



The Schenectady County Historical Society, as a nonprofit organization depends on its members for support. Members provide the means to conduct programs and plan exhibits that relate to the community and tell the story of Schenectady County. Welcome to our new members. We hope you will extend an invitation to your friends to join, so they too can take part in the upcoming Fall and Spring programs.

**Please note the List of Contributors will be published yearly at the end of the fiscal year in the Society's expanded Annual Report. The Society thanks each and every one of you for your continued support.**



## MEMBERSHIP FORM

### Schenectady County Historical Society

Please indicate one of the following for your membership:

- \$25 Individual
- \$40 Family
- \$50 Donor
- \$100 Sponsor
- \$500 Patron
- \$1000 Lifetime

Please mail this form with your check or credit card information to:  
Schenectady County Historical Society  
32 Washington Ave., Schenectady, NY 12305

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

- Check enclosed
- Please charge my credit card:  MasterCard  VISA

Acct # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Also enclosed is a gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for special projects designated as follows:

Museum: Art Restoration \_\_\_\_\_ Acquisitions \_\_\_\_\_ Publications \_\_\_\_\_ Programs \_\_\_\_\_

Library: Equipment \_\_\_\_\_ Publications \_\_\_\_\_

Mabee Farm: Preservation \_\_\_\_\_ Education Building \_\_\_\_\_ Programs \_\_\_\_\_

*Your tax-deductible membership can be matched by G.E. (800) 462-8244*



Schenectady County  
Historical  
Society

# Newsletter

Volume 46 Number 11-12

November - December 2005

32 Washington Avenue, Schenectady, New York 12305

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*Right: Holland Family Vault as it appeared years ago,  
Left: Revolutionary War soldiers monument*

### VALE CEMETERY – HISTORIC TREASURE

Bernard McEvoy M.D.

Vale Cemetery is recognized as a historic treasure. Begun in 1857, it is an example of the rural cemetery movement with winding paths, lakes and scenic vistas. In its early years it served as a 100 acre park for city dwellers who strolled its paths and held family picnics there on Sundays. Initially, Vale Cemetery was 100 acres stretching from Brandywine to Nott Terrace and from State Street to Eastern Avenue. Vale is now sixty acres, but there are nine cemetery areas in at the forty acres that became Vale Park. One of these is the historic Union College Faculty Plot.

In two years Vale Cemetery will be 150 years old. When the cemetery was started, it was on the outskirts of the city. As the city expanded around it, Vale became the virtual center of the city. It is also an outdoor art museum with its fine statues and is a beautiful urban greenspace in the center of the city. It was recently named "the best cemetery in the capital area" by Metroland Magazine.

A few years ago there were plans to demolish the classic 1899 caretaker's home, close the front entrance and pave it for a parking lot. The caretaker's home and the tree lined entrance way were saved by Katherine Delain and Friends of Vale. Katherine also accomplished having Vale Cemetery named to the N.Y.S. and National Register of Historic Sites. The interior of the caretaker's home has now been restored.

Numerous well attended tours have been given stressing Vale's history, famous citizens, ecology and art works. Vale is the final resting place of Schenectady's war heroes, inventors and industrialists. More and more Vale Cemetery is being appreciated for the historic treasure that it is.

Volunteers from Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Girls and Boys Club, Kiwanis, Elks, Veterans Groups and Union College have helped the cemetery in many ways. Eagle Boy Scout projects included building the information kiosk at the State Street entrance of the cemetery and making markers to identify various sections of the cemetery. Area veterans groups have provided the financial support for the Boy Scout projects. The Girl Scouts researched, developed and led a tour extolling the notable women buried in Vale. The Kiwanis sponsored restoration of the iron fences on State St. and Brandywine and gave a work opportunity to the Girls and Boys Club. The Elks rediscovered and

restored their Grand Exalted Ruler's (Simon Quinlin) grave. Then they went on to spruce up the entire veterans area for Memorial Day ceremonies.

