NEW YORK STATE SENATE

Senator Farley Salutes History Month

Test your knowledge of local history!











Dear Friends:

Did you know that November is New York State History Month? This is a time to celebrate the rich and wonderful history of New York State and to learn more about the New Yorkers who helped shape our local

history, our State history and our Country's history.

New York State, and particularly this region — Fulton, Montgomery, Saratoga and Schenectady counties — has a rich heritage ranging from its role in the American Revolution, to the economic impact of the Erie Canal, to the innovations of local industries.

Try my fun quiz and test your knowledge of local events and people. The answers follow the six pages of questions. (Don't worry, even though I was once a teacher, I won't get out my red pen and grade you on it!) This quiz is an opportunity to encourage children and adults alike to appreciate and learn more about our region's past. Hopefully, you will take this learning experience one step further and visit some of our area's historic sites and museums.

If you are interested in exploring our region, please contact my office for my publication called <u>Senator Farley's Guide to Historic Sites and Museums in Fulton, Montgomery, Saratoga and Schenectady Counties</u>. This special booklet also celebrates our area's rich heritage and highlights some wonderful local tourism opportunities.

Best regards.

Cordially,

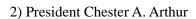
Hugh T. Farley

Senator

PERSONS

Match the following prominent 19th century individuals with their connection to local communities:

1) General Ulysses S. Grant







- A) Established a business in Schenectady
- B) Born and raised in Johnstown
- C) Attended Union College

4) Elizabeth Cady Stanton



- D) Taught school in Canajoharie
- E) Finished writing memoirs near Wilton

5) Thomas A. Edison

SUMMERTIME FUN

Many of your summer pastimes have a long history. Can you place these summer experiences in chronological order, from the **oldest** pastime to the most recent?

- A) Eating an ice cream cone
- B) Watching the horse races at Saratoga



- C) Boating, swimming and fishing in the Great Sacandaga Lake
- D) Going to the Fonda fair
- E) Riding a ferris wheel

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS ...?

Where in our region can you find:

- 1) An impressive collection of paintings by famous artists, including many works by Winslow Homer?
- 2) A locomotive which emphasizes that community's heritage as a manufacturer of locomotives? _____
- 3) Some remaining arches of a stone aqueduct that carried the Erie Canal over the Schoharie Creek?
- 4) A statue honoring "Lawrence the Indian" who helped the Dutch settlers?

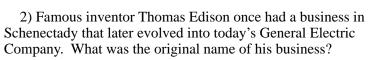


- 5) A covered bridge that was once used by a local farmer to get his cows to pasture?
- 6) The site of one of the last battles of the American Revolution?

MISCELLANEOUS QUESTIONS

1) Which of our local counties continues to use this court-house built in 1772? This building is recognized as the oldest colonial courthouse in New York State (and probably in the nation) that is still being used.

- A) Saratoga
- B) Fulton
- C) Schenectady
- D) Montgomery



- A) Bright Ideas
- B) It's Electrifying
- C) Edison Inventions
- D) Edison Machine Works



- 3) Montgomery County was named in honor of Richard Montgomery. Who was he?
 - A) Former British army officer who sided with the Americans in the Revolutionary War
 - B) The first settler in the county
 - C) Founder of Union College
 - D) Owner of a rug factory
- 4) One of our area's local attractions is known affectionately as "Goldie." What is "Goldie" and where does she reside?
 - A) The mascot at Fort Plain High School
 - B) An organ at Proctor's Theatre in Schenectady
 - C) A statue in Saratoga of a prize-winning thoroughbred racehorse
 - D) A golden retriever at the Fulton County SPCA



- 5) A tradition celebrated by a local community since at least the 1950s involves the annual return of the "chimney swifts." Where does this occur?
 - A) The chimney at Guy Park Manor in Amsterdam
 - B) The chimney in the original General Electric Building in Schenectady

- C) The Nott Memorial at Union College
- D) The Hubbell Memorial Chimney in Northville
- 6) Sir William Johnson, who lived in the 1700s, was one of this area's most influential persons. Which of the following local historic sites was **not** associated with Sir William?
 - A) Johnson Hall
 - B) Guy Park Manor
 - C) Rice Homestead
 - D) Fort Johnson
 - E) Drumm House
 - F) Fulton County Court House



Fort Johnson

TIMELINE QUESTIONS

Listed below are some local and national events that had a significant impact on our region and on the nation. Can you put these events in chronological order and match them with the year they occurred?

17th and 18th Centuries

Match the following events with the correct year:

- A) The American army wins a major
 Revolutionary War victory in the Battles at
 Saratoga

 B) Union College is founded in Schengetady.

