

NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS



Sharing History to Promote Community



Saratoga County History Center at Brookside Museum invites 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 gift for the history lover in your life!

Join or Renew Your Membership

Summer Opening Hours

SCHC will be open to the public from Wednesday-Sunday, between Noon to 4 PM, and by appointment.

Call for Nominations: Saratoga County Public History Award

The Saratoga County History Center at Brookside Museum has issued a call for nominations for its fifth annual Saratoga County Public History Award. Each year, the SCHC confers the award on two individuals who have made a significant contribution in preserving, interpreting, researching, publishing, promoting or otherwise extending knowledge and understanding of the history of Saratoga County.

Previous winners of the Award have made significant and varied contributions to local history. Past honorees include Carol Godette and Jim Richmond (2022), Charles Kuenzel and Paul Perreault (2023) Priscilla Edwards and Pat Peck (2024), and Anne Clothier and Russ VanDervoort (2025). Nominations for the 2026 awards should be submitted by July 25, 2026. All nominations must be submitted online via Google Form at the link below. All nominations are encouraged, including those of past nominees who were not selected. If you have any questions, please contact us at info@brooksidemuseum.org 4

Saratoga County Public History Award Nomination Form

Our 7th Oral History Video Is Now Live

We are thrilled to share the 7th video from the One-Room Schoolhouse Oral History Project, now available on our YouTube channel. This episode features S.J. VanVranken of Stillwater, NY, who reflects on his time at Bemis Heights #10 in Stillwater, NY. His memories offer a sincere and insightful look into the daily life of students in a one-room schoolhouse and the community that shaped them.

This interview was conducted by Charlene DuBuque, with videography by Dave Waite. Background music: *Ice Cream* by Scott Buckley (CC-BY 4.0). You can watch the full video at the link below.

This project marks the beginning of a growing collection of stories that preserve and celebrate the history of education in our region. We look forward to sharing many more interviews in the months ahead. If you would like to help support or sponsor the One-Room Schoolhouse Oral History Project, please contact Charlene at charlene@brooksidemuseum.org. Your support helps us continue documenting and preserving these important community memories.

Watch Memories of Stillwater's Bemis Heights School #10 with S.J. VanVranken

Our Thanks to Our New Corporate Sponsor

We are incredibly grateful to Granite & Marble Works for their very generous support of Saratoga County History Center at Brookside Museum. By becoming a Mohawk Level partner of the SCHC, Granite & Marble Works sustains our work and supports our mission of connecting history and community across Saratoga County. Together, we are building a stronger community. Please join us in thanking Granite & Marble Works for their support.

If your organization would like to become a corporate sponsor at Saratoga County History Center, please contact us at director@brooksidemuseum.org. To see a full list of our corporate sponsors, please scroll to the end of this email.



A New Senior Membership Option

Thanks to the support of a generous donor, active members of the Saratoga Springs Senior Center can now join the Saratoga County History Center at Brookside Museum at a discounted rate. With a special \$15 Senior Membership, you will receive all of the benefits of membership at Brookside, including our quarterly newsletter, exclusive, members-only tours and programs, advance notification of

events, and bi-weekly articles focused on historical topics. This opportunity is exclusively available to active members of the Saratoga Springs Senior Center. Become a member today!

Join Today

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 & PROGRAMS

A Bastille Day Celebration

Tuesday, July 14, 6:00 PM-8:00 PM

Brookside Museum, 21 Fairground Ave, Ballston Spa

Travel to Paris, without leaving Brookside. Celebrate the French national day with creative activities and French vibes. Make your own, aromatic lavender sachet, sample fine French cheeses, and enjoy the sounds and songs of a Parisian cafe. Browse travel guides for Paris and France, and select a postcard as a souvenir of the evening. Enjoy a night à la française at Brookside! Member tickets are \$8, non-member tickets are \$12.

