April 14 Saratoga County History Center News and Events

Saratoga County History Center
Sharing History to Promote Community
April 14, 2022

As part of the Expert Next Door series, Ben Kemp from the Friends of Grant Cottage, portrayed President Grant’s eldest son, Frederick. It was an intimate story, shared via Zoom, which commemorated the 200th anniversary of the birth of President Grant. The program is available on the SCHC YouTube Channel [https://youtu.be/nXD3YIbNgjk](https://youtu.be/nXD3YIbNgjk)

Watch *The Deepest Devotion (President Ulysses S. Grant)*

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Brookside Museum will be closed on Sunday, April 17 in observation of Easter. Enjoy the holiday.
April 16 - 1pm “Finding Criminals using DNA from Genealogical Databases” A Heritage Hunters of Saratoga County talk by Tobi Kirschmann, owner of DNA Investigations in Saratoga Springs. A DNA analyst, Kirschmann had decades of experience before starting her own business. She had been assisting adoptees in locating their biological relatives, but her preference now is to devote more time to working with law enforcement groups in attempting to solve cold cases. This in-person event, co-sponsored by the Saratoga County History Center is at Brookside Museum. This is also a hybrid program that will be available via our Facebook Live (no ticket necessary). https://www.facebook.com/brooksidemuseum/live_videos/

Brookside’s Research Library, which includes the Heritage Hunter's collection, will be open before and after the program, between 12pm and 4pm.

April 24 - 12pm “Hudson Mohawk Antique Tools and Trades Association (HMATTA) Meeting featuring a Program and Book Signing with Don Williams.” Join members of HMATTA for their noon swap meet for sales and trades of antique tools in the parking lot. At 1pm the gathering will move indoors for the meeting and a presentation about collecting antique tools with a book signing by Don Williams, author of Grandfather’s Toolchest. This is an in-person event, cosponsored by the Saratoga County History Center, which will take place at the Brookside Museum.

May 1 - 1pm “Quilts of New York and New England with Quilt Expert Deb Grana.” Learn about the fascinating history of quilts and quilting in the northeast. View original quilts from the presenter’s collection. Participants are welcome to bring their own antique quilts to share with the group and to discover more about their origins. This is an in-person event, sponsored by the Saratoga County History Center, which will take place in the Brookside Museum.

May 3 - 7pm Forgotten Crossroads: Rock City Falls video premiere viewing party will take
shearers, including the famous Fred the Shearer, and the Rock Day Spinning Guild will assemble on Brookside Museum’s lush front lawn to demonstrate every facet of sheep husbandry, shearing, and weaving to produce the wool clothing that was so ubiquitous in early America. Sheep to Shawl is an interactive, family-friendly event. Young and the young-at-heart will have fun petting the sheep, meeting farmers, and participating in demonstrations. A terrific opportunity to enjoy the spring weather, learn a thing or two, and enjoy some quality family time. This is an in-person event that will take place at Brookside Museum.

All these programs are free and open to the public, unless otherwise indicated, and donations are accepted with gratitude. The SCHC Brookside Museum is located on 6 Charlton Street in Ballston Spa, NY 12020.

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History Center Launches New Video Series

Ballston Spa, NY – The Saratoga County History Center is pleased to announce the launch of a new video series, “Forgotten Crossroads of Saratoga County.” Produced in partnership with the Saratoga County History Roundtable and various town historians, episodes will explore Saratoga County’s storied past in delightful detail.

The inaugural video, “Forgotten Crossroads: Rock City Falls,” will debut at Brookside Museum in Ballston Spa on May 3, 2022, at 7pm.

A quiet hamlet today, Rock City Falls was once a vibrant community. In the 18th and 19th centuries, white settler families from New England and the mid-Atlantic relocated to the fertile land west of the famous springs in Ballston and Saratoga. Those migrants forged new communities and built mills, taverns, schools, stores, churches, and farms.

“Many of these crossroads have since disappeared,” notes Karen Staulters, Milton Town Historian. “People driving along Route 29 do not realize that a dynamic neighborhood once thrived there.”

