



Colonial Day Rev250

Where the Past meets Play!

Colonial Day Rev250 brings the American Revolution to life through the lens of the Ramapo Pass, where local stories, figures, and folklore shaped our region's role in the fight for independence.



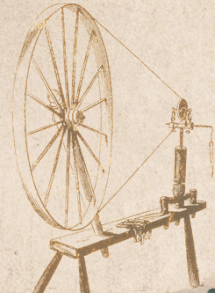
Saturday, May 16th, 2026

11am - 4pm



Through immersive activities & demonstrations, exploring how life, conflict, & community unfolded right here during this pivotal moment in history.

- Colonial Games & Toys
- Continental Army Participation
- Storytelling
- Live Colonial Music
- Make Colonial Crafts
- Native American Rev250 History



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TODAY'S EVENTS

Visit Harmony Hall tent for event schedule & ticket purchase.

THE CONTINENTAL ARMY

To join the army, enlist at the Harmony Hall tent.

Train in using a replica musket, set up camp, and receive (souvenir) wages upon completion of your duty.

Session 1: 11:30 - 12:15 - \$15 fee per participant

Session 2 1:15 - 2:00 - \$15 fee per participant

COLONIAL MUSIC

Hudson Valley Wind and Brass Ensemble performs throughout the day.

STORYTELLING

Tales of Claudius Smith, The Reputed Tory Marauder - by Award-Winning Professional Actor, Suzanne Du Charme, Storyteller

Suzanne has years of experience in Shakespeare, contemporary theater, film, and television, and lives in Rockland with her husband, James Loranger, and their rescue dog, Ginger.

COLONIAL CRAFTS & ACTIVITIES

Needlework-Hands-on Experience - learn a variety of stitching, twilling, crewel, and quilting: **\$3 per activity**

Ribbon Roses - make a keepsake ribbon rose: **\$1**

Paper Quilling - make a keepsake picture using quilling techniques: **\$2**

Quill Pens - try your hand at using a quill pen: **\$0**

Vegetable Printing - create designs using vegetables: **\$0**

Paper Dolls - make your own colonial paper doll: **\$3**

Yarn Dolls - make your own keepsake boy or girl yarn doll: **\$3**

Primitive Rug Hooking - try your hand at colonial rugmaking: **\$0**

Historic Board Games & Puzzles - games played during Colonial days: **\$0**

History & Legends of the Ramapo Valley - learn more about Western Ramapo during the 18th century & beyond: **\$0**

Lawn Games - play a variety of Colonial games on the Great Lawn: **\$0**

IN THE HOUSE

Seven Taverns Which Saved the Ramapo Pass - Peter Bush explains the importance of the Ramapo Pass during the American Revolution. Peter Bush is a Sloat descendant, a founding member of the Friends of Harmony Hall, and a professional actor.

*The Town of Ramapo
would like to
congratulate
The FOHH Board of
Trustees
for its restoration
accomplishments.*



**We are very proud to be in partnership with the
FRIENDS OF HARMONY HALL JACOB SLOAT HOUSE**



Your contributions will help with The Restoration of
HARMONY HALL JACOB SLOAT HOUSE.
If you are interested in learning how you can help our organization,
visit our website at www.fohh.org

THANK YOU!

To Our Volunteers,

With sincere gratitude, we thank the many volunteers whose time, dedication, and generosity continue to support the mission of the Friends of Harmony Hall – Jacob Sloat House. Your efforts behind the scenes and at our events help preserve local history, strengthen community connections, and bring the story of our region to life for future generations.

From welcoming guests and assisting with programs to helping organize and support special events, your contributions make a lasting impact. Because of your commitment, Harmony Hall remains not only a historic landmark, but a vibrant gathering place for education, culture, and community.

Thank you for sharing your talents, enthusiasm, and countless hours in support of this important work. We are deeply grateful for all that you do.

Many thanks to the following organizations for their tireless efforts:

Hudson Valley Wind & Brass Ensemble
<https://www.facebook.com/hvwbe>

Living History Education Foundation
<https://www.livinghistory.ed.org>

Food Fare - located alongside the mansion

Special thanks to **Taco Tpke** located here in Sloatsburg, NY and their **Casa Birria Food Truck** for providing today's food fare (for purchase). We are grateful for their support and partnership in helping make this event a memorable one.