Union College fraternities have done some of the real heavy work in the Eastern Avenue section. Chi Psi and Psi Upsilon Fraternities have raked leaves, cut brush and restored the Civil War burial area. The Tri-Cities Building Trades Council, led by President Doug Blacklock, is restoring the exterior of the caretaker's house by reshingling and painting the house. The Masons and Brick Layers Union are restoring the brick pillars of the front fence. Improvement of the roads is also scheduled.

The African American Community has adopted what was once called "The Colored Plot," but now is known as the African American Ancestral Burial Plot. These were graves moved from a cemetery on Veeder Avenue to Vale. The area has been landscaped and soon there will be a monument to those buried there.

Each day more people call, write and come to Vale seeking genealogic information. People are discovering that nondenominational and nonprofit Vale Cemetery is an active cemetery with room for burials for two hundred years. Volunteers are needed to help with all aspects of the cemetery operation, from office work to grounds maintenance.



*1899 Caretakers home and tree-lined entrance to Vale Cemetery.*

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- Nov. 12:** **Vale Cemetery**  
Bernard McEvoy and Matt Zembo  
SCHS 1:30 p.m.
- Nov. 19:** **Exhibit Opening –**  
*Schenectady, The First 100 Years*  
SCHS 2:00 p.m.
- Nov. 25:** **Holiday Parade** Downtown Schenectady
- Dec. 10:** **Christmas Program** SCHS 1:30 p.m.
- Dec. 17:** **Family Fun** SCHS 1:30 p.m.

**CLOSED DEC. 23-26 AND DEC. 30-JAN 1**



Historical Society Newsletter  
32 Washington Avenue  
Schenectady, New York 12305

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## HOURS:

### MUSEUM

Monday – Friday

1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Saturday

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

### LIBRARY

Monday – Friday

1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Saturday

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

### MABEE FARM

Closed for the season.

Open by appointment.



## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

Our last two months were very busy ones, as usual. We did special events at both the Society and the Farm. At the Society, we tried something new – a garden tea. Even though it rained and had to be held inside, a fairly large group attended. The pictures in the Gazette were great to see.

Volunteers were worked to the limit at the Walkabout in September. However, it all seemed worthwhile with the beautiful weather. The crowds seemed pleased with all of the festive activities, crafts and food vendors down at Riverside Park. At the Farm, Flint Knapping and Archaeology Day drew a crowd of people who were willing to get down and dirty and do a bit of digging. The bateaux have made the rounds this summer for reenactments of the War of 1812, the French and Indian and the Revolutionary Wars.

The interns, Julie, Erica and Emily, finished their stint in August. They did wonderful work for us, accessing and managing the collections.

In October, Society volunteers contributed assistance to the Gala celebrating the 75th anniversary of the building of City Hall. The Centennial Commission will be looking into the restoration of the building. Cyndi Seacord did research for Len Tantillo who created a painting of the building. The painting reflects the 1930's when it was built.

The November membership program will feature Bernie McEvoy discussing Vale Cemetery. Look for announcements about the December activities. The Library Volunteers have completed another IMAGES OF AMERICA book. This one is about the Town of Glenville. The reprint of Larry Hart's book "*Schenectady, Changing With The Times*," is on sale at all First National Banks and at the Society, Farm and History Center. There are also copies of Len Tantillo's painting available. So please come and help us close out what has been a very busy year!

Kim Mabee



## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

It took time to convince the SCHS Board of a need for a professionally trained curator. We now have one and time has shown that was a good decision. The time has come for another major step. As the Society grows and its operation becomes more complex, it is time to think seriously about having a professionally trained Executive Director to oversee the operations of the museum, library and

Mabee Farm. It takes more than dedication and hard work on the part of the Board to run the Society effectively. It needs a trained professional who understands the complexities of the modern museum world and whose expertise will make it a notable entity not only locally but statewide and nationally.

