

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.c **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

America at 250: Colonial Herb Gardens: Gardens That Shaped a Nation

Sunday, July 26, 2:00 PM-3:00 PM

Brookside Museum, 21 Fairground Ave, Ballston Spa

Discover herbs important during the Revolutionary War, about the founding gardeners who shaped our country, and the colonists' colonial gardens. We'll talk about the herbs they grew and the ways that they were used for food, dyes, body products and medicine. Presented by Janis Fallon, Rensselaer County Master Gardener and Herbalist. Refreshments and a tour of the Beverly & Harold Ricks Memorial Herb Garden to follow after the program. This event is free with registration.

Register Now for [America at 250: Colonial Herb Gardens](#)

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, supporting WHMCC.

Register Now for [Waterford Historical Museum and Cultural Center: A Members Tour](#)

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 1 4 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

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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*

Three Sisters Festival

Sunday, August 16, 2:00 PM-3:00 PM

Brookside Museum, 21 Fairground Ave, Ballston Spa

Join us for the Third Annual Three Sisters Festival: A Celebration of Native American Culture, honoring the rich traditions, history, and heritage of our local indigenous communities. Festival highlights include captivating stories and traditional Native American lore presented by renowned storyteller Joseph Bruchac, Ph.D., an exhibit of Native American crafts and artifacts, and a guided tour of Brookside's Three Sisters Garden.

Visitors can also enjoy a bake sale supporting the museum's historically themed gardens, as well as freshly popped popcorn and refreshing herbal iced tea. The festival's featured presenter, Joseph Bruchac, Ph.D., is an award-winning author, poet, storyteller, and former Saratoga Springs Poet Laureate whose Abenaki heritage has inspired much of his work. Admission is free, but advance registration is recommended.

Register Now for *Three Sisters Festival*

Sounds in Summer: The Jazz Ambassadors

Sunday, August 23, 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 leadership of 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.

Saratoga & the Civil War: The 115th "Iron-Hearted Regiment" at War

Wednesday, August 26, 7:00 PM-8:00 PM

Brookside Museum, 21 Fairground Ave, Ballston Spa

During the Civil War, Colonel Simeon Sammons received authority to recruit a regiment in the counties of Fulton, Hamilton, Montgomery, and Saratoga, with headquarters at Fonda. On August 26, 1862, the 115th regiment mustered into the service of the United States for three years. Join local historian David Brooksin an exploration of the history of the "Iron-Hearted Regiment." Learn of their unique experiences as they traveled from Upstate New York to Virginia and on to the Deep South and back. Discover the battles they faced on the front line and those experienced from within. This is the second in the *Americans At War* series presented by the History Center during 2026.

Register Now for *Saratoga & the Civil War: The 115th "Iron-Hearted Regiment" at War*

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

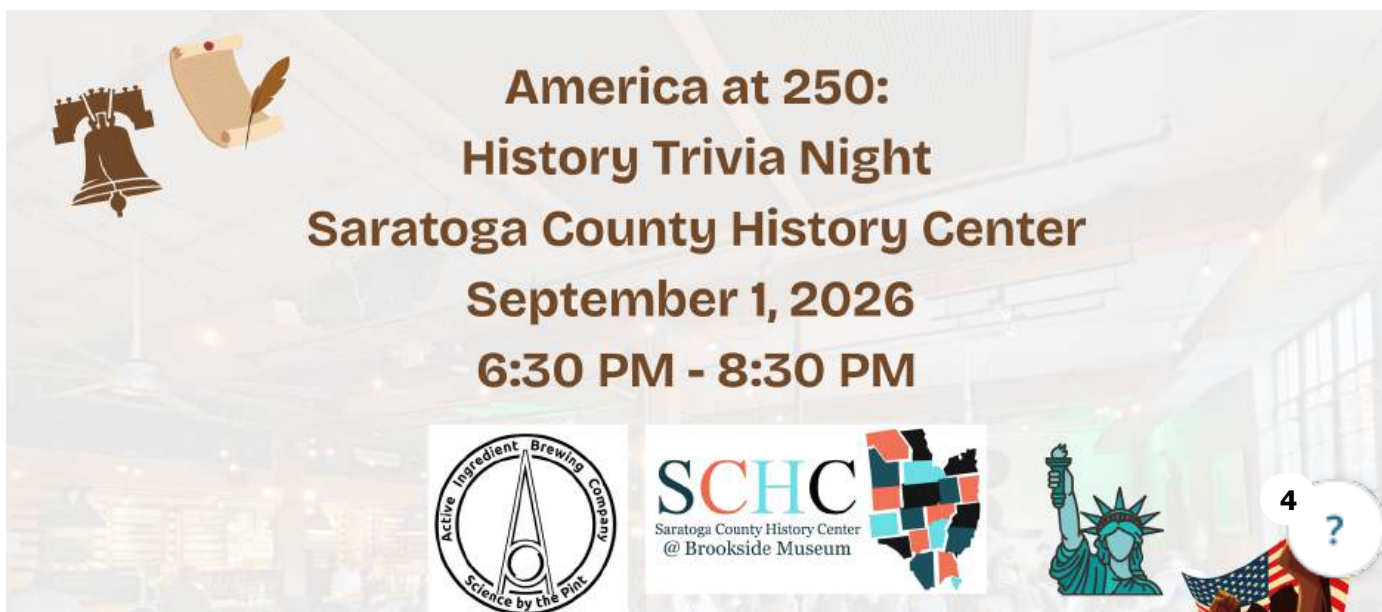
Thursday, August 30, 2:00 PM-3:00 PM

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 the conflict. Some of their musical sources, such as "Old Dan Tucker" and "Bruce's Address," are still well 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*



**America at 250: History Trivia Night****Tuesday, September 1, 6:30 PM-8:30 PM****Brookside Museum, 21 Fairground Avenue, Ballston Spa**

Calling all history buffs! Put your knowledge to the test at SCHC. Inspired by America's 250th, join us for a Trivia Night focused on American history. Compete with old friends and new on your knowledge of American history, geography and popular culture. Among the question categories will be the American Revolution, the American Presidency, Local History, and American Popular Culture. Featuring our host, Sean Kelleher, Vice Chair of Saratoga 250 and Town of Saratoga Historian. Throughout the night, try your luck with a 50-50 raffle, enjoy snacks and drinks, and win fun prizes! Tickets are \$10 with a soft drink and \$15 with a beer. Beer will be provided by Active Ingredient Brewing Company.