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The Friends of Harmony Hall is selected for the 33rd County Executive's Historic Preservation Merit Award

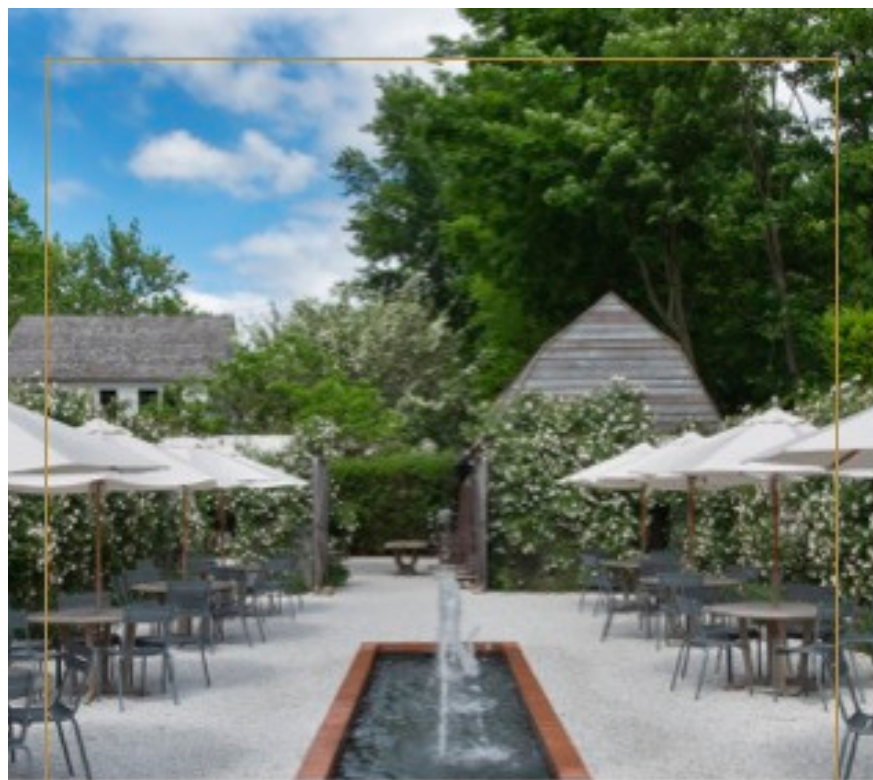
By Andrea LaMantia

The Historical Society of Rockland County (HSRC) has named Friends of Harmony Hall - Jacob Sloat House, Sloatsburg, the stewards of the 1848 mansion, as one of the five recipients of its 33rd Rockland County Executive's Historic Preservation Merit Awards. The recognition honors exceptional efforts in historic preservation across Rockland County. The Friends will receive The Restoration Award (Restoration is accurately recovering the form or details of a property and its setting as it appeared at a particular period of time by removing non-historic modifications or replacing or reproducing missing earlier work.) for Harmony Hall's historic veranda.

Since 1991, the Historical Society of Rockland County has recognized over 100 individuals, organizations, public agencies, and religious institutions for their commitment to preserving the county's historic and cultural resources. Additionally, the society actively advocates for the protection of environmentally sensitive landscapes and endangered historic sites throughout Rockland County.

Created to celebrate and protect Rockland County's rich heritage, the annual preservation event features the County Executive's proclamation of "Rockland County Preservation Week," the presentation of preservation awards, and a traditional country supper that brings together members of the community to celebrate local history. In conjunction with National Preservation Month, the awards will be presented on Sunday, May 17, at the Jacob Blaauvelt Historic Site in New City.





VALLEY ROCK INN

Outdoor Bar and Dining.
Dinner Wednesday – Saturday,
Lunch on Saturday & Sunday.

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More History Revealed at Harmony Hall-Jacob Sloat House

By Peter Bush

The dropped 1960 ceiling is down in the Jacob Sloat home office. Beautiful 1848 plaster details can once again be enjoyed. Entombed under wallboard were the impressive ceiling plasterwork over the mantle and the intact ceiling medallion! This is an important discovery. The plaster details once again speak to the sophisticated artistry and craftsmanship that have been discovered over decades of reveals and ongoing preservation work in the house. Mid-19th-century domestic architecture plaster designs incorporated botanical forms, including Acanthus leaf motifs. This motif is repeated in several surviving ceiling medallions throughout Harmony Hall.



The majestic plaster ceiling medallions of Harmony Hall served as gas lighting fixtures. Known as gasoliers, such fixtures were popular in wealthy homes during the mid-to-late 19th century, providing a more reliable lighting option compared to candles. As electricity became more common, some homeowners retained part of a fixture that used gas, while the other part of the fixture was wired for electricity. Early electricity could be unreliable. A homeowner could then still rely on the home's gas piping systems to function on the valve of each arm of a chandelier. This was determined to be the case for the colonial revival chandelier in the double parlor of Harmony Hall. This brass chandelier was discovered painted over with radiator paint and found in many pieces in the areaway of the house early in advocacy. Art restorer and board trustee Kenneth J. Linsner restored the Colonial Revival chandelier in 2010, and its welcome glow now adds tremendous ambiance to our parlor events.

