



Smithfield Community Association

Peterboro, NY

Home of the Gerrit Smith Estate National Historic Landmark
and the National Abolition Hall of Fame and Museum

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2009

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The Visitor Center is OPEN!

The SCA now operates a Visitor's Center for the Gerrit Smith Estate. The newly opened Visitor's Center is located in "The Lodge", the house behind the Land Office. The 2009 hours are Saturdays and Sundays, 1-5 p.m., from June 20- September 27. Stop by to view an orientation video on the Life of Gerrit Smith, or pick up some great gifts at the Peterboro Mercantile. Some of the items for sale are: Norm Dann's new biography on Gerrit Smith [Practical Dreamer](#), Land Office canvas tote bags, Gerrit Smith Estate sweatshirts, Where is Peterboro? t-shirts, women's Bloomer t-shirts, and lots more. ☺



"The Lodge", now open as the GSE Visitors Center and Peterboro Mercantile

Don't forget to renew your membership. You can use the form on page 4, or we can now accept on-line donations via Pay-Pal at www.sca-peterboro.org

Greetings from Historic Peterboro!

This year will no doubt be remembered as one of the most historic years in quite a while. We have a new president and a terrible economy, and change is in the air. So it is fitting that this year the Gerrit Smith Estate will see some major changes too. We have multiple grants in the works, with several that will see the work completed this year. We have been able to open a Visitor's Center on the Gerrit Smith Estate. We have completed the interior renovations of the Land Office. We have started foundation repairs on the Laundry, with a new roof coming soon. And a little later this year, we'll be installing visitor information signs and displays at multiple locations at the GSE and Community Center.

But one thing hasn't changed. We need your help to keep these projects going. So please take a minute to fill out your SCA membership renewal. THANK YOU ever so much for helping to preserve and share Peterboro's wonderful history. ☺

Annual meeting on July 23rd

The 2009 SCA "annual" meeting will be held at 6:30 PM on Thursday July 23rd at the Gerrit Smith Estate Visitors Center in Peterboro, NY. This is the meeting in which the SCA's board of directors is elected by the SCA membership. ☺

Join the SCA!

The SCA needs help. We need more active members to join us in our preservation efforts. Our larger projects are primarily supported by local, state, and federal grants, which all require a significant amount of research, administration and paperwork. If you have an interest in Peterboro's history AND its future, and can spare a few hours a month, we could sure use the help.

Our normal meetings are on the last Thursday of each month, 6:30PM at the new GSE Visitor Center. If you'd like to help, please call or e-mail, or just stop by to sit in at one of our meetings. All of our meetings are open to the public. ☺

SCA Vision and Mission

Vision Statement

The SCA is the catalyst that makes the Gerrit Smith Estate and the community of Peterboro a destination for educators, researchers, students and history lovers to learn from the social reform movements that began in the 19th century.

Peterboro, once a Mecca for reformers in the 1800's, will once again become a gathering place and resource center for today's students to learn about the ideas and practice of abolition, integration, women's rights and religious freedom.

For the tourist exploring history, this tiny hamlet in central New York retains the feel of a 19th century experience, yet tells a major story in the history of our country.

Mission Statement

The Smithfield Community Association will preserve and protect the architecture of historic public buildings in Peterboro to create a space to tell the important story of Peterboro's contribution to the social reforms of the 19th century and to insure these buildings remain open for public and educational use.

Civil War Weekend Recap

The weather was perfect for this year's 17th Annual Civil War Weekend fund-raiser. The activities started on Friday with our 4th Living History Day for local schools. The village green is set up with 22 learning stations, each covering some topic related to the Civil War or 19th century life. Around 150 students, mostly 5th graders, and 44 adults, including chaperons and teachers, from Morrisville, Madison and Stockbridge schools attended the event. There were also home schoolers and an advanced placement history group from Camden. Our thanks go out to Carrie Martin, volunteers and all of the reenactors that come early to help put on this valuable educational day.

