August 1, 1813

Dear Brother Daniel,

I received a letter from you some months ago which from the appearance of the American postmark, I should imagine you wrote about last October, for it was without a date inside; if so, it was a long time in traveling, and I would have answered it earlier if circumstances had not prevented my immediately consulting our friends at Falfield. I most sincerely hope you will not think me negligent though I may have written to you somewhat earlier, but I was fearful that, in the present unhappy state of our respective nations, a letter would not get very safely to you. I have waited in vain to see peace reinstated between us, and now have determined upon sending a letter to you, and trusting fate for its safe arrival, though I am told by our postmaster it is very doubtful when you will receive it. I most heartily hope you will, very speedily and safely.

The letter goes into detail of their father's death and the proceedings of his estate being divided among the family members. One brother in England confiding that "after paying our enormous war and other taxes, it is as must as they possibly can do to get by."

This is but a poor picture of English farmer, but I believe it is the case of most who are obliged to rent estates; and I cannot conceive what would become of them if a general peace was to be established for the landlords would be unwilling to lower their rents, things of necessity would become cheaper, and the poor farmers would become bankrupt.

[The letter continues with more family discussion of their mother and the situation of other relatives and about Daniel's returning to England to visit their mother before her death, and how James would contribute one fifth of the share of the expenses of such a voyage.]

I was in hopes, and I know you were too, that our nations would have given up the silly and destructive contest in which they are engaged long before this time; but unhappily they neither seem inclined to yield—but what substantial good either hope to get by it I cannot imagine. I have no

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King's Place Ribbon Cutting

THANKS TO GENEROUS SUPPORT FROM THE Albany Housing Authority, the City of Albany, and the State Legislature, the Albany County Historical Association is on the point of occupying the King's Place Building located behind the Ten Broeck Mansion on North Swan Street. This distinctive structure, which includes an arch that provides access from the street to the back of the building, was once part of the Ten Broeck Mansion property. The Albany Housing Authority owns King's Place, and the building has been completely refurbished with office, storage, and meeting space for ACHA as well as a beautiful exhibit area. The ribbon cutting took place on January 16th, with Steve Longo of the Albany Housing Authority, Mike Yevoli and Mayor Jennings from the City of Albany, and Wendy Burch and Anthony Brankman of ACHA all providing remarks. King's Place, along with the efforts of the Albany Barn to turn the former St Joseph's Academy into an Arts Incubator, is part of the City and the Arbor Hill Implementation Team's efforts to maintain a cultural presence in this beautiful and historic neighborhood. We expect to host a series of events at King's Place, starting with an exhibit this spring in partnership with the Town of Colonie Historical Society.
Executive Director’s Corner

HAPPY NEW YEAR! As I pause to take a breath after a very successful Holiday House, I’d like to take a moment to thank all of the volunteers who made it such a triumph. The mansion saw over 600 visitors from the day after Thanksgiving to the Twelfth Night Dinner. The elegant decorations, fabulous food, and outstanding entertainment guaranteed a worthwhile experience for visitors and much needed revenue for the organization.

We have some really exciting events scheduled in 2013 as well. We will again be presenting a Valentine’s Day fundraiser in February that boasts a mouthwatering menu, and a Roaring Twenties event in March. The Albany County Master Gardeners planted over 7000 tulip bulbs last fall and we also have a series of events planned around that, including Living History Day.

As I continually point out, ACHA is a volunteer run organization, so if you have the time we could use your help. In particular, please contact me if you have any interest in leading tours of the mansion. We are always in need of docents. Also, we always have room on our committees, and I would love your help when it comes to planning events, maintaining the mansion and its collections, and help increasing both membership and revenue.

As always, thanks for your support and I hope to see you at some of our upcoming events!

Wendy Burch

Holiday House 2012

HOLIDAY HOUSE THIS YEAR WAS ONE OF OUR MOST SUCCESSFUL EVER, and we’d like to express our appreciation to all the volunteers who helped to make it possible. We’d like to thank our Decorating Chair, Lois Busch, for coordinating all the decorating, and the various organizations who lent their talents to making the mansion so beautiful including the Albany County Master Gardeners, the Albany Garden Study Club, Bethlehem Garden Club, Helderview Garden Club, and the Seedy Gardeners of Albany (along with some help from the Delmar Progress Club and Loudonville Garden Club members). We’d also like to acknowledge the efforts of Holiday House Chair Paula Hemmings, Holiday House Treasurer Eric Johnson, Holiday Shop Chair Bonnie Crocetta and her phenomenal job on the gift shop, and Sue Denninger for her amazing job on the Preview Party Silent Auction and co-chairing the Holiday Tea. Many thanks to those who organized various aspects of our events, including Donna Passaretti (Holiday Tea), Allan Villeneuve and Al Zeppieri (Holiday Madrigals), Marie Erkes (Opera Saratoga and Christmas Traditions), Erika Adams (Children’s Story Hour Cookie Decorating), Joe Erkes (Christmas Traditions and resident photographer), Ursula MacAffer (Christmas Traditions), Bill Bouchard (Twelfth Night Dinner) and Johanna Heere (Open House Cookie Walk). And of course a huge thank you to Carol and Karl Felsen, for arranging for Sinterklas to join in many of our festivities again this year. We would also like to thank the Albany School for the Humanities Show Choir, the Helderview Madrigal Singers and Opera Saratoga for their wonderful performances. Holiday House was a lot of fun-thanks to all the volunteers who helped to set up, work events and in the shop, and all the holiday baking they did!

