

Colonial Festival 2011

A Celebration of the Colonial Spirit

January 17 – February 13, 2011

Current Archaeological Findings in the Stockade Excavation--The exhibit will show progress and findings from the second year dig at 32 Front Street in the Schenectady Stockade. Two searches were conducted in the back yard: (1) an excavation of a stone foundation with an interior cavity of approximately 4'4"x6'8" and 6'+ deep that was discovered the first year; and (2) a series of trenches to explore the possibility that the 1680 stockade crossed East-West across the yard. Schenectady County Public Library, Clinton St., Schenectady; Library Hours; Free

January 28 – February 26, 2011

Functional & Fanciful Glass Art—a Modern Approach to Colonial Artistry--A Glass Art Show by fused glass artist Cheryl Gutmaker. Sow's Ear Studio & Gallery, 1597 Union St., Schenectady; 370-2042. M-S, 10:30 AM – 5PM. Free. Artist's reception February 18, 5 – 8 PM.

January 29, 2011

Clarissa Putman of Tribes Hill--Katherine Chansky will lead a discussion of John Vrooman's book *Clarissa Putman of Tribes Hill* (1950). This is the story of Clarissa Putman and Sir John Johnson. It draws the reader into the world of Colonial Schenectady and explores the impact of the Revolutionary War. Part of the novel's appeal comes from the story's setting in the Schenectady area. The author's photographs of historic sites in the Mohawk Valley will be on display in the library for the book discussion. Schenectady County Historical Society, 32 Washington Ave., Schenectady; 374-0263; 1 PM; Free

February 1, 2011—Ongoing

The Art in Cartography: Highlighting the Collection of the Schenectady County Historical Society--This exhibit features maps, atlases, and artifacts from the Society's collection, including its two most recently conserved objects, maps of New York State completed by Simeon Dewitt (1802) and Claude Joseph Sauthier (1779), displayed alongside other state, city, county, and land plot maps. This exhibit will not only focus on the evolution of cartography, but also the cartographers themselves, and it will take note of the artwork that many of these maps showcase. From the hand drawn maps of James Frost to the engravings included on the maps of John Calvin Smith, this exhibit will be visually exciting and interesting to all visitors. Schenectady County Historical Society, 32 Washington Avenue, Schenectady; Phone: 374-0263; Hours: 9-5, M-F, 10-2 Sat. Admission: \$5.

February 5, 2011

Clarissa Putman from Fort Johnson to Van Horne Hall and the True Blues--Frank Taormina's research into the interesting relationship of Clarissa Putman and Sir John Johnson led to surprising discoveries about other families who were related to this famous couple. Frank will tell a new story that starts with Colonial times and follows a fascinating chain of people and events that leads into late 19th century Schenectady. Schenectady County Historical Society, 32 Washington Ave. Schenectady; Phone: 374-0263; 2 PM; Free

February 6, 2011

Heritage Sunday Worship Service and Forum. Worship Service will recognize 2011 as the congregation's 331st anniversary year. The Forum will be an illustrated presentation by well-known historical and marine artist Len Tantillo, *Making of "Schenectady Town, View from Cowhorn Creek, circa 1690."* Heritage Sunday (previously called Rededication Sunday) is an annual February commemoration at Schenectady's first church, the First Reformed Church of Schenectady. The church invites the community to its Sunday Worship Service with Senior Minister, Bill Levering, preaching, and its Forum with artist Len Tantillo, renowned for his vivid illustrations of historic sites and themes throughout the Hudson and Mohawk Valleys, giving a presentation. Tantillo will speak on how he recreates historical scenes, specifically how he researched and created a computer model of early Schenectady and painted *Schenectady Town, View from Cowhorn Creek, circa 1690*. The painting is an evening scene with a depiction of Schenectady's first church building in its center. First Reformed Church of Schenectady, NE corner Union & North Church Streets, Schenectady Stockade – Sanctuary for Worship Service / Poling Chapel for First Forum. Look for signs to chapel along walkways at back of church. Worship Service 10:00 AM, Forum 11:00 AM. Free

Weekly Sunday Jazz Vespers – Jazz Improvisations on Colonial Tunes--At this Sunday's weekly Jazz Vespers at First Reformed Church of Schenectady the musicians will tailor their performance to be "in tune" with the Colonial Festival, the congregation's annual Heritage Sunday and its 331st anniversary. The First Reformed Church of Schenectady, NE corner of Union and North Church Streets, Schenectady Stockade – Poling Chapel for Vespers, in building at rear of church – look for signs at back walkway. 5:00-6:00 PM. Free

