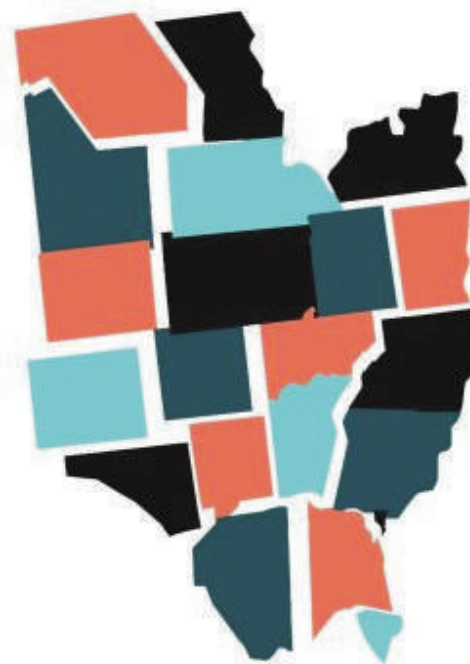


January 13 Saratoga County History Center News and Events

SCHC
Saratoga County History Center
@ Brookside Museum



Saratoga County History Center

Sharing History to Promote Community

January 13, 2022





Dear friends,

It is an honor to be tapped as the new president of SCHC. When staff member Anne Clothier called me two years ago to report the possibility that Brookside Museum would close, I felt an obligation to pitch in, but I had no idea where it would lead.

Since then, under Jere Blackwelder's enthusiastic leadership, we have enjoyed success after success. Our finances have improved dramatically, and, with four exhibits opening last summer, we have presented a fresh look to the visiting public. But it's our outreach, through ambitious on-line programming and supporting publicity, that has reinvigorated the institution.

The coming year will be, if possible, even more exciting. With the proceeds of our Preserve the Porch annual appeal, we will be able to reconstruct the porch and replace half of the seventy-year-old storm windows. Three new exhibits will debut in late summer. Behind the scenes, a growing corps of volunteers are wrangling the many collections that have proliferated for nearly fifty years, becoming unmanageable and largely unsearchable as they did so. The Roundtable, more publications, an ambitious schedule of public programs, and several new (and fun!) fundraisers will keep us hopping.

Our best strategy for long-term viability is membership support. If you are not already a member, please join us at whatever dollar level is comfortable for you. If you are a member, perhaps you can invite a friend with an interest in history to join us too. Our membership has more than doubled in the past year and must double again to take us to a fully-viable level.

Why does it matter? Our county-wide collections—objects, of course, but more extensively manuscripts, photographs, and reference books—are an irreplaceable resource for all Saratogians, now and in the future. If you have an interest in helping to put them in order, please contact me at field.horne@gmail.com.

I look forward, with your help, to building up this important institution.

FIELD HORNE

Upcoming Events

January 15 – 1 pm “Serendipity in Genealogy: Or Help from the Other Side” by Clifton Park Historian John Sherer, A Heritage Hunters of Saratoga County program focused on that feeling that your ancestors are actually trying to assist you in researching your family tree. The program is via Zoom. [https://us02web.zoom.us](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87536107939?pwd=UDRIbUJLbmY0M1RjZmlKTjcvSWdYdz09)

[/j/87536107939?pwd=UDRIbUJLbmY0M1RjZmlKTjcvSWdYdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87536107939?pwd=UDRIbUJLbmY0M1RjZmlKTjcvSWdYdz09)

Meeting ID: 875 3610 7939 Passcode: 800880

January 27 - 7pm ""Coping with Life's Necessaries" with Ian Mumpton of the Schuyler Mansion State Historic Site, a virtual event, via Zoom, as part of the Expert Next Door series.

The Schuyler family enjoyed many luxuries as part of their refined lifestyle, but what might their hygiene practices have looked like? Tickets are available at

<https://brooksidemuseum.networkforgood.com/events/38237-expert-next-door-18>

“Preserve the Porch!” Campaign a Rousing Success



The trustees of the Saratoga County History Center wish to thank the community for their generosity and commitment to preserving public history. The 2021 annual fundraising campaign – “Preserve the Porch!” – was a rousing success.

In November and December of 2021, the campaign yielded an impressive \$20,720.00.