The 20-minute video features not only local historians like Ms. Staulters, but Rock City residents who share their memories and experiences. “Forgotten Crossroads: Rock City Falls” brings those stories to life and preserves this important local history. Audiences will be entertained, educated, and touched, as they revisit the past in a personal way.

“Forbidden Crossroads: Rock City Falls” was developed by the Town of Milton’s Historic Structures and Places Committee (led by Karen Staulters) and produced by Anne Clothier of the Saratoga County History Center. The May 3 presentation will include a behind-the-scenes look at the creation of the film. Reservations to attend this event at the museum are available at https://brooksidemuseum.networkforgood.com/events/42015-forgotten-crossroads-rock-city-falls-video-release.

Sign Up for Forgotten Crossroads of Saratoga County

Saratoga County Historical Community Upcoming Events
These programs come from several organizations in Saratoga County. The event organizers are noted. These are not hosted or sponsored by SCHC.

**April 14** - 12pm "Brown Bag Lunch: 45 Years of Preserving Saratoga Springs." Since 1977, the Saratoga Springs Preservation Foundation has been dedicated to preserving and enhancing the unique architectural, cultural, and landscaped heritage of Saratoga Springs. In April 2022 the Saratoga Springs Preservation Foundation celebrates its 45th Anniversary. Join Executive Director Samantha Bosshart to learn about the Foundation's founding, advocacy efforts, and successes over the last 45 years. This is a program partnership between the Saratoga Springs Heritage Area Visitor Center and the Saratoga Springs Public Library. The Saratoga Springs Public Library is located at 49 Henry Street, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866-3271. Reservations are required. [https://sspl.libcal.com/event/8074928](https://sspl.libcal.com/event/8074928)

**May 12** - 6:30pm "Susan Brownell Anthony Life Story" by renowned historic re-enactor Linda McKenney. Anthony was a pioneer leader of the causes of women’s suffrage, temperance and abolition. In 1878 Susan submitted a proposed amendment to the Congress. Forty-two years later, in 1920, it became the Nineteenth Amendment to the U. S. Constitution. McKenney will use Susan’s own words to tell her life story. The performance will take place at the Round Lake Library’s Malta Branch, 1 Bayberry Drive, Malta. Reservations are required. [roundlakelibrary.org](http://roundlakelibrary.org) or 518-682-2495.

**May 15** - 12 - 4pm "Celebrating Historic Preservation In Clifton Park." Festivities begin with the opening of the exhibit “The Archaeology of Clifton Park,” followed by a lecture at 1pm by New York State Archaeologist, Dr. Christina Reith, on the Cultural Resource Survey Program, which provides research and assessment of archaeological and architectural resources for other state agencies. 18th and early 19th century period music by Liaisons Plaisante will begin at 2pm with refreshments and tours of the Historic Tavern. This is event is co-sponsored by the Clifton
about the city’s notorious gangsters featured in his book. He continues the saga of the city’s criminal activities where his first book, *All the Law in the World Won’t Stop Them*, ended. It was a time of famous gangsters like “Lucky” Luciano, bootlegging, gambling, murders, raids, and political corruption.

Town of Saratoga’s Town Hall, 12 Spring Street, on the corner of routes 29 and 4 in Schuylerville.

**June 4 - 7:30am - 7:30pm** "Bus Trip to Erie Canal Museum and Camillus Erie Canal Park." Join award winning Clifton Park historian John Scherer for a bus trip to the Erie Canal Museum, located in Downtown Syracuse, showcasing the 1850 National Register Weighlock Building, the last remaining structure of its kind, and telling the incredible story of adventure on the Erie Canal. Come aboard a full-size replica canal boat. Explore life in a canal town. Experience a part of history that played an imperative role in the growth and development of the United States. Cost is $70. Details can be found at [https://parksrec.egov.basgov.com/cliftonpark/Search?TagId=393](https://parksrec.egov.basgov.com/cliftonpark/Search?TagId=393)

Programs are free unless otherwise indicated. Submit events to [sean@brooksidemuseum.org](mailto:sean@brooksidemuseum.org). SCHC News and Events is a collaborative effort. We count on the contributions of the historic community of Saratoga County and others for the entire content of this page.
When you give to The Saratoga County History Center, a private, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, you support our mission: To serve as a repository for local and regional histories, that provides innovative educational and public programing, and instills in our communities a deeper understanding of how the past informs and impacts our present and future.

