

## June 23 Saratoga County History Center News and Events



**Saratoga County History Center**  
*Sharing History to Promote Community*  
 June 23, 2022



The 2022 Saratoga County History Center's Craft Fair at Brookside Museum was a success. We had some really nice art, food, and crafts. But the most important thing is that we got hundreds of visitors, buyers and smiles. We hope you had fun and thank you for your participation in this wonderful day. You should feel even better knowing that you helped raise funds in support of the Saratoga County History Center.

**Thank you!**



# Saratoga County History Center's Events

**June 28 - 7pm *Off The Northway* Release Party.** A presentation and book signing by longtime local journalist Stephen Williams, who wrote *Off the Northway* is a compilation of 83 articles from the Daily Gazette in Schenectady, NY. The *Off the Northway* book will be available for purchase. The event will be held at the Brookside Museum, and you can pre-register at <https://brooksidemuseum.networkforgood.com/events/44328-off-the-northway-book-launch-and-presentation>.

**Register for the *Off The Northway* Release Party**

The *Off the Northway* book may be ordered online through <https://brooksidemuseum.org/off-the-northway/>. The cost is \$20 including tax, plus \$5 shipping. Copies will be shipped after the June 28.

**July 9 - 2pm Solomon Northup Scriptor Award presentation.** In Support of the current Black History exhibit at Brookside Museum, Melissa Howell, a Solomon Northup descendant, has loaned the Scriptor Award, presented on behalf of Solomon Northup by the University of Southern California, to the Saratoga County History Center, along with other memorabilia to be displayed. The Award honors Northup and recognizes the work of screenwriter John Ridley who wrote the script for the 2013 movie *12 Years a Slave*. Ms Howell will present the Award along with a talk entitled "Embracing the Legacy of Solomon Northup" at Brookside Museum

**July 12 - 7pm *New Light on Saratoga's Indigenous Past*.** Professor Karim Tiro, of Xavier University, Cincinnati, OH is completing a study commissioned by the National Park Service to better understand Saratoga's Native past. He will share findings about Saratoga's origins as a fishing station and religious mission; the Oneida refugees at Wilton during the American Revolution; and Atiatoharongwen, a Saratoga-born Mohawk man of Black and Abenaki parentage whom Washington referred to as a friend. Dr. Tiro is a historian specializing in North America from the 16th through the 19th centuries. His publications include *The People of the Standing Stone: The Oneida Nation from the Revolution through the Era of Removal* and *Along the Hudson and Mohawk: The 1790 Journey of Count Paolo Andreani*. 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 at 6 Charlton Street in Ballston Spa, NY 12020.*

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## *Solomon Northup Scriptor Award at the Brookside Museum*

Melissa Howell, a Solomon Northup descendant, is loaning the prestigious Scriptor Award, presented on behalf of Solomon Northup by the University of Southern California, to the Saratoga County History Center's Brookside Museum, along with other memorabilia. The Award honors Northup and recognizes the work of screenwriter John Ridley, who wrote the script for the 2013 movie *12 Years a Slave*. Ms. Howell will present the award along with a talk entitled "Embracing the Legacy of Solomon Northup" on Saturday, July 9 at 2 pm at Brookside Museum in Ballston Spa. The award and memorabilia display are new additions to the "Black Experiences in Saratoga County, 1750-1950" exhibit.

Solomon Northup was an African-American free citizen born at Schroon, New York on July 10, 1807. In March 1841, Northup was 33 years old when he was introduced to two men who claimed they ran a traveling circus and lured him to New York City and Washington, D.C. to play violin for a lucrative payout. A turn of catastrophic events found him chained in a slave pen within view of the U.S. Capitol. His identity- altered. His life- interrupted. He was shipped south to New Orleans and sold as a chattel by a slave trader. He was enslaved for 11 years, 8 months, and 26 days on the Red River Bayou of Louisiana.



Melissa Howell,  
Solomon Northup descendant



Solomon Northrup as he appears in the original book and Chiwetel Ejiofor, who has been much-praised in the lead role of the film.

The fate of Solomon Northrup would, at last, take a turn toward regained freedom when he was rescued in January 1853 by childhood friend and lawyer Henry B. Northrup. Homeward bound for Glens Falls, NY, he was reunited with his wife and children. In less than six months, Solomon Northrup's slave narrative *Twelve Years A Slave* was published in London, England in June, then at Auburn, NY in July by Derby & Miller. His detailed and personal account of his life before and during slavery has become a bestselling work, acclaimed by such contemporaries as Frederick Douglas and Harriet Beecher Stowe. Yet, much of his life story after 1857 is unknown and his death unaccounted for.