Moreover, an anonymous donor graciously agreed to match funds up to \$10,000.00, making the total amount raised \$30,720.00.

The funds will go directly to replacing storm windows and repairing Brookside Museum’s iconic front porch. Built in 1792, just four years after the ratification of the United States Constitution,

and remodeled in the 1830s in the popular “Greek Revival” style, the grand piazza is sadly in need of reconstruction. Specifically, all the front steps and floor boards, which are ruined by rot and mold, need to be replaced, as well as the deck frame supporting the floor. In addition, the entire portico needs to be rebuilt for proper drainage, and the earth beneath should be covered with plastic and pea stone to reduce future moisture. The crisis concerns both safety and appearance.

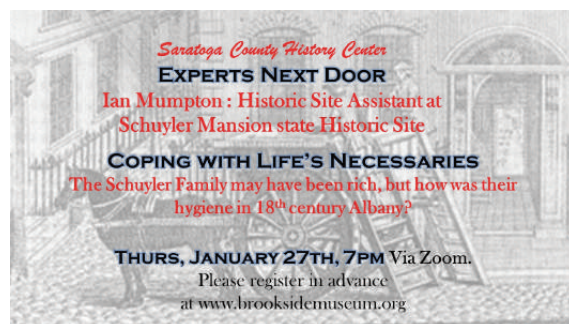
“The response from the county and beyond has been astounding!” remarks new History Center President, Field Horne. “We went hat-in-hand to our friends and neighbors, asking them to help us save this awe-inspiring façade and important piece of local history, and they rallied and responded well-beyond our expectations.”

“Support for our ‘Preserve the Porch!’ campaign is a major win for the Saratoga County History Center,” said Sean Kelleher, Vice President of Membership and Community Engagement. “The ability to fund the restoration of the iconic porch and storm windows will provide stabilization for the Brookside Museum in the future, and will allow visitors to safely access the museum, grounds and library for generations to come. It would not have been possible without support from the community. We thank our community for its continued efforts to help preserve this treasure, which is an important part of Saratoga County's history.”

“We are humbled by the generosity,” adds Jon Hallgren, who will oversee the restoration. “We will make sure that Brookside stands bold and beautiful for another 200 years.”

The fundraising drive surpassed our total cost estimate, so Brookside’s famous face will be revived with high-quality material and expert attention.

"Coping with Life's Necessaries" - Expert Next Door #18



Learn about colonial hygiene with Ian Mumpton of Schuyler Mansion State Historic Site. The Schuyler family enjoyed many luxuries as part of their refined lifestyle, but what might their hygiene practices have looked like? How did their practices differ from or align with those of their neighbors in 18th century Albany? Learn more about the changing practices of this aristocratic, colonial family with Schuyler Mansion's "Coping with Life's Necessaries".

Presenter Ian Mumpton is the Historic Site Assistant at Schuylers Mansion State Historic Site. His work focuses on highlighting historically excluded narratives as essential parts of the site's history, including the stories of Loyalists, Native Americans, women, tenant farmers and enslaved people of African descent. He is also currently researching the martial arts and the martial identity of colonial New Netherland.

This will be a virtual event, via Zoom, as part of the Expert Next Door series. Tickets are available at <https://brooksidemuseum.networkforgood.com/events/38237-expert-next-door-18>

Brookside Museum Winter Hours

Winter hours are Saturdays and Sundays from Noon to 4 p.m.. The 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 A Century of Ice Cream, a centennial of the Dake family and Stewart's Shops, Mystery Photographs from Eastern Saratoga and the Country Stores in Saratoga County.



Jesse Sumner Wooley's *Primitive Mode of Transportation in Baraca Land* (SCHC Collection)



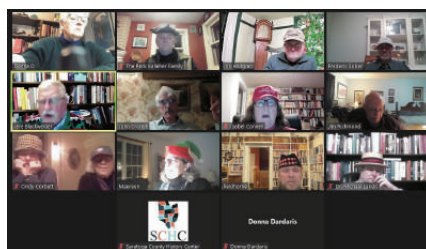
Start a New Year by Volunteering

SCHC seeks enthusiastic, energetic and professional people to become part of our team through a variety of volunteer positions. We have a range of open positions, including building and

ground assistants, research assistants, archival assistants, and video production assistants. To help visit <https://tinyurl.com/2us7xu8f/>

Heritage Hunters January 15 Zoom program

This Saturday, January 15, at 1 pm John Sherer, Town Historian for Clifton Park, will present the program, “Serendipity in Genealogy: Or Help from the Other Side.” The talk is described by John as a “fun talk” and audience participation will be welcome. If you’ve ever had the feeling that your ancestors are actually trying to assist you in researching your family tree, you will be interested in this topic.