[Purchase Your Ticket for A Bastille Day Celebration](#)

SCHC Reads: Revolution Song: A Story of American Freedom

Thursday, July 16, 6:00 PM-7:00 PM

Brookside Museum, 21 Fairground Ave, Ballston Spa

Join us for the third meeting of our 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. Our next meeting will be held on **July 16, 2026 at 6 PM**, where we will be discussing *Revolution Song: A Story of American Freedom* by Russell Shorto. Free with registration.

[Register Now for SCHC Reads: Revolution Song: A Story of American Freedom](#)

Sounds in Summer

Sunday, July 19, 5:00 PM-6:30 PM

Brookside Museum, 21 Fairground Ave, Ballston Spa

The Ballston Spa Sounds of Summer Concerts are celebrating a sixth year. Started at the end of the Pandemic, these popular concerts feature the "Jazz Ambassadors," performing under the leaders **4** Dennis Searles. All of the participating musicians are from the Greater Capital District. The Ambassadors will be performing in a variety of Jazz genres and showtunes from the beautiful and



acoustically good, front porch of the Brookside Museum. Admission is free. This concert is sponsored by a unique partnership between The Saratoga History Center at Brookside Museum, Saratoga Arts, the Music Performance Trust Fund of the American Federation of Musicians and the Village of Ballston Spa. Audience members are encouraged to bring lawn chairs, blankets and a picnic dinner. The lawn is shady after 5! This event is free and open to the public.

Take A Walk in the Park-with History!

Wednesday, July 22, 10:00 AM-11:30 AM

Anchor Diamond Park : 1-17 Middleline Rd, Ballston Lake

Join Ballston Town Historian Rick Reynolds for a historic walking tour of Anchor Diamond Park, corner of Route 50 and Middleline Rd., Ballston Lake. (2.5 miles north of the Burnt Hills intersection of Rt 50 and Lakehill Rd.) The presenting sponsor of this walking tour is Ballston Spa National Bank. The walk will be about 2 miles walking on flat trails. Wear clothing appropriate for the weather; bug spray and good footwear recommended.

Register Now for Take A Walk in the Park-with History!

The French and Indian War in the Adirondacks

Wednesday, July 22, 6:00 PM-7:30 PM

Brookside Museum, 21 Fairground Ave, Ballston Spa

In the mid-1750s, New York was caught in the crossfire as the British and French struggled for control of North America. During the French and Indian War, the Adirondack Mountain region saw numerous military encounters around Lakes George and Champlain while Sir William Johnson, Robert Rogers, John Stark, Phineas Lyman, and others carved their names in the annals of American history. Powerful fortifications rose and fell as the English and the French brawled; forts such as Fort William Henry, Fort Ticonderoga, and Fort Saint-Frederic/Fort Crown Point housed troops, endured sieges, and received their own battle scars over the course of the war. Author Marie Danielle Annette Williams uncovers the complex history of the Adirondacks during its most tumultuous time.

Register Now for The French and Indian War in the Adirondacks

Waterford Historical Museum and Cultural Center: A Members Tour

Thursday, July 30, 6:00 PM-7:00 PM

Brookside Museum, 21 Fairground Ave, Ballston Spa

Join us for a visit to our friends in Waterford! Mike Munsey, director of the Waterford History Museum and Cultural Center, will guide SCHC members on a tour of this historic building and museum. Enjoy their current temporary exhibition and spend time with your fellow members on this exploration at WHMCC. Tickets are \$6.

Register Now for Waterford Historical Museum and Cultural Center: A Members Tour

Discovering George Foster Peabody with Glenn Underwood

Thursday, August 6, 7:00 PM-8:00 PM

Brookside Museum, 21 Fairground Ave, Ballston Spa

Glenn Underwood is an artist, author, and historian from Upstate New York whose family operates Birches Cottages in Lake George, a property that stands on the former grounds of Abenia, the summer

estate of banker and philanthropist George Foster Peabody. In 2017, Underwood began a research journey at the New York Public Library's Brooke Russell Astor Reading Room for Rare Books and Manuscripts, where he examined the Yaddo Records and George Foster Peabody files. What began as an effort to find photographs or documents connecting Peabody to the land now home to Twin Birches soon evolved into a much larger discovery. The culmination of this research is Underwood's new book, *Discovering George Foster Peabody*, a comprehensive work that brings together archival research, correspondence, and rare photographs to reintroduce one of New York's most quietly influential figures to modern readers.

