

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](#)

Calling All Volunteers!

With the coming of spring, we are excited to invite a new cohort of volunteers to help welcome visitors to Brookside, assist with events and programs, and aid in the preservation of our collections.

We are seeking **Visitor Experience** volunteers to help welcome visitors during our expanded opening hours, Thursdays through Sundays, 12-4. We are looking for enthusiastic and welcoming volunteers with an interest in meeting and speaking with members of the public. All volunteers will undergo a short orientation to learn about our permanent and temporary exhibitions, our building and grounds, and use of the cash register. Volunteers can work 2 or 4 hour shifts, and as individuals or in pairs.

Working Wednesdays will return on selected dates in March, April and May. Volunteers will work together on special projects in the museum's library and archival collections, and will learn about how to work with these historical items.

Join us, won't you? Email us at info@brooksidemuseum.org or click the link below to get started!

Join Our Team!

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

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](#)

Upcoming Events

Tavern Night: Eve of Revolution

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.

This event is now SOLD OUT. To join our waitlist, please email info@brooksidemuseum.org

Doing Our Part, Presented by Nancy White

Sunday, March 15, 2:00-3:00PM

Brookside Museum, 21 Fairground Ave

Learn from Nancy White as she describes the development and purpose of her many gardens within The Healing Garden - a unique property certified as a United Plant Savers Botanical Sanctuary, with an environment rich in biodiversity, including endangered native medicinal plants and wetlands. The house was built with a focus on sustainability, i.e., to conserve fossil fuels and water, and with great attention to clean air and renewable materials. Nancy will share practical and economical ways we too can enact environmental improvements in our own backyards. Reservations for tours will be available on the day

of the presentation.

Register for Doing Our Part

EVENT RESCHEDULED Experts Next Door: American Women and Expatriate Life in Interwar Paris

Monday, March 16, 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 event has been rescheduled from its original date of March 5 to March 16 due to unexpected speaker illness.

Register for END: American Women and Expatriate Life in Interwar Paris

EVENT RESCHEDULED The National Bottle Museum: A Members Tour

Wednesday, March 18, 2:00PM

The National Bottle Museum: 76 Milton Ave

Join us for a Members-Only visit to the National Bottle Museum! The National Bottle Museum was created to preserve, research, and exhibit bottles and objects related to bottle making. Visitors can view displays of bottles and glass making tools, learn about the local bottle history, and the history of bottle production. With Executive Director Chris Leonard, members of Saratoga County History Center will explore the museum's diverse collection and view current exhibitions, including *Bottles & Baseball*, *Lost Regional Sodas*, and more. Come mingle with fellow members, and learn more about our museum neighbor!

This event has been rescheduled from its original date of February 20 to March 18 due to the inclement weather.

Join The Tour!

JUST ANNOUNCED: Henry Knox: Resolve Forged by Revolution

March 18, 6:00 PM

Brookside Museum 21 Fairground Ave

In the winter of 1775–1776, hope for a free America was nearly frozen by the British occupation of Boston. One patriot—Henry Knox—answered the call, leading a dangerous, expedition through snow, mountains, and doubt to move the legendary Noble Train of Artillery. This is a story of courage, conviction, and resolve—one that helped liberate Boston and forged an enduring legacy of Americans' resolve.

This event is presented by Saratoga County History Center and the Campaign for Saratoga 250, Inc. The program includes an introduction, film screening, comments from project partners, and a look ahead to Saratoga 250 programming in 2026 and 2027. The film was produced with 32 Mile Productions and made possible by the Champlain Hudson Power Express.

Register for Henry Knox: Resolve Forged by Revolution

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 END: African American Women and Expatriate Life in Independent Senegal with Julia Woods

SCHC Reads: The Cause: The American Revolution and its Discontents, 1773-1783

Thursday, March 26, 6:00-7:30PM

Brookside Museum 21 Fairground Ave

Join us for a new History book club at the Saratoga County History Center at Brookside Museum. This year, in honor of America's 250th, we will be reading books that explore the unfolding and impact of the American Revolution.

Each meeting will take place in the historic Long Room at Saratoga County History Center, and tea and coffee will be served. All featured books will be available for sale at Northshire Books. Mention that you are a part of the SCHC book club, and you will receive a 20% discount on your purchase.

Our first meeting will be held on **March 26, 2026 at 6 PM**, where we will be discussing *The Cause: The American Revolution and its Discontents, 1773-1783*, by Joseph J. Ellis.

This event is now sold out. Join the waitlist by emailing info@brooksidemuseum.org

Indie Film Fundraiser: Her Self Inflicted Decapitation

Friday, March 27, 6:00-7:00PM

Brookside Museum 21 Fairground Ave

Meet the filmmakers and stars of a new short film, filmed in the galleries and archives of SCHC!

