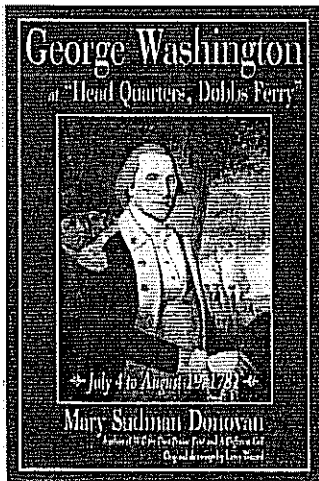
Just two months later, on October 19, Lord Cornwallis surrendered his army to George Washington in Yorktown, Virginia. Though peace negotiations would continue for over a year, the war was essentially won.

Dr. Donovan has reconstructed the day-to-day activities using the letters, orders and diaries of General Washington and diaries of other officers, particularly several of the French officers who were visiting the area for the first time and had newcomer's eyes for the differences between the France they had left and the American territory they were encountering. With the difficult task of drawing groups of soldiers busy at various tasks, Larry Blizard studied museum models of Revolutionary War military equipment and dress to convey accurate visual images of an army at work. Historic portraits and lithographs of many of the officers who served with Washington in this area are also included, along with copies of maps drawn by the French cartographers who accompanied Rochambeau.

By ordering your book today from the Dobbs Ferry Historical Society, you are also contributing to the Mead House Preservation Fund.



I CAN'T WAIT TO READ ALL ABOUT GEORGE IN DOBBS FERRY! Please ship my book(s) to:



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ADDRESS.....
PHONE:

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12 Elm Street Dobbs Ferry , NY 10522 Web: www.dfhistory.org
Phone (914)-674-1007

HOW GABY GRUNEBAUM, AT AGE 91, REACHED BACK THROUGH THE CENTURIES TO HER COMPATRIOT, PRIVATE GEORG DANIEL FLOHR

If you've been reading the Revolutionary War diary of mercenary soldier Private Flohr in *The Ferryman*, you may have wondered about the translator, board member Gabriele "Gaby" Grunebaum.

Gaby and Private Flohr both were German, of course, but how their mother tongue had evolved through the centuries is a story in itself.

Our story began when the Historical Society President, Bill Blank, learned that this diary was available, but not in English. Since Bill knew I spoke German, he asked me to translate it. We knew the original manuscript was in the Strasbourg Library in France—in the part of Europe that is sometimes German, sometimes French. I telephoned the library speaking French, and explained our interest in the manuscript. I was told we could buy a microfilm copy for \$80.00. Fair enough, I thought. Until – until—I saw the handwritten script! As we printed out each page of the scrawled, stained and often torn pages of the diary in the tight old-fashioned script, it became clear that a translation was well beyond my contemporary German.

The pages were hand written in a tight scrawl in the script and language of the 18th Century. There were blotches from rain stains, tears, broken sentences and factual mistakes. But the charm was there! Along with the text were wonderful drawings of the ships and wagons and soldiers he saw during his travels.

By great good luck I had met Gaby Grunebaum, who lived up on Clinton Avenue --a fairly recent newcomer to Dobbs Ferry--whose age and history made me think she might be able to decode this early German script. Gaby and I had a great deal in common, although we were a generation apart. We both had lived in Germany, England, Canada and Dobbs Ferry; and we loved skiing and walking the Aqueduct trail. We both enjoyed European literature and theater and the opera. At the age of 91, Gaby was still skiing-- both downhill and x-country. So I estimated that she would have the courage to tackle a project as difficult as a downhill run in Switzerland.

She was a scholar as well as a sportswoman with a law degree from the University of Berlin. Since she had been a student there in the late 1920's, I estimated that her text books would have been printed in old German script.

But, of course, a printed text book is one thing--a handwritten scrawled script written in physically uncomfortable circumstances and carried through a war is something else.

I invited Gaby to come to the Society and look at the pages we had already printed. She and I went over some of the paragraphs, often with a magnifying glass, and to our delight Gaby said she could do it--but it would be a big job on her old Underwood typewriter. I was amazed at her courage in tackling the job.

