HELP US PRESERVE A RICH HERITAGE

The Albany County Historical Association (ACHA) is a private non-profit chartered in 1942. ACHA’s mission is to preserve, present, and promote the rich history and culture of Albany County. Membership proceeds go towards educational programming and preservation of the historic Ten Broeck Mansion.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

We cordially invite you to join the ACHA and enjoy the many benefits of membership, including free admission for Mansion tours and lectures, newsletters and advance notice of upcoming events, discounted ticket prices to a variety of events, and much more! Please visit our website for complete membership opportunities—www.tenbroeckmansion.org.

- ACHA Partners $25
- Individual $40
- Family $50
- Patron $100
- Sustaining $250
- Benefactor $500

Make checks payable to Albany County Historical Association, 9 Ten Broeck Place Albany, NY 12210

Address: ______________________________________
Name: __________________________________________
Email: __________________________________________
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City: __________________ State: ______ Zip: _________

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram @tenbroeckmansion to stay updated on ACHA and Mansion news and events!

First Look
December 2, 7pm
$10/5 for ACHA members & partners

Candlelight Tours
December 6, 7pm & December 7, 6:30 & 7:30pm
$15 / $10 ACHA members

Holiday Tea
December 15, 1pm
$20 (Pre-paid reservations required)

Children’s Story Hour
December 8, 10:30am-12pm
Free

Open House
December 8, 12-2pm
$5 per adult, $3 children under 12

December 5, 5pm
$25/$20 ACHA members

Holiday Drinks Through History
December 11, 7pm
$20/$15 ACHA members

December 16, 7pm
$25/$20 ACHA members

A view of Albany looking south from Arbor Hill, 1796
(Albany Institute of History and Art)

What Lies Beneath in Eerie Albany: A Walking Tour

By Maeve McEneny Johnson

Albany is a city for storytellers. The history is rich and deep. The stories I’ve always been drawn to are the ghost stories and it makes sense that a city as old as Albany would be rife with unsettled spirits. And there seems to be a spike of spirit stories in the Ten Broeck Triangle. You don’t have to dig too far down to find out why. We aren’t very good about letting our dead rest in peace. Join me on a walk around the Ten Broeck Triangle.

The current Ten Broeck Mansion is the second home built for the Ten Broeck family. In 1793, there was a devastating fire in the neighborhood known to locals at “The Pastures”, close to the present-day Times Union Center. When Abraham Ten Broeck built his home in 1798, after the original Ten Broeck family home burned in another fire in 1797, he was escaping the close quarters of the City. The present location of the Mansion was originally considered Colonial and the landscape looked quite different than it would today. There would be plenty of land for pasture and the home on the hill overlooked the Hudson River.

I like to imagine what it must have looked like as I walk through the beautifully groomed gardens, maintained by our friends at the Cornell Cooperative Extension. How much of the land was used for farming? When did we decide to create a formal garden? I think on this as I walk from the house, over the parking lot, along Livingston Ave. on my way to our own Kings Place. Here, there is an oft overlooked historical marker by the empty lot. It marks the original location of the Ten Broeck Family Mausoleum.

Nowadays, we think of death as such a distant thing. We bury our loved ones in lovely, manicured graveyards and we visit them on holidays. But the Ten Broecks kept their loved ones close—essentially in their backyard. Not only were family members entombed there, but dear friends as well. Philip Schuyler was the first to be buried in the family tomb, before Abraham and other members of the Ten Broeck family followed. (As a side note, I encourage all readers to download Creative License’s “Tales of Old Albany: Episode 2” to hear about the relationship between Ten Broeck and Schuyler. You can listen to the podcast online at creativelicenseonline.com.) But times, they do a-change, and the Mansion that was built in the quiet will begin to be encroached upon as industry expands. The Erie Canal changed the landscape of New York State and Albany was in the thick of it. Lumber Barons who wanted to be close to their warehouses— but not TOO close— were building the beautiful homes that make up the Ten Broeck Triangle. The homes on Ten Broeck Street were known as Millionaire’s Row. We’ll come back to those in a moment.

