

SOCIETY FOR
INDUSTRIAL
ARCHEOLOGY

SIA Fall Tour, Utica, NY, October 18-21, 2012

This year's Society for Industrial Archeology Fall Tour will explore historic manufacturing and engineering sites in New York's upper Mohawk Valley. Process tours include many of the region's signature industries: metalworking, textiles, wire & cable, and forest products, along with some of the unusual factories that make SIA events special. It will also include a detailed examination of the Erie Canal – the working waterway that opened the American interior and made New York the Empire State.

A principal route between the Atlantic Seaboard and the Great Lakes, the Mohawk Valley has long been an avenue of commerce as well as the scene of protracted conflict during the French & Indian and Revolutionary Wars.

The natural lowland corridor was enhanced by river improvements during the 1790s and by construction of the Erie Canal, which started at Rome in 1817 and was completed in 1825. The Erie was so successful that it was enlarged starting in the 1830s and joined by connecting waterways including the Chenango Canal that carried coal from northern Pennsylvania to Utica and the Black River Canal that brought Adirondack lumber and produce to at Rome. The 1830s also saw construction of several Mohawk Valley rail lines that were eventually linked to form the mighty New York Central.

Manufacturers soon set up shop along this busy route between the American interior and the sea. Eliphalet Remington started making firearms at Ilion in 1816. Like many of their New England counterparts, Remington Arms branched out into sewing machines, typewriters, and adding machines and spawned a number of spin-off manufacturers. Woolen and cotton goods poured out of the region's mills as the Mohawk Valley became America's leading producer of knit underwear. World War II caused a dramatic shift in production and spawned some entirely new companies and industries. Today, the upper valley hosts a diverse mix of metalworking firms, a handful of textile companies, and a number of specialty manufacturers.

Schedule at-a-glance:

Thursday, October 18

- Pre-tours – Trenton Falls hydroelectric plant, F.X. Matt / Saranac Brewery
- Opening Reception & Orientation – Hotel Utica

Friday, October 19:

- Full Day Process Tours – Utica, Rome, or Little Falls
- Dinner on your own¹

Saturday, October 20:

- Full day tour focusing on four generations of the Erie Canal and industries along its banks
- Banquet – Piers & Blake, Utica

Sunday, October 21

- Adirondack Scenic Railroad ride through southern Adirondacks
- Bicycle tour along old Erie Canal

¹ Adirondack Scenic Railroad will be running a regularly scheduled "Wine & Beer Tasting Train" departing Utica's Union Station at 6:30, returning 8:45. Tickets are \$40 First Class, \$25 Coach. Reservations and payment are on your own - 315 724-0700 <http://www.adirondackrr.com/utica/featuretrains/beerAndWine.html>

SIA 2012 FALL TOUR SITES:

Friday Tour F1 – Utica

Sturges Manufacturing, Utica, weaves custom-designed engineered webbing and fabricates it into straps, and harnesses for safety, firefighting, military, mountain climbing, and industrial applications. Sturges started making suspenders in 1909 and moved into their current mill in 1919.

Special Metals, New Hartford, makes high temperature nickel and cobalt alloys under vacuum for jet turbine blades other demanding environments. Special Metals started in 1952 as the Metals Division of Utica Drop Forge and Tool Company (founded 1895).

Note: Special Metals has limited this tour to US citizens only.

Utica Boiler/ECR International, Utica, manufactures boilers, water heaters, hydronic system controls and furnaces in plants at Dunkirk and Utica, NY. ECR has been located in Utica since 1928.

New England Wood Pellet, Schuyler, makes high heat/low ash wood pellets from the byproducts of molding and flooring mills, furniture manufacturers, and other wood fabricators. NEWP started in 1992 in Acton, MA and built this plant in 2008.

Friday Tour F2 – Rome

Meyda Tiffany, Yorkville. America's leading and oldest manufacturer of custom and decorative lighting. Meyda's line includes table and floor lamps, ceiling pendants, chandeliers, outdoor lighting, wall sconces, and stained glass windows.

Owl Wire and Cable, Rome. Owl draws, twists, and winds up to five million pounds of bare and plated copper wire cable per week for telecommunications, appliances, automobiles, construction, and mining.

Varflex, Rome – Manufactures braided electrical insulating sleeving. Founded in 1924, this family-owned company is one of the few remaining textile manufacturers in the Mohawk Valley and one of only four manufacturers of braided sleeving in the country.

Harden Furniture, McConnellsville - a five generation family business that has been manufacturing hardwood furniture on this site since 1844. Harden now employs about 300 people. The tour will include everything from the log yard & sawmill to upholstery.

