

January 20 Saratoga County History Center News and Events

SCHC

Saratoga County History Center
@ Brookside Museum



Saratoga County History Center

Sharing History to Promote Community

January 20, 2022



The Saratoga County History Center Board of Directors monthly meeting was held on January 18 via Zoom.

Upcoming Events

January 25 - 7pm "Saratoga Springs Train Stations: Architecture and Impact" with author Richard Chait, a virtual program on Zoom and Facebook. Saratoga Springs Preservation Foundation program with a suggested donation of \$10 or more. For additional information or to register for the virtual program, visit www.saratogapreservation.org or call (518) 587-5030

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>

January 29 - 2pm "Wings of Victory: Aircraft Manufacturing in New York State During World War II" Historian Patrick Chaisson examines aircraft production in New York State during the Second World War, tracing the development of such legendary warbirds as the Grumman Hellcat and Republic Thunderbolt fighter planes and many of the lesser-known aviation companies who did their part to help win victory. FREE Attendance limited to 40. The Winter/Spring 2022 Programs are sponsored by the Friends of the New York State Military Museum with generous support from Stewarts Shops. The New York State Military Museum is located at 61 Lake Ave. Saratoga Springs.

February 8 - 7pm "Troy in the Civil War" lecture presented by Michael Barrett at the Van Schaick Island Country Club (201 Continental Ave, Cohoes) Admission: \$6 non members \$5 members This is part of the Winter Lecture Series at the Waterford Historical Museum and Cultural Center. For more information, contact info@waterfordmuseum.com (Dinner is available for separate purchase during the program [not included in the price of admission] by Max 410 at the Van Schaick Island Country Club.)

February 19 - 2pm "Valor: The Medal of Honor" presented by Edward Lengel, chief historian of Medal of Honor Museum. FREE Attendance limited to 40. The New York State Military Museum is located at 61 Lake Ave. Saratoga Springs.

History Center Celebrates Black History Month with New Exhibit

The Saratoga County History Center, in partnership with the Saratoga County History Roundtable, is pleased to announce the opening of a new exhibit at Brookside Museum to celebrate Black History Month: "Black Experiences in Saratoga County, 1750-1950."

The expansive exhibit explores the diverse lives of African Americans in Saratoga County from the colonial period through the mid-twentieth century. It is a panorama of the struggles and hardships, but also stories of their persistence and success. Displays will 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.

Needless to say, the new exhibit is a product of diligent research by a team of local historians brought together by the History Center: Jim Richmond, Saratoga County History Roundtable; Lauren Roberts, Saratoga County Historian; Anne Clothier, Saratoga County History Center; Maryann Fitzgerald, Saratoga Springs City Historian; Kendall Hicks, Exalted Ruler of the Frederick Allen Elks Lodge of Saratoga Springs; and Lorie Wies, Saratoga Springs Public Library.

“One of the most exciting aspects of the exhibit design is that the panels will be available for display in other venues in the county,” notes Project leader Jim Richmond. County Historian Roberts added, “This collaborative effort pulls together resources from several local repositories that shed light on Black experiences throughout our past. Using a chronological approach, the exhibit illustrates change over time in the areas of culture, employment, and community.”

“The History Center strives to preserve and share the experiences all the communities of Saratoga County,” explains Dr. Michael Landis, History Center trustee and chair of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiative. “It is critically important that we create exhibits and programs that not only showcase diversity in the county but challenge traditional historical narratives.”

The exhibit will be open at Brookside Museum (6 Charlton Street, Ballston Spa) on Saturdays and Sundays 12 - 4 PM, beginning February 6. Hours will be expanded in the spring and summer. It is free and open to the public. Donations are encouraged. All proceeds will go directly to museum upkeep and public programming.

Saratoga County History Center

EXPERTS NEXT DOOR

**Ian Mumpton : Historic Site Assistant at
Schuyler Mansion state Historic Site**

COPING WITH LIFE'S NECESSARIES

**The Schuyler Family may have been rich, but how was their
hygiene in 18th century Albany?**

THURS, JANUARY 27TH, 7PM Via Zoom.

Please register in advance
at www.brooksidemuseum.org

Best Year Ever for the Artisan Market



Thanks to all those who did their shopping at the 2021 Artisan Market. "The support of our community, as well as our board members and volunteers helped to make it our most successful year in our 21 year history," exclaimed Beth Silvestri, Retail Manager for SCHC. In addition to two raffles, SCHC had a unique selection from 23 vendors selling a wide variety of items, including soaps, cutting boards, jewelry, wreaths, hats, ornaments, dishes, candles and more.

Planning is in progress for the coming year. If you would like more information, please contact Beth Silvestri at bsilvestri@brooksidemuseum.org.

Volunteer help needed - Clean up the museum



January 21 - 6-8 pm We are seeking for some volunteers to help clean up the museum on one of the coldest nights of the year. We need people to join VP Sean Kelleher for a pizza and clean. We're talking about sweeping, moping, dusting, and things of that nature. Bring a broom, gloves and face coverings. Sean will deal with the pizza. Henry and Erin (Sean's children) will provide some of the help and we will clean up for 2 hours (8 pm). Please RSVP at 518-698-3210



Start a New Year by Volunteering

SCHC is looking for enthusiastic, energetic and professional people to participate in our team through a variety of volunteer positions. We have a variety of vacancies, including building and ground assistants, research assistants, archive assistants, and video production assistants. To help visit <https://tinyurl.com/2us7xu8f/>

Image of the Month

The Saratoga County History Center's Image of the Month series uses the extensive image library at Brookside Museum. This image is the painting of the fire at George West's Union Cotton Mill by scenic artist, Robert W. Hanington. The painting depicts the four-storey building and tower in flames on December 5, 1878. Spectators in winter gear watch the firefighters with fire hoses.



Catalog Number 1964.002.0002

Date 1878

Artist Robert W. Hanington

This paint was on display at Gould's Dry Goods Store in January 1879.

The villagers voted a dime each to buy the painting and present it to Union Fire Co. #2.

The Union Cotton Mill was located at Milton Street and Prospect Street. The property is now known as the Chocolate Factory. In 1982 the property was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Development began in about 1830, when Hezekiah Middlebrook began to dam the creek. The Ballston Mill Company built the first cotton mill on the site in 1844. Six years later, in 1850, they added a wool mill, today known as Bag Factory.

In 1878, the Union cotton plant was destroyed by fire. The fire broke out on December 5, 1878, a little after 7 a.m., when a boy in the mailroom knocked down a lamp. The roof collapsed at eight o'clock and the walls in less than an hour. 65 employees lost their jobs. Three firefighters were hurt. The building incurred a loss of \$50,000 with its contents.

The next year George West bought the estate. During the Civil War, West had profited by inventing the flat-bottomed paper bag, the first of which could contain up to 50 pounds. Following the fire, he purchased the property and built the current structure, renamed the Union Paper Mill. Power came from a renovated flume and the turbine from the cotton mill. He also enlarged the wool mill and turned it into a bag factory.

Would you like to learn more about SCHC's image collections? Visit <https://brookside.pastperfectonline.com/> for our vast collection. Our collection is open round the clock, 7 days a week.

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, 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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