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 at tenbroeckmansion.org.

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

Membership: NEW ( ) RENEWAL ( ) Amount Enclosed: ______

Name: __________________________ Email: __________________________ Phone: __________________________

Address: __________________________________________ City: __________________________ State: ______ Zip: __________

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

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

Garden Talk and Tea: The Shaker Garden Industry Saturday, June 9th, 2pm
Pre-registration required, $20 non-members, $15 members

Kids Archaeology Camp July 9-13, camp registration forms available online
Confetti Stage Presents Cyrano August 3-5 and 9-12, tickets will be available through Confetti Stage
The Van Rensselaer Receipt Books Thursday, August 23rd, 6:30pm
Suggested donation: $5

American women have long played a pivotal role in the preservation of our country’s history. Women’s roles in the forefront of historic preservation, dating back to the mid-19th century, is uniquely American. In Europe, the field was traditionally dominated by male preservationists. This difference can be accounted for by the political, social, and cultural atmosphere of the US in the mid-1800s. As soon as the American Revolution was over, people began telling the stories of the war; they were solidifying the history of a nation born of the principles of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. (For an interesting read about memory and the Revolution, check out The Shoemaker and the Tea Party by Alfred F. Young.)

In the US, historic preservation as patriotism began with the homes of the Founding Fathers and the establishment of preservation groups, the first being the Mount Vernon Ladies’ Association, founded by Ann Pamela Cunningham. Individual women contributed much to the field, as did women’s associations, like the DAR, the Colonial Dames, the Junior League, and the Daughters on 1812.

Located on the southeast corner of the home, the 1812 Room was first dedicated by the Daughters of 1812 in 1955, with furnishing completed three years later. According to their website, the Daughters of 1812 were founded in 1882 and are “dedicated to promoting patriotism, [and] preserving and increasing knowledge of the history of the American people,” focusing on the years between the end of the American Revolution and the War of 1812, through preservation, education, and advocacy. In the mid-20th century, the Ten Broeck-Van Rensselaer Chapter dissolved, but in recent years the group has started to reorganize and rebuild this New York chapter of the Daughters of 1812.

Over these long, cold winter months, the 1812 Room was treated to a fresh coat of paint and installation of gorgeous wallpaper produced by Steve Larson of Adelphi Paper Hangings in Sharon Springs. The wallpaper is a reproduction of paper ordered from France by Andrew Jackson for his Nashville home, the Hermitage. In April, a four-poster bed, at one time located in the southwest bedroom, and sofa were moved into the room. The southwest bedroom was then furnished with a new bed frame and linen press on loan from the Schenectady County Historical Society.

The NY chapter of the Daughters of 1812 will have their annual meeting in Albany on May 12th, at which time they will re-dedicate the space.

Thanks to generous donors, we have been able to cover most of the cost of this project, but we are still a little short. If you would like to donate to the 1812 Room restoration project, please contact samantha@tenbroeckmansion.org or do so online at tenbroeckmansion.org. We are looking forward to sharing this exciting transformation with you this tour season!

1812 Room c. 1950s (left) and 1812 Room on May 8, 2018.

Albany County Historical Association
Ten Broeck Mansion, 9 Ten Broeck Place, Albany, NY 12210 518-436-9826 www.tenbroeckmansion.org
Meet the Curator: Sara Evenson

I’m very excited to join the ACHA team this year as the Guest Curator! I was born and raised in the Mohawk Valley, and am thrilled to be back in New York and working on this project in the Capital District.

As a fifth grader, I took a field trip to a living history museum. In hindsight, cooking over an open hearth that day sealed my fate. I began volunteering at local museums, and working at museums as soon as I was old enough. Their magic captivated me. The ability to take a ham, or raw, whole milk, and turn these items into a story to be shared with visitors gave me incredible joy. I knew this was what I wanted to do with my life: tell stories from the past using food as the subject.

I studied the evolution of an American culinary identity as an undergraduate, focusing on the ways in which the political and cultural effects of the American Revolution may have shaped how Americans ate or viewed their food habits. I continued in this strain several years later as a graduate student, exploring the effects of trade and consumption during the mid-eighteenth century in the Albany area, seeing the ways that cultural habits and the increasing demand for imported luxury goods impacted the Albany plate.

At the end of the day, in many ways, history is the story of people, and every person has a relationship with food. I look forward to discovering the stories of Albany County’s food and history over the coming months, and sharing those stories with you all.

Samantha Hall-Saladin

Albany Facts with Brahm the Beaver!

Hi, Brahm the Beaver here with a fascinating fact about Albany! Did you know there was once a giant molas spill? It occurred in 1968 when 12,000 tons of molasses ruptured a tank containing 12,000 gallons of molasses at the Albany Port of Albany. The ninety degree molasses flowed a two block area. In some places the molasses was as deep as four feet. The cleanup took weeks!

Do you love history? Volunteer!

We are always looking for volunteers to help out at ACHA! Whether its giving tours of the Mansion, helping with special events, or assisting with general office work, there is something for everyone. We couldn’t do what we do without you! Please email Samantha@tenbroeckmansion.org or call 518-436-9826 if you would like to learn more!

Spring Clean Up Day at Ten Broeck

On Saturday, April 21st, ACHA hosted a Spring Clean Up Day at the Ten Broeck Mansion to help get things into shape for the upcoming tour season. Thanks to many hands, we re-organized the old office in the cellar, moved exhibit cases into storage, put down a new carpet in the entryway, picked up trash on the grounds, and got rid of general clutter. Thank you to all who took part in helping us get ready for spring! We plan to host another clean-up day in the fall, so watch for upcoming announcements this summer if you are interested in participating.