Every few days Gaby and I went through the work she had done. Often her style in English seemed awkward to me and I wanted to make small changes. But Gaby insisted that since Private Flohr's style was rudimentary in German, the same style would be used in English. It worried me that readers might not understand the reason for this and would think it was poorly expressed English. Since Gaby had not only a German law degree but also an American Master's degree in Sociology, I knew her English was flawless.

At this point, we enlisted board member, Hank Walter, a professional journalist, Hank was able to smooth out some of the wording to make the text clearer for American readers. All three of us were charmed with the drawings that Private Flohr included in his diary. The multi-talents of this man were amazing! After the war, he went on to travel the West Indies, returned to France and Germany and ultimately came back to America as a Lutheran minister, settling in Pennsylvania.



By this time Gaby had become an enthusiastic member of the Historical Society. She often said to me, "My years in Dobbs Ferry have been the happiest of my life." When her Scarsdale friends hinted that it was a step down to move to Dobbs Ferry, she leapt to the defense of her new home. "It's the most beautiful place to live," she said, adding that her friendship with me and my family was part of the joy in being here. If there was a beautiful sunset, one of us often called the other to say "Look west for a gorgeous sunset."

It delights me that we have this wonderful example of Gaby's brilliance to enjoy and marvel at. We had both felt such a strong link with this extraordinary German diarist who was in this area during the Revolutionary War. Often while she was working on the text, Gaby would call me to read aloud a passage that she found particularly fascinating. She was determined to finish the translation before she would have to leave Dobbs Ferry. After finishing the manuscript, she moved to a retirement home in Rye, New York. We learned that our wonderful friend Gaby passed away in March of 2004.

BY MAVIS CAIN

"THE SLIPPING BY OF THE YEARS" WORDS FROM 100 YEARS AGO

1909 DOBBS FERRY REGISTER
(VOL. XXXVIII, JANUARY, SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER)



THE HUDSON-FULTON CELEBRATION (9/25 - 10/9/1909)

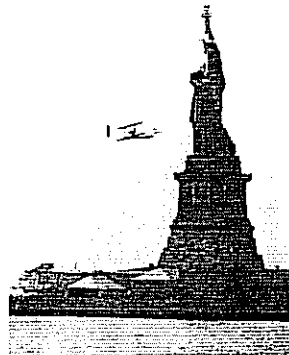
The fall of 1909 was highlighted by the Hudson-Fulton Celebration marking the 300th anniversary of Henry Hudson's 'discovery' of the river which now bears his name, along with the 100th anniversary of Robert Fulton's "successful inauguration by steam navigation upon" this same river.

There were numerous events and festivities that took place throughout the Hudson Valley and in New York City. In every issue leading up to and after the Celebration, the *Dobbs Ferry Register* included planned events and schedules, reports of what happened, as well as articles on the history of the river and the towns bordering it.

....Dobbs Ferry 'did itself proud' on this big anniversary occasion. Beside the parade, there is planned to be held a band concert, an oration by some prominent orator, some athletics and a baseball game by first class players. And then fireworks and bonfires in the evening so that all along the river the people of the state and country passing in the night will know that Dobbs Ferry is on the map and alive to the situation.

The last verse of the Hudson-Fulton Festival Song, sung by the Village's [public high] school, was:

*This is the day,
We homage pay,
To those whose deeds of daring,
To those whose skill
And steadfast will,
Make joy fit for our sharing.
Dobbs Ferry's throng
In happy song,
Join in this celebration.
One found the course,
One used the force,
And honored is our nation.*



In New York City,

...Wilbur Wright has signed a contract with the Hudson-Fulton Celebration Commission to give a series of flights in one of his aeroplanes[sic] during the Hudson-Fulton Celebration which begins this month.

And the Celebration inspired this bit of reverie.

...Not the least of the beneficent effects of the order of nature which causes time to move in cycles, is the powerful influence of the association of ideas which accompanies anniversaries....And anniversaries, eloquent with memories, come to us like ministering spirits of the past to remind, to teach, to admonish and to inspire the present. Thus they recompense us somewhat for the slipping by of the years.