Our Brookside Contributor membership starts at $100. The contributors membership includes the SCHC’s newsletter, access to special events, free museum and library admission, reduced prices for events, North American Reciprocal Museum membership, and a 10% discount at the museum shop.

Learn more at https://brooksidemuseum.org/support-schs/new-individual-membership-page/

Become a Member of the SCHC

We invite you to become a part of Saratoga County history and join our fantastic community of partners and supporters as a History Center Member!

Visit the link to explore our different membership levels: https://brooksidemuseum.org/support-schs/new-individual-membership-page/
The last chance to see *Country Stores in Saratoga County* exhibit. The exhibit will be closing at the end of April.

As the hours of operation for the month of May are on the horizon, we are looking to increase the number of volunteers.Roles:
- General Volunteers
- Museum Assistants
- Building and Grounds Assistants

Can you give us a hand? [https://brooksidemuseum.org/support-schs/volunteer/](https://brooksidemuseum.org/support-schs/volunteer/)
Saratoga County History in the News presents brief extracts from articles published in mainstream media and, less frequently, blogs and alternative media. The excerpts come directly from the websites referred to in each source note. Quotation marks are not utilized.
The NYS Canalway Water Trail has been selected as one of the Top 5 places to Kayak in the Country by World Nomads. Kudos to NYS agencies, organizations, and communities, including all our Saratoga County towns and villages along the Champlain and Erie Canal who had made this incredible destination! - Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor

Curtis Lumber Company, DeCrescente Distributing Company, N. Fox Jewelers, and Stewart's Shops are the initial members of the NYS Historic Business Preservation Registry. The registry has been launched by The NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation. The online registry was established to honor and promote New York businesses that have been in operation for at least 50 years and have contributed to their communities' history. The first round of designations includes 100 businesses across the state. Nominations to the registry must be sponsored by an elected state official. Anyone interested in having a business added to the registry should reach out to their state representative. - NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation

In case you missed it, This Week in Saratoga County History - April 7  William Sears’ American Hygiene Vegetable (AHV) Medicine- Cure or Snake Oil? written by Ballston's Matt Grumo is available here.

The Brookside Museum is open Saturdays and Sundays (except Easter 4/17) from 12pm to 4pm. SCHC Brookside Museum lists all closings at https://www.facebook.com/brooksidemuseum/

The SCHC Brookside Museum is located on 6 Charlton Street in Ballston Spa, NY 12020. Admission to this museum is free and donations are welcome. The current exhibits are Black Experiences in Saratoga County, 1750-1950, A Century of Ice Cream, a centennial of the Dake family and Stewart’s Shops, and the Country Stores in Saratoga County.

The Saratoga County History Center is dedicated to the preservation and sharing of the diverse histories of Saratoga County. In addition to the Brookside Museum, the History Center offers a variety of innovative, exciting and educational programs online and in person throughout the county. Please visit the website (www.brooksidemuseum.org) and social media accounts (@SaratogaCoHistory) for news and announcements.
Contribute to Saratoga County History Center News and Events. Submit events, stories, job changes, promotions or news about Saratoga County history to sean@brooksidemuseum.org. SCHC News and Events is a collaborative effort. We count on the contributions of the historic community of Saratoga County and others for the entire content of this page. Producer Sean Kelleher and Editor Donna Dardaris coordinate the creation of the email with the help of many contributors, including Anne Clothier, Andrew Collier, Isobel Connell, Cindy Corbett, Michael Landis, Jim Richmond, Beth Silvestri and David Waite.

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