February 8, 2011

Colonial Festival Conversation and Dinner with Renowned Historical and Marine Artist Len Tantillo--Tantillo, well-known for his vivid illustrations of historic sites and themes throughout the Hudson and Mohawk Valleys, will be a featured presence during this year's Colonial Festival. This year's Colonial Festival Dinner will be preceded by a special opportunity to meet and discuss with Tantillo ways Schenectady might further develop its historical legacy. A showing of Tantillo's works, maps of early Schenectady, and the latest findings of the Community Archaeology Program excavations in Schenectady's Stockade Historic District, will provide starting points for this conversation pursuing clarity on key facts (*or are they myths?*) in Schenectady's history. Following the dinner, Tantillo

will present a select grouping of his well-known historical illustrations of life and places in early upstate New York, *Historical Painting: Schenectady Works and Others*. Glen Sanders Mansion. One Glen Avenue, Scotia, NY 12302. Opportunities for individual and corporate sponsorship for the conversation and dinner tables are available. Conversation only (4PM) \$20, Social Hour & Dinner only (6PM & 7 PM) \$50, Combination tickets begin at \$60. Exhibit and sale of artist's work 3:30 – throughout evening. Reservations required, Call 882-6866. *Proceeds will support the annual exchange program of the Schenectady/Nijkerk Council and our community interest in furthering the history of the founding of Schenectady.*

February 12, 2011

He Was Bought at Public Sale: Slavery at Johnson Hall--One of the most difficult interpretation dilemmas at any historic site concerns servants and slaves. At Johnson Hall State Historic Site in Johnstown, NY, the first major attempt to tell the story of the domestic staff thorough investigation of the Johnson documents for information on acquisition, names, living conditions and clothing of as many as 40 slaves is currently underway. Presenter Wanda Burch retired from Johnson Hall State Historic Site in August of 2010 after 35 years as site manager. She is currently Vice President of the Friends of Johnson Hall. A graduate of the Cooperstown Graduate Program in museum administration, Wanda's career included over forty years of work in historic preservation. Schenectady County Historical Society, 32 Washington Ave., Schenectady, NY; Phone: 374-0263; 2PM.; Free

February 13, 2011

Hearts of Fire--A story of loss and reclamation. On a February night in 1690, French and Indian soldiers entered the settlement of Schenectady, massacred its inhabitants and burned the village to the ground. Despite their suffering, the survivors stayed and re-built. The events of 1690 are now obscured by the mists of time but the courage of these settlers remains an inspiration to us. *Hearts of Fire*, written by Maria Riccio Bryce was first produced at Proctor's Theatre in 1990. Proctor's GE Theatre, 442 State St.; Schenectady; 4:30 PM; Free

February 17, 2011

Mary Todd Lincoln--A program by Abraham Lincoln scholar, Thomas Hoffman. Dominican Retreat & Conference Center, 1945 Union St., Schenectady. 7 PM – 8:30 PM. \$15 per person. Reservations 518 393-4169 dslcny@nycap.rr.com, www.dslcny.org

February 18, 2011

Mary Todd Lincoln--A program by Abraham Lincoln scholar, Thomas Hoffman. Dominican Retreat & Conference Center, 1945 Union St., Schenectady. 10 AM – 11:30 AM. \$15 per person. Reservations 518 393-4169 dslcny@nycap.rr.com, www.dslcny.org

The Way We Were--A glimpse of Upper Union Street's History with photos and power point presentation. Meet and greet with guest historians. Light refreshments. Aperture Media, 1019 Keyes Ave., 2nd Floor, Schenectady. 6-8 PM. Free

Functional & Fanciful Glass Art—a Modern Approach to Colonial Artistry--A Glass Art Show by fused glass artist Cheryl Gutmaker. Artist's reception, 5 – 8 PM. Sow's Ear Studio & Gallery, 1597 Union St., Schenectady; 370-2042

MABEE FARM HISTORIC SITE EVENTS: 2011
1080 Main St., Rotterdam Junction. 887-5073

April 16 – CIVIL WAR LIVING HISTORY DAY

Co-sponsored by the Schenectady Library and Civil War Roundtable. Step back in time as we re-create a Civil War encampment. Lectures and discussions also on tap.

May 14 – 15 – REVOLUTIONARY WAR RE-ENACTMENT

People in period dress will turn the site into a military encampment with Colonial Militia, British Loyalists, Indians and Local Settlers. The weekend will be full of action with amphibious battles in period boats and land battles. The 2nd Continental Light Dragoons will drill with their horses. A real family event not to be missed.

July 16 – CANALFEST

Spend an afternoon listening to traditional music on the banks of the Mohawk River.

August 6 – EARLY TECHNOLOGIES DAY

Co-sponsored by the Native American Institute of the Hudson River Valley. Learn how to make a real arrowhead. Hands on flint-knapping, atlatl throwing, birds of prey, brain tanning leather, fire starting and more. Bring your Native artifacts for identification. Much more on tap.

August 27 – ARTS & CRAFTS FESTIVAL

The best in local area talent come together to show and sell their wares – fine art, glass, wood, fiber, photography, candles, soaps, jewelry and much more!

September 4 – SCHENECTADY EAST ROTARY'S CAR SHOW

The Car Show just gets bigger and bigger every year with some 200 cars competing for trophies.

October 1 – FIBER FAIR

From the source to the fiber, come see fiber artists demonstrate their skill and educate the public about natural fibers and their importance to the Community. Demonstrations and sales – spinning weaving, dyeing, felting, knitting and much more!

October 15 – FARM & FOLIAGE DAY

Family fun with pumpkin painting, scarecrow making, hay rides, pony rides, petting zoo, alpacas, beekeeping demos, birds of prey, traditional music and much more!