Ona Curran

**WANTED:** A receptionist/bookkeeper to work 9 am to 1pm at our headquarters at 32 Washington Avenue. The person we seek must have good people and computer skills, with thorough knowledge of QuickBooks essential. The new hire will work closely with our Treasurer, entering the data needed to record and monitor conformance with our annual budget. The position would be ideal for someone who is already a member of the Society and who lives close by. Salary will be competitive with other nonprofit organizations, augmented with limited benefits. The Society is an equal opportunity employer.

## Larry Hart

Reprint of

## Schenectady, Changing With The Times

ON SALE NOW

Schenectady County Historical Society

\$29.95 Until October 1st - \$34.95 after October 1st

plus tax

\$3.50 shipping and handling

Avoid shipping charges by picking up your copy at Society headquarters.

Reprint made possible through the generosity of First National Bank of Scotia and the family of the late Larry Hart.

## FROM THE COLLECTIONS

### THE YATES DOLL HOUSE

Generations of children have visited the impressive Yates' dollhouse over the forty-five years it has been at the Historical Society. Constructed in 1834, by J.R. Wendell, a local cabinetmaker, the house mimics the Federal style of architecture that still prevailed in popularity in Schenectady. To finish the effect of a stylish townhouse painter Victor D.A. Browere created a faux finish marble brick exterior along with a simple painted trim and brick interior end chimneys. Their names and their contribution to this piece of history were preserved in a plaque located in the front right window of the dollhouse. Commissioned by Governor Joseph C. Yates for his granddaughter Susan Watkins, the dollhouse remains a remarkable example of early American dollhouses.

Its furnishings, many of which have survived in a remarkable state of preservation, depict the popular Empire style that dominated American decorative arts in the first quarter of the nineteenth century. Small replicas of the stylish gilded furniture, possible seen in the home of Governor Yates or in other area homes, were created to adorn the interiors with no detail spared. The secretary's bookcase top contains the decorative folded fabric, which in its full-sized counterpart protected delicate books from faded, gilded paw feet decorate the bottom to the mahogany sideboard, and a drop leaf table has working leaves, for easy storage when not in use.

The Empire style mirrored American's interest at the time in French fashion. After the War of 1812, Americans depended heavily on France for their decorative arts and fashion. Napoleon Bonaparte's rise to power as the Emperor of France in 1804 marked a new style that recalled the classical ruins Bonaparte witnessed on various military campaigns. This style gave birth to reproductions of classical furniture design and architecture. The Yates' dollhouse, although meant for a child, was as sophisticated as the most fashionable homes



in Schenectady.

Surviving in the Watkins family for over 125 years, the dollhouse was donated to the historical society on July 8, 1960 by Mrs. Delancey Walton Watkins and her daughter Helen Dalancey Watkins. Little was done to document or conserve the dollhouse until the Cooperstown Graduate Program for the Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works, researched and conserved the dollhouse. Through their efforts, the dollhouse was restored to its former brilliance, lost items located, and what was once an oral tradition of Governor Yates' connection with the dollhouse was authenticated. Since the grand "re-introduction" of the dollhouse in the early 1980's, it has had a predominant place on the second floor of the museum.

This holiday season, start a new tradition, or continue one, by visiting the Historical Society with the child (or child at heart) in your life. Enjoy a selection of toys from the collection of the Schenectady County Historical Society and especially the Yates' dollhouse, a truly remarkable piece of Schenectady's past.

