

NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS



Sharing History to Promote Community



All of us here at the Saratoga County History Center invite you to join our institution through membership. Members make our goal of educating the community and preserving its rich history a reality. Follow the link below to learn more. Membership at \$100 or above brings NARM membership, which gives free admission to almost 1,500 museums locally and around the country. It's the perfect holiday gift for the history lover in your life!

[Register for or Renew Membership Here](#)

Annual Appeal 2025

As we enter a new year at SCHC, we still need your support. Please donate to our Annual Appeal to help us achieve our goals of painting the exterior of Brookside Museum and repairing a small section of the roof. This work is vital, in order to care for our wonderful historic building in the best possible way, so that it can continue to welcome future generations of visitors for years to come.

[Donate to the 2025 Annual Appeal](#)

Our Sincere Thanks:

Saratoga County History Center is pleased to announce that we have been awarded a GlobalFoundries / Town of Malta Foundation grant to support our upcoming *Spotlight on Malta History Series*. In its fifteenth year of giving, the GlobalFoundries / Town of Malta Foundation awarded 41 grants totaling \$185,000 to local organizations to support a variety of community needs and programs, and we were very fortunate to be among the grantees. Our \$750 award will help us to develop and host a series of events focused on the

history and ecology of Malta, our neighboring community. We are very grateful for the support of the GlobalFoundries / Town of Malta Foundation for our work of connecting history and community.

We would also like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to John and Mike Munter of Munter Enterprises in Middle Grove for their generous Silver Sponsorship, as well as Congressman Paul Tonko and Morcon Inc. of Saratoga Springs for their gracious donations to the Bronze Sponsorship level of *Experiences from WWI*. In this new program, students will visit stations that feature replica artifacts, primary sources, and letters written by individuals connected to the war. This immersive experience makes history accessible and tangible while highlighting Saratoga County's own ties to the World War I era. Support from community partners like Munter Enterprises, Congressman Tonko and Morcon, Inc. helps us keep program costs low for schools while expanding access to high-quality history education. We are proud to recognize their dedication to preserving and sharing history.



Listen to the Whole Story

Come and try our new QR code experience at Brookside Museum. Learn more about the diverse histories of our county through audio and video excerpts, enhancing the *Saratoga County: Our Home!* exhibition.

Watch the Listen to the Whole Story Playlist

A Question for our Community

Did you or someone you know attend a one-room schoolhouse in Saratoga County?

Our education department is collecting stories for an upcoming research project and would love to hear your story. Please contact Charlene DuBuque, Director of Education, at charlene@brooksidemuseum.org or 518-683-6387.

Winter Hours

Brookside Museum is open to the public Saturday and Sunday from the hours of Noon to 4PM during the winter season.

Online Shop Now Open

No time to shop at Brookside Museum, or live too far away? Then check out our online shop. Browse a variety of gifts, publications and movies all available on site at Brookside Museum and now for the first time available online. Online purchases may either be picked up at Brookside, or, for a small fee, shipped through USPS. Follow the link below to start shopping now!

View the Online Shop Here

Sounds in Winter Concert: Eribeth Trio**Saturday, January 17, 3:00PM****Brookside Museum, 21 Fairground Ave**

Tune in for the second edition of this third season of the Sounds in Winter concert series. Brookside welcomes Eribeth Trio, who will play music for a Victorian Tea. These concerts are sponsored jointly by The Ballston Spa Committee on the Arts, and The Saratoga County History Center with funding provided by The American Federation of Musicians Music Performance Trust Fund and a grant from Saratoga Arts.

SOLD OUT - To join our waitlist, please email info@brooksidemuseum.org

Experts Next Door: Write, Fold, Seal: Letter Writing in the Victorian Age with Catherine Golden**Thursday, January 22, 7:00PM****Live on Zoom**

Long before e-mail, Facebook, and Instagram, letter writing was the only way to communicate. The recipient, not the sender, had to pay to receive a letter at the time of delivery. Postage rates in early Victorian Britain were so high that many people dreaded the postman's knock. But all that changed in 1840 with the Penny Post. Letter writing—no longer a privilege for the wealthy—became an affordable way to connect with family, friends, and professional associates. In this Zoom presentation, we will journey to Victorian England to learn about the first adhesive postage stamp, called the Penny Black, and a method for prepayment, which quickly became the model for other nations including the United States. We will consider, too, how the Penny Post promoted many forms of anticipated as well as unsolicited missives that still plague us today. For the second part of this presentation, we will examine Victorian artifacts that accompanied letter writing in the Victorian age.

Register for Experts Next Door with Catherine Golden

An Evening with Clothing Scholar Henry Cooke**“Civilian Clothing of Continental Soldiers, 1775–1777”****Friday, January 30, 7:00PM****Brookside Museum, 21 Fairground Ave**

This talk examines how Continental soldiers often wore civilian clothing during the early Revolutionary War years (1775–1777), exploring the styles, materials, and regional influences of these garments, and how they reflected the soldiers' backgrounds and the logistical challenges of outfitting an army in its infancy. This program is free and open to the public. No registration is required.

