Saratoga County History Center

Sharing History to Promote Community

September 15, 2022

It has been another outstanding week for the Saratoga County History Center. We had over 80
attendees who attended Dr. Myra Armstead's talk titled "From Slavery to Freedom: Blacks in Saratoga From the Colonial Period Through Gradual Manumission." To have such a well-regarded scholar visit us to discuss such an important topic, and to have such a large crowd attend, is a testament to our community, their interest, and their enthusiasm. Thank you to Reverend Bell and his congregation welcoming the program to the beautiful Dyer-Phelps Memorial AME Zion Church. What a partner and what a community. A great thank you to our staff and volunteers. All these activities happen with members like you. The moment has come to renew your membership by visiting our membership page.

Don't forget, we have BBQ on Friday!

Become a member
Saratoga County History Center

Miller's Backyard BBQ
Chicken and Pulled Pork Dinner
Friday, September 16th,
3-6pm at Brookside Museum

Dinners for $15. Chicken dinner includes 1/2 chicken, baked potato, coleslaw, and cornbread. Pulled Pork includes 1/2 lb. Pulled Pork with baked potato, cornbread and 4oz coleslaw. This is a take-out only.

Visit https://brooksidemuseum.org/event/millers-backyard-barbecue/ or (518) 885-4000 to reserve your meal.

21 Fairground Avenue, Ballston Spa NY 12020
September 16 3-6pm Drive-thru Miller's Backyard BBQ Chicken and Pulled Pork Dinner To Go. A benefit for the Saratoga County History Center, dinners are $15. Each chicken dinner will include 1/2 chicken, baked potato, coleslaw, and cornbread. Each Pulled Pork will consist of 1/2 lb pulled pork with baked potato, cornbread, and 4oz coleslaw. In addition, Mac and Cheese sides are available for $5. This is a take-out only at SCHC's Brookside Museum, at 21 Fairground Avenue, Ballston Spa. Please visit https://brooksidemuseum.org/event/millers-backyard-barbecue/ or call (518) 885-4000 to reserve your meal. There will be a limited number of extra dinners available on the day. Questions? Contact donna@brooksidemuseum.org or phone 518-885-4000

Order Miller's Backyard BBQ

September 17 – 10am Historians' Walking Tour - Vischer Ferry. Sold Out. The tour will begin at the parking area at the end of Ferry Drive.

September 21 – 7pm Experts Next Door - The Saratoga-Las Vegas Connection. Mob Museum Trustee and University of Nevada, Las Vegas Associate Professor of History Michael Green will go over some of the famous and not-so-famous links between the two resort towns, after which he will take questions and comments from the audience. A native of Las Vegas, Dr. Green is a nationally-recognized scholar of US history and an experienced, engaging public speaker who delights audiences with anecdotes and inside scoops. From movies to mobsters to migrants, Dr. Green will pull back the curtain (or should we say prison bars?) on the Saratoga-Las Vegas relationship. The event, to be held on Zoom, is open to the public. It is free, but donations are greatly appreciated. To register, please visit https://brooksidemuseum.networkforgood.com/events/44049-experts-next-door-20-saratoga-las-vegas-connection?fbclid=IwAR3V7t-jX4BHw7XTjYV-EWjmHR3jZr86Ln-OOQcDKIBHBZrsKNp5xtQleio

Register for Experts Next Door

The Saratoga-Las Vegas Connection

September 29 – 1pm Historians' Walking Tour - The Champlain Canal, Waterford. Sold Out This walk will begin at Lock 2 Park in Waterford. Lock 2 Park is located off Broad St. which is on Rt. 32 and the main thoroughfare in downtown Waterford. Parking available at Lock 2 Park and other nearby streets.

Register for Champlain Canal Walking Tour

Alonzo D. Bump, 77th New York State Voluntary Infantry will present the Civil War experiences of Alonzo Bump as expressed in his letters home to his wife Mary and other family members. David will touch on many aspects of Alonzo's life as a soldier, including camp life, poor rations, disease, marching, combat, desertion, commanding officers, the enemy, military pay, and other topics. Books will be available for signing. To register, https://brooksidemuseum.networkforgood.com/events/47692-alonzo-bump This is an in-person event at SCHC's Brookside Museum, at 21 Fairground Avenue, Ballston Spa.