## ENJOY AN AFTERNOON OF HISTORY AND WONDERFUL FOOD!



An illustration from "*The Sensible Cook*"

January 14th, 2006 acclaimed food historian PETER ROSE will present a lusciously illustrated slide-talk on food and drink as seen in the seventeenth century Dutch Master paintings and their relevance to the American kitchen today. The lecture will explore the foodways brought to America by the Dutch more than three centuries ago and how these foods were changed and adapted under the new circumstances. Using slides of some 40 paintings by Jan Steen, Adriaen van Ostade, Jan Davidsz. De Heem, Pieter Claesz, Harmen van Steenwijck, and many others, the lecture will demonstrate how these art works give an insight into 17th-century food practices and shed new light on the colonial diet. Peter Rose co-curated the exhibit "Matters of Taste" at the Albany Institute and translated the 17th century Dutch cookbook "*The Sensible Cook*." A large selection of 17th century Dutch recipes from her cookbook will be available for participants to sample to truly get a taste of 17th century Schenectady!



## SCENECTADY – THE FIRST HUNDRED YEARS

Kate Weller

“Within half-a-day’s journey from the Colonie, lies the most beautiful land on the Mohawk river that eye ever saw.” On the verge of a frontier, a young Arent Van Curler saw the promise of a thriving community. Almost twenty years later, Van Curler returned to the land he praised so liberally in a letter to his benefactor Kiliaen Van Rensselaer this time to settle the town that would become Schenectady. Through the next one hundred years, Schenectady evolved and changed through many trials and tribulations. Opening November 19th the exhibit follows one man’s dream of a community to rebuilding after a devastating massacre, to a divided town on the eve of the American Revolution.

The exhibit borrows from the numerous surviving primary documents focusing on Schenectady including letters, journals, maps, paintings and objects. Visitors will have the rare chance of hearing the history of Schenectady through the words of those who lived it. The Kanien’ kehake, Mohawk, convinced the Schenectadians to rebuild after the massacre and proclaimed, “Wee are sorry and Extremely grieved for ye murther Lately Committed by ye french upon our Brethren of Shinnectady...Doe not be discouraged this is butt a beginning...we would not advise ye brethren quite to deseret Shinnectady but to make a fort there.” American paintings inspired by Dutch tiles and Dutch Bible engravings give testament to the strong ties Schenectady’s inhabitants had with their homeland, even after they became English citizens. One of the oldest surviving “Liberty” flags remains a tangible reminder of the difficult decision every Schenectadian had to make, remain loyal to your king and country or side with a rebellion. Take a new look at Schenectady’s past with the exhibit “Schenectady, The First 100 Years.”

Please also join us in thanking our community partners who have made this exhibit a reality with a wine and cheese opening this November 19th. We would like to especially thank St. George’s Lodge #6 and Schenectady County



Deborah Glen  
Attributed to Peter Vanderlyn c. 1739

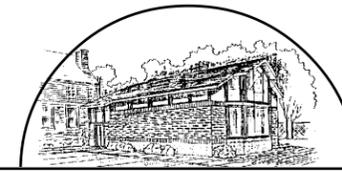
for their generous grants towards this exhibit. St. George’s Lodge #6, who also donated funds to conserve our paintings of the Yates family, contributed \$1,675.00 towards the purchase of exhibit display cases. These brand new cases provide a way to display our important artifacts making our collection accessible to visitors while protecting the objects inside. With a grant from Schenectady County for \$1,000.00 new interpretive panels, including those for this exhibit will help tell the stories of our historic rooms. Through these generous donations, along with the help of various volunteers, this exhibit has been made possible. We hope you will join us in looking at Schenectady’s past in a new light and witnessing the many stories it has.

## HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES

Come enjoy a traditional holiday celebration with the Schenectady County Historical Society! Our annual Holiday Party will be this December 10 at 1:30. Enjoy festive Christmas music along with classic Christmas treats! Our December program will continue the holiday spirit focusing on elements of Christmas past. Marilyn Sassi, curator of the Van Alstyne Homestead in Canajoharie, will present a slide program highlighting the Schenectady County Historical Society’s collection of toys and presenting the history of toys in America from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Ms. Sassi has worked with antiques for over twenty years and is involved in continuing education instruction at Union College, HVCC, and Niskayuna. With beautiful decorations provided by the Hugh Plat Garden Club and a wide array of toys from our collections on display, this holiday season is a time to take the whole family to the Schenectady County Historical Society!

