Genesee Country Village & Museum
2019 Domestic Skills Symposium
November 9, 2019
Pre & Post Symposium Workshops November 8 and November 10, 2019
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: to avoid late fees, all registration forms must be postmarked by October 19, 2019

Saturday, November 9, 2019
Domestic Skills Symposium

All-Day Symposium with a FREE Period Buffet Luncheon*, 9:15 - 4:00 pm

The symposium is comprised of an array of presentations spanning the late 18th and 19th centuries, including:

- **“A Story in the Threads: The Clothing of Enslaved Women in the Antebellum South”** by Cheyney McKnight, Public Historian and Proprietor of Not Your Momma’s History.
  
  What is the difference between the clothing of enslaved black women and free white women during the antebellum period? Discover what enslaved women were wearing and how their culture, circumstances and creativity impacted their clothing. Find out the clues left behind that help us to understand what they were wearing.

- **“What’s On The Table? An Exploration of Regional Shifts in Colonial Mid-Atlantic Foodways”** by Lavada Nahon, Culinary Historian-Cook-Independent Scholar
  
  The 18th and early 19th-century dinner table was a feast for the eyes as well as the palate. To impress their guests and assure them that they were dining with people of means and sophistication, fashionable hosts served extravagant dishes, usually on exquisite silver and porcelain or the best they could afford. Many things could be expressed by the food you served, as well as how and from what it was served.

  
  This presentation will discuss the role of women and quilting, and how their free expression naturally flowed into the strong anti-slavery movement in the Genesee Valley, including female anti-slavery sewing groups, fairs, and refugee centers.

- **“Upon These Shoulders: Speaking Truth to Power. The Freedom Fighters in Upstate New York.”** by David Shakes, Actor, Director, Producer and Historical Interpreter.
  
  This presentation will include an overview of efforts by freedom fighters in upstate New York and their historical perspectives. Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, Thomas James, William Wells Brown, Austin Steward and Sojourner Truth will be spoken about as significant contributors to the struggle for equality, justice and integrity. In addition, excerpts from their writings and speeches will be presented.

* On Saturday, we offer registrants the opportunity to partake in a free buffet luncheon composed entirely of delectable 18th- and 19th-century period receipts connected in some way with one or more of the presentations! *(Please do keep in mind that historic receipts do not always follow modern-day dietary needs and restrictions, and plan accordingly if you are on a special diet. If you prefer, you may bring your own lunch or visit a local restaurant during the lunch break.)*
Friday, November 8, 2019
Optional Pre-Symposium Workshop Sessions

Please note that box lunches made at the Museum are available to pre-order for $8.00 where lunches are not included in a workshop. Please see the registration form for lunch options.

All-Day Workshops, 9:30 am - 4:00 pm

A Feast at Hosmer’s Inn (Limit 10) *Lunch is included with this workshop*
Spend the day with historical cook Allen Walck, cooking and eating a grand repast of 19th-century foods. This will feature some class favorites from past years as well as some new dishes to savor. This will be a full dinner, from the proverbial soup to nuts.  Not recommended for vegetarians. Participants should bring an apron, sharp knives, and an appetite.

Baking with Potatoes and Sweet Potatoes (Limit 8) *Lunch is included with this workshop*
With instructors Mya Sangster and Amy Scott, and assistants Kathryn Tanaka and Rosemary Kovac, this baking workshop will explore the history of the white (‘Virginia’ or ‘Irish’) potato and the sweet potato in British and North American cookery, from the sixteenth to the nineteenth century. Period recipes prepared will include pies, puddings, and breads. Participants should bring an apron.

Turkish Paper Marbling (Limit 8)
Marbled paper, the colorful, eye-catching papers often found on the covers of old books, actually started in Japan as early as the 12th century. However, the patterns and techniques developed by the Turks and Persians in the 15th century are what made marbled paper a popular manufacture throughout the next several centuries. Come learn about the history and uses of marbled paper in the 19th century with Allison Schmidt, and try your hand at the Turkish techniques as you create your own pieces of marbled paper. Aprons will be provided, but students should wear clothes (including shoes) that they don’t mind getting lightly splattered with paint.

19th-Century Hand Quilting (Limit 15)
Make a traditional quilt block including templates, piecing and quilting with experienced GCV&M hand-quilter, Judy Deyo. All materials provided. Participants should bring a work light if possible.

Are You Rolling in the Dough? (Limit 12) *Lunch is included with this workshop*
Some nineteenth century cookery books contained receipts for Bread, Dough or Baker’s Cake that started with a pound or more of “risen bread dough.” On baking day, cooks would save out a portion of dough from a big batch and make a special treat for their family by adding ingredients such as butter or lard, sugar or molasses, currants or raisins, spices, eggs, rose water and/or cream.

