

Proteus and the Great War

*By
George Wise*

“What do you think about the war?” wrote General Electric’s Chief Consulting Engineer, Charles Proteus Steinmetz, to his counterpart at Westinghouse, Benjamin Garver Lamme, on 17 Feb 1915. “It is as weird as the weirdest story but real.”

The bemused and uncertain tone Steinmetz took in this letter was a bit disingenuous. Steinmetz had already decided by the end of 1914 what he thought of World War I. That contest had begun in August, 1914 and would last until November, 1918. Steinmetz’s view remained consistent at least until the US entry into the war in early 1917, and perhaps until his death in 1923. It was a view distinct from almost all the conventional polarities into which American views about the war were conventionally divided: Pro-Allies (Britain, France, and Russia) versus pro-Central Powers (Germany, Austria, and Turkey); Pacifist vs. Warmonger; Socialist vs. Capitalist; Neutrality vs. Preparedness; Isolation vs. Involvement.



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President's Letter

Winter is ending, we hope, and we are looking forward to spring bringing its changes: green shoots of grass, tree buds leafing out, and the flowering of the spring bulbs. That will be a welcome change in the view from our windows for sure! It also brings the end of the Society's year, the annual meeting, and lots of change for the 2017-2018 year.

This year we are embarking on a reorganization of staff and bringing on a new executive director to oversee the staff and our operations. The Society has undergone tremendous changes in the last five years, having added our first educator and an assistant curator, which enabled us to have more family programs, home-school programs, walking tours of Schenectady, a bicycle tour, and many more interesting speakers. The downside of this growth has been the added weight of administrative duties needed to support our staff and our sites. It now goes far beyond what our wonderful, but all volunteer, board of trustees can safely and effectively handle. Thus the decision to add an executive director who will report directly to the board of trustees has been made. Interviews will have started by the time you read this, and it is our plan to have the executive director in place sometime in June. This will most likely cause us to pull back somewhat on the number of staff hours we currently have, but we are confident that this is the direction needed to ensure that we continue to deliver on our mission: The Schenectady County Historical Society shares stories, inspires dialogue and encourages understanding of the history, people, and cultures of Schenectady County. We intend to take our vision to the community: The Schenectady County Historical Society will strengthen our community and be an increasingly vital destination and resource for those who wish to explore history.

Marianne

Women on Wheels:

How Gilded Age Women Found Freedom through Bicycling, Fought Against People Who Tried To Stop Them, and Why It Matters Today



With Ellen Gruber Garvey

Admission is Free!

Saturday, May 13 at 2 pm at the Schenectady County Historical Society

This program is sponsored by Humanities NY



Schenectady County Historical Society
32 Washington Ave, Schenectady, NY 12305

518-374-0263 • schenectadyhistorical.org

New Materials in the Library

DOCUMENTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS:

Hamilton School Scrapbooks. Gift of Anne Hill

Schenectady Auxiliary Police Photos and

Memorabilia. Gift of Marilyn Chew

Colonial Festival Photographs. Gift of Michael

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William and Ellen Stapleton Collections. Gift of Jeff

Townsend

BOOKS:

Church Histories and School Yearbooks. Gift of David

Bonitatibus

A Bonded Friendship: Moses and Eliphalet by

Gretchel Hathaway

BLOG POSTS YOU MAY HAVE MISSED:

The Grems-Doolittle Library Collections Blog (<http://www.gremsdoolittlelibrary.blogspot.com/>) is a great resource for learning more about Schenectady County's rich history. Here are a few of the posts from the past couple months that you might have missed.

- ***From Saloons to Soft Drinks* by librarian Mike Maloney – December 16, 2016**

Prohibition caused many taverns in Schenectady to turn toward soda pop. One Schenectadian complains that he “has yet to find a drink that doesn’t need a cold glass of beer to destroy the awful taste” of the soda in the liquor-less city.

- ***22 Blocks in Schenectady* by librarian Mike Maloney – January 12, 2017**

Like many other cities in the 1940s, 50s and 60s Schenectady had its own large urban renewal project. It was called the “22-Block Project” for the 22 blocks around City Hall that would be potentially redeveloped to create more off-street parking and areas for business and residential use.

- ***The Schenectady Progress Exposition of 1924* by library volunteer Gail Denisoff – February 16, 2017**

Schenectady had a lot going on in 1924 and what better way to show off the city than with a week-long exposition. The exposition included fireworks, concerts, and competitions, including the “perfect child health competition.” Find out exactly what this competition was in this post.

Grems-Doolittle Library Catalog



Schenectady County
Historical Society

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The Grems-Doolittle Library is excited to announce the launch of our new online catalog which you can find at schenectadyhistorical.pastperfectonline.com. This catalog has records for many of the books and archival collections in the Grems-Doolittle Library and Archives.

The catalog has a keyword search for searches across multiple fields as well as an advanced search for specific phrases. You can also browse the archives and library catalogs individually. Be sure to put your search phrases in quotes if you want to search for a specific phrase. We hope this catalog will increase access to our collections. Any feedback or questions are welcome and can be sent to our librarian, Mike Maloney at librarian@schenectadyhistorical.org.

Erie Canal Digital Collection



This year is filled with important anniversaries including the 200th anniversary of the Erie Canal. To celebrate, we decided to digitize some of our Erie Canal photos on our New York Heritage Digital Collections website.