Sign Up for Private Alonzo D. Bump Talk

October 7 – 10:30am Off The Northway Presentation and Book Signing at the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library. Local journalist Stephen Williams will talk about the long rollercoaster history of the dream, design, negotiations for, and construction of the $15 billion GlobalFoundries semiconductor facility in Malta. He will also sign copies of Off the Northway, a compilation of 83 articles written from 2005 through 2020 for the Daily Gazette in Schenectady, NY. The book will be available for purchase for $20 and is published by the Saratoga County History Center. The Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library is located at 475 Moe Road in Clifton Park NY 12065.

All these programs are free and open to the public unless otherwise indicated, and donations are accepted with gratitude. The SCHC's Brookside Museum is located at 21 Fairground Avenue in Ballston Spa, NY 12020.

Membership Announcement!

We are in the middle of our annual membership campaign. This is when we ask for YOUR help to support the history and culture in our community and beyond. We’ve been able to accomplish all that we do because of your continued support, and we are incredibly grateful. Thank you to all that responded to our first letter. We are about to send out our second letter. As we grow and change for the better, we will be implementing a new membership renewal process. As current members, each year, you received a membership renewal on a rolling basis depending on when you initially became a member. Starting this year, all members will reset on September 1 as we try to make the renewal process easier for you and SCHC.
Seeking Craft Vendors for the 22nd Artisan Market

The Saratoga County History Center at Brookside Museum announced today that it is seeking craft vendors for its 22nd Annual Artisan’s Market. This juried market is to be held at the Saratoga County History Center at Brookside Museum (SCHC @ Brookside Museum) from November 26th – December 24rd.

The Artisan’s Market features only hand made- hand crafted products created by the vendor. The market is heavily attended. The museum utilizes social media, posters, email blasts, press releases and media announcements, our newsletter and website to promote this eagerly anticipated event.

“Many people wait for the market opening to do their holiday shopping. It’s the perfect place to find distinctive and one-of- a-kind gifts. It’s a wonderful opportunity for crafters of all kinds”, remarked Beth Silvestri, Retail Manager.
The Juried Artisan Market is held at SCHC @ Brookside Museum, 21 Fairground Ave, Ballston Spa, NY 12020, and is open to the public from Saturday, November 26 through Saturday, December 24. The Artisan’s Market is staffed by museum employees. SCHC @ Brookside Museum handles all sales tax and pays vendors 60% of the sale price of their items. Booth fees are $30 for a 4’x4’ area and $45 for a 4’x6’ area. A limited number of booths with electricity are available for an additional $10 per booth. Vendors must provide a typed (preferably digital) inventory list. Vendors are responsible for their booth set up; tables and shelving will not be provided by SCHC @ Brookside Museum.

Applications can be downloaded at https://brooksidemuseum.org/events/artisans-market/ and can be emailed to bsilvestri@brooksidemuseum.org or mailed to:

Brookside Museum
Attn: Beth Silvestri
21 Fairground Ave.
Ballston Spa, NY 12020

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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.

**September 17 - 1pm** "Genealogy Myths." A Heritage Hunters of Saratoga County talk by Genealogist Lisa Dougherty. Dougherty talks about some of the common myths and how they can mislead genealogy research. The audience will be encouraged to share experiences they may have had, along with their efforts to prove or disprove what they’ve been told. Town of Saratoga’s Town Hall, 12 Spring Street, on the corner of routes 29 and 4 in Schuylerville, NY 12871.

**September 19 - 1pm** "One Continual Blaze": The Battle of Freeman’s Farm." Saratoga National Historical Park marks the 245th anniversary of the First Battle of Saratoga at 1:00pm with “One Continual Blaze”: The Battle of Freeman’s Farm, an illustrated program telling the story of the battle and its participants. Program is at the Saratoga National Historical Park's Visitor Center 648 Route 32, Stillwater, NY 12170. For more information (518) 670-2985, www.nps.gov/sara, or find the park on Facebook.

**September 22 - 7pm** "General Schuyler's Enslaved." Join the Old Saratoga Historical Association for a program meeting as Heidi Hill from Schuyler Mansion shares recent research on
the people enslaved by General Schuyler. Town of Saratoga’s Town Hall, 12 Spring Street, on the corner of routes 29 and 4 in Schuylerville, NY 12871.

**September 24 - 12pm "The Fife & Drums of Fort Ticonderoga."** Saratoga National Historical Park welcomes The Fife & Drums of Fort Ticonderoga for a performance. This program is made possible by support from the Friends of Saratoga Battlefield. Program is at the Saratoga National Historical Park's Visitor Center 648 Route 32, Stillwater, NY 12170. For more information (518) 670-2985, [www.nps.gov/sara](http://www.nps.gov/sara), or find the park on Facebook.