Register Now for Discovering George Foster Peabody with Glenn Underwood

Experts Next Door: New York's Great Lost Ballparks

Thursday, August 13, 7:00 PM-8:00 PM

Live on Zoom

Musician and researcher Bob Carlin joins us to discuss his latest book. *New York's Great Lost Ballparks* tells the story of New York playing grounds and ballparks of yesteryear. Organized by region and city, the book includes a complete list of New York's historic ballparks in an easy-to-read guidebook format. Each listing includes the name and location of the park, the years in operation, the names of the professional clubs that called it their home, the park's seating capacity, and a "Fun Fact" or two that distinguishes each locale. Bob will discuss some of his favorite discoveries, and share more about the great lost ballparks across NYS.

Register Now for END: New York's Great Lost Ballparks

Experts Next Door: Lavender, Red, White, and Blue: Sites of LGBTQ Revolution in NYS

Thursday, August 27, 7:00 PM-8:00 PM

Live on Zoom

In accordance with the United States Semiquincentennial, Dr. Jeff Iovannone, an expert in LGBTQ heritage conservation, will move beyond standard narratives of American revolution and urban LGBTQ history to highlight sites of LGBTQ revolution across New York State. Taken collectively, these sites evidence New York State's rich LGBTQ heritage, the contributions of LGBTQ people in shaping New York's history, and the fact that LGBTQ and American history are one and the same. This event is co-sponsored by *Saratoga Pride* and the *Pride Stories Collaborative*.

Register Now for END: Lavender, Red, White, and Blue: Sites of LGBTQ Revolution in NYS

Songs and Sounds of the Anti-Rent Movement in Upstate New York, with Nancy Newman

Thursday, August 30, 2:00 PM-3:00 PM

Brookside Museum, 21 Fairground Ave, Ballston Spa

Upstate New York's Anti-Rent Movement is considered the last struggle over feudalism in the United States. Tenant farmers in the Hudson-Mohawk region engaged in organized protest throughout the 1840s to contest monopoly ownership of the land they worked. Arguing their cause in newspapers, on broadsides, and at rallies, their aspirations also took shape in poetry and song.

More than twenty sets of lyrics (and one instrumental composition) were written at various stages of conflict. Some of their musical sources, such as "Old Dan Tucker" and "Bruce's Address," are still well known.

known. Each song offers insight into the role vernacular music played in one of the nineteenth century's major social reform movements. This is the first book to gather the poetry and corresponding tunes into one publication. During this talk, discussion of this major 19th-century reform movement will be interspersed with Anti-Rent songs from broadsides and newspapers.

Register Now for Songs and Sounds of the Anti-Rent Movement in Upstate New York

Waterford Revolutionary War Tour

Wednesday, September 2, 10:00 AM-11:30 AM

Peebles Island Visitor Center, 1 Delaware Ave Cohoes, NY 12047

Longtime Waterford Town Historian Russ VanDervoort will lead this walk through Waterford Revolutionary War history. The tour begins at the Visitors Center on Peebles Island, the staging point for American troops during the War, including the Breastworks designed by Tadeusz Kosciuszko. Crossing the bridge into Waterford, we will visit the sites of Revolutionary war taverns and the route of the General Knox Artillery Train.

Register Now for Waterford Revolutionary War Tour

A Walk Through Luther Forest

Thursday, September 17, 4:00 PM-5:30 PM

100 Acre Woods, Luther Forest Blvd, Malta

Michael Gaige, an ecologist and Saratoga County native, will lead a tour of the 100 Acre Wood Trail System in Malta, New York. Together we will explore this publicly accessible trail on the Luther Forest Technology Campus, and gain an appreciation for the natural world around us.

