



Saratoga County History Center
Sharing History to Promote Community
April 21, 2022



Heritage Hunters member, Tobi Kirschmann, owner of DNA Investigations in Saratoga Springs gave a presentation on *Finding Criminals using DNA* to a full audience at Brookside Museum. "This is our second consecutive program with a full audience," said History Center Vice President Sean Kelleher. "Our partnerships with Heritage Hunters and the Roundtable have been well received by an audience, resulting in new memberships in the history center." If you missed the remarkable talk in person, you may view it on YouTube <https://youtu.be/C3d5i14UzrU>

Watch Finding Criminals using DNA



Saratoga County History Center's Events

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 Event is filled. *Forgotten Crossroads: Rock City Falls* video premiere viewing party will take place at Brookside Museum. This is the first of a series of "Forgotten Crossroads of Saratoga County" videos, by the History Center and the Saratoga County History Roundtable. The video documents the development of this once vibrant community, what attracted families to settle here in the late 18th and 19th centuries, and how it grew around the mills, taverns, schools, stores, churches, and farms. The film concludes with a segment of the contemporary community that still works and lives there. This is an in-person event which is full. If you have a ticket it will take place in the Brookside Museum. There will be a second showing at the Rock City Fire Department at a date to be determined. The video, *Forgotten Crossroads: Rock City Falls* will be premiere on the [History Center YouTube channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCwb2Limln6FI5BY0xcPhew) at 7:15pm on May 3.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCwb2Limln6FI5BY0xcPhew>

May 5 - 7pm *County Life in Photographs* exhibit opening includes 26 images of gatherings in Saratoga County between 1870 and 1950, interpreting the ways in which county residents interacted in social, political, and celebratory contexts. A prime example is the panoramic photo of the Jonesville Methodist Church clambake in 1922, a wildly popular annual event that ran for 66 years until ending in 1962. Most photographs were found in the History Center collection, while others were provided by town historians. Research was carried out by three students from the history department at Skidmore College. This is an in-person event, which will take place in the Brookside Museum.

May 14 – 9am - 4pm *Women in War: The Revolutionary Experience – A Symposium.* The Marshall House will bring together regional and nationally-known historians of the American

Revolution including keynote speaker, Dr. Holly Mayer to provide insights into the experiences and actions of some extraordinary women. The symposium is in partnership with the Saratoga County 250th American Revolution Commission and the Saratoga County History Center. It will take place at the Saratoga Town Hall in Schuylerville, NY. \$50 registration may be purchased at themarshallhouse.org or by calling 518-695-3765 for the entire day, including lunch, refreshments, and a visit to Marshall House.

May 15 - 1-4pm Sheep to Shawl Community Day. The long-running “Sheep to Shawl” program returns to the Saratoga County History Center. Sheep, lambs, farmers, herders, and 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 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.

Membership Update

There are a number of exciting developments underway with the membership of the Saratoga County History Center. “In 2021, we added five new exhibits, made great strides in our collection, raised more than \$31,000 to improve our building, and saw 240% growth in our membership,” explained Trustee Andrew Collier, chairman of the Membership Committee. “We are delighted to announce changes to SHSC members!”

It's the first time we've offered a \$5,000 lifetime membership at SCHC at Brookside. This is really for the person who enjoys a sense of pride in helping to preserve the legacy of Saratoga County. We have updated some of the donor benefits and added some exciting new benefits. At the lifetime membership level, you will receive behind-the-scenes tours, discounts at the museum shop, and two free uses of event space per year.

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

[Become a member](https://brooksidemuseum.org/support-schs/new-individual-membership-page/)

County Life in Photographs

Ballston Spa, NY – Saratoga County History Center at Brookside Museum will open a new exhibit, *County Life in Photographs*, on Thursday, May 5, with a 7pm reception. It will remain open through 2022 during the museum's open hours. The exhibit includes 26 images of gatherings in Saratoga County between 1870 and 1950, interpreting the ways in which county residents interacted in social, political, and celebratory contexts. A prime example is the panoramic photo of the Jonesville Methodist Church clambake in 1922, a wildly popular annual event that ran for 66 years until ending in 1962. Most photographs were found in the History Center collection, while others were provided by town historians.