Using a basic Wheat Bread receipt from 1841, instructor Peggy Roll will walk the class through making several sweet breads including Barmbrack, Galettes, Banbury Cakes, Molasses Dough Cake, and Roxbury Tea Cakes. We will be baking in the brick oven at the historic Livingston-Backus House. The class will also prepare a hearty soup for lunch. (Please inform us of food allergies or if you are vegetarian.) Please bring an apron, and a sense of humor—sometimes nineteenth century receipts and technology are a little challenging!
Friday AM Workshops, 9:30 am - Noon

The Art of Spinning Wool (Limit 6)
Learn the basics of spinning wool into yarn using a drop spindle with experienced spinner, Dawn Hastings. Carding, drafting, spinning and plying will be covered. All equipment and materials will be provided. Two spinning wheels will also be available to try out during the class. If you desire to continue on in your spinning endeavors, drop spindles and wool roving will be made available to purchase for a small fee from the instructor. Participants may bring a spinning wheel if they have one they would like help with.

The Art of Carving at Table  *Lunch is NOT included with this workshop*
Knowing how to carve various meats, poultry, and fish were common skills used throughout the colonial and new nation periods. Unfortunately over time these skills have dwindled and left many confused and beautifully prepared food badly served. Using period receipts as a starting point, culinary historian Lavada Nahon will review with you how to carve and plate commonly enjoyed cuts. All attendees will get a chance to try carving portions of at least one of the meat cuts which will be cooked ahead. Participants should bring a notebook and pen or pencil.

A Cotton Organza Chemisette (Limit 8)
In this workshop with instructor Sue Leurgans, you will learn a simplified way of doing pleats, an insertion and choice of a puffing or ruching by making a chemisette. It will be suitable to fill necklines of dinner dresses, crossover bodies, Rafael bodies, Basques and some jackets. Styles for the 1840-1870 period will be available to choose from. If you have a period drawing of a chemisette that you want to recreate, bring it along. Please bring a sewing machine, white cotton thread, scissors and pins in particular, and any other sewing implements you might want. A small work light may be found helpful.

Three-sided Reticule (Limit 12)
This three-sided reticule from the 1831 "American Girl's Book" by Miss Eliza Leslie is a fairly simple project that only takes hand sewing to complete. All pieces will be pre-cut by instructor Sharon Aaron and ready to start the project. All materials and printed instructions, including pattern, will be provided. Participants need only bring a pair of scissors and a thimble if you use one.

Friday PM Workshops, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Tour of Historic Village (Limit 20) 1:30-4pm
Join Brian Nagel, GCV&M’s Senior Director of Interpretation, for an intimate behind-the-scenes tour of the Museum's Historic Village. This walking tour will include visits to some of the favorite buildings in each of our three interpreted time zones with an emphasis on recently renovated spaces and new interpretations. Please be sure to dress for the weather and wear comfortable shoes.
Charming Critters: 19th Century Beaded Insects (Limit 20)
The art of beadwork crafting was quite popular during the 19th century, giving
women the opportunity to make their own adornments. Butterflies and dragonflies
were often used as decorations for hair pieces and to embellish ensembles with
flare. We will create these beaded creatures using a Victorian beading technique,
and examine primary source documentation as well as original surviving beadwork.
Kristen Mrozek is the instructor. *A work light or magnifying light is recommended.*

Inked Reticules (Limit 12)
Practice your penmanship and your needlework in this workshop as you make an inked reticule or workbag
with instructor Sharon Lampman. Popular projects and gifts amongst schoolgirls in the late 18th and early
19th centuries, inked reticules allowed young women to show off their penmanship and fine stitching. They
are a delightful (and useful) accessory for all ages! Participants will trace decorative patterns and a short
verse onto cotton fabric, ink their design, and then sew the fabric into a reticule or workbag. [Additional
stitched embellishments, fringe, and tassels may be added as desired.] A variety of shapes and patterns will
be available to choose between, along with a selection of verses, but participants are welcome to bring
their own favorite embroidery designs and poetry to embellish their reticule. *Fabric, cord, needles,
thread, marking pens, and patterns will be provided. Participants should bring a sewing kit, including
pins, marking pencils, and a ruler, and any additional embroidery patterns or verses of poetry they
wish to include on their reticule.*

Victorian Millinery Embellishment (Limit 12)
Is your bonnet looking a little tired? Spend a session with Patty, of TheCostumePeople.com and learn to
make ribbon flowers, leaves, rosettes, bows and cockades. Then, we will use all your creations to assemble
a removable corsage for your bonnet. You will take home your completed creation and an instruction
booklet. *Please bring a basic hand sewing kit and a work light if possible.*

Sunday, November 10, 2019
Optional Post-Symposium Workshop Sessions
*Please note* that box lunches made at the Museum are available to pre-order for $8.00 where lunches are not
included in a workshop. *Please see the registration form for lunch options.*