The easiest way to access this collection is to go to our website (schenectadyhistorical.org) and hover over “Library & Research” which will show a drop-down menu. From that menu, click on “Digital Collection.” This will bring you right to our NY Heritage page where you can click on the “Erie Canal Photo Collection” to access the photos that we have digitized so far. You can also check out some of our other digitized collections. Have fun exploring these great photos!



Steinmetz was seen by various foes, and even by some of his friends, as everything from a German agent to a supporter of the Russian War effort; from a naïve pacifist to a dangerous apologist for the use of military force; and from a socialist intent on destroying the American system to a capitalist profiting from it. When he had come to America, he had chosen as a new middle name Proteus, a reference to the Greek sea-god capable of both foretelling the future and changing his shape. Charles Proteus Steinmetz was never more Protean than in the years 1914-1917, when his attempt to foretell the future meaning of the Great War assumed these different and conflicting shapes in the eyes of his contemporaries.

Here Steinmetz's single and consistent position will be presented in his own words. How that position meshed with a changing American foreign policy will be traced.

When the Great War began, Steinmetz had recently developed a political position which might be called his "Second Socialism". As a student in Germany, he had belonged to a student socialist club, an affiliation perhaps more inspired by camaraderie and intellectual excitement than political or revolutionary zeal. Coming to America, he had put his socialism on hold for about 20 years, though never renouncing it. His professional achievements contributed significantly to the success of his long time employer, one of the world's preeminent capitalist corporations, General Electric. In 1911, he had joined the Schenectady local of the American Socialist Party, a move inspired more by the local political situation than by ideological loyalties.



CAMOUFLAGE

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By 1914, Steinmetz had found that his personal brand of Socialism was best captured by an element coalescing around a magazine called the New Review, edited by

William English Walling. Steinmetz saw in this outlet an opportunity to recapture the intellectual excitement of the best of the socialist publications of his German youth. He accepted a position on the New Review Advisory Board, joining such prominent intellectuals as Max Eastman and W.E.B. Du Bois. The New Review group, though nominally socialist, was, like Steinmetz, closer to Progressivism. In the eyes of more militant socialists the New Review clique, and similar groups, were derided as "sewer socialists", willing to work within the system on such issues as better sanitation, education, and public parks (initiatives which Steinmetz was personally leading within Schenectady's socialist government) rather than working to overturn the system.

As pragmatic socialists, the outbreak of World War I created a quandary for the New Review group. A call went out in the Fall of 1914 to the Advisory Board for essays presenting positions on the war. Steinmetz was among those who replied. His answer is available in full on the Web (Google "New Review Contents by Issue").

He argued that Germany, with its "superior organization by the centralized cooperation of executive ability" was the wave of the world's future. This was especially true since the admittedly militarist tendencies of the German elite minority could be kept in check by its educated socialist majority. The Allies, by contrast, married the outmoded excessive individualism of the British Anglo-Saxons with illiterate, retrograde, and reactionary Czarist Russia. Steinmetz would deny again and again that this conclusion came from the emotional appeal of his German roots. It was due, he asserted, to a dispassionate scientific analysis of world social evolution. The world was evolving toward a merger of the progressive dynamism of capitalism with the cooperative egalitarianism of socialism. Germany embodied that evolution, while both Britain and Russia, though in different ways, resisted it.

A challenge this somewhat cold-blooded analysis presented was the meaning of the Great War to Americans. Were they merely to stand aside and watch this exercise in social evolution play out in apparently endless death and destruction? Or did the United States have a moral obligation to take a particular attitude toward the war?

Here Steinmetz felt an obligation to take part in the debate. Just before the war began he had been trending sharply upward as an intellectual celebrity. The appeal of his combination of physical disability and mathematical genius entranced the American public in much the same way as the story of British physicist Stephen Hawking entranced the public of a later era. In 1914, Steinmetz was approached by at least two editorial bureaus to produce regular syndicated editorials on popular subjects. The intention of the bureaus was to publish his take on the technological future, especially the future of electrical technologies. Steinmetz accepted the offer,

but cast his net much wider. His editorials dealt with everything from the Open Door to China to the defense of the Panama Canal to the role of the submarine in warfare to the meaning of American neutrality in the modern age.

In the editorials Steinmetz sought to combine his dispassionate scientific analysis with his identity as a patriotic American. In the process, he became a lightning rod for the contrary views of everyone from his Schenectady and New Review socialist colleagues to at least one prominent GE colleague.

But with the present European war, the difference between the American, and the British-Anglo-Saxon interests have become apparent: America's interest is that of perfect and strict neutrality, that is, non partisanship; to take care and protect our business, our industrial and agricultural production, our commerce, and use all our influence for peace and for an early ending of the terrible slaughter; to avoid any action, however permissible it may appear to us under formal law, which violates international and national morality by prolonging and increasing the slaughter of our European brothers, even if we should ^{have to} go as far as our nation has gone a year ago, when during the Mexican war we placed an embargo on the exportation of arms to Mexico on the high moral ground, that America should not contribute to the slaughter of people, with ~~which~~ ^{whom} we have no quarrel, especially when - without any fault or responsibility of ours - our exportation of arms would have helped the one Mexican faction and not the other one, since only one had control of harbors and therefore could import arms from us.

GPS-GW Charles F. Steinmetz
April 28, 1915
Schenectady, N.Y.