The research was carried out by three students from the history department at Skidmore College: Cayden Bobley '23, from Sea Cliff, N.Y.; Chloe Hanrahan '24, from Andover, Mass.; and Alex Western '24, from Northampton, Mass. Exhibit management was by Maris Lau '24, from Hong Kong. John Greenwood of Wilton served as a community advisor, and Prof. Tillman Nechtman was the faculty advisor.

The museum is located at the foot of Front Street in Ballston Spa. For more information, visit www.brookside.org or phone (518) 885-4000.



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.

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 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 event is co-sponsored by the Clifton Park Historic Preservation Commission and Friends of Historic Grooms Tavern. Grooms Tavern is located at 290 Sugar Hill Rd, Rexford, NY 12148

May 19 - 12pm "Noble Boys! The 77th New York at the Second Battle of Fredericksburg." Join David Handy for stories of the NY 77th Infantry's participation in the Second Battle of Fredericksburg, including first person accounts of the 77th charging Telegraph Hill, adjoining the sunken road on Marye's Heights just below the city of Fredericksburg, VA. David Handy is the author of two books about the NY Bemis Heights Civil War regiment: *McKean's Sunday School Boys Go to War: The Story of the 77th Bemis Heights Battalion in the Great Rebellion*, and a new book coming out this spring, *Theas Few Lines: The Civil War Letters of Private Alonzo D. Bump, 77th New York Volunteer Infantry*. The Saratoga Springs Public Library is located at 49 Henry Street, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866-3271. Reservations are required.

<https://sspl.libcal.com/event/8960474>

May 21 - 1pm *A Gangster's Paradise: Saratoga Springs from Prohibition to Kefauver*. A Heritage Hunters of Saratoga County talk by retired Police Chief Greg Veitch. Veitch will talk 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>

Programs are free unless otherwise indicated. Submit events 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.





Finding Criminals using DNA

The partnership between the History Center and Heritage Hunters brings a full audience and excellent spirits to the Brookside Museum. We thank our volunteer photographer David Waite for the documentation of the day. The program is available on YouTube <https://youtu.be/C3d5i14UzrU>



Watch Finding Criminals using DNA

Women In War Symposium in Schuylerville

Schuylerville, NY – The Marshall House’s *Women in War: The Revolutionary Experience – A Symposium* will be held on May 14, 2022. The event will bring together regional and nationally-known historians of the American Revolution to provide insights into the experiences and actions of some extraordinary women.



"Too often, the important roles women played during the American Revolution are not widely known. Their experiences, whether in following the army or managing their homes, help to inform the larger narrative of what life was like for those not on the battlefield. The Saratoga County 250th Commission is excited to sponsor this symposium by welcoming leading scholars to speak about these women and increase our understanding of the parts they played in gaining American Independence," explains Saratoga County historian Lauren Roberts.

Featuring keynote speaker, Dr. Holly Mayer, Professor Emerita in History at Duquesne University, a visiting instructor at West Point, and author of *Belonging to the Army: Camp Followers and Community during the American Revolution* (2001), the *Women in War* symposium will provide engaging opportunities for attendees to meet with leading historians. Session topics include women warriors, Loyalist women, the Army's essential support – "Camp followers," Baroness Frederika Riedesel, a general's wife, and Molly Brant, a Mohawk leader in Colonial America. Speakers also include historian Todd Braisted, author of *Grand Forage 1778: The Battleground Around New York City* (2018), social historian Jenna Schnitzer, researcher Jonathon House, and the biographer of Molly Brant, Lois Huey.

The Marshall House, in partnership with the Saratoga County 250th American Revolution Commission and the Saratoga County History Center, is hosting the *Women in War symposium*. The symposium will take place on Saturday, May 14, 2022, at the Saratoga Town Hall in Schuylerville, NY. Tickets may be purchased at themarshallhouse.org or by calling 518-695-3765.

Registration for the symposium is \$50 per person for the entire day, including lunch, refreshments, and a visit to Marshall House. Speakers' books will be available to purchase and have signed by the authors. Registration information is available at themarshallhouse.org Registration must be completed no later than May 11. Walk-in registration is not permitted.

"We are very pleased to host this symposium," said Bruce Venter, Vice President of the Marshall House. "The Marshall House served as a British field hospital and refuge for Baroness Riedesel and her three children during the Saratoga campaign in 1777. Riedesel's journal is one of the most compelling writings of the war, so it is fitting to host this symposium in Saratoga County."