Register Now for A Walk Through Luther Forest

Heart of Dublin Tour

Wednesday, September 30, 1:00 PM-2:30 PM

Gideon Putnam Burying Ground, 59 S Franklin St, Saratoga Springs

Mary Ann Fitzgerald, retired Saratoga Springs City Historian and co-founder of the West Side Oral Narrative Project, will lead this journey back in time. The tour will begin at the Putnam Burial Ground on South Franklin Street then over to Grand Avenue for traces of the early Irish Community including family businesses, fraternal organizations and festivals that radiate out from the intersection of Beekman & Oak Street in the heart of Dublin.

Register Now for Heart of Dublin Tour

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

Other Upcoming History Events:

The Town of Greenfield Historical Society Car Show & Live Music in the Park

Saturday, July 11, 10:00 AM-3:00 PM



Middle Grove Town Park, 428 Middle Grove Road, Middle Grove

Bring along your family, friends, and folding chairs and enjoy the talented musicians who have donated their time to benefit our Historical Society. Vendors, Bake Sale, Food and Drinks available for purchase.

Escape from Slavery Family Program**Saturday, July 18, 12:30 PM****Parks-Bentley Place, 53 Ferry Boulevard, South Glens Falls**

On Saturday, July 18, the Moreau and South Glens Falls Historical Society will hold a special family program that walks visitors through the trials and tribulations that slaves might have faced along the Underground Railroad. The program for children and adults gives insights into what a truly arduous trip north many slaves faced as they sought freedom. Children will be able to dress in period clothing, use farming utensils like those from the period, and even visit the space in the Parks-Bentley house where it is believed runaway slaves may have been hidden from those seeking to return them to the South. While some scholars refute the use of specific quilts as signals for escaping slaves, there are other traditions that believe this activity was part of the Underground Railroad. The Parks-Bentley program includes the quilt-signaling as a piece of a long oral history of the use of such quilts.

The Escape from Slavery event begins at 12:30 pm and is free to the public, although donations are appreciated. Contributions go toward programs and building renovations at the historic 53 Ferry Boulevard house in South Glens Falls that serves as the Society's headquarters.

More Information on Escape From Slavery**Heritage Hunters July Meeting****Saturday, July 18, 1:00 PM****Town of Saratoga Town Hall, 12 Spring St. in Schuylerville**

Heritage Hunters will host its monthly meeting on Saturday, July 18th, at 1 pm. Monica Gray will speak about "Land Records at the New York State Archives." The records range in date from the Dutch colonial period to the near present. In addition to land patents and deeds, resources include military patents, maps, surveys, and lands forfeited by Loyalists during the Revolutionary War. Also, applications and grants of lands under water, and land appropriations for canals, highways, parks and other purposes. Monica is currently the Director of Archival Services. The public is welcome. For info, call 518-885-9309.

Phyllis Chapman Portrays Dolley Madison**Wednesday, August 5, 6:00 PM****Waterford Historical Museum & Cultural Center, 2 Museum Lane, Waterford**

Join WHMCC as Phyllis Chapman of Vintage Visitors Presentations Portrays Dolley Madison and discusses her life and times. Tickets are \$10 at the door. Light refreshments will be served.

The Town of Greenfield Historical Society**440 Middle Grove Road, Middle Grove**

The Town of Greenfield Historical Society will have their Museum open this summer on Thursdays, July 9 through Sept 3, 2026 from 4 - 6 PM. Two stories of artifacts with connections to the town of Greenfield. Stop over after to the Greenfield Farmers Market, next door, in Middle Grove Park and visit us at our tent. Grab a bit to eat. Admission is free.

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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](#).

Thank You to Our Corporate Sponsors



Saratoga County History Center

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Ballston Spa, NY 12020

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