Most Americans who favored military preparedness, for example, even those who also favored political neutrality, rejected Steinmetz's version of strict economic neutrality. A prominent advocate of this combination of political neutrality, preparedness, and a different kind of economic neutrality was President Woodrow Wilson. Along with probably a plurality or even a majority of Americans, the Wilson administration believed that economic neutrality meant the right of a neutral to trade with anyone in the world. In practice, in 1914-1916, this meant selling anything, including munitions, to the Allied (British, French and Russian) forces, who were able by means of a blockade, to prevent American ships from reaching Germany. In 1915, the Wilson administration added to this its approval of US banks lending money to the British, French and Russians to enable them to buy those munitions. Among supporters of this policy was Schenectady's Socialist Mayor George Lunn. Formerly a close ally of Lunn on local issues, Steinmetz opposed Lunn's emergence as a Wilsonian Democrat in mid-1915 over this issue of US economic policies favoring Britain.

Steinmetz preferred "to avoid any action, however permissible under formal law, which violates international and national morality by prolonging and increasing the slaughter of our European brothers." In practice, that meant putting in place an embargo on

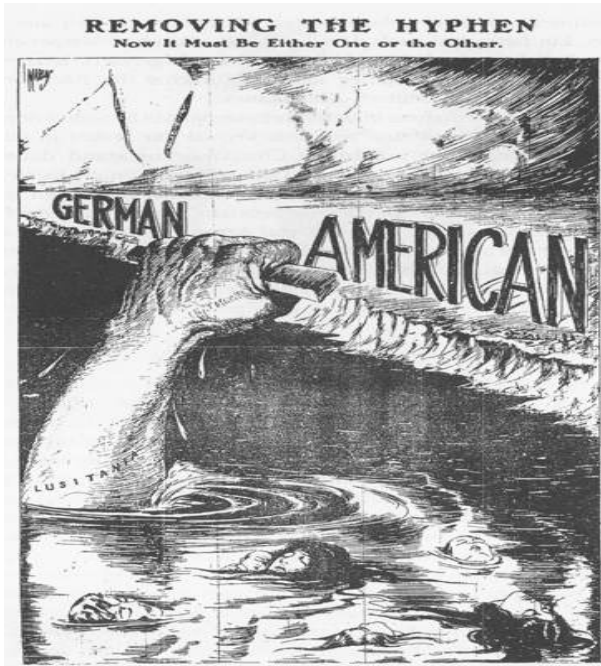
American trade with and loans to all the combatants, while simultaneously promoting the arbitration of the issues over which the combatants were fighting. America should submit its quarrels with both Germany and Britain "to a board of investigation mutually agreed upon and comprised of nations not involved in the controversy, and to postpone any hostile action for one year. If within this year, the controversy is not settled, then recourse to arms may be had." This position on economic neutrality and arbitration corresponded closely with that of Wilson's Secretary of State, William Jennings Bryan. Bryan, like Steinmetz, quickly came to deplore what he regarded as an un-neutral pro-British tilt in Wilson's policies, and resigned from the administration in mid 1915.

Steinmetz was not driven to a Bryan-like resignation by his employer's economic opportunism. If anything, his personal actions took an opposite tilt. When he received in the mail on 10 Nov 1914 a prospectus from the Guaranty Trust Company of New York stating that "The changes in investment conditions brought about by the European War have made it possible to offer many of the highest grade securities at especially attractive prices," he responded not with indignation, but with interest. He wrote back asking for further information on the four most promising of those securities.

Steinmetz also parted company with Bryan, as well as his New Review associates and the majority of the American Socialist Party and the majority of its Schenectady Local on the subject of military preparedness. They all opposed Wilson's program of preparedness, with the Socialists and New Review group going further and condemning absolutely the ideas of defensive war and nationalism. Steinmetz saw defensive war, which he believed Germany to currently be fighting, and the US likely to be faced with in the future, as entirely justified. So he believed that the "increase of the efficiency of our national defenses" was essential. Before the war, in 1913, he had written to the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Navy League of the United States that "I...consider a powerful navy as the most important and essential means to insure the safety and the peace of the nation, and I should be very glad to have my name added to such a proposed petition." His 1915 editorials further amplified this pro-preparedness position.

The climax of Steinmetz's unintentional self-portrayal as pro-German came on 3 May 1915, when he was one of two principal speakers addressing a Pro-Neutrality Mass Meeting at a packed Van Curler Opera House in Schenectady. If not explicitly pro-German, the tenor of the meeting was clearly anti-British. The other principal speaker, Jeremiah O'Leary was a noted advocate of freedom for Ireland. He condemned Britain's food blockade of Germany, without mentioning the German submarine campaign. Steinmetz in turn expressed concern about the pro British attitude of the US "industrial, social and political government." He then asserted that "for a generation the US has not been an Anglo-Saxon nation," noting, with spurious precision,

that the US was now “35% Anglo Saxon, 40% Irish German Dutch and Scandinavian descent, and 25% of Mediterranean and Slav descent” (drawing a scathing comment in a subsequent letter that he had entirely left out the 10% or more of Americans of African descent). Steinmetz envisioned a negotiated end of the war as a way of ensuring that the emerging new race of Americans would combine German efficiency with Anglo Saxon individualism.



