

## 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.

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

**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.

**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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership: NEW ( ) RENEWAL ( ) Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Make checks payable to: ALBANY COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION  
Ten Broeck Mansion, 9 Ten Broeck Place, Albany NY 12210

## ALBANY COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

# PROSPECT

TEN BROECK MANSION, 9 TEN BROECK PLACE, ALBANY NY 12210 518-436-9826



SUMMER 2009

## REMEMBERING A MAN *and* HIS SHEEP

By Sara Biggs

YOU KNOW THAT SMELL—THE SWEET SMELL OF FRESHLY-CUT GRASS ON A WARM SUNNY AFTERNOON? It's more than a smell really, because it also brings flooding back, memories and longings for summers (and youth) gone by. Stepping out of the back door of Ten Broeck Mansion recently, I detected this odor filling the air, and my mind raced back, not to the past summers of my childhood, but to a time some ten or fifteen years ago before large high-tech power mowers were used to cut the Mansion lawns. I'm remembering the period of time when sheep grazed contentedly, keeping the Ten Broeck lawns neatly cut while filling their woolly bellies. It's a beautiful picture, isn't it, even idyllic—sheep grazing peacefully while the hustle and bustle of downtown Albany lies only blocks away?

And what could be more appropriate or more historically-accurate than sheep at a 1798 historic house museum? It was a maintenance-free, cost-effective method of lawn care and the perfect solution for a not-for-profit organization like the Albany County Historical Association. One would think! But there were problems and incidents, so the pastoral scene gave way to gas-powered mowers, and here I am today, remembering the earlier days.



Sheep from Otterness Farms graze on the grounds of the Mansion

I've been reflecting about these things recently, due to the loss of a good friend, Donald Otterness. Don passed away March 20, 2009. The happy sheep I've been talking about were from the Otterness Farms in Altamont. For a number of years Don drove the sheep to their summer home in Arbor Hill and back again to winter in Altamont. Don also was a "regular" at Living History Day each year, where he demonstrated the art of sheep-shearing and felt-making. Last year he wasn't able to shear his sheep because of the damp weather. This year he was not here. We missed him and will continue to miss him, but the memories will remain.

## An Afternoon Dance Party

ON MARCH 21ST, MANY OF THE TRADITIONAL ENGLISH AND DUTCH COLONIAL DANCES, similar to the ones that may have been performed here, were recreated once again at the Ten Broeck Mansion. "Homespun Occasions" instructed participants in classic English, French, Scottish, Irish and Dutch country dancing. Their instruments included the fiddle, banjo, flute, whistle, guitar, and

recorder, all of which might very well have been heard in the Mansion during Abraham Ten Broeck's time. Paul Rosenberg, the leader of the group, instructed the twenty dancers on the steps and served as caller during the pieces. After the first set, the dancers refreshed themselves on traditional Dutch fare in the Dining Room, and then returned to the Second Floor Hallway for more dancing fun.



THE ALBANY COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION  
TEN BROECK MANSION  
9 TEN BROECK PLACE  
ALBANY NY 12210

Non-Profit  
Organization  
Postage  
PAID  
Permit #909  
Albany, NY



## ALBANY COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

TEN BROECK MANSION  
9 Ten Broeck Place  
Albany NY 12210 518-436-9826  
achadirector@onecommail.com

www.tenbroeckmansion.org

Hours Open for tours May-Dec. Thurs-  
day & Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Saturday - Sunday 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Wendy Burch, *Executive Director*  
Sara K. Biggs, *Association Administrator*  
Kathy Hughes, *Administrative Assistant*  
Stephanie Ferentinos, *Bookkeeper*

### WEB SITE INFORMATION

Dennis Stewart, *Webmaster*  
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PROSPECT newsletter is published four  
times annually by the Albany County His-  
torical Association, 9 Ten Broeck Place, Al-  
bany, NY 12210. The Association is a  
private, not-for-profit membership organiza-  
tion that seeks to preserve, present and pro-  
mote the rich history of the county.

## Executive Director's Corner

SPRING IS HERE AND THE TEN BROECK MANSION GARDENS ARE BLOOMING. The master gardeners have done a splendid job and I urge everyone to come and visit the gardens over the next few months. Last year the gardeners put in over 1000 volunteer hours and it really shows! The interior of the Mansion is also looking well these days, with beautiful window treatments now installed in the Front Parlor. The Collections Committee and Buildings and Grounds Committee are working on improving several other areas of the Mansion and grounds over the next few months.