Melissa Howell, a great, great, great-granddaughter of Northrup, will share a glimpse of how she has embraced her family history through various travels, projects, and endeavors. Ms. Howell is the daughter of the late James and Shirley (Northrup) Howell. She was born and raised in Seneca Falls, NY. She attended Simmons College in Boston, MA, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Arts Administration. Ms. Howell is currently a Deputy Town Clerk in Seneca Falls. In 2014, Ms. Howell established The Solomon Northrup Legacy Organization in support of her ancestor's life story and its significance in the fabric of our Nation's history.

The "Black Experiences in Saratoga County, 1750-1950" is an extensive exhibit that explores the diverse life of African Americans in Saratoga County from the colonial period to the mid-twentieth century. It is a panorama of the struggles and hardships, but also stories of their persistence and success. The exhibits feature little-known events, as well as objects and memorabilia that bring to life the men and women who were often the heart and soul of Saratoga society. The Brookside Museum is open Thursdays to Sundays from 1pm to 5pm. It is located at 6 Charlton Street in Ballston Spa, NY 12020. Admission is free of charge and donations are welcome.

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## Membership Update

"Every day, we want you to have the best donor experience possible with the Saratoga County History Center," explained Trustee Andrew Collier, chairman of the Membership Committee. "To do this, we have evaluated the benefits we provide to ensure that we thank you for your partnership in the most appropriate and meaningful way."

Our basic membership starts at \$25 for Senior/Educator/Student and \$35 for individuals. A couple can become a member for \$65. The basic membership includes the SCHC's newsletter, access to special events, free museum and library admission, and reduced prices for events.

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

Become a member



# 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.**

**June 23 - 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/9177599>


**June 23 - 7pm "Tour of Fairmount Cemetery."** Join the Old Saratoga Historical Association for a guided walk of the Fairmount Cemetery on the corner at County Route 69 and Casey Roads in the Town of Saratoga (Schuylerville.)

**August 4 - 12pm "Iron-Hearted: The 115th NYS Vol. Regiment in the Civil War."** During the Civil War, Colonel Simeon Sammons received authority to recruit a regiment in the counties of Fulton, Hamilton, Montgomery, and Saratoga, with headquarters at Fonda. On August 26, 1862, it mustered into the service of the United States for three years. Join local historian David Brooks in an exploration of the history of the "Iron-Hearted Regiment." Journey along with them from Upstate NY to the Deep South and back. Discover the battles they faced on the front line and those

experienced from within. This event will be held outdoors, weather permitting, on the library's "porch." In case of rain, we will convene in the Community Room on the main floor. David Brooks is the Education Director at Schoharie Crossing State Historic Site in Fort Hunter, N.Y. – but also sits on the board of the Fulton County Historical Society, based out of the Fulton County Museum in Gloversville, NY. As a native of that County, growing up, he heard tales of local history and how his own ancestors fought to preserve the Union during the tumultuous Civil War. The Saratoga Springs Public Library is located at 49 Henry Street, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866-3271. Reservations are required. <https://sspl.libcal.com/event/8965174>

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.

The Saratoga County History Center announces the forthcoming publication of a new book on local history.



## Off the Northway


By Stephen Williams, former *Daily Gazette* columnist

Join SCHC at a release party with a presentation and signing by the author on Tuesday, June 28, 7 PM at Brookside Museum, 6 Charlton St., Ballston Spa.

Pre-registration for this event can be made at <https://brooksidemuseum.org/>. There is no charge to attend.

After June 28, the book will be available at the Brookside Museum store and website, local bookstores, additional book signing sessions to be announced, and at amazon.com.

The Saratoga County History Center is dedicated to preserving and sharing the diverse histories of Saratoga County. In addition to Brookside Museum, the History Center offers a variety of innovative, exciting, and educational programming. Please visit the website ([www.brooksidemuseum.org](http://www.brooksidemuseum.org)) and social media accounts (@SaratogaCoHistory) for news and announcements.



**Register for the *Off The Northway* Release Party**

The *Off the Northway* book may be ordered online through <https://brooksidemuseum.org/off-the-northway/>. The cost is \$20 including tax, plus \$5 shipping. Copies will be shipped after the official launch event.

## Fragrance in the herb garden...



"The world is a rose; smell it and pass it to your friends."  
Unknown

Fragrance has the power to lift our spirits and bring cherished memories to mind. In the herb garden some varieties of plants from earlier times perfume the air. Clusters of Dame's rocket blossoms scent evenings from mid to late May. In early June there is the sweet scent of peonies, and now the heirloom roses are at their peak. Their delightful fragrance help us forgive their vicious thorns and the fact that they only bloom once during a growing season. Two varieties grace the herb garden, a damask rose and an apothecary rose, and each has a story to tell.



