

The General 's Gazette

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From the President's Desk

I am happy to report that through the efforts of Sen. James Seward, Assemblymen Marc Butler, Steve Englebright & Jack McEneny have saved Herkimer Home from closure for this season. Senator Seward was able to secure \$100,000 in the Senate budget to provide for the immediate needs of the site and begin future planning.

For the coming season Herkimer Home will be operated as a satellite park under the direct management of Rich Sheckells, Park Manager at Glimmerglass State Park.

The Regional Office informed me that the operating plan for the site at this time will be:

The gate and parking lot will remain open from May-October with signage stating that the site is opened during the daylight hours and that activities are monitored by video surveillance. Utilities to the site will remain on to provide necessary power and phones.

Landscape, which includes the cemetery, will be maintained under a reduced mowing program that has been previously implemented.

The Erie Canalway Trail will be maintained and open to the public.

The Friends of Herkimer Home can continue to organize special events and Parks will assist with site prep and clean-up where possible.

We have come a long way, however, there is more work to be done. Officials are describing this as a "transitional" time for the home, with the Friends of Herkimer Home group taking on a greater role at the site. The state has expressed its interest in seeing the Friends partner with any other group/groups that may be able to assist them in continued site operations.



- ? Individual \$15
- ? Family (2 adults & children under 18) \$25
- ? Seniors (Age 60+) \$10
- ? Sustaining \$50
- ? Contributing \$100
- ? Patron/Business \$250
- ? Lifetime \$500

Friends Annual Meeting:

Mark your calendars to attend the Annual Meeting, to be held at 4:30 pm in the Visitor Center Loft, following the 18th Century Spring and Garden Fair on May 15, 2011.

35th Annual Sugaring Off

In spite of the threatening weather around 300 people turned out for the 35th annual Sugaring Off. I would like to thank all the volunteers who helped make the Sugaring Off a success. It is because of their dedication and participation that so many people enjoyed the day. I would also like to thank the Maple Queen and her court for her interesting pres-

entation on maple sugar production. Also present for the Raid on the Sugarbush where Campbell's Company Tryon County Minutemen; 2nd Albany and 1st Tryon. We also appreciate the support of the Enea Family who sponsored the horse and wagon rides around the site.



2011 Events Calendar:

May 15 (Sunday 1 PM – 4 PM) 18th Century Spring and Garden Fair: Authentically clothed Volunteers plant the fields and formal garden. Other activities include sheep shearing; wool spinning; flax processing; clothes washing and rail splitting. 18th century garden vendors will be offering plants and herbs for sale. **4:30 PM** Friends Annual Meeting and elections in the Visitor Center Loft. All Friends Members are invited to attend.

June 15 (Wednesday 1 PM – 3 PM) Afternoon Tea: Enjoy a leisurely afternoon of tea and lunch on the picturesque grounds of Herkimer Home. Reservations required by calling 866-0481 seating is limited. Hosted by the Friends of Herkimer Home.

July 3 (Sunday 11 AM) Fort Herkimer Church Independence Day Service: Join the Herkimer Home Volunteers for a patriotic celebration at the historic Fort Herkimer (NYS Rte. 5S, 2 miles east of Mohawk) celebrating our nation's 235 birthday. From 1 PM – 4 PM afternoon activities at Herkimer Home will include a pot luck picnic.

July 13 (Wednesday 1 PM – 3 PM) Afternoon Tea: Enjoy a leisurely afternoon of tea and lunch on the picturesque grounds of Herkimer Home. Reservations requested by calling 866-0481, seating is limited. Hosted by the Friends of Herkimer Home.

July 18 – 21 (Monday – Thursday 10 AM – 3 PM) History Camp: Children 8 – 12 years old experience various aspects of colonial life.

July 22 (Friday 6:30 PM) History Camp Open House: The families of participants and the public are invited to watch History Campers demonstrate the 18th century activities that they learned during camp.