Helped by the great weather, we had a record attendance at this year's event! Over 1800 visitors came out to Peterboro over the two days. A big thank you goes out to all of our dedicated volunteers and reenactors. We could not have done it without you! We had some new attractions this year too. This year was the first year that the Gerrit Smith Estate Visitor's Center & Peterboro Mercantile was open. The Barn on the Gerrit Smith Estate was open with a tool display. The newly renovated second floor of the Smithfield Community Center which houses the National Hall of Fame and Museum was open for tours and a program was held on John Brown.

The Saturday night's concert was also held on the second floor of the Smithfield Community Center. The 77th NY Regimental Balladeers played to a packed house. The Balladeers put on a great foot stomping concert. If you couldn't make it this year, then start planning ahead for next year's CWW on June 12th and 13th 2010! ♪

Grant Updates

This past year has been crazily busy with grant administration. Here's a short summary of all the grant supported projects that we currently have under way.

Environmental Protection Fund (EPF):

With this grant, in January 2009 we were able to pay off the remainder of the mortgage we took out to purchase the Lodge and Barns. Since spring, The Laundry has seen overgrown tree removal, foundation stabilization, window and exterior wall repair, and it will soon get a new cedar shake roof. We have also made some long needed repairs in the Land Office. The foundation in the northeast corner is stabilized, interior walls are plastered and painted, exterior bricks are re-mortared. We also had electric service brought into the Land Office. Even though this was obviously not there in Gerrit's time, we need to illuminate displays and keep the building dry once displays are installed. We wish to thank Reese Davis for donating an 1852 Home Parlor wood Stove. The small stove fit perfectly in the Land Office.



Parlor stove in the Land Office- Donated by Reese Davis.



Laundry stabilization project (EPF Grant)

Grant Updates (continued)

Heritage NY UGRR:

This summer the GSENLH and the Community Center will each be receiving an exterior sign. In 2010, both sites will be receiving interior exhibits telling their involvement with the Underground Railroad.

Central NY Community Foundation, Programs for Arts Capacity and Excellence (PACE):

A grant for capacity building. We are using this to provide a stipend for an intern and money to operate the Gerrit Smith Estate Visitor's Center and the Peterboro Mercantile.

United States Department of the Interior- Network to Freedom:

This grant will provide for structural analysis of the Barn, and replacement of some missing windows.

United States Department of the Interior- Challenge Cost Share Program:

This grant will soon be providing outdoor informational signs and electronic visitor information for the GSENLH.

Community Capital Assistance Program- Dormitory Authority State of NY:

This grant is for capital improvements at the Smithfield Community Center. Work to be done this summer includes; front door replacement, wood flooring in the foyer, tile flooring for the restrooms, sidewalk repairs, heating system repairs including space heaters for the second floor, and conversion of the old 2nd floor kitchen to office and storage space. ☺

“Meet me in St. Louis, Louis...”

If you come to the Great New York State Fair, come to the Center of Progress building and look for the booth that looks like the Smithfield Community Center. The SCA, NAHOF, and the GSENLH will share a booth. Stop by and say Hi! ☺

Some Upcoming Events

For a complete list of events, please go to the SCA web page at www.sca-peterboro.org

SCA 'ANNUAL' MEETING

GSE Visitors Center

Thursday July 23rd, 6:30 PM

THE STEWARDS OF THE GERRIT SMITH ESTATE

PRESENT SUMMER PROGRAMS FOR 2009:

THE GLASS FACTORIES OF PETERBORO

Donna Burdick and Panel

Sunday, Aug 2, 2009 at 11:00 am - 4:00 pm

FOOTPRINTS OF GERRIT SMITH ESTATE

Hadley Kruczek-Aaron, Ph.D.