All-Day Workshops, 9:30 am - 4:00 pm

Straw Surgery: How to Care for and Repair Your Straw Millinery (Limit 8)
Broken straw - saggy form - deformed wire - maybe even a hole...
Does your costume closet have a straw hat or straw bonnet that is damaged but you just aren’t sure how to
repair it? Then this workshop is for you. With the guidance of author and milliner, Anna Worden Bauersmith,
you will learn how to care for and repair your straw hats and bonnets. Discover tips and tricks to bring
damaged millinery back into use. This workshop is ideal for site costumers or those with millinery repair
needs. Intermediate sewing skills recommended. *Please bring a damaged straw hat or bonnet and your
sewing kit with millinery needles and cotton thread.*
Jellies and Moulds of the 19th Century (Limit 12) *Lunch is NOT included with this workshop*
Learn how to make 2 savory and 2 sweet jellies and then unmold jellies with Amy Hanley-Dykstra, GCV&M’s Supervisor of Kitchens & Pantries. We’ll also discuss different ways to set jellies used in the 19th century and today. **Participants should bring an apron and either order or bring a bag lunch.**

Dumplings, Noodles, Puffs, and Pastys (Limit 8) *Lunch is included with this workshop*
Hone your wood stove and hearth cooking skills or learn new ones with historic cook Pamela Cooley in this hands-on workshop at the 1820s Jones Farmhouse. You and your fellow participants will learn about the various forms that dumplings, noodles, puffs, and pastys can take. And, cooking with wood on the home’s “new and improved” step stove and in its original hearth, you will prepare a variety of these sometimes familiar and sometimes surprising yet always flavorful dishes. When all is ready, you’ll gather around the table to enjoy the savories and sweets you have created. Eighteenth and nineteenth-century cookbooks, techniques, and implements will be used. **Participants should please bring an apron.**

A Skep-by-Skep Guide to Straw Beehive Construction (Limit 12)
Beekeepers in early America used a variety of hive types, including the venerable straw skep. Learn the basics of bee skep making as you construct your own small-scale straw hive under the guidance of Marisa Covert. You will also learn about different beekeeping methods in the early United States. Note: No populated beehives will be present; veils and protective gear are not required. **Participants should bring the following items if they have them: old scissors, work gloves or other hand protection, an awl.**

Sunday AM Workshops, 9:30 am - Noon

Tour of Historic Village 9:30am - Noon (Limit 20)
Join Brian Nagel, GCV&M Senior Director of Interpretation, for an intimate behind-the-scenes tour of the museum’s Historic Village. This walking tour will include visits to some of the favorite buildings in each of our three interpreted time zones with an emphasis on recently renovated spaces and new interpretations. Please be sure to dress for the weather and wear comfortable shoes.

Ribbon Ruching - Pretty Up Your Dress (Limit 12)
Join Patty, of TheCostumePeople.com for a fun session to explore the many ways ribbon and fabric may be manipulated to decorate your gown or bonnet. Students will construct and take home examples of trim techniques, an instruction booklet, and be given ideas on how they may be used on your own gown. **Please bring a basic sewing kit and a work light if possible.**

Banded Floral Design a la Mid-19th Century (Limit 10)
Recreate a design that was very popular in the 1850s, 60s and 70s for both garden beds and floral designs with historical horticulturist and florist, Emily Conable. It is described and illustrated in Thomas March’s, Flower & Fruit Decoration, as well as by Peter Henderson in Practical Floriculture. The design is not only strikingly different and extremely long lasting but a stunning addition to the dining table. **Please bring a small to medium footed platter and a box to transport your completed design home. All floral materials and medium will be provided.**
Corn Husk Salt Bottle (Limit 12)
Corn husks are an abundant by-product of an essential food source for the early Americans. They were used for centuries to make a variety of practical and beautiful items including water-tight baskets for holding salt. Salt was of crucial importance economically and was the principal cargo of the Erie Canal. During this 4 hour class, instructor Chris Kieber will lead participants in making a corn husk salt bottle patterned after historic examples. All materials will be provided.

Handmade Leather Key Fob (Limit 5)
Learn the basics of leather working like cutting, sewing and tooling while you craft a personal and functional leather key fob. Jim Dell will be the instructor. All materials will be provided. Tools will be available for your use.

Sunday PM Workshops, 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

Victoria’s Closet Historic Clothing Exhibit and Gallery Storage Tour
Take a tour of the Victoria’s Closet exhibit and get behind-the-scenes access to the Susan Greene Historic Clothing Collection with gallery intern, Brandon Brooks. *PLEASE NOTE: Researchers are requested to make a separate appointment if they are interested in researching specific items or objects from the Greene Collection.