

Schenectady Colonial Festival 2009

February 1 – 28, 2009

OYSTERS IN THE COLONIAL SCHENECTADY SETTLEMENT? MARINE FOODWAYS IN THE FRONTIER OUTPOST- The exhibit focuses on the harvesting, transport and uses for oysters in New Netherlands and how they were used for food and building materials by the early settlers of Schenectady. Photos and artifacts from the Robert Yates House will be displayed. Finding oyster shells at the Robert Yates House was unexpected because of the distance to the marine oyster beds in the New York City area. Sponsored by the Community Archaeology Program at SCCC. Exhibit at Schenectady County Community College Main Branch, 99 Clinton St., Schenectady, NY. Library Hours; FREE

February 7, 2009

"IN GOODE OLDE COLONIE DAYS"- visit "New Netherland" and early New York State from the time of the first native residents, to the early Dutch and then the English during the Colonial Period. Listen to songs from the first English settlers in the valley. Like the troubadours of old, Rich performs authentic, traditional folk music that weaves a tale of living history about our nation's people and heritage. His songs come from the waterways, lumber camps, farms and homes of those who helped shape the legacy of our folk culture, and forged the traditions of our nation's identity and experiences. Since 1986, Rich has performed at coffeehouses, festivals, concert series, schools, museums, libraries, Elderhostels, and historic sites from Boston, Massachusetts to Beaufort, North Carolina. His performances vary from house concerts, to "topical" programs of songs and stories about historic events, places or time periods. He has performed with Pete Seeger, Jay Ungar & Molly Mason, Happy Traum, John Herald, Eric Weissberg, and Joe Hickerson, and has 4 recordings to his credit. Schenectady County Historical Society, 32 Washington Ave., Schenectady, NY 12305; (518-374-0263) 1:30 Refreshments; 2:00 Program; FREE

The Anniversary of the Massacre

February 8, 2009

A VESPER SERVICE by Classical Musicians Ed Munger (guitar) and Nancy Munger (piano) with Storytelling interludes by Alden (Joe) featuring works from his production "If the Stockade Walls could talk?" First Reformed Church, 8 N. Church St., Schenectady. 518-377-2001; 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm; Refreshments following; Free will offering

February 9, 2009

Simon Schermerhorn, braving the bitter cold clad only in his nightshirt, rode to Albany the night of the massacre. His actions brought help from Albany for the suffering Schenectadians.

Mayor Brian U. Stratton will re-enact the ride in Albany to commemorate this brave deed. Reception to follow. 11 am, Albany City Hall, Eagle St. Albany, NY

February 14, 2009

TRAVELING THE NEW YORK CITY AFRICAN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE 1623-1830 with Dr. Sherrill Wilson This slide presentation focuses on the people, places and events that highlight the history of the Africans presence in 17th and 18th century NYC. Enslaved Africans in 18th century NYC made up the 2nd largest group of enslaved people in colonial America, second only to Charleston South Carolina. NYC's role as a major port was instrumental in this business of selling human beings under both Dutch and British occupation. Locations such as the Slave Market at Wall Street, the National Monument NY African Burial Ground, Seneca Village, and Harlem, USA all document the stories of Africans who helped to build NYC. Dr. Sherrill D. Wilson Urban Anthropologist earned a Ph.D. in Urban Anthropology from the New School for Social Research. She is the author of New York City's African Slave Owners. She lectures and writes on the subject of the African presence in northern colonial era cities. She has lectured at the Smithsonian Institute, Columbia University, the American Museum of Natural History, NY National Monument African Burial Ground and numerous other organizations and institutions, nationwide and internationally. * Sponsored by the New York State Council for the Humanities' Speakers in the Humanities Grant program* Schenectady County Historical Society, 32 Washington Ave., Schenectady, NY 12305; (518-374-0263) 1:30 Refreshments, 2:00 Program; FREE

February 27, 28, March 1, 2009

THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD, IT'S LEGACIES AND OUR COMMUNITIES—Underground Railroad History Project of the Capital Region Conference at Union College. Call 518-432-4432 for more information.

March 7, 2009

SCHENECTADY COUNTY BICENTENNIEL DINNER

Schenectady County will celebrate 200 years of incorporation at a dinner at the Glen Sanders Mansion. 5:30 Cocktails; 7 pm Dinner Cost:

March 15, 2009

BICENTENNIAL CHOIR FESTIVAL--A "massed choir" event including twelve churches and 170 singers including a special commissioned work by Alfred Fedak, noted composer and Minister of Music and Arts at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Albany. This work is based on a tune "Schenectady", originally written in the mid 1700's by Nehemiah Shumway. First Reformed Church, 8 N. Church St., Schenectady. Time: 7:30 pm. Free will offering to benefit the Schenectady Free Health Clinic

September 17 – October 1, 2009

SCHENECTADY HOSTS VISITORS FROM NIJKERK, NETHERLANDS FOR THE QUADRACENTENNIEL CELEBRATION

Representatives of Nijkerk, home of Schenectady's founder Arendt Van Curler, will visit the capital region. For further information call 518-372-1270

FUTURE EVENTS AT THE MABEE FARM

Mabee Farm Historic Site, Route 5 S, Rotterdam Junction (518-887-5073)

June 6-7, 2009

French & Indian War Re-enactment and Market Fair
Schenectady Bi-centennial History & Heritage Day
British, French, Native Americans and Provincials recreate the battles that took place in our own backyards in the mid 1700's. An 18th Century Market Fair will also take place, comprised of a vibrant blend of Colonial period craftsmen and merchants. Great educational fun for the whole family!

August 1, 2009

Early Technologies Day
Learn about fire starting, cordage and deer sinew, brain tanned leather working, quill work, powder horn engraving, tinsmithing, blacksmithing, basket making, beadwork and more! Highlights of the day will include a hands-on flint knapping workshop and atlatl throwing with Barry Keegan. Bring your Native artifacts for identification by the Van Epps Hartley Chapter of the New York State Archaeology Association.

August 8-9, 2009

Canalfest/Canalsplash
Musicians and artists gather for 2 days of entertainment and workshops.

August 22, 2009

Arts & Crafts Festival
The festival will feature the best in local area arts including wood crafting, folk art, jams, handwovens, candles, jewelry, fine arts, painted furniture, artisan demonstrations and traditional music.

September 12, 2009

History Day – *Dutch Influence in New York*
Bi-centennial Treasures Day
Lectures include: Robert Trent – former curator of Wintarthur on Dutch Furniture; John Stevens – author of Dutch Vernacular Architecture in North America, 1640-1830; Bill McMillian – Restoration Expert from Historic Richmond Town, S.I. – architectural tour of Mabee Buildings; Keith Cramer – President of Dutch Barn Preservation Society and more! Bring your historic treasures from your attic for identification.

October 17, 2009

Farm & Foliage Day
Join us for family fun – pumpkin painting, scarecrow making, pony rides, hay rides, crafts, artisans and real family fun! Sponsored by the County of Schenectady

May – October, 2009

Historic Boat Tours on the Mohawk River. Call for more information. 518-887-5073

IF THE STOCKADE WALLS COULD TALK—318 YEARS LATER

The 2008 program held at the First Reformed Church is available on DVD for \$15. Contact Laura Linder, 2115 Route 67, Charlton, NY 12019. 518-882-6866

As a tribute to our forefathers and the spirit and commitment with which they faced the challenges of Colonial life, the Schenectady Heritage Area produces the Annual Colonial Festival.

RECREATION, PRESERVATION, EDUCATION, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

SCHENECTADY
HERITAGE AREA