Blossoming in the fragrance bed is a blush-pink damask rose that's been passed down from one generation to another in a family that loves to garden. The flowers are delicate and the aroma is heady. The variety probably is 'Celsiana,' a rose first bred in the Netherlands almost three hundred years ago, introduced before 1817 in France, and arrived in America with a family who couldn't bare to leave their rosebush behind. Not only is the rose beautiful, the scent from its dried petals is a prized ingredient in potpourri.





The apothecary rose has a history dating back to ancient Persia. Knights returning from the crusades brought the plant to Europe where it became valued not for its beauty but for its scent and medicinal properties. France is where the rose earned the name we know it by; there the plant was the 'sign' for apothecary shops. In England it was the symbol of the House of Lancaster during the thirty-year-long War of the Roses. Rosary beads were made from rolling the petals into small balls. But this rose is also a bit of a rogue. It travels from the parent plant by suckers and pops up prolifically in the medical bed and garden path. The work of removing each sprout out is only alleviated by the rose's extraordinary perfume.



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## Become a Member of the SCHC this Month!

Did you Know? SCHC Members receive newsletters, access to special events, free museum and library admission, reduced prices for events, and so much more.

Visit the link to explore our different membership levels: <https://brooksidemuseum.org/support-schs/new-individual-membership-page/>

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

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## SCHC becomes a Blue Star Museum

The Saratoga County History Center's Brookside Museum announced it will join museums nationwide in the Blue Star Museum's initiative, a program that provides free admission to currently-serving U.S. military personnel and their families this summer. The 2022 program will continue on Labor Day, Monday, September 5, 2022. Find the list of participating museums at [arts.gov/bluestarmuseums](https://arts.gov/bluestarmuseums).

Blue Star Museums are a partnership between the National Endowment for the Arts and Blue Star Families, in collaboration with the Department of Defense and museums across America.



“Museums educate and inspire, cause us to wonder and imagine, dream and remember,” said Dr. Maria Rosario Jackson, chair of the National Endowment for the Arts. “By participating in the Blue Star Museums program, Brookside Museum is offering military personnel and their families an opportunity to feel connected to the Saratoga County community and to explore the world through the power of arts, culture and design, contributing to each person being able to live an artful life.”

Blue Star Museums include children's museums, art, science, and history museums, zoos, gardens, lighthouses, and more, and hail from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The [current list of participating museums](#) will continue to develop over the summer as organizations are welcome to [register to be a Blue Star Museum](#) throughout the summer.

“Our military community looks forward to the Blue Star Museum program each year and I am excited to celebrate the 2022 season along with them!” said Kathy Roth-Douquet, CEO of Blue Star Families. “Thank you Saratoga County History Center for participating in this impactful program and offering military families the opportunity to enjoy the arts with you this summer.”

The free admission program is available for those currently serving in the United States Military—Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, Navy, and Space Force, members of the Reserves, National Guard, U.S. Public Health Commissioned Corps, NOAA Commissioned Corps, and up to five family members. Qualified members must show a Geneva Convention common access card (CAC), DD Form 1173 ID cards (dependent ID), DD Form 1173-1 ID card or the Next Generation Uniformed Services (Real) ID card for entrance into a participating Blue Star Museum.

Follow #bluestarmuseums on Twitter @NEAarts and @BlueStarFamily.