In 1842, Sarah Aldridge murdered her Father then removed her own head; a century and a half later, a curious filmmaker digs through Sarah's writings seeking inspiration, but finds her life and Sarah's bound across time and space in mysterious ways.

"Her Self-Inflicted Decapitation" is a ghost story following Sarah W., a struggling screenwriter trapped in a thankless sitcom writers' room. Dreaming of writing stories that resonate with her, she spends a day in the Brookside Museum, studying Sarah Aldridge's journal. As she explores the house and digs deeper into Sarah's story, she realizes the two share more than a name. And that the horrifying end that Sarah A. met may await Sarah W. as well.

But this is more than a ghost story. It's a story about being controlled by forces outside of us, both those of this world and those not. And how two woman sought to escape their bonds through art. It's a story about storytelling. It's eerie, slowburn psychological horror focused on creeping dread more than explicit violence. The type of quiet horror that makes you wonder if maybe there's something very wrong with this place.

Register for Indie Film Fundraiser: Her Self Inflicted Decapitation

Near The Forest, By The Lake With Angela E. Douglas

Tuesday, April 2, 6:00-7:00PM

Saratoga County History Center: 21 Fairground Ave

Meet Angela E. Douglas, the biologist and author of *Near the Forest, By the Lake*, a collection of essays about the natural world, and the wonders of life in her little corner of Upstate New York.

Near the Forest, By the Lake is a personal exploration of the wonders of the natural world close to home. In this collection of essays, Angela E. Douglas reflects on the lives and habits of the plants, birds, insects, and other creatures inhabiting the landscapes that neighbor her in upstate New York.

Some essays focus on individual species, from the salamanders migrating in early spring and the butterflies of summer, to the yellow goldenrods of the fall and the rafts of ducks on the lake in winter. Others provide insight into some of nature's mysteries, including why certain birds sing in fall and how turtles survive the winter in ice-sealed ponds. The inevitable fingerprint of human activities is interwoven into these explorations of the diversity of the living world.

In *Near the Forest, By the Lake*, Douglas shows us that the natural world is closer than we might think and that our local environment, be it city sidewalk or country meadow, can always offer a glimpse of nature's splendor.

Register for Near The Forest, By The Lake With Angela E. Douglas

Experts Next Door: Iroquoia: Haudenosaunee Life and Culture, 1630-1783 With Kelly Hopkins

Thursday, April 9, 7:00-8:00PM

Live on Zoom

Kelly Hopkins is an Assistant Professor of early American history at the University of Houston. Her book, *Iroquoia: Haudenosaunee Life and Culture, 1630-1783* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2025), highlights the innovative strategies of Haudenosaunee men and women to retain their culture, sovereignty, and control of their homelands through more than seven generations of unprecedented social and environmental change that followed European contact and the settler invasion.

Register for Iroquoia: Haudenosaunee Life and Culture, 1630-1783 With Kelly Hopkins

JUST ANNOUNCED: Experts Next Door: Tree by Tree: Saving North America's Eastern Forests

April 14, 7:00-8:00PM

Live on Zoom

For decades, the forests of Eastern North America have faced pathogen and insect pests that have functionally removed tree species from the landscape. This talk will discuss the ecological roles that

trees play, the biology of the threats faced, and the approaches that may remediate the problems.

Scott Meiners is a Plant Ecologist with a primary research focus on plant community dynamics, particularly in the areas of species invasions and succession. He is a Professor at Eastern Illinois University where he has taught for 25 years, conducting research and training graduate and undergraduate researchers. At home, Scott is a tree collector, growing chestnuts, paw paws and producing maple syrup.

Register for Tree by Tree: Saving North America's Eastern Forests

A Thousand, Thousand Slimy Things, with Dr. Christopher Pastore

Wednesday, April 15, 6:00-7:00PM

Brookside Museum, 21 Fairground Ave

From sea serpents to seaweed, slimy things have long tended to lurk among the frontiers of natural knowledge, reflecting not only the anxieties of each age but also, in many cases, new possibilities. At once generative and destructive, mysterious and manifest, and masculine but sometimes feminine, slime flowed through oceanic understanding and welcomed new people to contribute to it, thereby producing natural knowledge both literally and figuratively “from the bottom up.”

Across an expanding Atlantic world Africans, Native Americans, women, and even pirates described the ocean’s currents, creatures, and coastal environments, adding their observations to the growing body of knowledge about the physical and biological makeup of the sea. Indeed, as this presentation posits, close focus on the sea’s slimy things and the curious people drawn them may even provide new ways of imagining the ocean’s present and future.

