

Institute of History, Archaeology, and Education, Inc.

PO Box 41 • Purchase, NY 10577 • ph/fax: 914.933.0440 • www.ihare.org

THE SOMERS EXPERIENCE Teacherhostel™

Date: July 15, 2008
Location: Elephant Hotel, 335 Route 202 (at Route 100), Somers, NY
Contact Hours: 6
Cost: \$25
Cutoff Date: June 15, 2008

This program can be combined with other IHARE programs for teachers who need additional contact hours to submit for professional development credit.

9:00 Welcome and Introductions

9:30 Somers Circus History

This session will focus on the evolution of the American circus in the area, the early menageries, and Somers' integral role in this. The history of the Elephant Hotel, a National Historic Landmark, will be discussed. We will explore various artifacts related to the history of the menageries and circus, and debunk some of the myths associated with Somers.

Materials: *Somers Its People and Places circus chapter; Bandwagon article; True False Test*

10:30 Tour Somers Historical Society Museum, Third Floor, Elephant Hotel

11:00 Somers Local History

This session will focus on the history of Somers, from its incorporation in 1788 through present, and the social and economic factors which influenced its evolution. We will explore use of historical resources.

Materials: *Somers Its People and Place Overview, Somers Remembered; Somers, A Walking Tour; Scharf's History of Somers.*

12:15 Lunch, travel to Wright Reis Homestead

1:30 Visit Wright Reis Homestead, tour house & grounds

This session will introduce the Wright family in Somers, and focus particularly on the life of Carolyn Wright Reis, an early 20th century design student, farm manager, collector and philanthropist.

Materials: *The Wright Family Legacy workbook, Somers Confederates pamphlet*

3:00 Visit Mt. Zion Methodist Church and Burial Ground, built 1794

This session will focus on Mt Zion Church, its history and significance in Somers, and the local community which thrived along Primrose Street until the New York city reservoirs effected its demise. We will touch on issues of preservation, diversity, interdependence, and community.

Materials: *Mt. Zion and Rural Homesteads flyer*

Name _____
School _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Tel. _____ Email _____

Fee: _____ \$25.00

Make check payable to:

Institute of History Archaeology and Education, Inc.

Mail payment and form to: *Institute of History Archaeology and Education, Inc. PO Box 41, Purchase, NY 10577*

*Teacherhostel is a Registered Trademark of IHARE. For further information contact Dr. Peter Feinman at the **Institute of History, Archaeology, and Education** at 914-933-0440 or email us at: feinmanp@ihare.org.*