August 14 (Sunday 1 PM – 4 PM) Liberty's Hero: Commemorating the Life & Death of Gen. Nicholas Herkimer: In honor of the General's death 234 years ago, an 18th century military officer's funeral and wreath laying ceremony will be held in the site's cemetery. Other activities include wheat harvesting and threshing; interpretation of the site's bateau; fur traders' exhibit; and a colonial currency display. Special features of the event include sampling traditional 18th century Palatine food, displays of Palatine artifacts and period music.

Thank You for Renewing Your Membership to the Friends

Individual

Frederick Bronner

Family

Rolf & Janice Brynlsen

William & Joan Spakowski

Senior

David & Connie Pye

Robert & Shirley Schmelcher

Bill & Susan Watkins

New Members

Family

Robert VanDusen

Contributing

Catherine Hawthorne

George H. Nofer

Patriots Day

Saturday May 21, 2011 - The Friends of Herkimer Home are glad to announce that they will be partnering with the Little Falls Historical Society for a special Patriots Day observance ceremony to take place at the Herkimer Home cemetery grounds beginning at 12:00 noon. Several speakers will address various Revolutionary War topics and the Tryon County militia will be on hand to help with the ceremony. Refreshments will be served following the program.

Revised By-Laws

Included in this issue are the revised By-Laws, please review them before the Annual Meeting, at which time they will be voted on.

History Camp - July 18-21

Registration forms for History Camp are included in this newsletter, if your child or grandchild is interested in participating in this year's History Camp, please complete and return the form as soon as possible, Camp is limited to 20 children and it is on a first come first served basis.

2011 Events Calendar Cont:

September 16 (Friday 6 PM) 4th Annual Colonial Dinner: Enjoy a traditional colonial dinner in Nicholas Herkimer's mansion on the picturesque grounds of Herkimer Home. Reservations requested, seating is limited. Hosted by the Friends of Herkimer Home.

October 2 (Sunday 12N – 5 PM) Herkimer Homestead Day: An 18th Century Autumn Celebration: Featured are 18th century autumn activities such as cider pressing; apple butter making; corn husk dolls. There will be craft demonstrations including pewter casting; candle dipping. Free pumpkins for the kids as long as supply lasts. Enjoy a horse drawn wagon ride and then treat yourself to a hearty portion of Herkimer Home's famous artillery beef stew or ham and split pea soup cooked over an open fire. Follow up with a helping of Kitty's Fritters with maple syrup. Food and beverage sales by Friends of Herkimer Home.

November 26 (Saturday 11 AM – 3 PM) Holiday Open House: Come and enjoy the Nicholas Herkimer historic mansion decorated for the season. Cookies and punch will be served as holiday music fills the rooms and hallways. Free will donation appreciated, monies will go toward the wallpaper fund. Hosted by the Friends of Herkimer Home.

November 30 (Wednesday 1 PM – 3 PM) Holiday Tea: Enjoy a leisurely afternoon tea and lunch in Nicholas Herkimer's mansion, decorated for the holidays, on the picturesque grounds of Herkimer Home. Reservations requested by calling 866-0481, seating is limited. Hosted by the Friends of Herkimer Home.

Events are in cooperation with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation -Central Region.

Herkimer Home State Historic Site

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This news letter is published by the Friends of Herkimer Home.

Herkimer Home is one of 18 parks and 6 historic sites in the Central Region, administered by the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. For more information on the site please call or visit our website at www.nysparks.com

Season/Hours: For the coming season Herkimer Home will be operated as a satellite park under the direct management of Rich Sheckells, Park Manager at Glimmerglass State Park.

The gate and parking lot will remain open from May-October with signage stating that the site is opened during the daylight hours.

Friends of Herkimer Home

Mission Statement

Support the improvement and development of Herkimer Home State Historic Site.

Conduct educational programs, services and activities in keeping with the nature of the site and beyond the normal scope of site activities, for its members and the public at large.

Assist in fund raising activities, the purchase of objects, equipment and supplies for the benefit of the site.

Otherwise promote, conserve, develop and interpret Herkimer Home State Historic Site for the benefit of the public and posterity.

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