



February 2019

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"Schenectady Town" - a view of Schenectady, circa 1690, from Cowhorn Creek. Len Tantillo painting commissioned in 2005 by Schenectady County Historical Society

You're Invited!

Tavern Night at the Brouwer House

Saturday, February 9, 2019, 4-6 pm
Brouwer House, 14 N. Church St.



Join us for a sampling of local brews and ciders.
Potluck - Bring and share your version
of colonial and tavern fare.

Hear stories by City historian, Chris Leonard.

Meet and greet neighbors and historical characters.

Colonial dance Music by Musicians Of Maalwyck, 5-6pm.

No ticket required - \$5.00 donation encouraged
RSVP to stockadeassociation@gmail.com by Feb. 8

February 1690 and What Happened After: 350 Plus Years of Change

~Carol DeLaMarter

Schenectady Town - a view of Schenectady, circa 1690, from Cowhorn Creek depicts life in the original settlement prior to the massacre that includes barns, homes, church, mill, inn and brewery. The seven stops in the audiotour (Page 2) describe what happened in February 1690. What's important is what happened after 60 settlers were killed, 24 men and boys were captured, homes and the church destroyed.

Immediately after, Albany leaders invited Mohawks who were spared and lived nearby to sow and reap winter corn on lands of the Great Flats that had been purchased from the Mohawks in 1661. The Mohawks at the same time, encouraged those settlers who fled, to return to help them harvest and to defend the site. Life in the young town began again. The small King's Fort at the edge of State and Washington protected and housed Mohawks and those who returned until the Queen Anne's Fort was built (1703) in the center of town (Near where Lawrence statue is today).

A 1698 map of the town by Colonel Wolfgang Roemer, the earliest surveyed map, identifies new fortifications, important roads
(Continued on page 3)

EMERGENCY INFORMATION FOR NEIGHBORS

If you missed notification during recent snow, ice and flood events, sign up now for the Historic Stockade yahoo group (see page 8). Have a plan to move your car if you live on narrow streets, to assist City vehicles. Register online for Schenectady County Emergency rapid notification call system: <http://www.schenectadycounty.com/rapidnotify>.

Snow Emergency: for official parking rules go to the City's website: <http://www.cityofschenectady.com/parking.html>

All three Stockade churches allow temporary parking during flood and snow events. Allow church lots to be cleared first; return cars to street once plowed. Cars may be towed on Sunday mornings and when space is needed for church events.

FOR STOCKADE SAFETY – KEEP YOUR FRONT AND BACK PORCH LIGHTS ON FOR SAFETY AND NIGHTTIME WALKERS.

SAVE THE DATES

General Membership Meetings,. St. George's Great Hall. Parking lot and entrance on Green Street. Next meetings: March 21. May 16, Annual Meeting.

Stockade Association Board Meetings, Wednesday, **Feb. 3**, 7pm, at First Reformed Church Mohawk House, 10 N. Church St. Next meeting: March 6

Tavern Night at Brouwer House, Sat., **February 9**, observance of early Stockade Colonial history.

ATTN: February Spy Deadline - January 15th, 2019 - Please email editor, Sylvie Briber: rbriber@aol.com

Most of us have finally experienced our first major snow of the season. That experience may have included being plowed in or towed if you park on the street. Or no plowing if you live on our narrowest Stockade Street. Whether you drive or walk getting around is a challenge. Thanks to those who keep their sidewalks shoveled and a special thanks to those who assist neighbors with sidewalks and digging out or pushing stuck vehicles. An added thanks to churches that open up their parking lots for neighbors who need to get off the street at least temporarily.

Please see the Streetscape update regarding the neighborhood meeting on January 20. Many thanks to all who came out to review and give feedback on examples of sidewalk designs and materials, tree selection for urban neighborhoods and vision for street lighting. Input from all residents is valuable in drafting a plan for each block that can be a guide for property owners and help identify funding to improve the streets of the Stockade neighborhood.