As we continue to struggle through these difficult economic times, I spend a great deal of my time trying to devise ways to bring in more revenue to support our programs and general upkeep of the Ten Broeck Mansion. If you would like to help but don't really feel like you have the means to donate sums of money, you can contribute to the organization by supporting some of our many upcoming programs. We have a lot going on, especially in light of the Quadricentennial celebration. On the horizon are exhibits, lectures, summer concerts, garden talks, walking tours, and dinners at the Mansion.

On July 11th we have "An Evening in the Garden" scheduled which will include hors d'oeuvres and champagne, all enjoyed under lanterns in the garden. We also have four summer concerts on the schedule. We have tried to keep the prices low so events of this type are affordable. Why not get a group of friends together and enjoy an evening at the Ten Broeck Mansion?

We are always on the lookout for volunteers, particularly docents to give tours of the Mansion. Help us support our mission to preserve, present, and promote Albany County's rich history. Have an enjoyable summer!

*Wendy Burch*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Saturday, May 30, 10 AM-3 PM: HISTORY WALK OF RENSSELAERVILLE.** Includes a tour of the historic village and lunch at the Palmer House Café. Reservations required. Price: \$20.

**Thursday, June 4, 6 PM: EXHIBIT RECEPTION FOR "JUST GAMING" ANTIQUE TOY EXHIBIT.** Walter Wheeler will speak on the Embossing Company of Albany, NY, 1870-1955. Exhibit runs through the month of June.

**Wednesday, June 10, 4 PM: ACHA ANNUAL MEETING**

**Friday, June 19, 6-8 PM: CONCERT: SKIP PARSENS-DIXIELAND AND ALL THAT JAZZ.** Price: Members \$10, Non-Members \$15

**Wednesday, July 1, 1-3 PM: GARDEN TALK AND TEA,** "Uses of Herbs in Colonial Medicine," by Stuart W. Lehman, NYS-OGS Curatorial/Tour Services. Price: \$5

**Saturday, July 11, 6-8 PM: "AN EVENING IN THE GARDEN."** Sip champagne and taste sumptuous hors d'oeuvres all while enjoying the Mansion's beautiful gardens. Price: \$25

**July 13-17: SUMMER ARCHEOLOGY CAMP**

**Friday July 17, 1-3 PM: ARCHEOLOGY CAMP OPEN HOUSE**

**Wednesday, July 22, 1-3 PM: GARDEN TALK AND TEA,** "History of Schenectady's Central Park Rose Garden" by David Gade. Price:\$5.

**Monday, July 27, 7 PM: CONCERT: COLONIE TOWN BAND** "A Potpourri of Popular American Music." Price: Members \$10, Non-Members \$15.

**Wednesday, July 29, 6:30 PM: CONCERT: "THE MUSICIANS OF MA'ALWYCK."** Price: Members \$10, Non-Members \$15.

**Wednesday, August 19, 6:30-8:30 PM: CONCERT: "ERNIE WILLIAMS AND THE ERNIE WILLIAMS BAND."** Price: Members \$10, Non-Members \$15.

**Wednesday, September 9, 1-3 PM: GARDEN TALK AND TEA,** "Two Hundred Sixty-three Thousand Bulbs and How We Plant Them," by Judy Stacey, Albany City Gardener. Price: \$5



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

## Living History Day



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 create 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 longtime volunteer John Furman, naming the day John Furman Day.

### Volunteer Day

On April 18, ACHA volunteers met to prepare the Mansion and grounds for Opening Day. Everyone took a job and worked diligently for a couple of hours doing light housekeeping chores and grounds cleanup. The group also received information on upcoming events and signed up to help out wherever they could. The company then sat down to a festive lunch that served the dual purpose of celebrating a job well done and bidding farewell to longtime volunteer and docent John Furman, who is moving at the end of May. Thanks to all the volunteers who attended and for all their hard work.

## Adopt a budding Archeologist!

Once again this year, the Albany County Historical Association will be hosting the Summer Archeology Camp for children throughout Albany County who will be entering 5th or 6th grades in September. This exciting and very popular educational program is made possible by the professionals of Hartgen Archeological Associates, and involves digging on the grounds of the historic Ten Broeck Mansion at the site of the former barn and Carriage House. This year will mark the 9th year that this camp has been offered by the ACHA and Hartgen Archeological Associates.

Also as in the past, the ACHA will be providing a number of full tuition scholarships to children who live in the Arbor Hill neighborhood and other area children who otherwise would not be able to attend. The fee for each camper is \$300 for the week, July 13 - 17. Please consider "Adopting an Archeologist" or partially sponsoring a budding archeologist. All sponsors will be invited to the Camp's Open House on the final day of the camp for a personal tour of the dig site, and a special preview of this year's findings!

Yes, I will adopt a young archeologist. Enclosed is a check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I can partially sponsor a young archeologist. Enclosed is a check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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