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Press Release

For Immediate Release

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## **Explore Your Roots at the Arkell Museum's July Family Day**

CANAJOHARIE, NY—The Arkell Museum at Canajoharie announces its “Explore Your Roots” Family Day slated for Sunday, July 13 from 1 – 3pm.

“We currently have a number of portraits of famous local people, including members of the Fonda and Nellis families, on display in the museum,” said Andy Albertson, Curator of Education & Public Programs. “This family day will include activities that highlight the rich heritage of local founding families and underscore the value of knowing one’s own roots.”

Sandy Nellis Lane, Secretary of St. Johnsville’s Palatine Settlement Society, will lead a stencil activity inspired by stenciling in the Nellis Tavern. “Families will use a historically inspired stencil to create their own early American design on slate salvaged from the Nellis Tavern,” said Lane. Families can then tour the Nellis Tavern free of charge following their stop at the Arkell Museum. “We hope families will take a free tour of the Tavern following the activity to see how stencils, not expensive wallpaper, were used to decorate in the early 1800s.”

Montgomery County Historian Kelly Farquhar will present information on how families can research their own ancestors using materials at the Montgomery County Department of History & Archives, in Fonda, as well as at other repositories including the Arkell Museum and Canajoharie Library.

Local historian and Arkell Museum trustee Skip Barshied will be on hand with a selection of William Nellis family artifacts and will sign copies of his recently published book, Shoes for John: The Story of a Stone Arabia Farm Boy During the American Revolution. “It is my hope that this story will help to enlighten, especially the younger reader, that these people we casually call ancestors were real people subject to the same human feelings we have, and that important events occurred here upon our own thresholds,” writes Barshied of his book and its subject.

Arkell Museum Family Discovery Days are free to **museum members and to visitors residing within the following zipcodes: 12166, 13317, 13339, 13410, 13428, and 13459**. For all others, regular museum admission of \$7 for adults, \$5 for students and senior citizens (with children 11 and under free) applies.

“Explore Your Roots” and other 2008 Family Days are generously supported by the New York State Council on the Arts.

The Arkell Museum is open Monday - Friday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm, Saturday –Sunday 12:30 - 5:00 pm. For information call 518-673-2314 or visit [www.arkellmuseum.org](http://www.arkellmuseum.org).

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