## HOLIDAY FUN FAMILY DAY

DECEMBER 17TH – at 1:30 p.m., join curator Kathryn Weller for a special holiday program. In honor of the centennial of the Schenectady County Historical Society and General Electric’s importance in our early twentieth-century history, the Historical Society is celebrating the holidays in an unexpected way. In the collections of the Grems-Doolittle Library, a vintage pattern for Christmas ornaments was discovered. Similar to many craft projects now, these patterns used common everyday objects to create unique ornaments for the Christmas tree. The objects: light bulbs! Using these patterns as inspiration, come and enjoy a day of festive music, food, and crafts while finding a use for those used General Electric light bulbs. Bring in your old light bulbs and create historical reproductions of ornaments your grandparents may have made or create something completely new. This is an all ages event so please bring the whole family for a fun day of combining history with the holidays and bring home a truly one-of-a-kind ornament for your holiday festivities!



# The Grems-Doolittle Library & Archives

## EFNER HISTORY CENTER AND RESEARCH LIBRARY

The Archives at City Hall – Cynthia Seacord, Managing Archivist

Our inventory project, funded by a grant from the State Archives’ Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund, is finally underway. With the \$24,755 grant, a new computer and up to date software will be purchased, and a thorough inventory will be done, along with a needs assessment to identify subsequent projects. Ellen Fladger, Union College Schaeffer Library archivist for special collections, is doing our needs assessment and advisement during the inventory, and we have two professionally trained archivists who live in Schenectady working with us on the inventory. Rachel Donaldson and Amy Schindler will each devote 6 hours a week on the inventory, in addition to their full-time archivist jobs in Albany County, over the course of the next 8 months.

In addition to Amy and Rachel, we are happy to have Carol Lewis and Pilar Seacord as regular Efner volunteers. They identify and rehouse photographs and other items, and do item-specific inventorying; the official inventory for the LGRMIF is supposed to be on the less detailed record “series” level. So far, many artifacts, scrapbooks and other items that are NOT government records have been located. It appears likely that we may find that perhaps only 30 percent of what is at the Efner Center can qualify as true “government records.” Next comes a determination of whether the government records we have are official copies, and an assessment of their historical value. There are numerous duplicate copies of publications from branches of the government within the inventory boxes, so we will have to determine what to do with the extras. Our collections contain treasures too numerous to mention here. We can however, report that finding the 24 “lost” rolls of microfilm of city council minutes (the product of a preservation grant) in the bottom of a storage box was especially satisfying. The microfilm is now safely locked up where it can be easily located for customer use.

Hope you had a chance to see History Center displays on the 100th anniversary of the Historical Society and the 75th anniversary of City Hall that were up through mid-October. In late September the latter display became useful when the Mayor called a press conference and requested a poster board of City Hall construction photos. Use of originals is not advised because one needs to protect them from adhesives. However, the scanned copies in our display fit the bill! We also held an open house for Archives Week on October 14th.



During September I spent extra hours researching the Schenectady of 1933 to assist painter Len Tantillo in his commissioned rendering of the “new” City Hall and vicinity of that year. Mr. Tantillo promised me that the value of the information I found for him would be obvious at the painting’s unveiling on October 1st at the City Hall 75th anniversary celebration. Prints of the Tantillo painting are available for purchase. Proceeds will go to the City Hall Centennial Commission for preservation and improvement projects, the first of which will be returning a real skylight to the rotunda. Call us for information!

During the summer we provided

*This is a mystery lady. We don’t know who she is. Photo was taken around 1910-1915.*

We now accept credit cards—  
MasterCard and VISA.



materials to Joanne Durfee of WMHT for its film production concerning the Capital District and the movies, anticipated for viewing sometime in December. We also found useful materials for Harvey and Beth Strum who are putting together an exhibit on the Jewish Community in Schenectady for Russell Sage College that will make a visit to the Historical Society sometime in 2006.