Even more unfortunate than this naïve genetic determinism was Steinmetz’s timing. Just four days after he gave this talk, a German submarine sank the S.S. Lusitania, killing some 1200 people, including 124 (or perhaps 128) Americans. The Lusitania sinking did not turn the US into a pro-war nation. It did however, clearly change the conversation. It forced the submarine issue into the first place on the American agenda. Steinmetz’s cool analysis of the submarine was understandably seen by some as not American preparedness, but German apologetics.

In letters to and meetings with the predecessor organization to the FBI in 1916, electrical engineer Charles L. Clarke, an early associate of Thomas Edison, accused Steinmetz of being not only a German sympathizer but a possible German agent. Clarke’s charges were somewhat vague. He noted Steinmetz’s editorials, presented Steinmetz’s high position in GE as offering opportunities to sabotage that Schenectady munitions program, and referred to suspicious midnight meetings at Steinmetz’s house.

While it is true that at least once Steinmetz convened a meeting of the local chapter of that German-American Literary Defense Committee at his home, there is not the slightest bit of existing evidence connecting him in any way with any overt activities such as espionage or sabotage. Nor is there any evidence that any German saw him, or sought to use him, as a German agent.

Early in 1917, the final option of self-defense came to the fore, when Germany decided to resume unrestricted submarine warfare. Germany appears to have concluded that the US was already such a key supplier of munitions and money to the Allies as to be effectively an enemy of Germany. Steinmetz remained consistent. For him, that third pillar of self-defense now became decisive. The United States, he concluded after war was declared in February 1917, must now fight, and must now respond as one people. He set an example by combining advocacy of national unity with personal participation in the war effort, doing technical work on a primitive version of the proximity fuse, a way of more destructively exploding artillery shells and bombs.

In conclusion, during the run-up to US participation in the Great War, the protean images of Steinmetz were in the eyes of his beholders, not in the mind of Proteus himself. The Schenectady Socialist Local and his New Review colleagues saw him as too militaristic and nationalistic, while his former ally Mayor George Lunn saw him as too much a pacifist. Some of his GE colleagues, such as Clarke saw him as pro-German; anyone noticing his name on the masthead of the Russian-American Chamber of Commerce might reasonably conclude he was pro-Russian (or, if more knowledgeable, pro-Russian-revolution). Socialists could see his persistence as the chief consulting engineer of a privately-owned munitions producer as too capitalist. Capitalists could resent his socialist suggestion that a neutral munitions provider was a merchant of death. Advocates of a neutral’s right to trade could see his trade embargo advocacy as naively idealistic, while advocates of outlawing the submarine might see his defense of the submarine as inhumanely pragmatic. Germans and German-Americans could view him as simultaneously German and American.

Behind all of these contradictory visions, lay an underlying unity. Though influenced by his own personal journey, and overconfident in his ability to analyze scientifically the world situation, Charles Proteus Steinmetz was from first to last a patriotic American. He was, however, one who believed that a crucial part of Americanism was having a mind of one’s own. He saw no contradiction between divergent thinking and patriotic unity. His particular form of divergent thinking rested consistently on his three pillars of neutrality, a combination that few others shared.

George Wise is a former Research and Development Historian with General Electric. He volunteers regularly at the Grems-Doolittle Library and is currently working on indexing Charles Steinmetz's letter books. We had to cut much of George's article for this newsletter, but you can find the full article online at the Research Guides, Bibliographies, and Articles section of our website at: <http://schenectadyhistorical.org/library/collections/research-guides-and-bibliographies/>

Volunteer Spotlight - Teresa Pistolessi


Teresa Pistolessi has been working both behind the scenes and on the ground as a volunteer at the Mabee Farm, in her own words, for “at least 10 ++ years.” During her professional life, Teresa was a Professor of Nursing at Sage College, holding a Doctorate in Nursing, skills which we try not to call on too often. At the farm, she is most often found serving as a docent during special events like the Canal Fest and the Fall Foliage Festival where you often find her leading tours to large groups of visitors that filter their way through the site during the events.

Teresa’s other important role is that of museum teacher. During the spring and fall, she serves as a “butter lady,” helping students learn about economics and the role of children in the home during the Colonial era. Over the years, she has helped teach thousands of students and she has played a feature role in many of the thank you letters we receive from them after their visits.

Behind the scenes, Teresa is the Farm’s most active recruiter and trainer of volunteers. Out and about in her daily life, she is constantly heard plugging the activities of the Historical Society, recruiting visitors and volunteers. Once she gets them in the door, she helps train new docents on the ins and outs of house tours and brings new museum teachers up to speed as well. In addition, she serves on the Mabee Farm Committee, helping guide the Farm forward. Without the work that Teresa does, the Mabee Farm would not be where it is today and her hard work and dedication to the site is greatly appreciated by our staff and volunteers.



Jenna Peterson Riley



The Inscription in the Window

Book release party
with author Sylvie Briber
Saturday, April 22 at 2 PM

Who was Stockade resident Grace Watkins? And what happened to her on April 22, 1883? For over 20 years, Sylvie Briber has made the SCHS her second home as she tried to find answers. Why? Because etched into the window of Sylvie’s Washington Avenue home are the tiny letters: “Grace T. Watkins April 22nd 1883.”

Join us for a book release party as Sylvie discusses her adventures in researching the story of her home, and the characters she’s met along the way. She’ll read passages from the book, and answer questions about the Governor Yates family artifacts found in her home that now reside at SCHS. A few of the artifacts will even be on display, and we’re celebrating it all with cheesecake and chocolate!