**September 24 - 3pm "50 Years Ago: Filming in Ballston Spa of The Way We Were."** In September 1972, Hollywood came to Ballston Spa when a production crew took over Front Street to film some scenes for the movie "The Way We Were," which was set in the 1930s. Robert Redford and Barbra Streisand--and some local residents ("extras")--were here in person for the moviemaking. Learn about this event and the excitement it generated. How did it impact the community, and why was Ballston Spa chosen as a filming location? David Fiske will talk about the time--50 years ago--that Hollywood came to town. After the talk, take a walk up to Front Street to see and hear about the two locations that appeared on screen. Held at The Real McCoy Beer Company, located at 28 Washington Street, Ballston Spa.

**September 27 - 7pm "Everyone Went to the Festa!: The Feast of St. Michael in Saratoga Springs."** Saratoga Springs City Historian Mary Ann Fitzgerald presents the Feast of St. Michael was celebrated in late September in Saratoga Springs’ Dublin neighborhood, now known as the Beekman Street Arts District. As the statue of Saint Michael was paraded down Beekman Street, people pinned money to him, which benefited the Principessa Elena Society, a community resource for newly arrived Americans that still exists today. The “Festa” grew into a widely beloved celebration that embraced live music, plentiful cuisine, and even fireworks. Held at Saratoga Springs History Museum at Canfield Casino in Congress Park, 1 East Congress Street, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

**September 29 - 12pm "They Wore What!?: Historical Heroines Kicking @$$, in a Corset."** Have you ever wondered how your favorite historical women from book and screen could go about their adventures while wearing all those layers, plus a corset? Weren't they hot? How could they breathe!? Librarian and experienced old-timey-clothes-wearer, Caitlin Sheldon will demonstrate with props and diagrams. The Saratoga Springs Public Library is located at 49 Henry Street, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866-3271. Reservations are required. [https://sspl.libcal.com/event/9175472](https://sspl.libcal.com/event/9175472)

**October 3 - 7pm “250th Anniversary of the Fulton County Court House”**. Join Samantha Hill-Saladino, Fulton County Historian, to give a presentation on the history of the Fulton County Court House at the monthly meeting of the Galway Preservation Society. The meeting will be held at the Galway Town Hall, 5910 Sacandaga Rd., Galway, NY 12074.

**October 15 – 10am - 3:30pm "Heritage Hunters All-Day Genealogy Conference."** Heritage Hunters of Saratoga County will offer a series of 4 genealogy talks in one day, featuring certified genealogist Nancy Loe, via Zoom. They are: Beyond Ancestry: Essential Portals for
Genealogy, Successful Genealogy Sources and Citations, Discovering European Immigrant Ancestors, and Picture This: Cataloging Digital Photos. In addition to appearing on PBS’s *American Experience*, Loe has presented for all experience levels at National Genealogical Society, RootsTech, Legacy Family Tree and genealogy conferences in the U.S., Canada, and Australia. The cost of the conference is $20 for members, $35 for non-members, which includes new membership. A registration form should be completed and sent, along with a check, to Ginny Humphrey, 5166 Fairground Ave., Ballston Spa, N.Y. 12020 by Oct. 11. Members can find the form in the October-November newsletter issue. Non-members can receive it by snail mail or email by calling Ginny Humphrey, 518-885-9309.

**October 27 - 7pm "Campaign to Saratoga"** Join the Old Saratoga Historical Association for a program meeting as Eric Schnitzer, the historian at Saratoga NHP, discusses his recent book, *Campaign to Saratoga*, he co-authored with Don Troiani. Town of Saratoga’s Town Hall, 12 Spring Street, on the corner of routes 29 and 4 in Schuylerville, NY 12871.

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.
News from the gardens…

The herb garden is looking scruffy as autumn knocks at the door. But the calendulas, long known as pot marigolds, seem unaware of the seasonal change. Blossoms abound—tiny celestial suns of yellow, gold, and orange dapple the garden. Calendulas flourish in cooler weather and continue to flower, even after Jack Frost visits. They’re an undemanding plant, requiring only deadheading and an occasional cutting back. A bonus is their habit of self-seeding without traveling.

The early settlers valued calendula for more than the long season of color. They brought seeds from home because calendula was an essential resource for medicine and dye. They also used the flowers
in food preparation and added dried flowers to winter bouquets and potpourri.