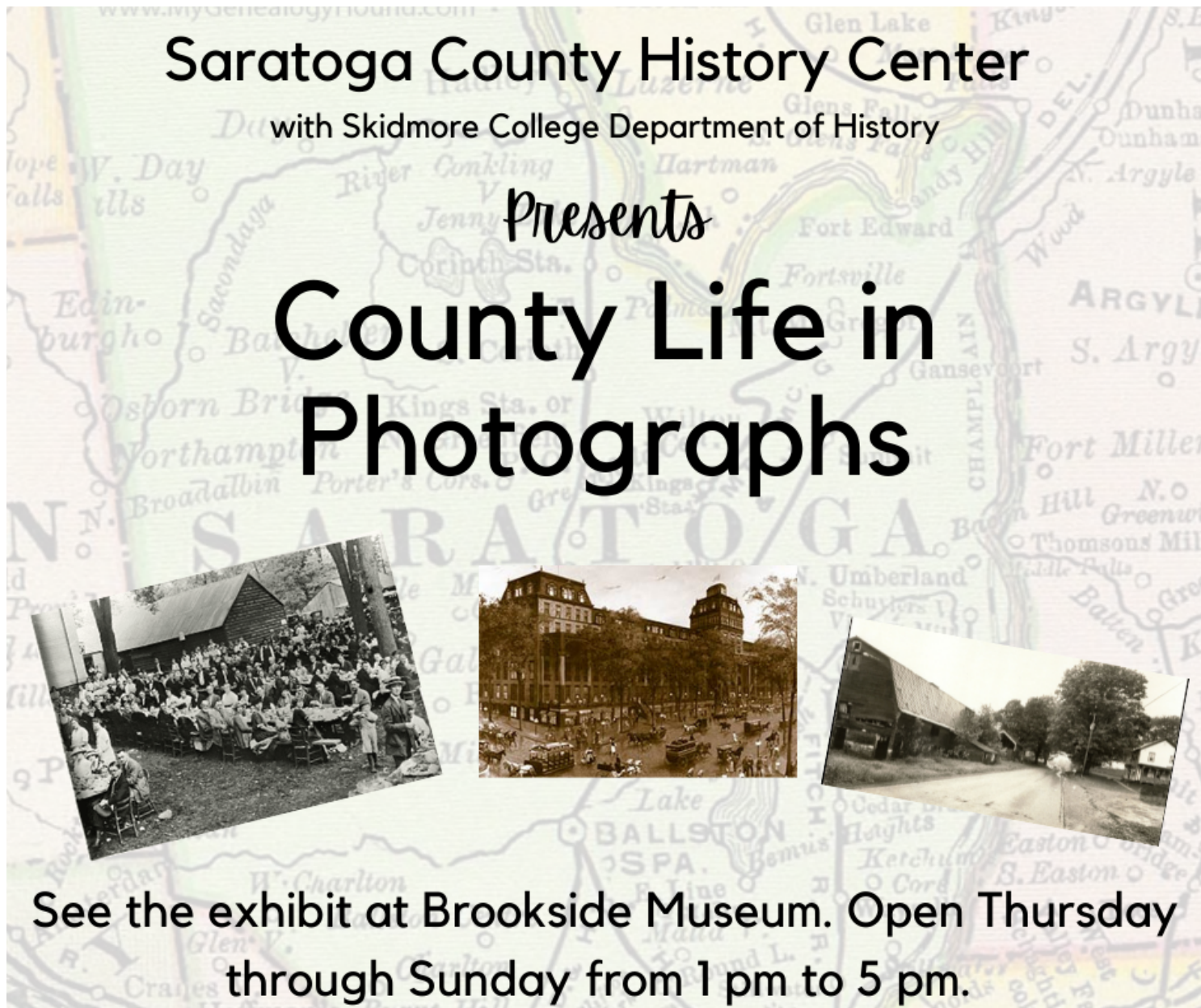
**ABOUT THE BROOKSIDE MUSEUM** – Built in 1792 as a resort hotel, the Saratoga County History Center’s Brookside Museum has a long history of serving people. Among the oldest hotel buildings still standing in the United States, our history is as diverse as the people who visited here. At one time a boys’ school, the building has also been a private residence, a boarding house, a sanitarium, and apartments. In 1970, the Saratoga County History Center purchased the building and opened it as a museum. Ever since the Saratoga County History Center has preserved Saratoga County’s unique history. The mission of the Saratoga County History Center is to serve as a repository for local and regional histories, to provide innovative educational and public programming, and to instill in our communities a deeper understanding of how the past informs and impacts our present and future. For more information, visit <https://brooksidemuseum.org/>.



*“Day by day, what you choose, what you think, and what you do is who you become.”* – Heraclitus  
 Various scenes of our 2022 Craft Fair captured by our volunteer photographer David Waite, Volunteers play essential roles in sharing our rich collections, exhibitions, research, and educational programming to the public.

Sign up to volunteer through our website. <https://brooksidemuseum.org/support-schs/volunteer/>

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# Saratoga County History Center

with Skidmore College Department of History

Presents

# County Life in Photographs



See the exhibit at Brookside Museum. Open Thursday through Sunday from 1 pm to 5 pm.

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## Volunteer wanted!

We are looking to increase the number of volunteers.

Roles include:

- General Volunteers
- Museum Assistants
- Building and Grounds Assistants

You can also sign up to volunteer through our website. <https://brooksidemuseum.org/support-schs/volunteer/>

# Volunteer At Brookside



David Waite's photos of the 2022 Saratoga County History Center's Craft Fair at Brookside Museum.

Thank you again to our visitors, crafts people, volunteers and staff.

The Brookside Museum is open Thursday through Sunday from 1pm to 5pm. SCHC Brookside Museum lists all closings at <https://www.facebook.com/brooksidemuseum/>

The SCHC Brookside Museum is located at 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 County Life in Photographs.*

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](http://www.brooksidemuseum.org)) and social media accounts (@SaratogaCoHistory) for news and announcements.

## 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 Noon to 4 pm 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.



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

# 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 6 Charlton Street in Ballston Spa, NY 12020. Admission to this museum is free and donations are welcome.



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](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. 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, Kathleen Rebmann Royka, Beth Silvestri, and David Waite.

The SCHC News and Events are available on our [website](#).

**Saratoga County History Center**  
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 Ballston Spa, NY 12020  
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