Can’t make the book signing? You can still see the “inscription in the window” by joining us on a Secret Stockade tour, held the first Wednesday of each month, April-October.

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Ron & Mary Ann
Van Alstyne
Robert & Kathryn Van Flue
Mauricio Velasco &
Susan Perdomo
Marc & Donna Viglione
Dale & Joan Wade-Keszy
Catherine Wajda
Bill & Barbara Wallace
Ann Walraven
Paul & Doris Ward
Robert & Brigitte Weible
Dr. Peter & Diana Weinberg
Calvin Welch

Family (con't)

Ben & Sharon Wiles
Bernard & Christine
Witkowski
Ralph & Pauline Wood
George & Ellen Woodzell

Individual

Marcia Abele
William D. Ackner
Mary Albers
Charlene Aldi
Norman B. Aldrich
Eleanor Alger-Monlea
Fay Allen
Susan N. Apt
Ann Aronson
Thelma Askew
Roxanne Babcock
Barbara Baciewicz
Anne Ball
Monica C. Barrett
Louise A. Basa
Henry J. Bastian
Dean Bennett
Victoria J. Best
Barbara Bilins
Bobbie Blesse
Theone T. Bob
Susan Bogardus
David Bonitatibus
Mary Ellen Boscia
Ann L. Bowerman
MaryAnne Boyer
Ann S. Bradburd
Susan Brady
Robert Bramwell
Sally Brillon
Adrianne Brockman
William A. Bronk
George Brougham
Stephen Buonome
Dr. Joan Wemple Burns
Justin Burns
Miriam W. Butzel
Sandra Mabie Caldeira
Lynn E. Calvin
Karen Canfield

SCHENECTADY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Members Who Joined or Renewed from March 1, 2016 - February 28, 2017

Individual (con't)

Barbara Cardwell
Katherine Taylor Carney
Linda Carpenter
Robert N. Carpenter
Donald Cazer
Deanna Cerullo
Katherine Chansky
Rodgers Cheeks
Carl Cherbini
Lynn Christie
Linda Ciabotte
Thomas Ciacetta
James Cimino
Marion S. Clas
Robert J. Coan, Esq.
Willem A. Coetzee
Richard Cohen
Owen M. Cole
Donald E. Coons
Andrea Coppola
Beverly Cornelius
Dave Cornelius
Steven Cornick
Lt. Col. Irving E. Costanzo
Betsy Cotton
Thomas D. Coulson
Paulyn M. Cox
Robert Creatura
Dr. Peter Cross
Dinah Crossway
Nelson Curtis
Martha Cusack
Louis (Van Curler) Cuyler
Greta Daigle
Michael Davi
Allen R. David
Helena A. DeCaprio
Bonnie DeFreest
Holly Delape
Horst Delorenzi
Charleen DeLorenzo
James Denisa
Gail Denisoff
Paul Dichian
Robert Dickson, III
Richard DiCristofaro
Mary Jane Dike

Individual (con't)

Gary Dilallo
Paul L. Dimon
Bill Donato
Corinne M. DuBois
Susan DuFour
Susan P. Duncan
Sharon Dunlap
Patricia Dwyer
Stephen Dyson
Elizabeth Early
Therese Early
Lewis Edelheit
Nancy Edmonds
Elizabeth M. Ehrcke
James J. Elbrecht
Pamela Ellingson
Rev. John Facci
Joy P. Favretti
Susan Felthousen
Darryl Ferguson
Albert Ferradino
Vivian Ferraro
Arnold S. Fisher
Diane Fisher
Perry Ann Fitzgerald
Brian Flahive
Jocelyn Foley-Creech
Dorothy M. Foley
Kathleen Frake
L. Arlene Frederick
J. Stuart Freeman, Jr.
Jeni Friedland
Janet M. Fuentes
Robert Gaesser
Brianna Gajewski
Joseph Gallagher
Christine Galvin
Richard Gardner
Deborah Gatoff
John Gearing
Lise M. Genz
Carl J. George
Gail George
Matthew F. George, Jr.
Nellie Georgelos
David A. Giacalone
Donald Gleason

Individual (con't)

Dr. Steven Goldberg
Lyn Gordon
Paul Gorgen
Beryl N. Grant
Dorothy Gray
Carol Griesemer
Matthew Grumo
Elaine Guidice
Jean Daley Gwynn
Eric Hamilton
Noreen Hansen
Jayne Hanson
Diane Harper
Stanley Harris
Harlan Harrison
Russell Hart
Clifford W. Hayes
Deborah Hayes
Edward Heisler
Judith Herbert
Alicia V. Hermance
Thomas Hodgkins
Julia R. Holcomb
Sheila Holder
Bill Holt
Sylvia E. Hosegood
Philip Hourigan
Dusty Ann Ifflander
Helene Iler
Evelyn Incitti
Susan J. Jackson
Barbara J. Jeffries
Hugh Jenkins
Betty Ann Jennings
Emily Ann Jensvold
Joyce Jewitt
Nan Johnson
Robert J. Jones
Sharon A. Jordan
Hasna Kaddo
Gerald C. Kammerman
Francis Karwowski
Christine Katchmar
Frank Keetz
Ursula E. Keiski
Elizabeth Khasiev
Wayne J. Kimball

