



Van Schaick Mansion Project

September 15, 2013
Van Schaick Mansion Project
1 Van Schaick Avenue
Cohoes, NY 12047

Dear Visitor to the Historic Van Schaick Mansion,

The Van Schaick Mansion Oversight Committee

Directors:	Members:
Shannon Kehn	Ruth Denué
Odella Rogers	Helen Festa
Johanna Shogan	Susan Hare
Gwen Stander	Joanne Kennedy
Sandy Zerrillo	Pat Marshall
	John & Donna Mullen
	Alison Russell

This letter asks your support for the Van Schaick Mansion Project. The Van Schaick Mansion, a precious jewel in our nation's history, served as military headquarters for the French and Indian Wars and for the Northern Army in anticipation of the Battles of Saratoga. But, did you know that the historic Van Schaick Mansion is an architectural gem, combining influences from the English, Dutch, Flemish, Danish, Norwegian, African, and Spanish cultures in its many-storied rooms, and is the only structure of its kind still in existence in this country?

We are indebted to individual DAR members and to community patrons who have helped us keep the mansion operating in the black since our purchase of the house in 2001, but we must now reach out to our visitors to ask that you consider helping us repair our roof.

This precious historical mansion built circa 1735, requires ongoing structural preservation. Our most pressing issue is the stabilization of the roof. Although we have a daily operating cost of \$45, or \$16,425 annually, the roof itself will cost \$12,500. Now we are at a critical point where we must ask our visitors and our community to help us keep the mansion going—and our first priority is our roof.

The mansion oversight committee has decided that this is a reachable amount and is asking each of you to help us meet this goal. The committee is offering an opportunity to you to memorialize your donation with a brick installed in our "Walkway to the Past." Whatever amount you can offer is graciously accepted, but if an individual donates an amount of \$250, we offer a free brick (value of \$50). If an individual donates \$500, we offer a free large brick (value of \$100) for installation. Additionally, donors will be invited to our special events such as NYS Heritage Day held on June 9, 2013. We also maintain a plaque in the front hallway of the mansion updated each year, and it acknowledges the donation of \$1,000 or more from individuals, families and organizations who help us keep the mansion going. Finally, our donors will be invited to a V.I.P. Tour of the Mansion where we will display the treasures of this house.

We thank you in advance for your support, and we encourage you to visit the house:

We have recently joined the Blue Star Museums and this past summer offered free admission to active duty members of the military and their families. Please note our Fall Schedule:

•Sunday, September 15, from Noon to 4:00 p.m. As part of the Hudson River Valley Ramble, we have the following program: •Author Greg Zoller, speaking about his book, *The Dark Eagle, Betrayed by His Country, A New Tale of the Life and Times of Benedict Arnold, One of Our Greatest American Heroes*; •Steven Khoury interpreting the life of a village blacksmith and his importance to colonial life.; •Offering tours of some areas of the house.

•Sunday, October 4, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for tours.

•Sunday, November 3, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for tours.

We look forward to welcoming you to these events. We invite your participation as we offer tours, special speakers and presenters, and we appreciate your support. Our chapter did a good thing in 2001 when we purchased the house, and now, 12 years on, we have accomplished many more good things. (For example, •2008 named to the NYS Revolutionary War Heritage Trail; •2011 Cemetery Restoration Project completed; •2013 Award of DAR Historic Preservation Medal to Mr. David John Kehn for his decade of service to the Van Schaick Mansion.) We need your support and your willingness to help spread the story of the historic Van Schaick Mansion.

Make checks payable to the Van Schaick Mansion Project and mail to Van Schaick Mansion Project Treasurer, Mrs. Sandra Zerrillo, 29 Erie Drive, Slingerlands, NY 12159-9444.



Historic Van Schaick Mansion Commemorative Patio and Walkway Brick Order Form

To thank you for your generous contribution to the Van Schaick Mansion Project, we invite you to fill out the order form for the appropriate brick which will be installed in our "Walk to the Past". (please check one):

Van Schaick Mansion Project

_____ 4" X 8" Brick - \$50 brick for a \$250 donation (up to 3 lines/brick; 18 characters/line...spaces are counted as characters; periods, commas, and apostrophes are not counted as characters)

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_____ 8" X 8" Brick - \$100 brick for a \$500 donation (up to 6 lines/brick; 18 characters/line...spaces are counted as characters: periods, commas, and apostrophes are not counted as characters)

Inscription:

Purchaser:

Address:

Phone:

Please remit order form with contribution made payable to Van Schaick Mansion Project to Van Schaick Mansion Project Treasurer Sandra Zerrillo, 29 Erie Drive, Slingerlands, NY 12159-9444.



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The Van Schaick Mansion Project Annual Appeal

Yes, here is my gift to help the Van Schaick Mansion Project bring the history of the mansion and its architecture alive.

My check for \$ _____ is enclosed.

Please contact me (or advisor) at _____ to arrange for a donation of appreciated stock to fund my gift.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State: _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please send this form and a check made payable to the Van Schaick Mansion Project to Van Schaick Mansion Project Treasurer, Sandra Zerrillo, 29 Erie Drive, Slingerlands, NY 12159-9444.

The Van Schaick Mansion Project (VSMP) is a 501(c)3 organization. Gifts to the VSMP are fully tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. VSMP, 1 Van Schaick Avenue, Cohoes, NY 12047.