This event has been RESCHEDULED due to a scheduling conflict with a local event.

Purchase Your Tickets for *America at 250: History Trivia Night*

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*

Discovering George Foster Peabody with Glenn Underwood**Wednesday, September 9, 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 Twin 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.

This event has been RESCHEDULED due to a scheduling conflict with a local event.



Register Now for *Discovering George Foster Peabody with Glenn Underwood*

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:

Summer Walking Tours: Behind the Business Tour

Friday, July 31, 11:00

Chapman Museum, 348 Glen Street, Glens Falls, NY

This tour highlights some of the lesser-known Glens Falls businesses on the west side of the downtown business district from the 1860s to the 1950s. Participants can park at the Chapman Museum in the lot behind the Museum off Bacon Street. Tours are \$20/person or \$15 for Chapman members. Payment is required at time of registration. A minimum of four participants are required for tours to run and no more than 15 participants per tour. To register, please call (518)793-2826.

Saratoga Springs Preservation Foundation: Sunday Stroll: Greenridge Cemetery

Sunday, August 2, 10:30 AM

Lincoln Avenue Entrance, Greenridge Cemetery, Saratoga Springs, NY

Embark on a walking tour of Greenridge Cemetery led by new stroll leader Gloria Marceau. Established in 1844 as part of the rural cemetery movement, this stroll delves into the history of the individuals of Saratoga Springs with connections to Greenridge. Designed as a peaceful, park-like landscape where art, nature, and memory converge, this tour takes you along the cemetery's winding paths, highlighting the notable residents buried there.



For More Information and To Purchase Tickets

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.

American Dreams with Brian Stokes Mitchell

Friday, August 7, 7:30 PM

Waterford Historical Museum & Cultural Center, 2 Museum Lane, Waterford

Returning to SPAC for the first time since 2014, two-time Tony® Award-winning Broadway star **Brian Stokes Mitchell** leads an “American Dreams” program, highlighted by his narration of **Aaron Copland’s *Lincoln Portrait*** — a stirring reflection on unity, equality, and democratic responsibility. In honor of America’s 250th anniversary, the program also pays tribute to Marian Anderson’s landmark performance of the work at SPAC 50 years ago, linking past and present in a celebration of American ideals.

The evening continues with Broadway favorites, including “**Wheels of a Dream**” from *Ragtime*, the role Mitchell originally brought to life, “**The Impossible Dream**” (*Man of La Mancha*), and **Iryna Aleksiychuk’s *Go Where the Wind Takes You...***, dedicated to the courageous women of Ukraine, before concluding with **Dvořák’s Symphony No. 9**, a masterwork inspired by American musical traditions and the nation’s evolving identity. Together, these works honor the past while inspiring hope for the future.

Purchase Your Tickets for *American Dreams with Brian Stokes Mitchell*

Saratoga Springs Preservation Foundation: Sunday Stroll: Mom & Pops of the East Side

Sunday, August 16, 10:30 AM

Intersection of North and East Harrison streets, Saratoga Springs, NY

Carol Godette will lead a tour through a concentrated area of the East Side that once teemed with neighborhood shops and markets, sharing the history of these stores and their owners. More than milk and bread, these shops fostered entrepreneurship and a sense of community. Through her tireless research, Carol’s will bring not only the stores to life, but also the people behind their counters..

For More Information and To Purchase Tickets

Fall Trip to Hildene

September 24, 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM

Pruyn House, 207 Old Niskayuna Road PO Box 1254. Latham, NY 12110

The Colonie Historical Society and the Friends of Pruyn House are very excited to announce a Fall Trip to Hildene, the Lincoln Family home in Manchester, Vt. We will have lunch at the Publyk House and then visit the Bennington Museum. The date is Thursday, September 24th. Call 518-783-1435 for more information and to reserve your spot.

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Summer Ghost Tours of the Canfield Casino

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 11:00 AM, July 1 - August 31**Saratoga Springs History Museum, 1 E. Congress Street, Saratoga Springs, NY**

This summer, the Saratoga Springs History Museum invites brave visitors back into the shadows for another season of chilling stories, eerie encounters, and supernatural secrets with the Summer Ghost Tours of the Canfield Casino. Step away from the sunshine and into one of Saratoga's most mysterious historic landmarks, where every grand room, quiet hallway, and hidden corner may hold a story that refuses to rest.

Once the glittering heart of Saratoga's Gilded Age social scene, the Canfield Casino welcomed gamblers, socialites, politicians, performers, and visitors from around the world. But behind the elegance and glamour lies a darker side of history. Over the years, the Casino has become known for its ghostly legends, unexplained happenings, and lingering spirits — even earning recognition as one of America's Most Terrifying Places, as featured on the Travel Channel.

Led by our museum storytellers, guests will explore the haunted halls of the historic Canfield Casino while hearing real accounts of ghost sightings, strange sounds, mysterious footsteps, flickering lights, and tragic tales from Saratoga's past. This isn't just a history tour — it's haunted history.

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

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.

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](#).

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Ballston Spa, NY 12020

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