The Efner Center was featured in two Daily Gazette articles in September. The second article mentioned our desire to have serious history students from area high schools consider us for their school projects. We can use volunteers to work on projects during their school vacations as well as on most Tuesdays and Thursdays after school. Contact me at HsCenter@nycap.rr.com if you are interested in learning more about the types of help you can render to us at “the Attic.”

**HELP! NEEDED!** Photos for a future Niskayuna Images of America book. If you have any old photographs of people, places, churches and groups located in the town, please bring them in and we will scan them and the accompanying information.

## THE LIBRARY MAKES A MOVE

by Virginia Bolen

The Grems-Doolittle Library of Schenectady County Historical Society is moving! Well, actually, *we* are not moving but our newspapers are! A short time ago a packet arrived in the librarian’s mail which described an interesting program at the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester, Massachusetts. A Mr. Vincent Golden, curator of newspapers, wrote to us to introduce us to his Society’s collection and program.

The American Antiquarian Society, according to its web site, has as one of its goals, “to acquire, preserve, and make available for research newspapers published in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries in the United States, Canada, and the English-speaking West Indies. To this end, the Society adds, through gift and purchase an average of 3,000 issues a year to its holdings.”

The AAS’s facility is a state-of-the-art, climate-controlled building specifically equipped and designed for newspaper holdings. Their vast holdings are kept on 5 miles of shelving! The library’s collection, which includes much more than just newspapers, is open to the public and is heavily used by researchers from all over the country.

After reviewing the packet we received from the AAS, the board of trustees voted to donate all our pre-1877 newspaper holdings to the Society. In return, SCHS will receive microfilm of the materials we submitted plus any additional issues they might have used to fill in any gaps in our collection. In addition, SCHS will recover the space formerly occupied by our large newspaper collection. We are constantly growing and space is really at a premium so we all consider this “move” a win-win situation.

If other organizations have pre 1877 NY newspapers that would benefit from this program contact Mr. Golden. Call SCHS for his phone number.



View of State Street looking west from Crescent Park (veterans). It was taken around 1909.



# Mabee Farm Historic Site

1080 Main Street (Rt. 5S), Rotterdam Jct., NY • (518) 887-5073

Email: mabee@nycap.rr.com • Web: www.mabefarm.org

each other's businesses.

The George E. Franchere Education Center, its structure and materials, will be a continuation of this story. Local and regional materials will be used to keep in character with the Historic Site. Just as importantly, these materials will be used to support New York State businesses. The Mabee Farm is part of the Mohawk Valley Heritage Corridor, a new economic initiative that recognizes that tourism and business development go hand in hand. As a tourist destination, the Mabee Farm has a responsibility to support regional businesses.

Upon completion of the Education Center, the Mabee Farm will publish a booklet, "Made in New York's Mohawk Valley," chronicling the building process, highlighting the products and materials, and will include a directory of the Franchere Center's suppliers and contractors. This will be an educational tool for the Farm, an introduction for visitors before they begin tours of the historic buildings. This will also become a promotional tool for the Farm's business partners in the Mohawk Valley and New York State. Visitors will see that the wealth of materials and the craftsmanship seen in the original buildings is still available today.

The success of the Mabee Farm and continued growth of Heritage Tourism is dependent on the economic health of the region. By supporting the region's businesses, we invest in the Farm's future. It is the most traditional kind of economic relationship.



The volunteer crew of the Mabee Farm Bateaux, the DeSager and Bobbie G.



Kids attending SCCC's Archaeology Kids Camp have a great time digging for treasures.

## GEORGE E. FRANCHERE EDUCATION CENTER A TRADITIONAL NEW YORK STATE BUILDING

The Mabee Farm prospers in part because Heritage Tourism is growing throughout the Mohawk Valley and all of New York State. Tourists and lifelong residents alike are increasingly attracted to the rich history and surviving Colonial-era buildings. These traditional buildings are an essential part of the region's identity. Their style, craftsmanship, and their use of local and regional materials, help create the unique visual landscape of New York State.