History Center Vice President and Saratoga Town Historian Sean Kelleher said, "The History Center strives to tell our community's important national story from all perspectives especially those that are seldom heard. We are excited to welcome this symposium and work in partnership with the Marshall House and the Saratoga County 250th American Revolution Commission. We all

hope this will be the first of many events to highlight the American Revolution in Saratoga County."

Please direct any questions or comments to Libby Smith-Holmes esmithho@nycap.rr.com or Tim Holmes tim3holmes@gmail.com from the Marshall House from the board of trustees

The Marshall House, just north of Schuylerville, NY, has been continuously occupied since 1771. The Marshall House was cannonaded during the siege of Saratoga which concluded with the surrender of British General John Burgoyne in October 1777, the turning point of the Revolution. On occasion, the house is open for tours and a presentation by Baroness Riedesel, as portrayed by reenactor, Debbie Bailey relating the story of her ordeal during the Battles of Saratoga and captivity in America. Please visit the website themarshallhouse.org

The Saratoga County 250th American Revolution Commission was created by the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors in 2021 and is tasked with organizing ceremonies, events, activities, and celebrations recognizing the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution in Saratoga County.

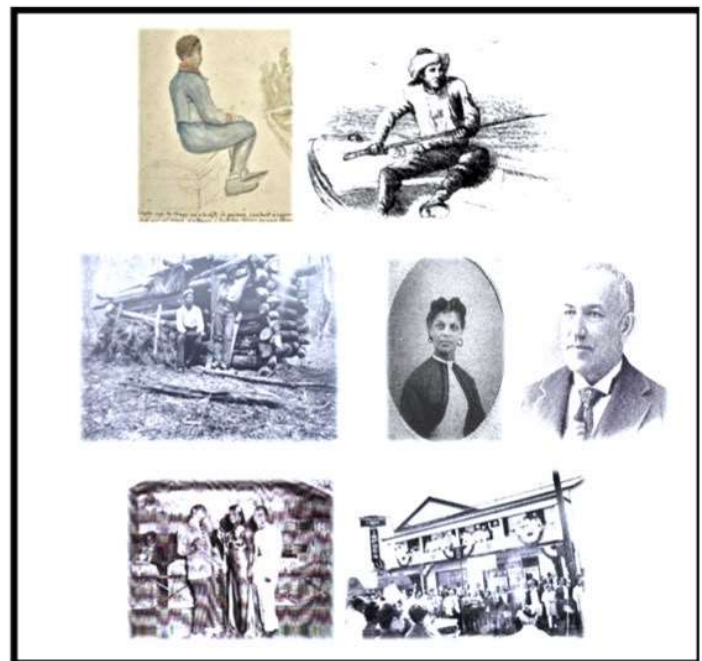
The Saratoga County History Center is dedicated to preserving and sharing the diverse histories of Saratoga County. In addition to the Brookside Museum, the History Center offers a variety of innovative, exciting, and educational programs in person and on-line. . Please visit the website (www.brooksidemuseum.org) and social media accounts (@SaratogaCoHistory) for news and announcements.

BLACK EXPERIENCES IN SARATOGA COUNTY 1750 – 1950

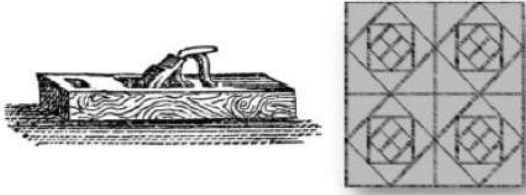
Explore the diversity of the lives of African Americans in Saratoga County over 200 years from the colonial period to the mid-20th century. It is a panorama of the struggles and hardships they faced, but also of their persistence and success.



Brookside Museum Saturdays and Sundays from Noon to 4 pm The SCHC Brookside Museum is located on 5 Charlton Street in Ballston Spa, NY 12020. Admission to this museum is free and donations are welcome.



TOOLS & TEXTILES



April 24 | 12pm Hudson Mohawk Antique Tools and Trades Association Meeting Featuring a Program and Book Signing with Don Williams

May 1 | 1pm Quilts of New York and New England with Quilt Expert Deb Grana

Two events commemorating early America. These programs are free and open to the public, and donations are accepted with gratitude.

