

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
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SPRING CURATOR'S FABULOUS FINDS LECTURE

KATONAH, N.Y. (April 2, 2010) – *Curator's Fabulous Finds*, a new series of artifact talks at John Jay Homestead, will continue on Sunday, May 2 at 2:00 p.m., and will be repeated on Thursday, May 6 at 7:00 p.m. This spring's lecture will examine and discuss important American furniture from the Homestead's historic collection. The cost of admission will be \$10.00 per person; members of the Friends of John Jay Homestead may attend at no charge.

John Jay's taste in furniture combined an appreciation for the finest materials and workmanship with the conviction that ostentatious design was inappropriate for the citizens of a democratic republic—a way of thinking that grew out of America's recent rebellion against English aristocratic rule. The lecture will examine how Jay's furniture exemplifies this approach: tastefully restrained design combined with superb craftsmanship. Participants will be able to view, close up, one of the dining chairs used at the Jays' famous diplomatic dinners at their home in New York City, given when John Jay was U.S. Secretary for Foreign Affairs. Attendees will also examine one of his elegant mahogany rolling armchairs, made in 1790 for the U.S. Senate Chamber at Federal Hall in New York. A rare late 18th-century barrister bookcase, a Chippendale tall case clock, and a superbly carved Federal period games table, all formerly belonging to Jay, will also be examined, as will some of the techniques used for making fine furniture during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

Space at the talk is limited, and reservations are strongly suggested. To reserve seats, call John Jay Homestead at (914) 232-5651, extension 105.

John Jay was a President of the Continental Congress, the second U.S. Secretary for Foreign Affairs, the first Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, and the second Governor of New York State. He retired to Bedford in 1801 to live the life of a gentleman farmer. His home is now a beautiful sixty-two acre historic site that includes lovely walks, several gardens, farm buildings, and a richly-decorated main residence restored to the 1820s, the last decade of Jay's life.

John Jay Homestead State Historic Site is located at 400 Route 22, Katonah, N.Y. John Jay Homestead is regularly open for guided tours Wednesday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The site is one of six historic sites and 15 parks administered by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation – Taconic Region. For additional information about New York State Parks, please visit www.nysparks.com.