John has been the Historian for Clifton Park for 43 years, and has an office at the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library. He has a Bachelor’s Degree in History and a Master’s in Museum Studies and American Folklore. He has authored several books on area history.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87536107939?pwd=UDRlbUJLbmY0M1RjZmlKTjcvSWdYdz09>

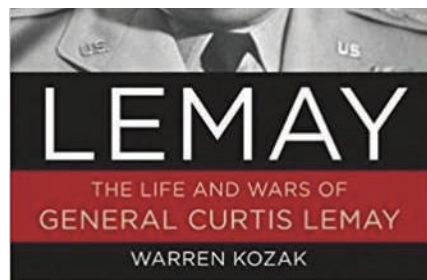
Meeting ID: 875 3610 7939

Passcode: 800880

or dial 1 (929) 205 6099

What book is on the nightstand?

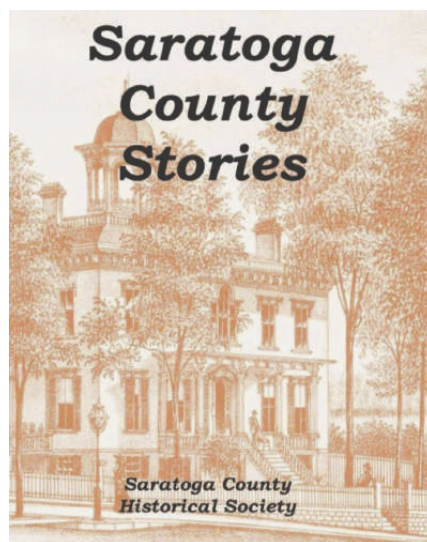
We asked various local historians and history enthusiasts what history book has been their bedside table recently. As the pandemic continues, we hope you will want to find out what others are reading in these uncertain times and why, Author Alan Maddaus shared:



The historical non-fiction book that I just finished reading is LeMay - The Life and Wars of General Curtis LeMay by Warren Kozak. It is the life story of Curtis Emerson LeMay who overcame disadvantages of his family's limited circumstances to become one of the most influential United States' military leaders in World War II and the Cold War. From the moment he saw an airplane in flight his desire was to be a pilot in the Army Air Corps, later to become the United States Air Force. Through determination and astute career path maneuvers he became - in rapid succession - the Air Corps' best navigator, pilot and finally leader of a B-17 Squadron engaged in the air war over Germany. His ability to develop successful bombing tactics, and willingness to pilot the lead bomber led to winning the war of attrition with Germany. He was equally influential in the tactics used leading to the surrender of Japan. After World War ended, he became the Commanding General of the Strategic Air Command and architect of a nuclear deterrence capability that held the Soviet Union at bay though the Cold War.

The reason for my interest in General LeMay is background on the Wright Peak tragedy of January 16, 1962, when a B-47 stationed at the former Plattsburgh Air Force base crashed there while returning from a practice bomb delivery mission at Fort Drum near Watertown.

Alan Maddaus will be publishing a book, *Wright Peak Elegy- a Story of Cold War, Nuclear Deterrence and Ultimate Sacrifice*, at the end of February. He is the author of *The Prestons of East Street*, the history of a 19th-century American family. Alan is a contributor to 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 and <https://tinyurl.com/3948drjd>.



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 rely on the contributions of the historical community of Saratoga County and others for all the content on this page. Producer Sean Kelleher and Editor Donna Dardaris coordinate the creation of the email with the help of many contributors, including Anne Clothier, Isobel Connell, Michael Landis, Jim Richmond, and Beth Silvestri.

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.

Saratoga County History Center

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Ballston Spa, NY 12020

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