Saratoga County History Center
6 Charlton Street Ballston Spa, NY 12020 Please visit the website
(www.brooksidemuseum.org) and social media accounts
(@SaratogaCoHistory)



Hudson Mohawk Antique Tools and Trades Association (HMATTA) Meeting starts this Sunday, April 24 at 12pm with a 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*.

Donald R. William author of eleven published books of local and Adirondack history has added another publication, *Grandfather's Toolchest* - paying tribute to the role of tools in our lives. The history and uses of some vintage tools, in full color, records the importance of tools in making life, as we know it, possible.

"A tool can be defined as simply an implement that makes work easier," Williams explains, "and it was tools that made it possible for humankind to construct shelters and move out of caves."

Williams developed an interest in vintage tools early in life from his carpenter grandfather, John H. Whitman. He collected tools for fifty years, adding them to the family tools. While sharing those tools and their stories with community groups he gathered first-hand information on their uses and importance in our lives.

"Tools have a way of bringing up memories from the past that brings joy to today's changing world" Williams observed.

A complete index makes it possible to easily locate any tool of interest. "Grandparents will enjoy sharing their memories and uses of the antique and vintage tools with their grandchildren," Williams predicts, "and today's readers will gain new respect for those who came before us to carve their tools out of the wilderness."

Grandfather's Toolchest is available at the museum shop at Brookside Museum. This is an in-person event, cosponsored by the Saratoga County History Center, which will take place at the Brookside Museum.

Become a Member of the SCHC

We invite you to become a part of Saratoga County's 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/>

Become a member

A CENTURY OF ICE CREAM, A CENTENNIAL OF THE DAKE FAMILY AND STEWART'S SHOPS

Few things are as beloved and iconic in upstate New York as Stewart's shops. The exhibit is made possible through the generosity of Stewart's Shops/Dake Family.



Brookside Museum, Saturdays and Sundays from 11am to 4 pm. The SCHC Brookside Museum is located on 6 Charter Street in Ballston Spa, NY 12020. Admission to the museum is free and donations are welcome.



Perky Pak gal
The model is showing off an innovation, pre-packaged portions of ice cream.
The Stewart Story, September 1954

Volunteer wanted!

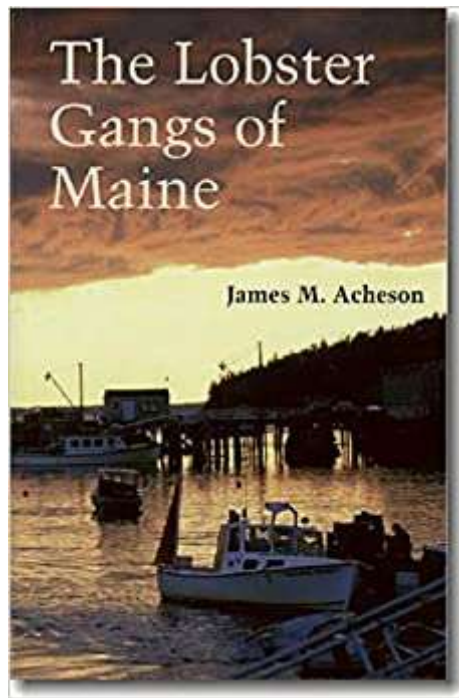
We are looking for a volunteer to work with our News and Events email to help dig deeper into the history of our photographs, to do some research to bring to life in a new way our photographic collection. It will be part of the Saratoga County History Center's Image of the Month series that uses the large image library at the Brookside Museum. You can do this at home. It's going to take anywhere from three to five hours a month. If you can be of assistance, please email Sean@brooksidemuseum.org.

Volunteer At Brookside

What book is on the nightstand?



