



# *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***

***Sunday December 3rd, 1-4pm: EFHS Annual Christmas Open House. Join us as we ring in the holiday season. (Brinckerhoff House Historic Site)***

***Saturday December 9th: Noon, 2pm, & 4pm: EFHS Holiday Tea. Join us as we present 3 seatings of our popular holiday tea. \$20 adults, \$10 children under 13. Seating is limited. All proceeds to benefit the David M. Bushey EFHS scholarship fund. For all reservations, please contact Jan Bushey at 845-242-5794 (Brinckerhoff House Historic Site)***

***Coming in February of 2024: We will continue our "Meet the Author" Series. (Please visit eastfishkillhistoricalsociety.org for dates and times)***

### ***How to stay in touch...***

***Please visit our website at [eastfishkillhistoricalsociety.org](http://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. You can also visit us on Facebook at Brinckerhoff House Historic Site/Home of East Fishkill Historical Society, and Instagram at [brinckerhoff\\_house\\_1750](https://www.instagram.com/brinckerhoff_house_1750).***

## **TIME TO RENEW FOR 2024!**

Please join the society now or renew for the 2024 membership year.

Student member \$10       Single member \$20       Family membership \$25  
 Contributing member \$35-\$99       Patron \$100 & over

I would be willing to assist in the operation of the society. Please contact me to see how the society might best be able to use my time and talents.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  I would prefer to have newsletters emailed

## *From the Farmhouse by Site Director, Rick Soedler*

Hello friends! We hope you are all well. Where did the Autumn of 2023 go? Fall seemed to go by in an amazing flash. With the holiday season approaching, we look forward to welcoming visitors back to the Brinckerhoff House to help us kick off our December events. As a thank you to the community every December we present our annual **Christmas Open House**. This event, which is probably my favorite, has been a tradition at the Brinckerhoff House for many years. If you enjoy community, traditional Christmas music, and hot mulled cider, please consider visiting with us on **Sunday, December 3rd** from **1-4pm**. On Saturday December 9th starting at noon we will once again be presenting our popular **holiday tea**, with 3 seatings: **noon, 2pm, and 4pm**. A beautiful selection of teas, finger sandwiches and desserts will be served at festively decorated tables. This event is a fundraiser that supports our David M. Bushey Scholarship Fund. This scholarship is awarded to a deserving John Jay High School senior from the History Honor Society who will be attending college as a history major. Seating is limited, so make your reservations today. As the year begins to come to a close, we are extremely grateful to the Town of East Fishkill for their continued support, and to the County of Dutchess for the grant funding we received this year. It allowed us to make long overdue infrastructure repairs and upgrades to our wonderful site. We also thank our members and supporters for continuing to appreciate what we do as custodians of the history of the town of East Fishkill and the Hudson Valley.

**Please consider becoming actively involved with the East Fishkill Historical Society. With the loss of several key people we welcome any and all help big or small our members are willing to give. We need help with running and presenting events, school field trips, gardening, collections management, operating our general store and other site work. Please share this with any high school students that you know who are looking to fulfill their community service hours prior to graduation. Please contact [rick@eastfishkillhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:rick@eastfishkillhistoricalsociety.org) Thank you.**

## *Professor Earyle Browne of Wiccopee by Rick Soedler*



*Many may remember the old house that formerly stood on the left side of Fishkill Hook Rd, across from the old Wiccopee General Store in the hamlet of Wiccopee. The home was last owned by Tim Leads who passed away in 2019. The home fell into disrepair due to Tim's failing health and had a roof collapse that winter. The home had a very long history beginning sometime after the American Revolution. Legend claims that timbers salvaged from the Continental army barracks at the Fishkill Supply Depot were used in its construction. Sometime in the late 1930's, musician Earyle Browne, who taught music in NYC purchased the home dubbed Three Clefs and along with his wife, who was a French antiques dealer, turned the home into their own personal museum. Professor Browne was a concert pianist who at one time toured Europe and performed for Queen Elizabeth and his close friend Edward Prince of Wales (who would later become King Edward VIII.) Browne also performed a duet with President Harry S. Truman at Carnegie Hall. The home once had an Oriental room, and was filled with many musical instruments and antiques; notably a 19th century Steinway grand piano that Professor Browne gave lessons on to local students. The home also contained a rare French music cabinet that was originally made for King Louis XV of France; and was in the King's palace up until the time of Marie Antoinette's death by guillotine in 1793. Former Wiccopee resident Stanley Kravitz and his wife befriended Professor Browne back in the early 1970's. They recently sent us some wonderful old photos of the Wiccopee area, including photos of Earyle Browne and his home the Three Clefs. Professor Browne passed away in 1980.*

*Professor Browne working with dance students c. 1940*