Individual (con't)

Margaret C. King
Ronald F. Kingsley
Gloria Kishton
Kathy Kochem
Michael Kokernak
Ella Krajewski
Mary E. Kruger
Barbara Kuban
Dolores Kwolek
Rita Lancefield
Ruth Larson
Edward Le Viness
Timothy Lederach
Mark LeGere
Leah Lembo
Arleen Lenkewich
Constance M. Leonard
Jerry L. Leonardo
Margaret Levine
Diane Lewis
Karen Lewis
Peter Lewis
Janet Liszewski
Edward Lorentzen
Edward Kruesi Lorraine
O. Chadwick Loveland
Katharine L. Lowe
John Loz
Lynda Lukas
Paul Mabie
Robert J. Mabie
Ceil Mack
Patricia MacKinnon
Richard MacKinnon
John Maddaus
Gertrude Mallan
Anne Mancuso
Jessica Many
Barbara Markey
Richard T. Martin
Joan Marzitelli-Brooks
Irma Mastroianni
Brian G. Maybee
Dana Mazzone
Carole Lynn McCarthy
Mary B. McClaine
William McColl

SCHENECTADY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Members Who Joined or Renewed from March 1, 2016 - February 28, 2017

Individual (con't)

Michele McGovern
Nancy G. McNabb
Neusa McWilliams
Susan Spring Meggs
Dr. Dominick Mele
Jo Ann Menzer
Ellen Messick
Betsy Meyer
Roger Michael
John Miller
Marianne Josefiak Miller
Jeff Moore
Debra Enright Moyer
Barbara Hayes Muhlfelder
Keith Munro
Michael Munson
Rita Murtagh
Elizabeth J. Nelson
Nancy Nessler
Joseph Nial
Gregory James Nickels
Christie A. Noble
Patricia O'Clair
Francis O'Connor, Jr.
Barbara Oberdieck
Kathryn L. Opdyke
Michael Ostermann
Constance J. Ostrowski
Jenny Overeynder
Barbara J. Palmer
Christine Pangburn
Edward Pangburn
Enzo Pantano
Nancy Papish
Robert R. Pascucci
David Peck
David Pecoraro
Mary Pedone
Linda Perregaux
Ann M. Perry
Elma Phillips
Elizabeth Pieper
Barbara Piper
Teresa V. Pistolessi
Janis Polishook
Mary Anne Pollack
Donna Poole
Dr. Peter F. Purcell

Individual (con't)

Ronnie Quinn
Janet I. Rainey
Richard Rainey
Mary Ann Randall
Everett Rau
Rick Reynolds
Nancy Rheingold
James Richmond
Steven Rider
Linda Ritner
Jane Robbins
Nancy Robinson
Johnny Rockenstire
Paul Rosenberg
Carolyn Ross
Sonia H. Rubenstein
Mary Jane Rubinski
Mary Ann Ruscitto
Christina Russell
Ann-Marie Rutkowski
Paul L. Ryan
Chandra Santiago
Donna Santora
Marilyn J. Sassi
Helen Ann Saunders
Gordon Schaufelberg
John Scherer
Martha Scherer
E. James Schermerhorn
Nathaniel Schied
Shirley A. Schleier
Elinore Schumacher
Jennifer Scott
Jane Scrafford
Kathleen P. Scutt
Kathleen Secker
Van der Bogert Shanklin
Juliana Shei
Gwendolyn Sheldon
Warren W. Sheldon
Patricia A. Shoemaker
Allison Sitors
Henrietta A. Slosek
Gail Smith
Diana Smolenski
Janet Snyder
Linda Snyder
Devorah Sorbo

Individual (con't)

James Spencer
James Spring
Debra Stalker
Martin Strosberg
Harvey Strum
Sally J. Swantz
Donna E. Swart
Daniel Swarts
Martha M. Szuminskyj
Carl Taeubner
Donna Tansey
Raffele A. Tedeschi
Alice Buff Tepper
Evelyn Thode
Thomas Timmons
Paul H. Tocker
James S. Trapini
Elliot Tropiansky
Lois E. Truax
Eleanor Tunny
John Urbanski
Eugene F. Van Dyke, Jr.
Timothy Van Heest
John W. Van Laak
Gloria Vassolas
Maureen Vedder
Christine Vermilyea
David Vrooman, Jr.
Nancy L. Walden
Antonia M. Walsh
Catherine Walsh
Anita R. Walther
Nancy H. Wasmund
Barbara Watt
Mark Weintraub
John G. Wemple, Jr.
Walter Wheeler
Frank Wicks
Jack Wildey
Philip M. Williamston
Malcolm Willison
Jacquelin Willoughby
Johanna M. Woldring
Robert J. Woods, RA
John Woodward
Neil Yetwin
Bill Yunick
Frank Yunker III

Individual (con't)

James Zayicek
Jean B. Zegger
Eleanor Zimmerman

Supporting

James & Cindy Albright
Broughton Foundation
Carlilian Foundation
Clifton Park Halfmoon
Public Library
Felthousen's Florist
GE Foundation
Match Program
George E. Franchere Trust
Hartgen Archeology Assoc.
IBM Match Program
Legere Restorations
Mabee Family Foundation
Pattersonville Furniture Store
Pedone Business Enterprises
Pleasant View Farm
St. George's Council #74
Schenectady County
Public Library
Schenectady Foundation
Slick's Restaurant & Tavern

EXHIBITS and PROGRAMS

For more information, or to purchase tickets for programs, please visit our website schenectadyhistorical.org.