The new George E. Franchere Education Center to be built at the Farm, will be a traditional structure. It will borrow design elements from Colonial architecture, yet it will be a modern New York State building, using today's New York State products and materials to the fullest extent possible. In the current global economy, materials could be easily procured from anywhere in the world. That option could be less expensive but it would not help teach our heritage.

The Mabee Farm embodies over 300 years of New York State history and reflects the social, technological, and economic changes over those years. The Farm's original structures were built of natural resources and materials that were available locally at a time of self-reliance when nearly everything came from one's own land or that of neighbors. The local economy was dependent on neighbors supporting

### DONATIONS ARE STILL NEEDED FOR THE FRANCHERE EDUCATION CENTER

(Single gifts or pledges over a 4 year period)

Yes, I (we) want to help fund the George E. Franchere Education Center at the Mabee Farm Historic Site, so I/we pledge to donate as follows

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ in 2005

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ in 2006

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ in 2007

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ in 2008

for a total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL

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

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

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

GE Matching Gift (800) 305-0669

Make checks payable to: SCHS/Mabee Farm

Send to: 1080 Main St.

Rotterdam Junction, NY 12150

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

## THE MABEE FARM LOOKS BACK ON 2005 (AND WHAT A YEAR IT WAS!)

### EVENTS

**JANUARY 29** – The Mabee Farm kicked off 2005 with a talk by renowned Dutch translator, Charles Ghering on Dutch farms to celebrate the 300 year anniversary of Jan Mabee signing the deed to the property on the third flat, at the Historical Society of January 29. It was a packed house!!

**MARCH 22** – A Press Conference was held announcing plans to build the George E. Franchere Education Center.

**APRIL 16** – Mabee Farm's bi-annual Work Day.

**APRIL 17** – Capital District Blacksmithing Association Demonstration with Celtic and Viking re-enactors working on 5th and 9th century forges.

**APRIL 23** – Earth Day, the Farm co-hosted with Environmental Clearinghouse. It may have rained, but it didn't put a damper on everyone's spirits!

**MAY 3** – Official opening day.

**MAY 7** – Official opening day of the new exhibit; "The Mabee Family - 300 Years."

**MAY 14-15** – Re-enactment with soldiers, cannons, muskets, skirmishes, bateaux and sutlers.

**JUNE 19** – Forefather's Day. The Farm celebrated Father's Day with a tribute to our forefather's. Music by a group of children musicians called the Fiddlebuskers highlighted the event. Demonstrations took place by the Draft Horse Association. A very successful fundraiser. The Minister of Religious Affairs from the country of Oman also paid the farm a visit.

**JULY 9** – Music Festival for Canal Fest Lock 7-12. What a fabulous day it was. Gary Van Slyke started the day off followed by Skuttlebutt, Howard Lyons, Riverview Ramblers, Sue Trump, Jane's Gang and Howard Lyons.

**JULY 16** – The Historic Erie Canal Bike Tour - almost 500 bicyclists from across the county dropped by the farm for a rest stop and toured the buildings.

**JULY 17** – Community Day/Society Picnic/Mabee Reunion with Giffy's BBQ.

**AUGUST 6** – Flint Knapping/Archaeology Day - Barry Keagan from the Farmer's Museum conducted workshops in making arrowheads. Louise Basa had a stone tool exhibit and a member of the Van Epps Hartley Chapter of the NYS Archaeology Society identified artifacts. A professional hands on dig was conducted by Steve Jones. Quite an educational day!

**AUGUST 27** – Antique Outboard Swap Meet was a very big success with attendees from all over the Northeast.

**OCTOBER 2** – Hudson/Mohawk Antique Tools and Trades Association conducted a Tool Swap with a meeting following. Guest Speaker: our own Kim Mabee.