Sunday, Aug 9, 2009 at 2:00 pm

GREENE SMITH AND HIS BIRDHOUSE

Kay Rorer

Sunday, Aug 30, 2009 at 2:00 pm

PLUS MORE - SEE www.sca-peterboro.org

ANNUAL ELIZABETH SMITH MILLER BIRTHDAY "IN THE KITCHEN TEA"

Smithfield Community Center

Sunday, Sept 27, 2009 at 12:30 pm

Meet GSE Intern Ross Whitford

The SCA was fortunate to receive a grant from the Central NY Community Foundation for capacity building. We are using this grant to get the GSE Visitors Center and the Peterboro Mercantile started. Doing a lot of the work is Ross Whitford, the GSENLH's first intern!



Ross is a native of Morrisville NY, graduated from Morrisville-Eaton High School in 2008, and now is a sophomore at Shepherd University, Shepherdstown WV, majoring in History and Secondary Education. In the summer of 2008 Ross worked with the National Park Service at Harpers Ferry WV.

Ross enjoys history – especially the Civil War period. He has been a reenactor for several years, and has provided a learning station at Peterboro's Living History program. Ross intends to become a teacher, and as an intern and as a reenactor, Ross provides instruction on various historical topics, including the Underground Railroad for which the Gerrit Smith Estate awards a National Park Service Junior Ranger badge. Ross states he is proud to be a part of the development of the Gerrit Smith Estate. As Ross puts it “Peterboro: Another reason why I LOVE NY!” ☺

SCA Board of Directors

- Steve Joeckel, President ✓
 - Nell Ziegler, Vice President
 - Beth Spokowsky, Treasurer ✓
 - Linda Joeckel, Secretary
 - Dot Willsey, Board Member
 - Carolyn Gerakopoulos, Board Member ✓
 - Open Position, Board Member ✓
- ✓ Position to be elected at 2009 annual meeting

Memorial Plaque

Do you have a loved one who was born or lived near Peterboro? Did your loved one go to school in Peterboro? Were they a member of one of Peterboro's organizations? Do not let them be forgotten. You can assist in the preservation of Peterboro's continuing history by having the names of your loved ones engraved on the SCC's Memorial Plaques.

If interested in purchasing a Memorial please contact Beth Spokowsky (315) 684-9022 for a form or e-mail the SCA. ☺

New Gerrit Smith Biography Published

Practical Dreamer: Gerrit Smith & the Crusade for Social Reform, by Norman K. Dann, is the first biography of Gerrit Smith to be published in more than 75 years. This is Norm's second book. This book, as well his first, When We Get to Heaven: Runaway Slaves on the Road to Peterboro, can be purchased on line at www.logcabinbooks.us, or at the Peterboro Mercantile, located in the Gerrit Smith Estate Visitor's Center in Peterboro. ☺

Peterboro on YouTube

WUTR TV (Channel 20 Utica) did a nice video story on Peterboro. It's posted on YouTube. To see the video, go to the SCA website, and click on the on link from the front page. ☺

Thank You!

On behalf of the Smithfield Community Association, **Thank You!** ...and have a wonderful summer.

Sincerely,

Steve Joeckel
President, Smithfield Community Association, Inc.

☺ ☺ ☺

To help us continue our restoration work in the nationally recognized hamlet of Peterboro, please remember to send in your membership contribution.

All donations are tax-deductible.

Please consider an additional "matching" contribution to one the grant programs.

A copy of our latest annual report may be obtained, upon request, from the SCA, or from the New York State Attorney General's Charities Bureau, Attn: FOIL Officer, 120 Broadway, New York, New York 10271.

To help the Smithfield Community Association continue the work of restoring and preserving the historic landmarks of Peterboro, I enclose my contribution as indicated below. Membership in the Smithfield Community Association is included with a minimum donation of \$10.

Please send to : **Smithfield Community Association Inc., P.O. Box 42, Peterboro, NY 13134. Thank You !**

Contribution enclosed:

\$1000	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$50	<input type="checkbox"/>	Name	_____
\$500	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$25	<input type="checkbox"/>	Address	_____
\$100	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$10	<input type="checkbox"/>		_____ zip _____
other	_____		<input type="checkbox"/>	Phone	_____
				E-mail	_____

Matching Funds Campaigns

Heritage NY \$ _____ EPF \$ _____ NPS Network to Freedom \$ _____