Sponsored by Campaign for Saratoga 250th, His Majesty's 24th Recreated, and SCHC at Brookside Museum.

Experts Next Door: Captain Cook's *Hei Tikî* Material Culture, Gift Exchange, and Looting in New Zealand During the *Endeavour Voyage, 1768-1771* with Tillman W. Nechtman, Skidmore College, Department of History**Thursday, February 5, 7:00 PM****Live on Zoom**

The specter of empire haunts European museums. The correlation between museological collecting and imperial ideology is now widely taken for granted in academic circles, but the question of what is to be done with and in western museums that hold colonial collections persists. This essay takes one small Māori *hei*

tiki (RCIN 69263) from the Royal Collection as a case study to understand what the decolonization of imperial collections might look like. To date, RCIN 69263 has been labeled as a gift from the Māori to Captain James Cook and then from Cook to King George III. Using a range of manuscript sources from Cook's crew onboard the *Endeavour*, innovative Māori sources, and traditional Māori crafting technologies to "listen" to the *hei tiki*, this essay uncovers a new story for RCIN 69263. Accepting that colonial objects can still "speak" in pre-museological epistemes allows us to re-write the museum label for this single object, correcting errors that were inscribed upon it by empire and the carelessness of imperial collecting. Moreover, "listening" to this particular colonial object offers insights into the broader history of the indigenous Pacific that Europeans both missed and misunderstood in the eighteenth century. This case study, thus, promises to rectify the specific narrative damage perpetrated on RCIN 69263 by flawed (even fabricated) museum labels even as it offers a roadmap for the bigger project of decolonizing colonial museums more generally.

Register for Experts Next Door with Tillman Nechtman

Historian Tea Talk: Koka Nola, Argentine Seltzer, and Dutch Squats: Letting Bottles Tell Their Stories by Chris Leonard, Executive Director of the National Bottle Museum and Schenectady City Historian **Wednesday, February 11, 3:00PM**

Brookside Museum, 21 Fairground Ave

Chris Leonard will reminisce on his first year as Executive Director of the nearly 50-year-old National Bottle Museum. His talk will cover stories of some of his favorite bottles from the museum's collection, including one dating to the early 18th c. These 10-15 bottles will be on site and part of the discussion allowing attendees to get a close-up view of the technologies, embossing, and other details involved in creating these works of art.

Register for Historian Tea Talk with Chris Leonard

Sounds in Winter: A Touch of Woodwinds

Saturday, February 14, 3:00PM

Brookside Museum, 21 Fairground Ave

Join us for the third and final edition of the third season of the Sounds in Winter concert series. Brookside welcomes A Touch of Woodwinds, who will play music for Valentine's Day. These concerts are sponsored jointly by The Ballston Spa Committee on the Arts, and The Saratoga County History Center with funding provided by The American Federation of Musicians Music Performance Trust Fund and a grant from Saratoga Arts.

Register for Sounds in Winter: A Touch of Woodwinds

Tavern Nights

February 26 (Snow Date: February 27) & March 12 (Snow Date: March 13)

Brookside Museum, 21 Fairground Ave

Travel back in time and enjoy a tavern-inspired feast featuring traditional recipes and historic ambiance at Brookside Museum. Partake in a delightful three course meal, served by historians in 18th-century attire, as they discuss their lives and the events of the day. One drink of beer or water is included in your ticket, courtesy of Speckled Pig Brewing Co. Join us for an immersive evening of food, music, and storytelling in the historic Long Room. This event is co-produced by Saratoga County History Center and The Campaign

for Saratoga 250, net proceeds will benefit our combined efforts to preserve Saratoga's heritage.

Tickets are now on sale for \$45, at the link below!

Register for Tavern Night

WOMEN'S LIVES, WOMEN'S STORIES: A Women's History Month Focus

Experts Next Door: American Women and Expatriate Life in Interwar Paris with Caitlin O'Keefe **Thursday, March 5, 7:00PM**

Live on Zoom

Since the founding of the United States, France and its capital have held a singular place in the American imagination. The trans-atlantic conversation that flourished throughout the 19th century between America and its oldest ally was uniquely important to the development of American identity. After WWI, this Franco-American relationship only deepened as thousands of Americans flocked to Paris. This discussion will consider an important segment of expatriates to Paris post-WWI: American women. What drove so many American women out of their own country after 1918, and what, in particular, did they hope to find in Paris? To what extent did American women who felt constrained and limited by life at home find freedom in expatriation? Through tracing the lives of women such as the Harlem Renaissance poet Gwendolyn Bennett, and the founder of the Shakespeare and Company bookstore, Sylvia Beach, this presentation will explore the gendered experience of expatriation in this new, modern era of mobility.

This talk forms part of a two-part Women's History Month series, Women in Migration: Epistemologies and Expatriation from the United States to the Francophone World.