Exhibit "Beneath Schenectady"

Artifacts from the Stockade – Continues

Open to the general public at Begley Library, off the main parking lot on the Schenectady County Community College Campus. The exhibit features the Community Archaeology Program excavations at four sites: 109 Union, 32 Front, 12 Union and on the First Reformed Church property. Call the Library for hours: 518-381-1235; Open days and M-Th evenings and Saturdays.

- Tidings -

Condolences to the family of Lynne McClravy-Ackert on her recent passing. Lynne and her husband, Richard, have been long time Stockade neighbors of Union St. and N. College St.



STOCKADE ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM: October 1, 2018 - September 30, 2019

Founded in 1957, the purpose of The Association is the Preservation, Protection, and Improvement of the Stockade Historic District.

Regular Membership: Upon the payment of dues, voting membership is available to any individual owning property, renting, or owning a business entity within the Stockade Historic District

Affiliate Membership: Upon the payment of dues, any individual or organization not eligible for regular membership is eligible to become a *non-voting affiliate* member designated as a "Friend of The Stockade."

Dues: Individual - \$20; Household - \$25; Business owner - \$25; Affiliate - \$15.

- Individual
- Household
- Affiliate
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- One designated representative of a Stockade business entity

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The *Stockade Spy* is distributed free to the neighborhood monthly and mailed to non-resident members and "Friends." Please make checks payable to: The Stockade Association
Mail to: Stockade Association Treasurer, 32 Washington Ave., Suite 100, Schenectady, NY 12305

Historic Stockade Cellphone Walking Tour: February History Commemorated

If you've grown up in Schenectady or lived here awhile, you know that the 1690 Massacre of settlers by French and Canadian Indians, less than 30 years after its founding by Arndt Van Curler, is a significant part of Schenectady's history. Much of what is known about it comes from a letter written by Pieter Schuyler who interrogated French men who were captured. The story of the 1690 Massacre is accessible on the Historic Stockade Cellphone Walking tour. There are 7 stops detailing what happened here. While it may be too cold and snow-covered to locate all the Centennial markers that commemorate events, you can listen (from the warmth of your home) to neighbors telling the story of events on that cold night in February 1690.

Dial 518-387-3282 to start the tour. Enter the Stop number when prompted to hear audio content.

Stop Number and Location:

- 60. 1690 Massacre Narrative
- 61. Old Fort Park, intersection N.Ferry, Green St, Front St.
- 62. North Gate, corner N. Church and Front St.
- 63. Washington and Cucumber Alley
- 64. Washington Ave/State St.
- 65. South Gate/S. Ferry and State Sts.
- 66. Statue of Lawrence/intersection N.Ferry, Green, Front St.

Funding for the audiotour is made possible by a grant from the Schenectady County legislature, its County Initiative and the Stockade Association.

What's Happening Downtown?
Sign up for a weekly update on downtown art,
entertainment and business at:
www.downtownschenectady.org

350 Plus Years of Change (cont. from page 1)

and waterways, the new Dutch church, mills, house lots of important citizens and brew houses. Within 11 years of capture, 18 men had returned and assumed important roles in town. In fact, most of the families living in town prior to the attack were still represented in the following decade. Jan Baptist Van Eps and Laurens Claassen Van der Volgen became Mohawk interpreters supporting Anglo-Iroquois relations. Other sons returned to operate corn and saw mills along the many creeks, securing the importance of families of Vrooman, Veeder, Schermerhorn, Van Eps, Groot, Vedder, Teller and Van Antwerp. Although his wife and children were killed in the attack, Douwe Aukes continued to operate his inn near the south gate (State and Mill Lane). Harmanus Vedder operated the brewery near the Dutch Church mill. Arent Bradt, whose father was killed during the attack, continued brewing in the house on State (across from Gateway Plaza) and later expanded his business there to become the largest brew house. There were others nearby on a part of Union St that was known as Brewers St. until the Revolution. All of these enterprises succeeded in large part because of their proximity to the Mohawk River and other waterways, and the relationship that early settlers maintained with the Mohawks through shared needs and marriage. Even though the map of this part of town, known as the Stockade, and the surrounding area changed, we can still envision those first settlers in the most beautiful land of the Great Flats along the Mohawk, trading, planting and harvesting crops in the rich land. While that vision doesn't have the same practical importance today, the sentiment that Schenectady is a rich land on which to grow still feels relevant more than 350 years later.