On Exhibit at 32 Washington Avenue

Ongoing:

Together Until the End: Schenectady in World War I

Devastating, morbid, and totally unprecedented, World War I changed our world entirely and redefined modernity. Now, 100 years later, we're exploring the Great War's effect on Schenectady and the people who lived here. The soldiers who fought, the nurses who cared, and everyone at home whose world was reshaped, completely.

Ongoing:

Boomtown: Immigration, Technology, and Urban Schenectady

Local Eats: What Does Your Food Say About You?

On Exhibit at Mabee Farm

Ongoing:

Seasons on the Farm: Plein Air Paintings by Deborah Angilletta

Plein air painting is about leaving the four walls of your studio behind and experiencing painting on site. From spring to autumn, local artist Deborah Angilletta spent time each week capturing views of the Mabee Farm, taking advantage of natural light and color.

Changing Waters: The Story of the Mohawk River

How has the river that stretches from one end of our county to the other changed our lives, and how have we influenced the river over the centuries? You might be surprised to find out just how big of an impact the Mohawk has on your life!



A Bonded Friendship: Moses and Eliphalet

Book Talk & Signing with author Gretchel Hathaway
Saturday, May 6 at 2 PM

at the
Schenectady County Historical Society
Admission: \$5; Free for SCHS Members

Program Calendar

Saturday, April 1 – 2 PM

Black Soldiers of New York State: A Proud Legacy with Anthony Gero

@ 32 Washington Ave; \$5, free for SCHS Members
African Americans have a long, proud and often overlooked record of serving in NYS armed forces. Join us as Gero explores the contributions of NY African Americans prior to the military's integration.

Wednesday, April 5 – 11 AM

Secret Stockade: A Historic Tour & Lunch

@ 32 Washington Ave; \$20, pre-registration required
A walking tour of the Stockade, a peek inside a private 1820s house, a visit to our History Museum, and lunch at Arthur's Market.

Saturday, April 8 – 1:30 PM

Those Necessary Unmentionables: A History of Ladies' Under Ware and Annual Membership Meeting

@ Mabee Farm; \$5, free for SCHS Members
Join underwear expert Marilyn Sassi for an illustrated talk discussing the ideal feminine figure as it evolved from the 1600s to the 1900s and the underwear beneath it all. As this is our annual SCHS membership meeting, refreshments will be served prior to the talk.

Saturday, April 8 – 7 PM - *Howlin' at the Moon Concert with Dyer Switch*

@ Mabee Farm; \$5
Sprouting grass, migrating birds, and a night of howlin' with Dyer Switch. Great Americana tunes guaranteed. Refreshments -- including beer and wine -- served.

Tuesday, April 18 – 10 AM - 1 PM

Kids Spring Break: A Day on the Farm

@ Mabee Farm; \$7/child, pre-registration required
The original farm to table experience! This hands-on program lets kids try each step in the process of growing and making bread, just like the Mabees in the 18th century! Pre-registration required; please pack lunch!

Tuesday, April 19 – 10 AM

Kids Spring Break: Animals and World War I

@ 32 Washington Ave; \$7, pre-registration required
Join us as we discover the bond between soldiers and animals in WWI. We'll explore primary sources, make connections to our furry friends today, and make a craft to take home. There may even be a special visit from our very own Sergeant Rusty Trumpets!

Thursday, April 20 – 2 PM
and Friday, April 21 – 2 PM

An American Girl Tea with Molly McIntire

@ 32 Washington Ave; \$8, pre-registration required
Join us for an American Girl Tea with Molly McIntire!
We'll step back in time to explore the homefront during both World Wars while enjoying tea and goodies and making a Victory Garden craft. All dolls are welcome!

Saturday, April 22 – 2 PM
The Inscription in the Window

@ 32 Washington Ave; \$5, free for SCHS members
Join us for a book release party as neighbor Sylvie Briber discusses her adventures in researching her home's story, and the characters she's met along the way. Chocolate and cheesecake served!

SOLD OUT: Wednesday, May 3 – 11 AM
Secret Stockade: A Historic Tour & Lunch

@ 32 Washington Ave; \$20
A walking tour of the Stockade, a peek inside a private 1820s house, a visit to our History Museum, and lunch at Arthur's Market.

Saturday, May 6 – 2 PM
A Bonded Friendship: Moses and Eliphalet with Gretchel Hathaway

@ 32 Washington Ave; \$5, free for SCHS members
Join us for a talk and book signing with Gretchel Hathaway who will be presenting on her recently published historical novel, *A Bonded Friendship: Moses and Eliphalet*. This book tells the story of how escaped slave Moses Viney and Eliphalet Nott, President of Union College become close friends in the small bustling city of Schenectady.

Sunday, May 7 – 11 AM - 3 PM
Woods and Waters Day

@ Mabee Farm; FREE!
We're celebrating woods and waters as we bloom into May! Join us for a spring festival exploring plants and animals, streams and ponds, and how they all tie together! Featuring nature walks, kayak demos with Upstate Kayak Rentals, live birds of prey with a wildlife rehabilitator, *Naturelogues* photo exhibition & program, crafts + games + demos, and more!