Christopher L. Pastore is Associate Professor of History at the University at Albany, State University of New York, where he teaches courses in environmental history, early America, and the Atlantic world. He holds a Ph.D. in History and M.S. in teaching from the University of New Hampshire, an M.F.A. in nonfiction creative writing from New School University, and a B.A. in Biology from Bowdoin College. He is the author of *Between Land and Sea: The Atlantic Coast and the Transformation of New England* (Harvard University Press, 2014) and is currently writing an environmental history of the Atlantic world from the ancient period through the nineteenth century.

Register for A Thousand Thousand Slimy Things

John Brown in New York, with Author Nancy Weber

Saturday, April 25, 7:00-8:00PM

Brookside Museum, 21 Fairground Ave

Historian and author Sandra Weber presents a compelling talk about her newest book, *John Brown in New York: The Man, His Family, and the Adirondack Landscape*. Weber offers a fresh and intimate look at the famed abolitionist, focusing on the years of the Brown family’s connection with North Elba, Essex County (1848–1863). The intertwining story of sublime Adirondack scenery, farm life, and racial justice explores John Brown not only as a national figure but as a husband, father, neighbor, and man of moral fiber. Weber’s insightful narrative bridges the myth and the man, revealing the tender and tragic heart of the Brown family story.

Sandra Weber has authored several books about the Adirondack region, including *Breaking Trail:*

Remarkable Women of the Adirondacks (co-author, Peggy Lynn), *Mount Marcy*, *The Finest Square Mile*, and *Adirondack Roots*. Her articles have been published in *Civil War Times*, *NYS Conservationist*, *Adirondack Life*, *Adirondack Explorer*, *Christian Science Monitor*, and *Highlights for Children*. In addition to her writings, Weber is also well-known for her dramatic portrayals of Mary Brown in “Times of Trouble” and of Jeanne Robert Foster, Kate Field, and other women in “Remarkable Women of the Adirondacks.” Weber is a graduate of Clarkson University (Math/CS, '83) and Temple University (MBA, '90). She lives in a log cabin near Elizabethtown, NY, and is an Adirondack 46er.

Register for John Brown in New York, with Author Nancy Weber

Experts Next Door: I Ride to Win: Isaac Murphy and Civil War America

Wednesday, April 29, 7:00-8:00PM

Live on Zoom

Isaac Murphy won three Kentucky Derbys and every other major American stakes race of the nineteenth century. He was among the jockeys inducted into the National Museum of Racing's Hall of Fame in its inaugural class. He was also born enslaved in 1861, the son of a Civil War widow, and he lived through the violent conflicts of Reconstruction to become the first true superstar Black athlete in the United States. This talk examines Murphy's life and career and the light it sheds on his sport and the history of his country.

Katherine Mooney is James P. Jones Professor of U.S. History at Florida State University and the author of *Isaac Murphy: The Rise and Fall of a Black Jockey*

Register for Experts Next Door: I Ride to Win: Isaac Murphy and Civil War America

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

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

Genealogy Day: Organization Showcase

Saturday, March 14, 10AM - 4PM

Clifton Park Halfmoon Public Library 475 Moe Rd, Clifton Park, NY 12065

Meet local genealogy organizations and find more local resources. Organizations include the New York State Archives, the Hart Cluett Museum, New York Family Search Center (Loudonville), Saratoga County History Center, Schenectady County Historical Society, New York State Military Museum, Capital District Genealogical Society, Heritage Hunters, Albany Rural Cemetery, and the New York State Library.

[Click Here to Learn More](#)

Public Screening: Henry Knox: Resolve Forged By Revolution

March 25, 6:30 PM

James A. Bold Meeting Room, Halfmoon Town Hall, Halfmoon, NY

Includes introduction, film screening, commentary, and preview of Saratoga250 programming. All ages welcome. For details, visit saratoga250.com.

[Click Here to Learn More](#)

5th Annual Turning Point & Women in War Symposium

May 2, 8:15 AM-3:30 PM

Old Saratoga American Legion Post Schuylerville, New York

Immerse yourself in a full day of education and discovery featuring renowned authors and historians sharing insights into one of the most pivotal moments in American history. *Presented thanks to the generous support of the Dash Family*

[Register for Women in War](#)

Guided Bus Tour: “War on the Middleline: The 1780 Raid on Ballston”

May 3, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Join us May 3rd for our popular spring guided bus tour. Led by Author of the book with the same title, historian James Richmond. Extend your experience with an immersive Sunday field exploration that traces the actual route of the 1780 Ballston Raid. We invite you to join our popular guided tour through the historic Kayaderosseras Patent, where we will walk the ground where local history and the Revolution collided. By placing history directly on the landscape, this tour offers deeper insight into the region’s revolutionary past and its impact across Saratoga County on more communities affected by America’s War for Independence.

[Register for Guided Bus Tour: War on the Middleline](#)

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

21 Fairground Avenue

Ballston Spa, NY 12020

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