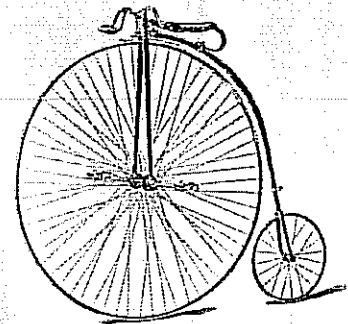
THE MORE THINGS CHANGE, THE MORE THEY STAY THE SAME

In an article quoted from the *Ossining Citizen*:

...Demand For A Clean Press At Last Finds An Able Champion. We have wondered for some time how long it would be before some person of commanding influence and position would take a stand for decency in journalism in this country....Honesty, clean and fearless criticism is right and proper and is feared by no honest man.

Quoted from the *Real Estate Record*, some hope.

....There has been very little activity in any branch of the business. Such periods of depression come every once in a while—history repeats itself—but invariably there comes a decided reaction bringing with it not only prosperity to the entire realty field, but to all its allied industries, building, insurance....



Of course, there are those who have ever sought relief from a pill—remember the 'little liver' ones.

DAYS OF DIZZINESS COME TO
HUNDREDS OF DOBBS FERRY PEOPLE.

...There are days of dizziness, spells of headache, sideache [sic], backache. Sometimes rheumatic pains; often urinary disorders. All tell you plainly the kidneys are sick.

**DOAN'S KIDNEY PILLS
CURE ALL KIDNEY ILLS.**



And, there are always those who think they know what's best for others.

PRIEST SAYS HE'LL CANE
SPOONERS—YONKERS CLERGY-
MAN NOT SATISFIED WITH THE
WAY THINGS ARE GOING IN
HIS PARISH.

...The Rev. Henry F. Xavier, known in Yonkers as a 'strenuous clergyman,' expressed from the pulpit....the sauntering of young people of opposite sexes along shady lanes at night and spooning in dark corners must cease.... [in support of early marriages, Father Xavier went on to say] an old maid... is as good around the house as a watch dog. An old bachelor is an abomination; generally a crusty individual, who lives in a hall bedroom and is ill at ease with his neighbor and himself. If I had my way, I would closet him in a cellar—the darker the better.

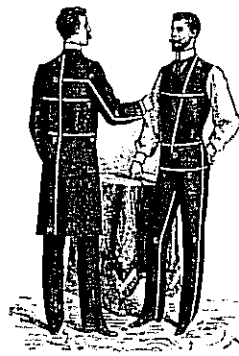


Finally, in an article detailing the history of Dobbs Ferry, these final lines still hold true.

...The future of Dobbs Ferry is assured because of the increasing population, the helpful influence of the metropolis, and the progressiveness of its citizens, who are continually voting for improvements.

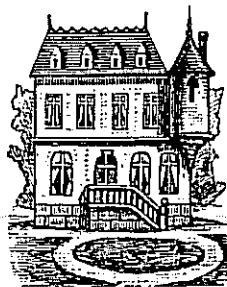
SOME THINGS DO CHANGE

One Especial[sic] lot of two-piece suits, for short men. At \$18. [Must be very short men]



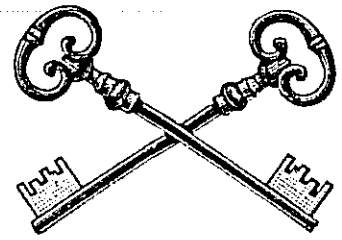
For Sale - A Briarcliff Manor, NY, 22 1/2 acres fronting 308 feet on Central Drive. On golf club and directly opposite \$75,000 estate. Price \$10,000.

For Sale Or Rent—Fine dwelling on Broadway, Dobbs Ferry. 14 rooms; all improvements. Price \$6,250. One-half the cash, balance on the mortgage at 6 percent. Rent \$50.



Secretary of State Koenig was requested Thursday by the U.S Government to furnish a list of all of the corporations, joint-stock companies, associations and insurance companies in the State for the purpose of having them comply with the recent act of Congress which imposed a tax on all corporations.