(I'm reminded by a neighbor that Schenectady draws its water from the Great Flats aquifer, a very important component in making beer at Great Flats Brewing, Frog Alley Brewing, and Mad Jack Brewery. The original Len Tantillo painting of Schenectady Town and 1698 Roemer map are part of the permanent collection at the Schenectady County Historical Society, 32 Washington Ave. The Spy staff acknowledges the writings of Dr. Susan Staffa in the preparation of this from her book, "Schenectady Genesis, How a Dutch Colonial Village Became an American City, ca. 1661-1800," copy at Historical Society).

Inviting Neighbors to Join the Stockade Board

This is an exciting time in the Stockade! The new Streetscape Plan is poised to bring long hoped for improvements to our neighborhood. Consultants are proposing new ideas for plantings, sidewalks and lighting, to name a few. Be part of this exciting leadership team of New York's first Historic District.

The Stockade Association's nominating committee, Dianne Crozier, Beverly Elander and Clare Morgan, is seeking neighbors who are interested in serving on its Board of Directors. Elections are in the Spring. To qualify, candidates must be Stockade Association members and own property, reside, or own a business entity within the Stockade Historic District. Directors serve for a two-year term and must attend at least five Board meetings a year. Responsibilities include membership on committees and management of the business and property of the association. For more information, contact: Dianne Crozier at crozierd@union.edu

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A Ribbon-cutting and Dedication

Covenant Hall and New Spaces at First Reformed Church
February 2, 2019 at 3pm

After several years of planning and construction and a \$4 million investment, Schenectady's first church, at 10 N. Church St will dedicate its new wing on Saturday February 2, 2019 at 3pm. The project includes new spaces for church programs, mission and community events. While not visible from the exterior, the renovation reworked spaces within the campus, reflecting new directions for the church over the next decades improving accessibility, safety, and functionality all while keeping an eye on changing needs including First Reformed Church's mission to the community. Come check out Covenant Hall, which provides space for many events and has been judged the best new medium-sized venue in the capital district. The project architect is Albany firm Mesick, Cohen, Wilson and Baker and the contractor is Rosch Brothers of Latham.

~ Let's Do Lunch! ~

The First Reformed Church, 8 N. Church St is introducing a new program, Wednesday Lunch. Drop-in lunch open to all Stockade neighbors every Wednesday between 11:30am-1pm. Come enjoy good food, good conversation, and good company. Cost is \$2.00.

YWCA North Eastern NY Announces the 36th Annual
2019 Women of Achievement Awards Luncheon

March 29th, 11:30am - 1:00pm

At Mallozzi's Ballroom, 1930 Curry Road, Schenectady 12303. Being recognized are nine outstanding women who have demonstrated extraordinary achievements in their career and/or community involvement. For tickets and additional info, call the Development Office 518-374-3394 ext. 105.

**"THE BABYLON LINE" OPENS JANUARY 25
 AT SCHENECTADY CIVIC PLAYERS**

The Babylon Line, by Richard Greenberg and directed by Chris Foster, opens Friday, January 25 and runs on January 26, 27, 30 and 31 through February 3, 2019. Friday and Saturday curtains are at 8pm. Wednesday and Thursday curtains are at 7:30 pm., and Sundays are matinees only at 2:30pm. Tickets are \$20. Order on-line at www.civicplayers.org or call (518)382-2081.

A Big Thanks to all Stockade Snow Angels who helped neighbors dig out cars, shovel walks, and snow blow!

Help Wanted!

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Streetscape Workshop a Success - Suzy Unger

About thirty-five Stockaders braved a cold January night to meet with Streetscape Project consultants and share ideas about how to improve Stockade streets. Katherine Ember and James Levy of Planning4Places, and Matt Ingalls of Ingalls Planning and Design presented a series of boards with pictures of trees, street furniture, paving materials, pedestrian crossings and more. Participants were encouraged to use stickers and Post-It notes to indicate preferences for our neighborhood.