As the growing season slowly comes toward the end, there is still a lot to accomplish in the herb garden. Most perennials benefit from being divided every three years. September is the opportune month as there is time for plants to reestablish before winter cold sets in and next spring’s growth spurt. We are behind schedule at the herb garden so several projects are planned: dividing the heritage day lilies, the comfrey, betony, and tansy.
But that’s not all. The orris root, aka Florentine iris, needs harvesting from the fragrance garden. Tubers are lifted, cleaned, and those to be replanted are soaked in a weak solution of bleach and water. Amendments are added to the soil before replanting the tubers with their surface above the soil to help prevent tuber rot. The harvested tubers have particular use. One can not help but wonder when and how this use was discovered. First, they are dried and aged for a minimum of three years. Next, they are ground, releasing a delicate violet fragrance, before being added to prolong the perfume of potpourri which helped mask household odors. And, there’s still more. Several years ago golden marguerites disappeared from the dyer bed. We tried starting seeds under lights and in the garden without success. We are delighted seed planted in the garden this year has produced a row of small plants. Now we’ll transplant them to where they have space to grow and provide material for making dye next summer.
Do you remember the tiny hollyhocks rescued from the gravel path? Happily, they are taking hold. With mulch, they should weather the winter and flower next July.
The Three Sisters Garden had a rough summer. The deer pillaged the squash from the moment the leaves reached the fence. The squirrels joined the party as the corn ripened. The garden was left in shambles—corn ravaged; squash leaves devoured.
Still, the squash flowered and we were mystified why not one squash formed. The problem was probably weather related according to a panel of gardening experts on WAMC. It seems in the Cucurbitaceae family (squash and pumpkin), male flowers form even when nights are very hot but female flowers often do not. It takes two to tango so even if pollinators visit, no squash appear!

Labor Day has come and gone. The harvest moon is waning. Days are shorter; there’s a nip in the morning air. Autumn is on its way and our days in the garden are numbered. We’ll enjoy everyone.

PS: All the gardens at Brookside rely on volunteers. No experience is needed! If you have a few hours to spare and would like to help, leave a message with Matt at (518) 885-4000. Kathleen or Maureen will return your call.

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/](https://brooksidemuseum.org/support-schs/volunteer/)

Volunteer At Brookside

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**Alonzo Bump**
The Story of a Private in The 77th New York

Presentation by David Handy

Saratoga County History Center At Brookside Museum Thursday, September 29 7pm

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Sign Up for Private Alonzo D. Bump Talk

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Become a Member of the SCHC this Month!
Become a member of the History Center today at the Brookside Contributor with a $100 donation. You will receive SCHC’s newsletter, access to special events, free museum and library admission, window sticker, and reduced prices for events. In addition, Contributors receive a welcome packet, membership card with NARM membership, and a 10% discount at the museum shop.

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

Become a member

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**Off The Northway**

*By Stephen Williams*

**Presentation and Book Signing Event**

**Friday October 7  10:30 am**

475 Moe Road, Clifton Park, NY

SCHC's Brookside Museum is open Thursday through Sunday from 1pm to 5pm and is located at 21 Fairground Avenue in Ballston Spa, NY 12020. Admission to this museum is free and donations are welcome. [www.brooksidemuseum.org](http://www.brooksidemuseum.org)

**Current Exhibits**

https://brooksidemuseum.dm.networkforgood.com/emails/first_name-order-some-great-bbq-and-support-schc
In the Saratoga Style: Potato Chips and Their Regional Folklore through December 23
Black Experiences in Saratoga County, 1750-1950 through November 13
A Century of Ice Cream, a centennial of the Dake family and Stewart’s Shops through December 23
County Life in Photographs through November 13

SCHC's Brookside Museum lists all closings at https://www.facebook.com/brookidemuseum/

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.
IN THE SARATOGA STYLE: POTATO CHIPS AND THEIR REGIONAL FOLKLORE

BLACK EXPERIENCES IN SARATOGA COUNTY, 1750-1950

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

EXHIBITIONS

COUNTY LIFE IN PHOTOGRAPHS
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.
Black Experiences in Saratoga County 1750 – 1950

This exhibit explores the diversity of the lives of African Americans in Saratoga County over 200 years of our history 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.

New additions to the exhibit include The prestigious Scripter Award, awarded by the University of Southern California and other artifacts related to Solomon Northup,

The Brookside Museum is open Thursday to Sunday from 1pm to 5pm. You will find it at 6 Charlton Street in Ballston Spa, NY 12020. Entry is free and donations are acceptable.
In the Saratoga Style: Potato Chips and Their Regional Folklore

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, 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
21 Fairground Avenue
Ballston Spa, NY 12020
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