Register for Experts Next Door with Caitlin O'Keefe

Historian Tea Talk: Women of Schuyler Mansion

Thursday, March 19, 3:00PM

Brookside Museum, 21 Fairground Ave

The "Schuyler Sisters" cause quite a stir in the Broadway musical Hamilton: An American Musical, but did you know that there were really five sisters? Born and raised in Albany, they were the daughters of Revolutionary War General and United States Senator, Philip Schuyler, and his wife, Catherine Van Rensselaer of patroon lineage. Coming of age during the country's formative years, the sisters lived in a pivotal time in history. George and Martha Washington, Alexander Hamilton, Aaron Burr, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, Benedict Arnold, Horatio Gates, and Dolley Madison were just a few of their friends, associates, and adversaries. In the lives of this large, vigorous family, we find stories of power, romance, tragedy and intrigue.

Learn what it was like growing up as a Schuyler with an in-depth look at the history of the Schuyler sisters and the life of their mother, Catharine. Hear about their daily lives, and their role in shaping their family's story. This talk also explores the experiences of women enslaved by the Schuylers, as well as an inside peek at the process of uncovering their untold stories.

Register for Historian Tea Talk: Women of Schuyler Mansion

Experts Next Door: African American Women and Expatriate Life in Independent Senegal with Julia Woods

Monday, March 23, 7:00PM

Live on Zoom

Sylvia first set foot in Senegal in 1966 thanks to a personal invitation from the country's president, Leopold Sedar Senghor. Originally from Washington D.C. and a graduate from Dunbar High School, Sylvia went to Trinity College for women in 1954 just months after the Brown v. Board of Education decision integrated the college, making Sylvia one of the first four African American women to attend the school. At Trinity, Sylvia's scholarly interests in French and Latin flourished, sending her on a path to becoming a Fulbright scholar in France, a Woodrow Wilson Fellow, and PhD candidate at Fordham University. However, Sylvia's life transformed one night in 1966 when meeting Senegalese President Senghor at a Howard University happy hour. Sylvia impressed President Senghor with her scholarship on his poetry, the subject of her dissertation, and he invited Sylvia to teach in Senegal for one year. One year became thirty years, and Sylvia Washington became Sylvia Washington Bâ.

This presentation shares Sylvia's story as an African American woman in independent Senegal's cosmopolitan capital city of Dakar. She taught comparative French and African literatures, Black feminism, and the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade at the large public university in Dakar before many American universities had such classes. While Sylvia's story is singular in its uniqueness, she fostered a community of numerous other African American female expatriates in Senegal, many of whom did important work to bring both sides of the Atlantic together through professional life, academia, and kinship. Following the questions posed in the first part of this series on female expatriates in Paris: how did race, nationality, and gender morph the experiences of African American women living in Dakar, Senegal since 1960? What epistemologies did these women create that put life as African Americans and colonized Africans into conversations? How did their private lives, marriage to Senegalese men, and blended families transform their expatriate experience?

This talk forms part of a two-part Women's History Month series, Women in Migration: Epistemologies and Expatriation from the United States to the Francophone World.

Register for Experts Next Door with Julia Woods

Don't forget to check our website for the latest updates on our event schedule!

Save the Date!

Saratoga Opera presents *Stone Soup*

Saturday, March 7, 1:00PM

STONE SOUP pairs composer Joe Illick and librettist Mark Campbell for an operatic retelling of the classic European folk tale. Their reimagining will transport audiences to Blessing, Texas for a rocking-chair view of the comings and goings at Max's General store. From the opera's opening notes representing a young girl's stomach rumblings, through the whimsically collaborative creation of the title meal, to its uplifting ending, **Stone Soup** imparts a timeless message: we all have something to contribute and sharing makes things better for everyone.

STONE SOUP was commissioned by Fort Worth Opera by arrangement with The Barbara Hogenson Agency, Inc. *STONE SOUP* is 35 minutes long and sung in English.

Other Upcoming Saratoga County History Events:

Saratoga 250 Reflections

The latest in a series of historical articles focusing on the beginnings of the American Revolution in Albany County in 1775 has been released. Written by local historian Jim Richmond. The final installment, "The Invasion of Canada," is now available on the America's Turning Point Saratoga 250 website.

Read the latest Saratoga 250 Reflections

Heritage Hunters Meeting

Saturday, February 21, 1:00PM

Saratoga Town Hall, 12 Spring St., Schuylerville

Town of Malta historian, Tom Williams, will discuss Katherine Anne Porter, winner of the Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award. She was once an artist at Yaddo and owned a home in Malta. She lived in the area for several years in the early 1940s. Porter was most famous for her novel *Ship of Fools*, which became a movie in 1962. Tom Williams will follow up his presentation with a discussion on Malta resources available to genealogists and other researchers. This event is cosponsored by the Saratoga County History Center.

HIS 225 The American Revolution

Spring Semester 2026, 6:30 to 7:50PM, Wednesdays

SUNY Adirondack Campus

SUNY Adirondack will be offering a course on the American Revolution during the upcoming Spring 2026 semester. All history enthusiasts are encouraged to register. A full course load is not required to take the class. The course will examine Saratoga's global impact, taverns and secret societies, sex and spies, the power of ideas, and more — all just minutes from where the action took place!

Register for HIS 225 The American Revolution Here

Programs are free unless otherwise indicated. Submit events to press@brooksidemuseum.org. SCHC Events and News 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 SCHC Events and News are available on our [website](#).

Saratoga County History Center

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