The take-away from this process? We like traditional! When Kathy Ember summarized what residents want, the popular choices were the traditional choices. Everyone seemed to agree that it is important to plant appropriate sized and types of trees for particular sites. They also like the idea of traditionally styled street lights that are lower and pedestrian oriented. Regarding sidewalks, some supported variety, mixing blue stone and tinted concrete, while others opted for a more uniform look of tinted, stamped concrete. This will be explored further as the plan proceeds.

City Councilman John Polimeni, City Engineer Chris Wallin and Director of Development Kristen Diote attended the workshop and provided welcome support and expertise.

Next steps? Our consultants will return in April to share their recommendations based on the information provided to them last night. This will be a first draft of the plan that is due to be completed in May. Check out the Spy and Stockade Association Streetscape website, historicstockade.com for updates.

General Meeting Minutes

January 17, 2019 at St. George's Church Great Hall

The meeting was called to order at 8:15 p.m. The minutes of the November 15, 2018, general meeting were approved on a motion by Robert Briber.

Robert Lemmerman gave the Treasurer's Report. President Carol DeLaMarter presented the candidates for the Nominating Committee: Dianne Crozier, Beverly Elander and Clare Morgan. The candidates were unanimously elected. Ms. DeLaMarter gave an update on the plans for the pump station in Riverside Park. The State Historic Preservation Office has presented conditions involving protecting the old pump house during construction and developing a plan to use and maintain the old pump house once construction is complete. The city will be responding to the SHPO conditions.

Committee Reports:

Membership: member information is being updated.
Safety: Colleen Macaulay urged residents to sign up for the county emergency notification system, especially now that winter is here. (see Spy article on front page).
The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Suzanne Unger, Recording Secretary

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History Schmistry!

A Quick Guide to Understanding Organizations

Suzy Unger and Gloria Kishton

If you live in the Stockade, you are surrounded by history...and the many historical organizations involved in protecting our local history. There is the Stockade Association, the Schenectady Historic District Commission, the Schenectady Historical Society and the Schenectady Heritage Foundation. It is no wonder people get confused about which is which and what each one does. As residents of the Stockade, we can come into contact with all four organizations. Each is distinct and has a specific purpose though they all share the goal of protecting our history. Here is a brief description of each:

Stockade Association: The Stockade Association was formed in 1958 as a neighborhood organization with the mission of preserving, protecting and improving the Stockade. The association was incorporated as a private, nonprofit organization (501c3) in 1973. The Association has no authority to tell people what they can do to their property. Like any neighborhood association, it works with property owners and local government to support the improvement and preservation of the neighborhood. This involves historic preservation, public safety and other quality of life issues like beautification of the parks and streets in the Stockade, as well as many social events. The Stockade Association encourages residents to become members in order to support the association's work (Join online at www.historicstockade.com or use the coupon in *The Spy*.) It holds at least one major fundraising event a year. This includes either a garden tour or the Walkabout house tour which has been offered for 56 years. The Stockade Association also publishes the *Spy* newsletter nine times per year. This year, the Stockade Association is sponsoring a comprehensive street-scape plan to improve the sidewalks, trees and traffic safety in the Stockade. For more information, go to <http://historicstockade.com/>

Schenectady Historic District Commission: This is a board appointed by the City of Schenectady to enforce local ordinances adopted to protect historic districts in the city. There are currently five such districts: the Stockade (which is the oldest), the Union Street Corridor, Morris Avenue, the General Electric Realty Plot and the Union Street Triangle. This body has the authority to approve or disapprove changes to the exteriors of buildings that can be seen from the public right of way (including the Mohawk River) in these districts. Members are appointed by the mayor and serve at the pleasure of the mayor. For more information, go to <http://www.cityofschenectady.com/pdf/development/HistoricDistrict/Historic>

Schenectady County Historical Society: This is a private, non-profit organization founded in 1905 to encourage understanding of the history, people, and cultures of Schenectady County. The society is headquartered in the Stockade at 32 Washington Avenue and also owns the Mabee Farm in Rotterdam Junction and the Brouwer House on North Church St. The society partners with the Stockade Association on the Walkabout and with the Heritage Foundation on the Candlelight Tours. The historical society offers museum exhibits at both properties, lectures on various aspects of the county's past, a

