

September 2023

Displays: The current museum show at Patrick Tavern, “A Noble Woman: the Art and Life of Caroline Parker Mountpleasant,” opened August 29. This display is an exploration of the textile art of Caroline Parker Mountpleasant. Subsequent research has brought to light some additional connections of the Parker family to Aurora and to Lewis Henry Morgan. The display is open 4:00-6:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and is self-guided. Attendance has been strong and comments positive. The Aurora Historical Society plans a closing reception on the evening of Thursday, Sept 28, with several special additions to the show. All are invited.

The next Patrick Tavern display, “Meet Benjamin Ledyard,” will open for New York State’s “Path Through History Weekend,” Oct. 7-8. The Aurora-Ledyard Museum Group (Patrick Tavern, The Howland Farm Museum, the Press of Robert LoMascolo, The Aurora Masonic Center, and the Town of Ledyard’s Historian’s Corner) is planning a number of special events that weekend. In addition, Patrick Tavern is part of the “Fall Crawl Through Time,” a collaborative event including the Frontenac Museum, Opendore, and the Genoa Historical Society. The description as it appears on the “I Love NY” website is as follows:

“At the 1793 Patrick Tavern, 302 Main St., Aurora, visitors will ‘Meet Benjamin Ledyard,’ the Revolutionary War officer for whom the Town of Ledyard was named, in a self-guided display. Ledyard was commissioned the land agent for the Military Tract in 1795. He mapped, and perhaps named, the Village of Aurora, which lies within the Town later named for him; his map included a sketch of Joshua Patrick's tavern, site of the Path Through History Weekend event. Viewers will become acquainted not only with Benjamin Ledyard's life, work and family, but also the enslaved members of his household who were foundational members of Aurora's early African-American community, and some of his contemporaries and friends, including Aaron Burr. A schedule of interactive demonstrations (all ages) includes basketweaving, leather working, floral art and more.”

Research: For the above display. Thanks to Shirley Egan of the Town of Ledyard for helpful questions and discussion, and Jaqueline Roshia, Interpretive Programs Assistant at the Lorenzo State Historic Site, for document and portrait facsimiles and the associated permissions.

Queries: Regarding Franklin Avery, of the local Avery family, who joined the Union Colony that settled Greeley, LaPorte, and Ft. Collins, CO in 1870. Research is ongoing.

Respectfully submitted,
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