Manhattan Island is the most valuable piece of land in the world. New York City assessment makes it worth \$272,185 an acre. Peter Minuit paid \$24 in trinkets for the whole of it. [In 2009, PRICELESS]



WORDS OF WISDOM

- Divorce is merely a correction of a Miss-take.
- Good sense is a thing all need, few have, and some think they want.
- When a man inherits money, he tries to show how much smarter he is than his father, who made it, by getting rid of it.
- We all like to brag about our ancestors, but sometimes forget to live so that our descendents can do the same thing.

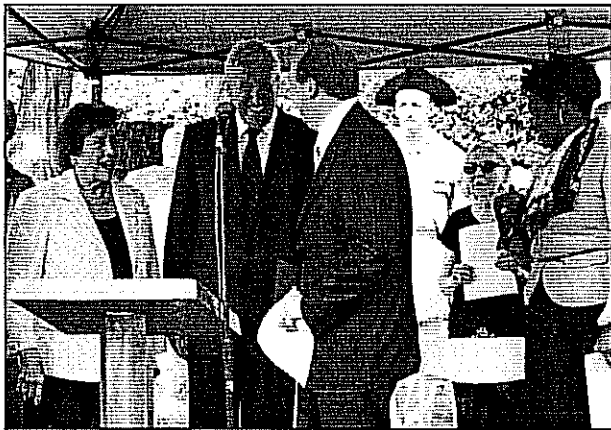


HINTS FOR STOCK OWNERS.

- Do not neglect the colts and calves. An ill-kept yearling is bound to deteriorate into a stunted beast.
- Lousy cattle may be safely sprinkled with wood ashes; rubbed with sulphur ointment.

DOBBS FERRY'S RETURN TO THE HUDSON QUADRICENTENNIAL SUMMER CELEBRATIONS

These photographs tell the story! They record two very exciting events in Dobbs Ferry this summer.
Both events celebrated Dobbs Ferry's early history:



THE AMBASSADOR'S VISIT:

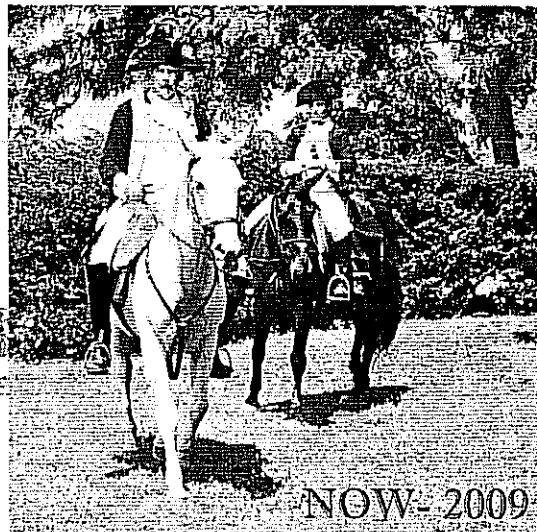
On Saturday, July 25, the Dobbs Ferry Historical Society and the Village of Dobbs Ferry were delighted to arrange a ceremony at the intersection of Broadway and Livingston Avenue, the site of the Dobbs Ferry redoubt of 1781, honoring His Excellency, Pierre Vimont, Ambassador of France to the United States, who visited our village, together with Congresswoman Lowey and Congressman Hinchey, in order to celebrate the recent passage of the Washington-Rochambeau National Historic Trail legislation by the House and Senate.

(L to R—Congresswoman Lowey, Ambassador Vimont, Mayor Seskin, Maria Harris, Senator Stewart-Cousins)

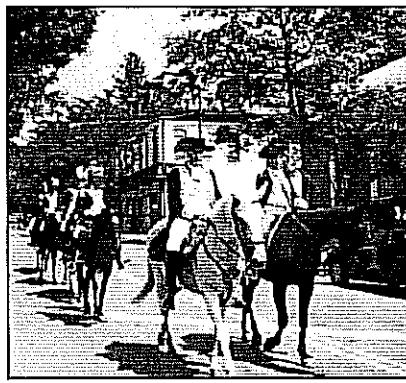
THE RETURN TO THE HUDSON:

On Sunday, August 16, the Dobbs Ferry Historical Society, the Friends of Wickers Creek Archaeological Site and the Village of Dobbs Ferry organized and hosted Dobbs Ferry's Return to the Hudson Quadricentennial celebration, a musical festival which began with the 4th annual Road to Freedom Walk, led by General George Washington on horseback and fife and drum, and which then continued at Waterfront Park with Revolutionary era reenactments, equestrian demonstrations, Native American drum circle and traditional dance, great folk and American musical performances, and many fine exhibits, including demonstrations of Continental Army surgery, flint knapping, canoe building and archaeological interpretation. The Westchester Board of Legislators and Westchester County legislator, Tom Abinanti, Half Moon Restaurant and the Tensor Foundation kindly sponsored Dobbs Ferry's Return to the Hudson Quadricentennial celebration. We thank them for their generous support!

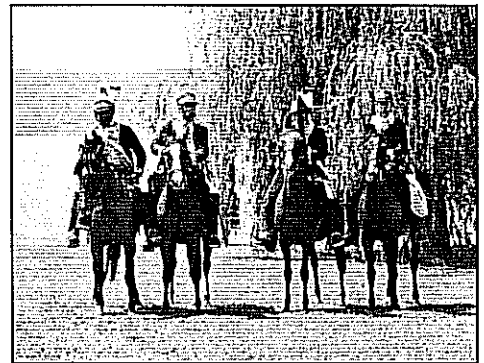
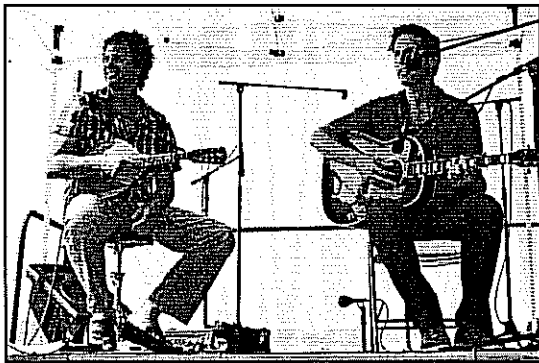
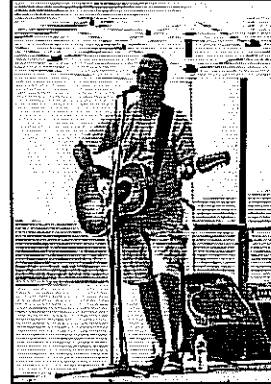
THEN - 1909



NOW - 2009



EVENT PHOTOS
 COURTESY OF
 MARY DONOVAN
 MARIA HARRIS
 JOE DURAES
 RICHARD HARRIS



ITS TIME TO
 RENEW YOUR
 ANNUAL
 MEMBERSHIP!



DOBBS FERRY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP - 2009-2010

Name _____

Address _____

Phone / Email _____

- Historian \$1000.00
- Benefactor \$500.00
- Patron \$100.00
- Family \$50.00
- Individual / Adult \$25.00
- Senior (over 60) \$10.00

Please make check payable to & mail to :

Additional gift \$ _____

DF Historical Society
 12 Elm Street
 Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522

Total (tax deductible) \$ _____

WWW.DOBBSFERRYHISTORY.ORG

THE DF HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

COME
ONE
COME
ALL!



Everyone is invited to the Annual Meeting of the Dobbs Ferry Historical Society which will be held at **7:30 pm. on October 5, 2009 at The Dobbs Ferry Public Library**. The meeting will include reports on the year's activities and finances and the election of new trustees. Refreshments will be served.

The evening's program will be Historical Society President Mary Donovan's audio - visual presentation about her just-published book, *George Washington at "Head Quarters, Dobbs Ferry."* With historical illustrations and quotes from many of the soldiers and officers and the political officials involved in supporting the troops, Dr. Donovan will give us an intimate picture of the day-to-day life of the encampment, the problems faced by Generals Washington and Rochambeau, and the ways in which the two armies began to relate to one another.

Do join us for an interesting glimpse of this one important ingredient of our Dobbs Ferry heritage. Copies of the book will be available for sale at the meeting.



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