



A Few Thoughts on the 400th Anniversary of Henry Hudson's Historic Voyage

By Sara Biggs

2009 HAS BEEN A YEAR OF CELEBRATIONS IN ALBANY AND THROUGHOUT NEW YORK STATE. Four hundred years ago in 1609, Henry Hudson sailed his ship, the Half Moon, into the New York Bay and up the river that now bears his name. All year the excitement has been building. Tourism is booming. Everyone is having an event or a series of events-- historic sites and organizations, ethnic societies, cities and towns, libraries, schools, clubs, neighborhood groups—in commemoration of the people, places and events that were part of the past 400 years.

As you learned in history class, the United States of America is “The Great Melting Pot”. Diversity in New York State and in Albany in particular, is equal to that of the country as a whole, but on a smaller scale. From its early beginnings, what is now New York State was the new home to immigrants from many lands. We tend to think that the early settlers in New York were primarily Dutch and English, but actually the first permanent settlers were French speaking Walloons who arrived at Staten Island with Peter Minuit in 1625. New York became home not only to the Dutch and English, but also to the Polish, German, Irish, French, Scottish, Scotch-Irish, Jewish, Italian, Scandinavian and, due to the slave trade, many African tribes. Today, the list of nationalities in New York State would fill a whole page. Each has made its unique contribution, each has its story to tell, each has reason to hail New York's 400th.

As we continue the commemoration of the events of 1609 and the 400 years following, we need to remember that this land we now call Albany County and New York State, was here long, long before the first Europeans arrived and “discovered America.” These Native American or Aboriginal American people had



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been here for centuries, with well-established languages, religions and social-economic systems. When Henry Hudson made his historic voyage in 1609, the League of the Iroquois, which included the Seneca, Cayuga, Onondaga, Oneida and Mohawk tribes, dominated upstate New York. Eastern and Southern New York was inhabited mainly by the Mohegan tribes. The people, places, events and stories of these early Americans are tightly inter-woven with those of our European settlers. Happy 400th Anniversary to all New Yorkers.



ALBANY COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

TEN BROECK MANSION

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Albany NY 12210 518-436-9826

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Dennis Stewart, *Webmaster*

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Contact us at: achadirector@onecommail.com

PROSPECT newsletter is published four times annually by the Albany County Historical Association, 9 Ten Broeck Place, Albany, NY 12210. The Association is a private, not-for-profit membership organization that seeks to preserve, present and promote the rich history of the county.

Executive Director's Corner

IN ORDER TO BE MORE ECONOMICAL, the fall version of the newsletter will only be going out electronically. I am hoping when the organization's finances improve, we will be able to return to printing and mailing copies to everyone.

We have a very full schedule through the fall and winter.

Haunted Mansion is back, and will occur October 23rd through 25th. We also have several lectures over the next few months, an exhibit of local art called "Artistic Medley," and a full schedule of events for Holiday House this year.

I would also like to point out the generosity of esteemed local author Peter Hess, whose latest book about Albany is on sale now. Mr. Hess has donated the entire first printing of "People of Albany: The First 200 Years +" to the Albany County Historical Association. All proceeds will go to support our educational and cultural programming, as well as the maintenance of the Ten Broeck Mansion. Thank you so much, Peter, for your extremely generous donation. If you are interested in purchasing the book, contact the staff at the Ten Broeck Mansion. The cost is \$20 per copy.

Finally, the Finance Committee is completing the details for the Ten Broeck Heritage Society. If you feel that the ACHA's mission of preserving, presenting and promoting Albany's rich history is important, and the longterm growth of the organization is essential, then please consider joining the Heritage Society. The Society will be funded mainly through bequests, whether they come from a will, insurance policy, or even by filling out a beneficiary form for a bank account. Your legacy gift will make an enduring contribution to the future of the Albany County Historical Association and its goals.



Wendy Burch

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 11, 5:30 PM: Lecture. "ITALIAN AMERICAN HISTORY UNKNOWN AND UNTOLD BY PROFESSOR PHILIP DI NOVO," Executive Director of the American Italian Heritage Museum.

November 13, 5:30: ITALIAN DINNER prepared by Al Zepieri and friends. Price: \$75.

December 3, 5:30-8:30 PM: HOLIDAY HOUSE CHAMPAGNE PREVIEW PARTY. Pre-paid reservations required. Price: \$60 per person. Honoree: Dr. Charles T. Gehring.

December 4, 2-4 PM: HOLIDAY TEA. Pre-paid reservations required. Price: \$15

December 5, 1 PM: Lecture. "THE SAINT THAT BECAME SANTA" by author Peter Rose.

HOLIDAY HOUSE OPEN HOUSE, **December 6, 12-4 PM and December 12, 10 AM-2 PM.** Price: \$5, Children under 12: \$1, Family Rate: \$10.

December 16, 1 PM: Lecture. "HANUKAH AND JEWISH HOLIDAY TRADITIONS IN ALBANY" by Rabbi Richard Feldman.

December 19, 10:30 AM-12 PM: CHILDREN'S STORY HOUR. Recommended ages 3 to 10.