 4) 1795
- B) Union College is founded in Schenectady

- C) Henry Hudson explores the river that later bears his name
- D) Schenectady is founded

19th Century

Match the following events with the correct year:

- E) The Erie Canal is completed 5) 1825 ____
- F) The Adirondack and Catskill Forest Preserves are created
- G) The first passenger train in New York begins operations between Albany and Schenectady
- H) The U.S. Civil War begins

20th Century

Match the following events with the correct year:

- I) The Wright brothers achieve the first successful powered flight
 - 9) 1903 ____ 10) 1922

6) 1831 ____

7) 1861 ____

8) 1885

- J) The New York State Thruway is completed
- 11) 1941 ____ 12) 1960
- K) WGY of Schenectady, one of the first radio stations in the country, begins broadcasting
- L) The U.S. enters World War II



HISTORY QUIZ ANSWERS PERSONS

1. (E) General Ulysses S. Grant, the Civil War hero and our nation's 18th President (1869-1877), finished writing his memoirs at a cottage on Mount McGregor in Wilton, and died there

on July 23, 1885. This historic site is now

known as Grant Cottage.

- 2. (C) Chester A. Arthur, the 21st President (1881-1885), attended Union College and graduated in 1848. Another President, Jimmy Carter (who served from 1977 to 1981), did graduate work at Union in nuclear physics.
- 3. (D) Susan B. Anthony, one of the leading advocates for women's rights and other social issues, taught at the Canajoharie Academy in the late 1840s.



Chester A. Arthur statue, Union College

- 4. (B) Elizabeth Cady Stanton was also a leading advocate for women's rights and other social issues. She was born in Johnstown in 1815, and her father was a prominent judge in the community.
- 5. (A) In 1886, Thomas Alva Edison decided to move the Edison Machine Works to Schenectady; the certificate changing the place of business was filed in 1887, and can be viewed at the

Schenectady County Clerk's website. Several of his operations were consolidated in 1889 as the Edison General Electric Company. Through a merger with a competitor in 1892, the General Electric Company was formed.



SUMMERTIME FUN

(D) The first Fonda Fair was held in 1841. At that time, there were only 26 states in the Union. The very first fair was held on the lawn at the old courthouse in Montgomery County. A few poems were read and several animals were displayed. The fair was canceled only once since 1841, one year during World War II because of the war effort.



Ferris wheel at the Fonda Fair

- (B) The first thoroughbred horse racing meet in Saratoga Springs was held in 1863, the same year as the Civil War Battle of Gettysburg.
- (E) The ferris wheel was introduced in 1893, making its debut at the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. This original ferris wheel reached a height of 264 feet and had 36 cars, which could carry 60 people each.
- (A) According to the International Dairy Foods Association, the first ice cream cone was invented in 1896 in New York City by Italo Marchiony, who received a patent in 1903. However, the cone gained much attention and popularity when it was independently introduced by other vendors at the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904.
- (C) In 1930, the gates were closed on the new Conklingville Dam, and the Great Sacandaga Lake was created. Originally called the Sacandaga Reservoir, it was renamed the Great Sacandaga Lake in 1968.



Great Sacandaga Lake

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS?

- 1) At the Canajoharie Library and Art Gallery, which has paintings and sculptures by famous artists such as Winslow Homer, Edward Hopper, James Whistler and Frederick Remington.
- 2) On Nott Terrace in Schenectady, near the entrance to the Schenectady Museum and Schenectady Heritage Area Visitors Center. This locomotive reflects Schenectady's heritage as a major manufacturer of locomotives from the mid-1800s to the mid-1900s. The presence of companies like General Electric and locomotive manufacturers such as the American Locomotive Company (ALCO) led to Schenectady's reputation as "the City that lights and hauls the world."



Lawrence statue, Schenectady

- 3) At the Schoharie Crossing State Historic Site in Fort Hunter, Montgomery County. This site, which emphasizes the history of the Erie Canal, includes the remains of the Schoharie Aqueduct, preserved locks, a canal store and an interpretive center.
- 4) In Schenectady's historic Stockade neighborhood along the Mohawk River. This statue was erected in 1887 to honor "Lawrence," a Mohawk Indian who helped encourage local settlers to stay here and rebuild after the terrible massacre of 1690.
- 5) The Copeland covered bridge was built in 1879. It is located on North Shore Road in the Town of Edinburg, Saratoga County.
- 6) In Johnstown, at the corner of what is now Johnson and O'Neil avenues. This battle occurred in Johnstown on October 25, 1781, and it is estimated that about 1,400 persons were involved. The



Copeland covered bridge, Edinburg

Battle of Johnstown actually occurred after the British had surrendered to General Washington at Yorktown on October 19th, as the news of the British surrender had not yet reached this area.

MISCELLANEOUS QUESTIONS

- 1. (B) Fulton County is the home of the oldest operating courthouse, which is located in the county seat of Johnstown. It was built by Sir William Johnson to serve what was then known as Tryon County. The region was renamed Montgomery County in 1784. Fulton County was established as a separate county in 1838.
- 2. (D) Thomas Edison's first business in Schenectady was called Edison Machine Works.
- 3. (A) Montgomery County's namesake, Richard Montgomery, was a former British army officer who fought on the side of the Americans and was killed in battle in 1775. Many counties around the country have been named in his honor, as well as Alabama's Capital, the City of Montgomery. Proctor's Theatre, Schenectady



4. (B) "Goldie" is the organ at Proctor's Theatre. This vaudeville theater opened in 1926, and the organ was important for vaude-



Rice Homestead historical marker

ville shows and in providing musical accompaniment to "silent" movies.