The story goes that there was construction on Lumber Street now Livingston Ave to accommodate the growing traffic. It was during this construction in 1863 that the Vault, now in disrepair, began to crumble and collapse. Macabre storytellers like to add that the bones of the Ten Broecks and Schuylers spilled into the streets, but this may just be a salacious detail added for Halloween ambiance.

I’ll turn back, and then walk down the very steep Ten Broeck Place, turning my ankle just so to slow my steps. But I take one last look at the Mansion. The home no longer has the view of the river, due to all the homes that have developed on either side of her. Unlike the Mansion, these 19th century homes are purposely constructed to have their backs to the river—likely to avoid looking at the new Canal warehouses. They now gaze upon the Mansion. I sputter to look at the second-floor window. Over the years, I’ve had both Triangle neighbors and lifelong Albany residents tell me with full confidence that, on certain nights, you can catch a glimpse of a spectral woman in white looking longingly out from the window. I’m never so lucky. But I give a shy wave to what I think might be a billowing white curtain, just in case. (Continued on page 3.)
Executive Director’s Corner
The end of the year is often a time when we reflect on the previous months: we celebrate the good things we’ve accomplished, we muse on lessons learned from the goals we didn’t quite reach, and we make new goals for the future. Here at ACHA, these three things are year-round processes.

ACHA offered a number of new programs this year, alongside the annual favorites like Living History Day and Archaeology Camp. Because of your support of these new efforts, our visitation increased by 18% in the first half of the year from 2017—and we’re currently on track to increase our attendance from the nearly 2,500 total guests to the museum last year. Our goal for 2019? Keep those numbers climbing by continuing to offer exciting and unique opportunities for exploration and learning here in the heart of Arbor Hill.

We’ve learned that people don’t think history is boring. Quite the contrary! Folks are looking for immersive and engaging programs at local historic sites, and we’ve learned that from new events this year like ProFit!, the Ten Broeck Mansion Wine Club, and the Easter Egg Hunt in the Garden (which, by the way, we’ll be hosting again next spring).

Looking ahead to 2019 and beyond, ACHA is in the process of completing a new 3-year strategic plan, with support from Documentary Heritage and Preservation Services for New York (DHPNY). Once completed, this document will assist in guiding the vision of ACHA, which includes exhibits, programs, and interpretation of the Ten Broeck Mansion, as well as ideas on how to better engage our community and continue improving how we meet our mission to preserve, present, and promote the rich history and culture of Albany County. We hope you’ll continue on the journey with us!

Samantha Hall-Saladinio; samantha@tenbroeckmansion.org

Meet the 2018 Summer Interns!
Our internship program, sponsored by Mr. Norman McGratten, continues to thrive, and we had the pleasure of working with two talented interns this past Summer.

Alicia Sansone is from Rensselaer, N.Y. She graduated from SUNY Albany in the Spring of 2018 with a master’s degree in history with a focus on public history. She helped to create a self-guided family scavenger hunt at Ten Broeck Mansion and assisted in coordinating an “Art in the Garden” watercolor painting class for families. Alicia was a great addition to the ACHA team!

_ask ACHA_
What are the two trees at the end of the path in the Ten Broeck Mansion garden? They are meta sequoias, also known as dawn redwoods. Once thought to be extinct, these deciduous trees are native to Sichuan-Huez region of China. In 1944 a small stand of the trees was discovered and determined to be the meta sequoia. According to Ann Greenland, Cornell Coop Extension Master Gardener, “we think ours may have been in an early batch shipped from China as cuttings and seeds. That was in the late 1940s. So our trees may be as old as the early 1950s. They were put in many public and private gardens at the time. Their growth is initially very fast, hence the size of the two in the back part of the property.”