(Continued on page 7)

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History Schmistry! (cont. from page 6)

variety of history related programs, and supports the Grem-Doolittle Library. Like the Stockade Association, the historical society depends on members to support its work. For more information, go to <http://schenectadyhistorical.org/>

Schenectady Heritage Foundation is a 501c3 charitable organization whose board of directors is comprised of community-based volunteers. Incorporated in 1979 by members of the Stockade Association to focus strictly on historic preservation, it was later expanded to cover Schenectady County. Heads of Schenectady's historic districts are represented on its board; the foundation works closely with like-minded groups. The foundation aids historic building and neighborhood conservation and rehabilitation through education, advocacy, and financial assistance. It cooperates with local government, organizations, agencies, and private property owners, leveraging modest financial aid to accomplish its mission. The foundation has sponsored informational meetings on how to protect historic properties in the flood plain, and facilitated a workshop for the Historic District Commission with staff of the State Historic Preservation Office. Recent Foundation grants have supported Schenectady Civic Players (lobby restoration); Urban Initiatives Group (renovation of three flood-damaged properties on Ingersoll Ave.); Vale Cemetery (historic landscape studies); Schenectady Light Opera; Schenectady's Historic Street Sign project; the Colonial Schenectady project; the Yates Mansion in Glenville; and many private property owners. The Foundation's annual preservation awards recognize outstanding historic preservation projects. The foundation is supported by private donations and engages in various fundraising activities including the Candlelight Tours of the Stockade held every October.

Got that? You can see why you might be confused. I hope these descriptions will help you sort out all the various ways the Stockade, Schenectady and Schenectady County promote and protect our long and illustrious history.

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Dianne Crozier
 crozierd@union.edu
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Doug Chilton
 djchilton27@gmail.com
 Term expires June 2019

The Stockade Spy

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Editor: Sylvie Briber, 23 Washington Avenue
 Phone: (518)377-0469 Email: rbriber@aol.com

Ads and Finance: Bob Lemmerman

Staff: Carol DeLaMarter, Beverly Elander, John Medeiros, Jamie Taft, Suzanne Unger
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Sign Up for the Historic Stockade Yahoo Group

1. Send a blank email to:
HistoricStockade-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
2. You'll receive an email asking if you want to join. Hit "reply."
3. Problems? Email: dalemiller33@hotmail.com
4. Please pass this information along to friends & neighbors.

DIDN'T GET A SPY?

Find a copy at Slick's Restaurant & Tavern, 127 S. Ferry St. Also, current and back issues are available on the Association Website:
 historicstockade.com (Click on "Spy" in the black box.)

Important numbers

Emergency 911
 Non-emergency (518) 630-0911
 Police emergency (518) 382-5200
 Code enforcement (518) 382-5050
 Animal control voicemail (518) 382-5200, ext. 5655



SINGLE STREAM RECYCLING IS HERE!

All recyclable material can be put into one container for collection. Obtain the new Single Stream Recycling sticker at City Hall, Room 9. For answers to your questions about trash & recycling, visit: www.cityofscheneectady.com, click on "services," or call (518)382-5144.

WASTE COLLECTION DAYS

Pick up starts 6:15am. Put waste to curb the day before, after 2pm. Please remove emptied containers promptly.

FEBRUARY WASTE COLLECTION DATES:

Wednesdays, February 6 and 13
& Thursdays, February 21 and 28

Planning on Changes to Your Historic District Property?

Physical changes to the exterior of property viewable from a public right of way (including parks and waterways) require proper approval from the Historic District Commission (HDC). Repairs or painting using like colors and materials do not require approval (but might still require a building permit). Applications at: cityofscheneectady.com/195/development. Questions? Call 518-382-5147. The HDC schedule for the year is on the City's website. HDC reviews applications and then holds meetings on the fourth Thursday of the month at 7pm at City Hall.

Applications are due Three Mondays prior.

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