

Seneca Village Rediscovered - Fundraiser for



Walking Tour Logistics

Dates: Saturday, September 28, 2024

Time: 11am—1pm

Meeting Place: 81st St. Entrance (CP West)

- Meet at benches just inside entrance
- NE of 81st Street

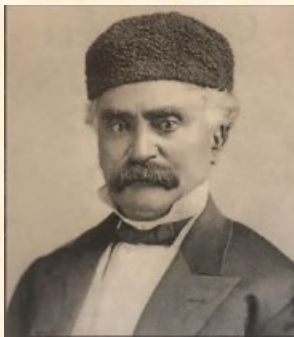
Other: Wear comfortable shoes, & bring water

**** No Bathrooms****

How and why does a community form, come together, thrive, and break apart in the course of 32 short years? What external forces had an impact on these families? What does it mean to us almost 200 years later?

These are just a few of the subjects we explore in this walking tour of Seneca Village, a thriving integrated community that existed on land that would become the western edge of Central Park between 1825-1857.

During this period in NYC history, this neighborhood, and the city as a whole, was at the very threshold of feeling the impact of the multiple historic, closely packed, monumental occurrences - The Commissioner's Grid Plan of 1811, the opening of the Erie Canal in 1825, the abolition of slavery in NYS in 1827, the introduction of public fresh drinking water to city residents in 1842, the start of the Irish Potato famine in 1845, the change in voting laws in NYS in the 1820s, and finally, the founding of Central Park in 1853. The circumstances and people that came together during this period of rapid change would both contribute to the formation of Seneca Village, as well as its destruction.



Today, we will walk through this history with a number of these families. We will learn how they lived, worshipped, earned a living, created families and friendships, and made an impact well beyond these 30 acres, and 32 years.

Meet your Tour Guide: John Morel has been a passionate history buff basically since the age of seven or eight after a day trip to Philadelphia to see the Liberty Bell. A native New Yorker, he has since spent countless hours reading, listening to podcasts, and watching documentaries about the history of his place of birth (which explains his complete lack of knowledge about sports, modern music or movies). About 15 years ago, John decided to secure a NYC Sightseeing Guide's License to share his passion with his fellow New Yorkers, as well as visitors. When not prepping for his next walking tour, John enjoys playing golf with his son, and spending time with his (highly tolerant) wife of 27 years, daughter and "favorite" son-in-law (which, if he is lucky, includes a trip to a well stocked, used bookstore). While reading up on his next subject, John is usually accompanied by his devoted, 4 year old (rescue) Great Pyrenees, named "Hudson" (what else would a NYC Tour Guide name his dog?).

