

# New York History

Historical News and Views From The Empire State

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2012

## Planning Your Spring County History Conference

By Peter Feinman



Summer is over. Fall is upon us. Schools are back in session (even in Chicago), and now is the time to start planning a Spring 2013 County History Conference.

It is a time of breaking bread and sharing stories among people with similar interests. We are a social species so bringing people together is good and it has advantages as people plan for collaborative activities in the future.

A county history conference is intended to bring together the heritage community in your county, including:

1. Municipal Historians
2. Historical Organizations both public and private
3. Social Studies Teachers
4. County Tourist Department
5. Scholars both independent and professional
6. Friends and lovers of history

The location should be for free such as a school, library, or college and provide a place for display tables. Be sure to tape the program for public access TV or online distribution.

A suggested schedule might include:

### Morning

Welcome by the County Executive and/or County Historian

*First Session* - An invited speaker on some aspect of county history. This year, the role of the county in the War of 1812 and/or Civil War would be appropriate.

*Second Session* - Historical organization presentations, perhaps two or three 20-minute each, or a panel discussion.

*Third Session* - Municipal historian presentations, similar to the second session. Perhaps the role of archives given the decision by the State of Georgia this year to close its State Archives.

### Afternoon

Lunch - A bag lunch, or partner with a local historic restaurant.

*Fourth Session* - "County Paths Through History" presentation and discussion led by the county or regional tourism officials about the Path Through History program.

*Fifth Session* - "Teaching Our County History" presentations by teachers who use county history in the classroom beyond the standard 4th grade field trip.

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Sixth Session - "County History Awards" for excellence or special activity in promoting county history, including student presentations.

### Who Takes Charge?

If you don't have a county historian, advise your county executive that you are in violation of state law.

If your county historian doesn't want to take the lead in organizing a county history conference, ask for his/her blessing in organizing one yourself.

### What's Next?

The next step is to create a regional history conference, perhaps based on the ten regions created in the Path through History project. Those would be more elaborate events, organized around a college with a local or state history program.

Keep in mind the need for cross-communication. There are many state and regional conferences which are routinely held and there is a need to reach out beyond one's niche, rut, or comfort level.

*Peter Feinman founder and president of the Institute of History, Archaeology, and Education, a non-profit organization which provides enrichment programs for schools, professional development program for teachers, public programs including leading Historyhostels and Teacherhostels to the historic sites in the state, promotes county history conferences and the more effective use of New York State Heritage Weekend and the Ramble.*

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Labels: Academia, Education, Municipal Historians., Peter Feinman, Public History

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Fort Ticonderoga's Chocolate  
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Bruce Dearstyne: Should We  
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The Civil War: A Musical  
Journey

Abolition Hall of Fame Induction  
Events, Symposia

A Hamilton County Jail Stand-  
Off

Lippard and Conceptual Art  
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NYS Museum Opens Civil War  
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Mansion, Crailo Even...

NY Wine History: Finger Lakes  
Museum Doc Premier

Kathleen Hulser: History in 100  
Objects

Mid-Atlantic Assoc. of Museums,  
Oct 7-9, Tarrytwon...

Dutch Influence on the American  
Kitchen Lecture

Political History: A Hamilton  
County Write-in Camp...

Saratoga Battlefield Announces  
Photo Contest

Lecture: The Excavations of Fort  
Orange

Comments Sought on NY Social  
Studies Curriculum

Island of Vice: Theodore  
Roosevelt's Doomed Quest

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1812: The War That Should Not  
Have Been

Path Through History: An  
Historical Perspective

More Hudson River Ramble  
September Weekends

Fenimore Lunch Lecture Series  
Spotlights New Exhib...

Touring Old Mine Road: The

- Esopus-Minisink Trail
- Auburn Prison, Gillette Case  
Documentary, Lecture
- Battle of Plattsburgh: Countdown  
to Invasion (Sept...
- North Country's Union General  
H. Judson Kilpatrick...
- Encampment Marks Battles of  
Saratoga Anniversary
- Adirondack Fabric and Fiber Arts  
Festival Saturday...
- Dolly Sloan and The Lawrence  
Strike Children in NY...
- 12th Annual Algonquian Peoples  
Seminar Saturday
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Weekend
- This Week's Top New York  
History News
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to Invasion (Sept...
- Fort Ti: 1777 British Living  
History Weekend
- Battle of Plattsburgh: Countdown  
to Invasion (Sept...
- Commentary: Path Through  
History Project Meeting
- 25th Rustic Furniture Fair at  
Adirondack Museum
- Battle of Plattsburgh: Countdown  
to Invasion (Sept...
- Call to Artists: Hudson River  
School Art Trail
- North Country Oddity: Dr.  
Dunlap of Watertown
- Jay Heritage Center Presents: Alan  
Taylor's 'The Sl...
- American Revolution Magazine  
Ceases Publishing
- Great Lakes Seaway Trail War of  
1812 Volkswalks
- Van Gogh's Portrait of a Peasant  
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- Battle of Plattsburgh: Countdown  
to Invasion (Sept...
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