



East Fishkill Historical Society Newsletter

P.O. Box 245 Hopewell Junction, N.Y. 12533

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eastfishkillhistoricalsociety.org

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday October 1st 10am-4pm & Sunday October 2nd 11am-4pm: 4th Annual Rombout Colonial Days Weekend and Encampment (Brinckerhoff House Historic Site)

Saturday November 5th 4pm till 6pm: EFHS Annual Members Meeting and Pot Luck (Brinckerhoff House Historic Site)

Saturday November 12th 5-9pm Ghost Hunt with Full Moon Paranormal Fundraiser, (Brinckerhoff House Historic Site) app.hauntpay.com/events/the-brinckerhoff-house-ghost-hunt

Sunday December 4th 1pm-4pm EFHS Annual Christmas Open House and Holiday Food Drive: (With Santa and Randolph the Reign Goat). (Brinckerhoff House Historic Site)

EFHS Holiday Tea: **Saturday December 10th, two seatings. 1pm and 3pm** (Brinckerhoff House Historic Site)

All events subject to change.

How to stay in touch...

Our new website is up and running at eastfishkillhistoricalsociety.org. You can keep up with and register for events, sign up and pay for membership, watch videos of past events, and much more.

East Fishkill Historical Society
PO Box 245
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From the Farmhouse by Site Director, Rick Soedler

*We hope this newsletter finds you well. Summer once again has gone by in a flash. This past spring we presented **8 very successful field trips for 3 local schools and two homeschool groups**. We engaged a total of 300 students over a two and a half week period. We already have an established relationship with Gayhead Elementary School, and have now added Kinry Road and Evans Elementary to that list, all part of the Wappingers Central School District. We are hoping to present to the other schools in the district in the future as well. We would not have been able to present these field trips without the help and dedication of our board volunteers, living history volunteers, and the enthusiastic History Honor Society students from John Jay High School in East Fishkill. The History Honor Society and their advisor Mr. Zach Utter, a Social Studies teacher at the school, have been an absolute pleasure to work and coordinate with. We are looking forward to the upcoming school year, and our continued collaborations.

*We are excited to report that on **Sunday, June 5th we had a record visitation for our annual Strawberry Festival**. Approximately **450 people visited the Brinckerhoff House Historic Site**. Our volunteers prepared 380 Strawberry Shortcakes before we ran out of strawberries. In addition to our musical entertainment Singer/Songwriter Don Lowe, we had the Twisted Sisters Ice Cream truck on-site. The long line for ice cream was continuous until the end of the event. We plan to have a food truck or two at our future events.

*We were open for **tours** most Sundays from June until the end of August, with modest visitation.

*Our **gardens** were doing pretty well at the start of the season until we were hit with the drought. Our flowers and herbs have been pretty resilient, however some items in our vegetable garden did not do as well. A huge thank you to our garden volunteers for all of their efforts. We are always **seeking additional volunteers** to join our amazing team.

*We also applied for two grants through Dutchess County this summer. One for infrastructure, the other to help subsidize equipment and supplies to present our school field trips and a future living history summer camp for children. As of this writing we have **secured a \$30,000 infrastructure grant** from Dutchess County for repairs and improvements to the Brinckerhoff site.

*There is always a project happening here at the Brinckerhoff House, and we would love for our **members to get involved**. Helping out during events, special projects, school field trips, or joining our board of trustees is always welcome and appreciated. If you have a special talent that would be beneficial to our operations or just want to get involved with your town historical society, please reach out to us and let us know. History Matters!

Please visit our website eastfishkillhistoricalsociety.org for all of our upcoming events.

Improvements around Historic Hopewell Jct. Hamlet: Rick Soedler

While traveling on Route 82 through Hopewell Junction, you may have noticed the **new brown and white street signs** with a steam engine on them. These signs are part of a **bigger plan to revitalize the historic hamlet** of Hopewell Junction. The new town of East Fishkill Economic Development Committee headed by former NYS Assemblyman, and lifelong East Fishkill resident Patrick Manning, has been working to connect access from the Dutchess County Rail Trail into town. With the completion of the new Empire State Trail that runs from New York City north to the Canadian border, and west from Albany to Buffalo, the Economic Development Committee is looking to provide rail trail travelers safe access to our local businesses. The Route 82 corridor from Palen Road to Beekman Road has been re-named Main Street. Route 376 from Frankie's Superette up to the Hopewell Inn has been re-named South Avenue; which was its name during the late 1800's into the early 1900's during the heyday of the railroad. With recently obtained grant funding from New York State, the future improvements to the Main Street corridor and historic hamlet will be a win for the town of East Fishkill.



Introducing the John Jay High School History Honor Society: Rick Soedler



The recent COVID 19 pandemic put a damper on many of the programs that we love to present each year. One in particular are our school field trips. For the past several years the East Fishkill Historical Society has been trying to create a partnership with the History Honor Society at John Jay High School. Several speaker presentations were set-up at the High School for the group but a collaboration between the two groups for one reason or another just didn't pan out. Fast forward to the 2020 - 2021 school year. Still in the pandemic, John Jay High School Social Studies teacher Zach Utter contacts EFHS Director Rick Soedler to be the virtual speaker for the 2021 History Honor Society induction ceremony. That June we had one student volunteer for our

limited attendance Strawberry Festival. Then in the fall during our annual Rombout Colonial Days weekend event we had 10 students volunteer. What an amazing group of young people. They enjoyed themselves so much that they volunteered to come back for our fall workshops, Christmas open house, and are now collaborating with us on our education programming and helping us present our school field trips. The new school year has just begun and we are greatly looking forward to working once again with our friends from the John Jay High School History Honor Society. The future lies with our young people, and the ones who understand and know our history will be the successful leaders of tomorrow.