War of 1812

continued

doubt your people are continually agitated either with defeat or with victory-like we are here. The generality of the people with you, like the majority here, heartily wish for peace between Old England and America: we have quite engagements enough upon our hands without meddling with you. I suppose your newspapers tell you how we are going on here: our brave Lord Wellington and his army are achieving great things in Spain—they have very lately obtained a great victory there: and driven the greater part of the French into their own country. There are now but two divisions of French in Spain, and Wellington is so closely pursuing them that we expect soon to hear that there is not a French soldier at liberty in Spain. The Russians have advanced with a very large army and joined the Prussian forces, and Bonaparte is near Prussia with a very large army—but they have not struck a blow yet...it is generally expected that they will yet fight it out—if they do, what havoc must be made, and the force of it must determine whether Bonaparte is to continue the most powerful man in Europe. He lost many hundreds of men in Russia, last year—and he has not been thought as invincible since. That the whole World might be at peace I most heartily pray, but I more particularly wish to see our two Nations no longer at war. I hope this will reach you safe and meet with you and your wife and your little ones in perfect health—to all of whom give my sincere love.

I am, dear brother Daniel, your most affectionate and loving brother,

James Bennett.
UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, February 14, 5-8 pm: Valentine’s Day Dinner Fundraiser. Enjoy a romantic evening with a five course dinner at the Ten Broeck Mansion. Pre-paid reservations required. $120 per couple.

Thursday, February 21, 1-3 pm: Docent Training.


Saturday, March 9, 6-10 pm: “Puttin on the Ritz at Ten Broeck.” What if the Ten Broeck Mansion were a speakeasy during Prohibition? Why not join us and find out? Live music, gambling for prizes. Pre-paid reservations required. $45 for ACHA members, $55 for non-members.

Thursday, March 21, 6 pm: Exhibit Opening at King’s Place. Maps of Old Albany, presented in partnership with the Colonic Historical Society. Free admission.

Saturday, May 4th: Tulip Mania at Ten Broeck Tea. Enjoy a high tea while viewing the thousands of blooms in the Ten Broeck Mansion gardens. Pre-paid reservations required. $20 per person.

Sunday, May 5, 12-4 pm: Living History Day: Tulip Mania at Ten Broeck. The season opens with historical re-enactors, hands-on exhibits, music, animals, and tours of the Ten Broeck Mansion. Free admission.

For more information on our schedule of activities, contact us at 436-9826 or at www.tenbroeckmansion.org.

End of the Year Appeal

The Albany County Historical Association would like to acknowledge those who contributed to our End of the Year Appeal. In December we received $5000 from a generous donor who issued a challenge to the rest of ACHA’s supporters. We are pleased to announce that we exceeded that sum. Thank you all for your very generous support!

Robert S. Abrams
Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Andrews
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Mary Carol and David White
Lucy E. Wong
Richard White

In order to recognize our generous financial donors, ACHA’s Finance and Development Committees teamed up to create the Ten Broeck Heritage Society. The Heritage Society offers supporters of the Albany County Historical Association the opportunity to shape the future of the organization through their donations. There are several ways to become a member of the Heritage Society. Potential donors may contribute funds outright to the organization, designating it to the Ten Broeck Heritage Society, or they may leave a bequest. Legacy gift examples include bequeathing stocks or bonds, pensions or IRAs, bank accounts, will or living trust, or a charitable gift annuity. The levels of giving range from $5000 all the way to $100,000 or more. ACHA is pleased to announce that the first three members of the Ten Broeck Heritage Society were inducted at the 2012 Holiday Preview Party. Allison Bennett, Lois Conklin, and Ann Swyer are the Heritage’s Society’s inaugural members, and ACHA is grateful for their extremely generous contributions in support of the Ten Broeck Mansion, the Albany County Historical Association, and its mission of historical and cultural education, interpretation, and preservation.

Ten Broeck Heritage Society Levels of Giving:
Bronze: $5,000-$9,999
Silver: $10,000-$24,999
Gold: $25,000-$49,999
Platinum: $50,000-$999,999
Diamond: $100,000+
HELP US PRESERVE A RICH HERITAGE

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

We cordially invite you to join ACHA and enjoy the benefits of membership, including free admission to the Mansion, newsletters and advance notice of upcoming events. Two Free admissions to the Holiday Tea* (with advance reservations) are available at Patron level and above.

Name: _____________________________  E-mail: _____________________________

Address: ___________________________  Phone: _____________________________

Membership:  NEW ( )  RENEWAL ( )  Amount Enclosed $  ________________

- Student/Senior  $ 25  - Individual  $ 40  - Family  $ 50
- Patron  $ 100  - Sustaining  $ 250  - Benefactor  $ 500

C ORPORATE MEMBERSHIPS
- Small Business  $ 200.00  - Corporate Benefactor  $ 500.00

*Complimentary use of Mansion for 2 hours with Small Business Membership and 4 hours at Corporate Level

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