December 19, 3-5 PM: HOLIDAY MADRIGALS. Price: \$20.

December 20, 2-4 PM: LAKE GEORGE OPERA. Price: \$25.



Progress Made on Rehabilitating Historic Walkways

by Tony Brankman

SEVERAL YEARS AGO the all volunteer Master Gardeners from the Albany County Cornell Cooperative Extension, who maintain Ten Broeck's beautiful gardens, suggested to the Buildings and Grounds Committee that the historic walkways that once graced the hills on the east and north sides of the Ten Broeck Mansion, be restored. The Master Gardeners, at the suggestion of then president Gordon Lattey, developed a restoration plan, and the decision was made to proceed with the project. In 2006 a "Step Up to the Challenge" fundraising program raised \$1700 for the project.

Two years ago former trustee Bruce DiStefano and his crew aligned and graded the former walkways (See the story in the December, 2006 Prospect). Master gardener Ned Dougherty developed a landscaping plan.

This summer, under the direction of Master Gardeners Ed Belemjian, Tony Brankman, and Joe Fogarty, personnel from the Albany County Sheriff's Alternative Work Release program laid hundreds of old newspapers and wood chips and mulch over the walkways to control weeds and even out the walkway surfaces. They also removed the old decayed access stairways in three areas. It was a major effort. We are very grateful to Sheriff Campbell, his staff, and the program participants for their assistance and hard work.

The result: the historic walkways are now useable again! The next time you are at the Ten Broeck Mansion please take a look and enjoy them. They are accessible from the southeast corner and from the northeast corner of the property and make a loop midway up the bank. Grass along the hills has been kept short this summer to promote use of the walkways. A "have a heart" trap has been set to catch and relocate a woodchuck that made his or her home on the hillsides.

Happily, so far the restoration efforts have had no cost, because of donated services and public program efforts. It is unclear whether construction of new handicapped accessible stairways can be done with donated services and materials, though. Landscaping of the walkways is likely to be somewhat costly for appropriate plantings. Projected costs indicate that it is likely that all the previously donated funds will be used. Donations of additional money for stairway construction materials and to purchase healthy plants that are on the landscaping plan for planting this fall would be greatly appreciated. Please consider donating



The Mansion's pathways are progressing thanks to the master gardeners and the Sheriff's work release program.



David Gade speaks about the Schenectady Rose Garden.

funds to purchase one of the plants so the historic walkways will look great next spring. You may wish to contact one of the Master Gardeners to determine the cost of a particular plant.

The Albany County Historical Association celebrated Opening Day

The Albany County Historical Association celebrated Opening Day at the Ten Broeck Mansion on May 2nd. Historical re-enactors were set up on the grounds under tents, providing instruction to the visitors, including representatives from Morgan's Artillery, the Capital District Civil War Roundtable, the Shaker Museum, and Northwood Traders. Charley Flanagan, blacksmith, Bob Rawls, early electrical model machinery, and Larry Handy and

Peter Bond, Jr, Civil War re-enactors, presented fascinating insight into our local history. Firefighter Steve Garry also displayed his beautifully restored antique fire engine. We were treated to some excellent entertainment as well. The Albany School for the Humanities' Show Choir presented an excellent program of patriotic music and Bill Frueh and his group Rural Felicity played traditional music from the 18th and 19th Centuries. Elderberry Mary was on hand with her homemade jams and jellies, and Ponies For Hire were back with their two ponies, Ginger and Whiskers, to offer pony rides for the kiddies. Linda Miller oversaw the craft table, where children could recreate their own cardboard delft tile from the beautiful template provided by Kristen Felsen. The Mansion was open for tours, and our docents presented the Quadricentennial Talking Exhibit which focused on Dutch Colonial customs. The Mansion also had two static exhibits, one on Picasso provided by third graders from the Albany School for the Humanities and our current exhibit of artwork from the Albany Artists Group, which runs through the month of May. Mayor Gerald Jennings stopped by to enjoy the festivities, arriving in time to hear the Albany School for the Humanities' performance. One of the day's highlights included the reading of a proclamation from the City of Albany in honor of long-time volunteer John Furman, naming the day John Furman Day.

Summer at the Ten Broeck Mansion was packed with events.

Many thanks to Allen Villeneuve and Denise Maurer for the elegant "Evening in the Garden" held this past July. Al and Denise organized a fundraiser here at the Mansion, using the gardens as a backdrop. Sumptuous hors d'oeuvres and champagne were served amid a sea of flowers and lanterns. Guests enjoyed themselves so much that even a little rain was not enough to deter their enjoyment of the event. We are grateful for Al and Denise for their hard work and monetary expenditure to make this event such a success!



Ten Broeck Mansion gardens.



Archeology Camp 2009.

ARCHEOLOGY CAMP

Archeology Camp ran this year from July 13th through the 17th. Seventeen campers excavated a portion of the grounds under the supervision of professional archeologists from Hartgen Archeological Associates. They then displayed their work in the Mansion's Exhibit Room. Many thanks to all who sponsored the camp, including Hartgen, Stewart's Shops, Lois Conklin, Janet Walker, Pat Campbell, and Nancy and Stephen Linehan.