We asked various local historians and history enthusiasts what history book has been their bedside table recently. As the pandemic continues, we hope you will want to find out what others are reading in these uncertain times and why. Town of Ballston Historian and retired social studies teacher Rick Reynolds shared:

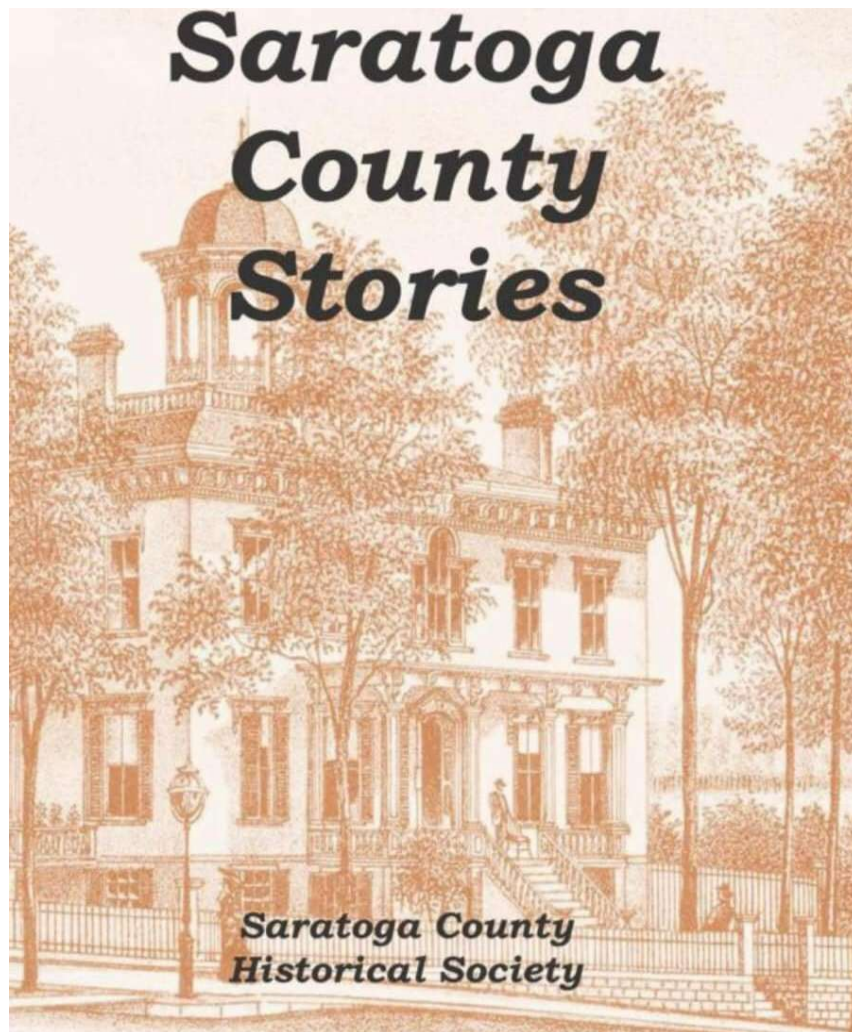


The next book that I am planning to read is entitled "The Lobster Gangs of Maine," a non-fiction book by James Acheson. Lobstering has become of great interest to me in recent years because of its complex web of laws as well as the informal sanctions imposed on the profession by its members. Lobstermen are very territorial and very protective of their traps and the lobsters contained in them. And when the law will not suffice, they often times take things into their own hands, sometimes with disastrous results. The book details the complex socio-political relationships that need to exist for these hardworking people to survive.

I was drawn to this by my many trips to the coast of Maine as well as numerous excursions with lobstermen on their boats. I have spent a lot of time researching the area in which we stay and talking to locals. The lobstermen's stories, such as those about stolen traps, intrigued me. In one recent incident, a lobsterman drove his boat right up on the beach of the house where we stay so that, when the tide went out, he could work on its hull! While he was there, I got to talk with him extensively about his trade and discovered that, in a good year with a lot of work and many hours, he could really make a decent living as a commercial lobsterman. He, like so many of the lobstermen I have talked with and heard about, truly love what they do. And we are all grateful for what they bring us to eat.

Rick Reynolds has worked as a town of Ballston historian since 2004. Educated at SUNY Oneonta and SUNY Albany, he is a retired social studies teacher at Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake Middle School. During that time he was named National American History Teacher of the Year in 2003.

Rick is a co-author of *Saratoga County History Stories*, a collection of essays and articles from local historians on Saratoga County. The book is available at the Brookside Museum shop.



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, Jim Richmond, Beth Silvestri, and David Waite.

Saratoga County History Center

6 Charlton Street

Ballston Spa, NY 12020

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