Wednesday, May 10 – 7 PM - Howlin' at the Moon
Concert with Washington County Line Bluegrass

@ Mabee Farm; \$5
Great Americana tunes guaranteed. Refreshments -- including beer and wine -- served.

Saturday, May 13 – 2 PM
Women on Wheels with Ellen Gruber Garvey

@ 32 Washington Ave; FREE!
Ellen Gruber Garvey will be joining us for a presentation on how gilded age women found freedom through bicycling. This presentation is sponsored and made possible by Humanities NY.

Sunday, May 14 – 10 AM
Volunteers needed for Herb Garden Planting Day!

@ Mabee Farm
Swing by Mabee Farm and help us realign stones, shovel dirt, and plant herbs in the garden!

Friday, May 19 – 11 AM
Architecture on Union: A Walking Tour with Lunch
Meets @ St. John's Church; Cost TBD, pre-registration required

Schenectady's Union St boasts some of the city's finest architecture! Explore Union with us as we discover the stories of the street's historic, charming, and just plain weird buildings.

Saturday, May 20 – 10 AM
Kids Program: Sow Some Seeds!

@ Mabee Farm; \$7/child, pre-registration required
As spring finally arrives, join us at the Mabee Farm Historic Site as we plant our own seedlings to take home! Don't forget to wear comfortable clothes that you don't mind getting a little dirty!

Wednesday, May 24 – 7:30 AM - 8:30 PM
Bus Trip to the New York Botanical Gardens
Leaves from Union + Church St @ 7:30 AM // Leaves from Crossgates Mall Macy's Lot @ 8:00 AM
\$80 (\$70 if you've taken a bus trip with us before), pre-registration required
Get lost in exotic gardens, take in fresh spring blooms, and enjoy a day in this oasis of greenery!

Saturday, June 3 – 10 AM
African Americans of the Stockade: A Walking Tour

@ 32 Washington Ave; \$7
Uncover the Stockade's African American history with us on a walking tour. The historic Stockade has been a hub of diversity since Schenectady's founding, and African Americans played a part in shaping the landscape and culture of the neighborhood.

Wednesday, June 7 – 10 AM and 11:30 AM
Secret Stockade: A Historic Tour & Lunch
@ 32 Washington Ave; \$20, pre-registration required
A walking tour of the Stockade, a peek inside a private 1820s house, a visit to our History Museum, and lunch at Arthur's Market.

Thursday, June 8 – 6:30 PM

Scandalous Schenectady: A Walking Tour

@ 32 Washington Ave; \$10, pre-registration required
From bootleggers to brothels, Schenectady's Stockade is no stranger to scandal. Join us for a walking tour of Schenectady's sordid moments, and stay late for a drink, on us!

Saturday, June 17 – 10 AM – 1 PM

Stockade Scavenger Hunt

@ 32 Washington Ave; Free!
Join us this Path Through History Weekend as we search for clues through the streets of the Stockade on a historical scavenger hunt for adults and kids!

Saturday, June 24 – 10 AM

Colonial Walking Tour of the Stockade

@ 32 Washington Ave; \$7
Join us as we take a walking tour of the Stockade District and go back in time to the founding of the colony up through the American Revolution and learn about the characters and events that formed this historic community.

Saturday, June 24 – 10 AM

Kids Program: Shear the Sheep!

@ Mabee Farm; \$7/child, pre-registration required
Yayah's getting her hair cut! Help our resident sheep with her annual makeover, and explore how wool animals like Yayah and her friend Goat Girl produced food and clothes for the Mabees. Make a craft to take home.

Sunday, June 25 – 3 PM - 7 PM

The Big Howl

@ Mabee Farm; \$8
Save the date for our biggest Howlin' yet! This solstice, we're celebrating ten years of full moon music with Howlin' favorites like Everest Rising, The Nellies, and Rusticator, plus BBQ, beer, blacksmithing, tours, and more!

Wednesday, July 5 – 10 AM and 11:30 AM

Secret Stockade: A Historic Tour & Lunch

@ 32 Washington Ave; \$20, pre-registration required
A walking tour of the Stockade, a peek inside a private 1820s house, a visit to our History Museum, and lunch at Arthur's Market.

WOODS AND WATERS DAY

AT MABEE FARM

Live birds!
Nature hikes!
Crafts! Games!
Kayak Demos!
with Upstate Kayak Rentals
Nature Photography!

FREE!!

Sunday May 7, 11-3

ECOS Adirondack Mountain Club ADK SCHENECTADY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY schenectadyhistorical.org

Around the Society



Painting Portraits!



Together Until the End: Schenectady in WWI exhibit at 32 Washington Ave.



Thank you Kaitlin and Jenna. Best wishes in your future endeavors.



Seasons On the Farm: Plein Air art exhibit by Deborah Angilletta at the Franchere Center.



Baking up a Storm: winter break program at the Mabee Farm.



More fun at the Farm - building a snowman!

Photos by: John Ackner, Amber Angilletta, Jenna Peterson Riley, Nancy Wasmund, Mary Zawacki.



Schenectady County Historical Society
32 Washington Avenue
Schenectady, NY 12305

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Schenectady County Historical Society

annual membership meeting

Those Necessary
Unmentionables: A History of Ladies' Under Ware

with Marilyn Sassi

April 8 @ 1:30pm