



Best Seats in the House: The Chairs of Hallockville

Hallockville Museum Farm
Sound Avenue • Riverhead

*Opening
June 18th*

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Special Exhibit at Hallockville Museum Farm

Best Seats in the House: The Chairs of Hallockville

***Opening Reception
Friday, June 18, 5 to 7 PM***

The chair, a small structure for personal use, is an object of everyday purpose that has evolved over time and every chair has its own story to tell. Some chairs have pronounced stories, told in a powerful voice with form and function, dates and designers. Other chairs hold inaudible mysteries that need to be researched or coaxed anecdotally into a form that can be acknowledged.

Hallockville Museum Farm is pleased to present a view of social and cultural history from 1771 through 1900s as told through its resident chairs in this exhibit curated by Richard Wines, Nancy Gilbert and Mary Anne Huntington. and based on research by winter interns Caitlin Gambill and Tyler Mayo. These chairs will be on display at the Hallock Homestead and the Trubisz Little House and will incorporate a chair "treasure" hunt in the Homestead.

There are no Duncan Phyfe chairs or other famous makers in the museum's collections. Indeed, typical farm families like the Hallocks would never have owned such fancy (and expensive) furniture. Nevertheless, each chair in the museum's collection tells an interesting story -- whether in its design, its use, its family history, or its repairs. One chair was a wedding present to a Hallock who served as a Minute Man before the revolution. Another is based on a design discovered on an ancient Grecian urn. Still another is the ancestor of the modern recliner. And, there is a whole set of chairs that belonged to the founder of Jamesport.

In a Victorian home like the Hallock Homestead, the chairs often blend into the background. Consequently, this is a rare opportunity to actually "see" the individual chairs. Moreover, this will be the first time visitors can see many interesting chairs from the museum's storage have never been displayed in public.

The exhibit opens June 18, 2010 and remain on display in the Trubisz Little House through December. In addition, there will be a "Chair Hunt" in the Homestead where visitors will be given clue sheets and challenged to find the chairs.