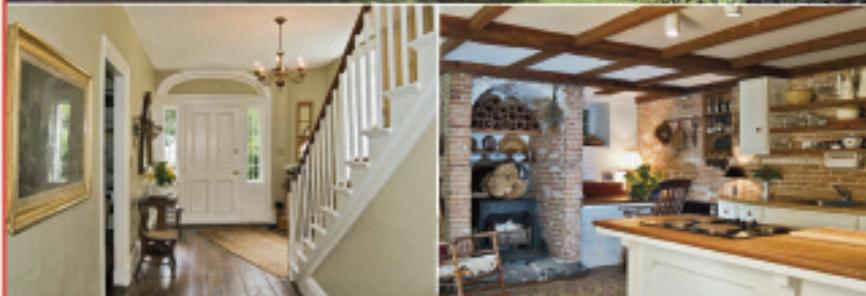
SUMMER CONCERTS

The Ten Broeck Mansion hosted four concerts this summer. We were pleased to have performances by the Skip Parsons Band, the Musi-

cians of Ma'alwyk, the Colonie Town Band, and The Ernie Williams Band. The Colonie Town Band played free of charge, and Siena College was responsible for bringing the Musicians of Ma'alwyk to the Mansion. Supporters responsible for this summer's concerts were Robert L. and Marilyn Abrams, Keith Bennett, Carl and Lee Buchman, Andy Cohen in memory of the "3 B's," Paul S. Cohen, Rachel and Michael Costanza, Barbara and Donald Gerber, Carolyn S. and Philip S. Hollman, Eric and Priscilla Johnson, Bernadette Mayersohn in honor of Andy Cohen, Donna Lyden Passaretti, Miriam P. Phillips, Margerie Shield Witko, the Town of Colonie, Siena College, and the Times Union. We are grateful to you all for your support!

GARDEN TALKS AND TEAS

We hosted three garden talks this summer, all of which were very well-attended. Stuart Lehman spoke on medicinal herbs during the Colonial era, David Gade spoke about the Schnectady Rose Garden, and City Gardener Judy Stacey talked about the planting of the city's tulip bulbs in preparation for the Tulip Festival. All three speakers were fantastic, and attendees were treated to Sue Denninger's outstanding culinary creations.



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HOW YOU CAN HELP

PLEASE MAKE A GENEROUS CONTRIBUTION TO THE ACHA! Operating funds are derived principally from membership and contributions. Support Albany's rich history. Preserve the Ten Broeck Mansion.

to use as a gift. Annual Corporate memberships are also available at \$500. This membership includes one free use of the Ten Broeck Mansion for a company event and free Mansion admission for fifteen employees.

MEMBERSHIP—Think of making a birthday or anniversary gift membership in ACHA, Become or recruit a member. Membership in the Albany County Historical Association is your gateway to lectures, exhibits, beautiful gardens, the Ten Broeck Mansion, summer concerts, trips and all sorts of special events from Holiday House to the Haunted Mansion. If you are already a member, set a goal of recruiting one or two new members each year.

A Thought: Do you have any old items lying around your attic or basement? Why not sell it on ebay and donate the proceeds to the ACHA?

ENDOWMENT—Whatever other annual gifts or donations you make to the ACHA, consider a special gift to the endowment fund. Only by increasing the endowment can the Ten Broeck Mansion face a secure future and the ACHA expand its future mission to be a vibrant umbrella organization providing resources, interaction, and coordination for all the local historical societies, sites and events within Albany County. Your gift to the endowment, whether it is \$10 or \$10,000, will go on giving inperpetuity.

All levels of membership bring you free admission to the Ten Broeck Mansion, the ACHA newsletter, reduced rates on trips and certain events, and a 10% discount at seasonal shops. The Contributor level brings four complimentary passes. The Patron level brings the above free entry, discounts and six complimentary passes. The Sustaining level adds a discounted rental of the Mansion and gardens. The Benefactor level receives in addition preferred parking at designated events, and a family membership



PLANNED GIVING—Remember ACHA in your estate planning. Whether it is a simple bequest, a charitable remainder trust, or some other estate vehicle, have your financial or estate planner work the ACHA into your financial solutions. Your privacy is paramount and anonymity will be carefully respected, but if you are planning an estate gift or trust involving ACHA, please let the president of ACHA know so that the organization can plan its future more effectively.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

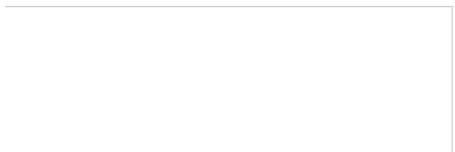
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Address: _____ Phone: _____

Membership: NEW () RENEWAL () Today's Date: _____

Student/Senior	\$ 25	Individual	\$ 40	Family	\$ 50
Contributor	\$ 75	Patron	\$ 100	Sustaining	\$ 250
		Benefactor	\$ 500		

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