

# ESCV Workshop Descriptions

## **Wed. June 12 1-2 pm The Erie Canal**

The Erie Canal directed the course of New York and American history. When it opened in 1825, this “boldest and biggest American engineering project of its century” unlocked the Western interior for trade and settlement. Boomtowns sprang up along the canal’s path and New York City, with its deep harbor connecting to the Hudson River, grew to be the nation’s most powerful center of international trade. Join New York State Museum’s Brad Utter, Senior Historian and Curator of the museum’s exhibit *Enterprising Waters: New York’s Erie Canal*, for an overview of the history of the Erie Canal. Utter will highlight some of the political, commercial, engineering and social impacts of the canal.

Here is a link to further info on the exhibit- <http://www.nysm.nysed.gov/exhibitions/enterprising-waters-erie-canal>

## **Wed. June 12 2-3pm Saratoga Battlefield History**

The Battle of Saratoga is considered one of the most significant battles in world history. Fought in farm fields and woods overlooking the Hudson River, it was here that American troops defeated a British invasion force, marking the first time a British army ever surrendered. This crucial victory secured essential foreign recognition and support, instigated world-wide wars, affirmed American independence and changed the face of the world. Join National Park Service Ranger Megan Stevens to learn more about the "Turning Point of the American Revolution".

## **Thurs. June 13 2-3pm Historical and Architectural Development of Albany**

City Historian Anthony Opalka will highlight the major periods of Albany's 400 year history since European colonization with a focus on the built environment. In his talk, he will include historic and current images of the City which will give you a preview of many of the sights you will see on the President's Walk on Friday, June 14.

## **Thurs. June 13 3-4pm The Underground Railroad: A New Interpretation of an Old Story**

The Underground Railroad, often remembered as being characterized by tunnels, dark of night escapes, coded language and hidey-holes, was far more extensive and complex than these ideas lead us to believe. The Capital Region was home to many abolitionists working to abolish the institution of slavery in our state and nation and it was visited by many who had escaped enslavement and sought a life of freedom. Learn about these heroic individuals and the workings in the Capital Region, the state and the nation. Presentation by Paul and Mary Liz Stewart of the Underground Railroad History Project.

## **Thurs. June 13 4-5pm Welcome to Cooperstown**

Join Tim Wiles, former research director at the Baseball Hall of Fame Library from 1995-2014. He will give us a talk on the history of the Village of Cooperstown, site of the June 15 post convention walk, particularly in terms of its relationship with baseball. It will include a special appearance of "Mighty Casey at the Bat."