**OCTOBER 8** – Arts & Crafts Festival.

### MABEE FARM BATEAUX (DeSager & The Bobbie G.)

Crewed by a group of volunteers headed by Dave Manthey & Harvey Alexander

**MAY 21-22** – Mabee Farm Encampment

**MAY 25** – Row to the Maritime Academy includes a school program. 15-16 miles.

**MAY 29** – Sailing on Oneida Lake - 7 miles.

**JUNE 28** – A Belgian film crew doing a film on the Dutch in American films the DeSager on the Mohawk.

**AUGUST 14** – Herkimer Home.

**AUGUST 15 -21** – The Big Row. Rogers Island to the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum in Vergennes, VT. -76 miles. At LCMM, and event focused on the smuggling done on Lake Champlain. The crew portrayed Schenectady bateaux crews that were actively moving goods up and down the lake.

The crew also participated in the reenactment portraying an American boat armed by militia.

**SEPTEMBER 10-11** – Battle of Plattsburgh Bay. Bateau race and a nautical



Caryn Neidringhaus and the Fiddlebuskers perform for Forefather's Day. This talented young group of musicians delighted the audience with their quick stepping fiddling.

reenactment of the Battle of Plattsburgh Bay, where the DeSager portrayed a small armed British boat - 7 or 8 miles.

**SEPTEMBER 24** – Stockade Walkabout - 22 miles.

### TOUR GROUPS

This year the farm exploded with tour groups of all kinds – community groups, bus tours – you name it!

**APRIL 22** – Visitors from Brazil in affiliation with the Rotary Exchange came to tour the farm.

**APRIL 28** – A group from Watervliet High School toured the farm.

**MAY 12** – a group of Seniors from Guilderland Senior Center toured the farm.

**JUNE 8** – a group of local people representing the new BlueLine Tour paddled to the farm and up the Mohawk to various sites.

**JUNE 11** – the Dutch Settlers Society toured the grounds.

**JUNE 24** – A group from Olana's board toured the farm.

**JULY 21** – Students from Albany's "Project Strive" visited the farm.

**JULY 29-31** – Sippin Sam's RV Club.

**SEPTEMBER 24** – A tour group of 46 Elderhostel people from all over the country visited. Most had ancestors who were original settlers.

**SEPTEMBER 28** – A tour bus of 47 from Fargo, North Dakota visited.

**SEPTEMBER 30** – A group of 20 Schalmont High School Juniors.

### PICNICS

**JULY 27** – Picnic for our neighbors, "Woestina Young at Heart" Senior Citizens – almost 100 in all!

**AUGUST 7** – Children of the American Revolution had a picnic and tour of the grounds.

**AUGUST 15** – the Harlow Garden Club had a workshop for it's members.

**AUGUST 17** – Big Brothers/Big Sisters from Albany visited and had lunch on the grounds.

**AUGUST 28** – Old Time Skiers Reunion.

**SEPTEMBER 18** – A group from the New Netherlands.

### WORKSHOPS

**MAY 7 & 8** – Blacksmith Workshop.

**MAY 28 & 29** – Blacksmith Workshop.

**AUGUST 13** – Pam Bucci conducted a Beginning Spinning Workshop.

**SEPTEMBER 10 & 11** – Blacksmith Workshop.

**AUGUST 20** – Pam Bucci conducted a workshop in hat knitting.

**OCTOBER 22 & 23** – Blacksmith Workshop with Joan Ackner.

### GOINGS ON

**APRIL 13** – Steve Jones and volunteers completed archaeological work on dock area.

**APRIL 27** – A representative from the Albany Convention Center visited to stake out the farm for a possible movie location.

**JULY 14** – Pat Barrot, Kim Mabee and Kate Weller represented the Farm and Society on Janice Thompson's show on SACC (Channel 16) TV.

**SEPTEMBER** – Pat Barrot & Kate Weller appeared on the Carla Page Show on SACC.