As preservationists, the FOHH remains grateful that the prior owners in the 20th century seemingly sought to protect the original architectural elements by covering them with wallboard rather than destroying them. Since the inception of the FOHH, our organization has successfully raised funds to restore the significant, defining features of Harmony Hall. These include:

- The grand staircase, windows, arch, and plaster walls
- Three south parlor windows
- All plasterwork in the double parlor
- The ceiling medallions in the double parlor and the dining room
- The plaster over the mantel of the dining room

The critical rehabilitation of the expansive front porch is currently underway. Two original floor-to-ceiling windows are restored and reinstated on the exterior wall of the Jacob Sloat “home office” at the north end of the front porch. Each window is comprised of four individual sashes. The original door in the room, which opens into the adjacent dining room, had previously been hidden under drywall and was revealed several years ago.



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Years of Fundraising Come Alive at Harmony Hall

By Peter Bush

Patience is a virtue, as the saying goes, and advocacy for historic preservation embodies the patience, fortitude, and resilience of the dedicated all-volunteer Friends of Harmony Hall-Jacob Sloat House (FOHH). The most critical preservation project is underway at Harmony Hall-Jacob Sloat House. Fundraising for the essential front porch project has been ongoing for nearly two decades! The FOHH is excited to see this critical, impactful project come to fruition.

The expansive front porch is the key architectural feature of the 1848 homestead. As archival photographs show, the porch was designed as an ample outdoor living space and is the most striking exterior element of the house! Floor-to-ceiling windows facing the porch or veranda open directly onto the wall, providing easy access to the porch. Ten impressive columns support the porch roof, resting on attractive brick piers. Two columns at the north end of the porch were removed in the 20th century to create a bump-out addition to the house. These columns were reconstructed by William Friedlich of Hudson View Construction, who is overseeing the work.

This project was made possible by a foundation grant, a corporate donation, the Preservation League of New York, and the support of patrons and members like you who attend our events. Harmony Hall-Jacob Sloat House is the only historic site in Rockland County managed by an all-volunteer group. It hosts year-round programs while preserving and restoring this 1848 mansion. This impressive and respectful historic restoration will give FOHH additional event production options and a space for enjoyment and relaxation for village residents and regional visitors.

Our nation's 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence is upon us, and the restored front porch and Great Lawn of Harmony Hall will host memorable events that we hope will inspire a new generation of historic preservationists. Our historic corridor of Seven Tavern Sites on The Clove Road played a key role in saving the Ramapo Pass from the British, which will be duly celebrated.



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THE SEVEN TAVERNS EXHIBIT AT HARMONY HALL

By Peter Bush

The Friends of Harmony Hall and the Tuxedo and Sloatsburg Historical Societies are pleased to announce the collaborative exhibit, "The Seven Taverns Which Saved the Ramapo Pass." The year-long exhibit at Harmony Hall, in celebration of the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution, is open at Harmony Hall.

One of the most notable tavern-homesteads is that of Stephen Sloat, located on Orange Turnpike (Route 17) in Sloatsburg. SuAern's Tavern, Sidman's in the Clove, and Sloat Tavern comprised a trifecta of strategic public houses along The Clove Road, where critical information regarding British movements upon the Hudson and the Ramapo Pass was shared.

The exhibit is based on source material by the late author Richard J. Koke, curator and emeritus of the New York Historical Society, and Bicentennial History of Sloatsburg, New York 1776-1976.

"The importance of the Ramapo Pass to the American cause is vastly underplayed if not totally ignored, by most historians. The Pass extends from Suffern to Monroe and was the key to land communications between the northern and southern colonies."

In December 1776, General George Clinton wrote Col. Allison,

"If the British troops should approach you with superior numbers or under such advantages as to render it imprudent to give them battle, you will in either of these cases retreat in order to regain the O."

"Being sensible of the Passes of the Highlands, the security of them shall always be my first object, from which I will not suffer myself for any other consideration however specious to be diverted."

The exhibit is open today during the Colonial Day Festival, or arrangements can be made for a private visit by calling 845-712-5220.





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Get ready to give! May 20 is Hudson Valley Gives.

Here's an opportunity to unite our community around a cause in which we truly believe in to connect to the larger community.

The Friends of Harmony Hall - Jacob Sloat House is an energetic group of individuals who are dedicated to the preservation of this important landmark, and to the design and support of arts, cultural and historical programs that capitalize upon the benefits of this historic preservation effort, and promote the rich and varied history of New York's magnificent Ramapo River Pass and Highlands.

Organized under a provisional charter issued by the NYS Board of Regents on April 24, 2007, Friends of Harmony Hall works in partnership with the Town of Ramapo, the landmark's owner, to support and further on-site restoration efforts, to research and document the rich history of the estate and the Sloat family, and to design and implement a diverse and creative program of arts and educational activities.

We need your help! Please join our campaign and help us reach our goal of \$5,000 and 200 donors! We need you to tell your friends and family members about the important work we do and ask them to join us in helping to make a difference.

Visit hvgives.org and make a donation to us! All giving will end at 11:59PM on May 20, so make sure to get your gift in on time!

Questions? If you have any questions or would like more information, let us know. Contact us at events@friendsofharmonyhall.org. Thank you in advance for your generosity to our organization!

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