- 5. (D) The chimney swifts return annually to the Hubbell Memorial Chimney in Northville.
- 6. (C) Rice Homestead. This house in Mayfield was built

around 1790 by Oliver Rice, who had served under General George Washington during the American Revolution. The other five sites are all connected with Sir William Johnson, who died in 1774. Sir William built Fort Johnson in 1749 as his home and later moved to Johnson Hall, which he built in the 1760s. Guy Park Manor was the home of Sir William's daughter and nephew. Sir William had the Drumm House built in the 1760s for his tenants and established what is now the Fulton County Court House in the early 1770s.

TIMELINE

17th and 18th Centuries

1609 (C) Henry Hudson explores the river that later bears his name.

1661 (D) Schenectady is founded. The community is later chartered as a city in 1798.

1777 (A) The American army wins a major Revolutionary War victory in the Battles at Saratoga.

1795 (B) Union College is founded in Schenectady.



Nott Memorial, Union College



Putman's Canal Store, Schoharie Crossing

19th Century

1825 (E) The Erie Canal is completed. The Canal was authorized in 1817; a century later in 1918, the Barge Canal is completed, replacing most of the original Erie Canal.

1831 (G) The first passenger train in New York, and one of the first in the country, begins operations between Albany and Schenectady. The following year, a passenger train begins running between Schenectady and Saratoga.

1861 (H) The U.S. Civil War begins. The war ends in 1865.

1885 (F) The Adirondack and Catskill Forest Preserves are created. In 1892, the Adirondack Park is designated, and in 1894 an amendment to the State Constitution provides that the forest preserve lands shall be forever wild.

20th Century

1903 (I) The Wright Brothers achieve the first successful powered flight.

1922 (K) WGY of Schenectady, one of the first radio stations in the U.S., begins broadcasting.

1941 (L) The U.S. enters World War II. The war began in 1939 and ended in 1945.

1960 (J) The New York State Thruway is completed. The first section of the Thruway opened in June 1954, but the original 559 miles of the Thruway were not completed until December 1960.



BONUS QUESTION

The cover of this booklet has photographs of four historic buildings. Can you identify the current use of these buildings and their original use?

ANSWER

Upper left photo: This building, in Gloversville, is home to the Fulton County Museum. It was built in 1900 as the Kingsborough Free Public Elementary School and was used until 1970.

Upper right photo: This building is Fort Johnson, located of course in the Village of Fort Johnson. This National Historic Landmark is the home of the Montgomery County Historical Society. Sir William Johnson had this building constructed in 1749 as his home.

Lower left photo: This building, located in Ballston Spa, is home to the Brookside Museum and the Saratoga County Historical Society. It was built in 1792 as a hotel, catering to persons visiting the springs at Ballston Spa. It also served as an academy, private home, boarding house, sanitarium and apartment building.

Lower right photo: This building, in Schenectady's Stockade District, is the home of the Schenectady County Historical Society. It was built in 1895 as a private home.

Don't forget to visit your local library for more information on local history! For your convenience, here is a list of the public libraries in our area:

Fulton County

Gloversville Free Library 58 East Fulton Street (518) 725-2819

Johnstown Public Library 38 South Market Street (518) 762-8317

Mayfield Community Library Mayfield Central School District 27 School Street (518) 661-8200

Northville Public Library 341 South Third Street (518) 863-6922

Montgomery County

Amsterdam Free Library 28 Church Street (518) 842-1080

Canajoharie Library and Art Gallery 2 Erie Boulevard (518) 673-2314

Fort Hunter Free Library 351 Main Street (518) 829-7248

Fort Plain Free Library 19 Willett Street (518) 993-4646

Frothingham Free Library 28 West Main Street, Fonda (518) 853-3016 Margaret Reaney Memorial Library, St. Johnsville 19 Kingsbury Avenue (518) 568-7822

Saratoga County

Ballston Spa Public Library 21 Milton Avenue (518) 885-5022

Town of Ballston Community Library Lakehill Road & Lawmar Lane (518) 399-8174

Corinth Free Library 89 Main Street (518) 654-6913

Galway Public Library 5264 Sacandaga Road (518) 882-6385

Saratoga Springs Public Library 49 Henry Street (518) 584-7860

Schenectady County

Schenectady County Public Library, Main Branch 99 Clinton Street City of Schenectady (518) 388-4500



Room 412 Legislative Office Building Albany, NY 12247 (518) 455-2181

> 2430 Riverfront Center Amsterdam, NY 12010 (518) 843-2188

> 33-41 East Main Street Johnstown, NY 12095 (518) 762-3733

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