Friday Tour F3 – Little Falls

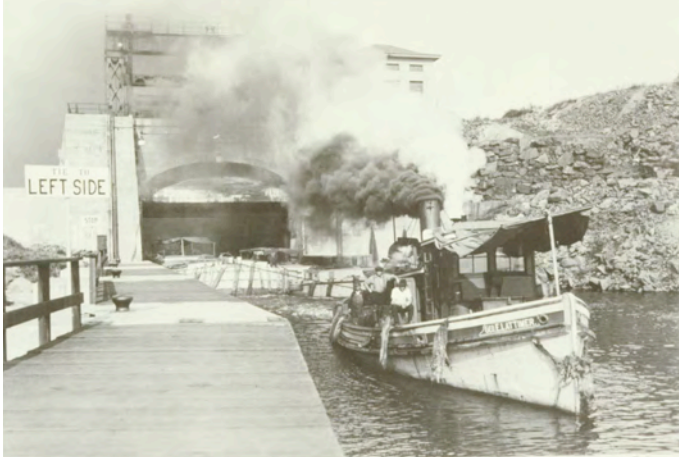
Feldmeier Equipment, Little Falls, began in 1952 (but with roots going back to the beginning of the Little Falls cheese industry) makes stainless steel heat exchangers and tanks for pharmaceutical, cosmetics, and chemical manufacturers, as well as for food, beverage, and dairy production.

Kwik-Kut Manufacturing, Mohawk. Since the 1920s Kwik-Kut has been making circular vegetable choppers and other kitchen gadgets. Founded by former Remington employees, Kwik-Kut out-grew the garage in 1955 and moved to its current facility.

Fiberdyne Labs, Frankfort, established 1992, makes fiber optic networking products including copper cabling multiplexers, and attenuators as well as LED lighting and digital billboards.

Hardscrabble Wind Project, Towns of Fairfield and Norway. Thirty-seven wind turbines standing on 100-meter towers (the highest in NYS) can furnish enough electricity to power over 25,000 typical houses each year. The project came online in 2011.

Saturday, October 20 Tour – The Erie Canal & Canalside Industries



Saturday's tour will focus on the Erie Canal, America's most influential manmade waterway, and on the Mohawk Valley manufacturers and industrial communities that grew along its banks. The Erie Canal was so successful that it had to be enlarged several times to accommodate larger boats and more traffic. We will see segments of pre-Erie navigation, the original Erie Canal (Clinton's Ditch), started in Rome in 1817 and completed in 1825, the Enlarged Erie, constructed 1836-62, and the Erie Barge Canal, built 1905-1918. The early 20th century version is still in service with virtually all of its original

structures and equipment intact. Highlights will include behind the scenes examination of locks, moveable dams, gasoline and hydroelectric powerhouses, and harbor facilities, along with tugboats, dredges, and other vessels of the "New York Navy". The trip will culminate with a boat ride through two locks and one of the prettiest segments of the canal system at what should be the height of the fall foliage season. Along the way we'll pass textile mills, coal gas plants, tool factories, Remington Arms, and other manufacturers that were sited to take advantage of easy canal transport.

Optional Pre-Tour tours, Thursday, October 18:



Trenton Falls Hydroelectric Plant, West Canada Creek, Located at the bottom of a dramatic gorge and normally off-limits to the public, the Trenton Falls plant had the highest head reaction turbines in the country when it was completed in 1901. The original plant and its 1914 addition remain in operation today, largely unchanged after a century.

FX Matt Saranac Brewery, Utica, A regional brewer since 1888, FX Matt makes Utica Club (New Yorkers watching TV in the late 1950s and early 1960s will recall UC's talking beer steins, Shultz and Dooley), Saranac, Lake Placid, and

contract brewed beers for labels including New Amsterdam, Brooklyn, Newman's, Edison, and Sam Adams.

Optional Post-Tour tours, Sunday, October 21:

Adirondack Scenic Railroad Fall Foliage Tour Utica to Thendara and return with optional lunch stop/layover at Buffalo Head Restaurant in Forestport – Depart 11:30 – Return 4:30

Bicycle tour along old Erie Canal - Rome to Chittenango Landing Canal Boat Museum & return. – 54 mile round-trip, mostly level on off-road stone dust trail. [SIA is working with area bicycle dealers to arrange Sunday bike rentals for participants who want to ride but can't bring their own bikes. Details will be posted on the SIA website.]

Banquet – Saturday, October 20

This year's banquet will be held at Pier's & Blake, a new restaurant housed in the National Register listed Doyle Hardware Building (1881-1901), across the street from Utica's Union Station.

Conference Hotel:



Hotel Utica is the headquarters for the SIA 2012 Fall Tour. The hotel was constructed in 1912, recently renovated, and is listed as one of the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Historic Hotels of America. To secure the group rate of \$79 per night, you must reserve by phone (877-906-1912 or 315-724-7829) and identify yourself with the Society for Industrial Archeology. Breakfast, wireless internet, and parking are included in the SIA group rate. There is a \$15 per person charge for more than two adults sharing a room.

Getting to Utica:

Trains:

Utica is served by eight daily trains of Amtrak's Empire service operating on the old New York Central mainline - four from the east originating in New York and four from the west with one originating in Chicago, one in Toronto, and two from Buffalo/Niagara Falls. Trains from Montreal and Boston provide connections at Albany-Rensselaer.

The ride from the south and east, up the Hudson and Mohawk valleys, offers great scenery and lots of IA close-at-hand.

Hotel Utica is about 6 blocks (1/2 mile) from Utica's 1914 Union Station.

Planes:

Syracuse Hancock International Airport (SYR) is 56 miles west of Utica and is served by Air Canada, American Eagle, Delta, JetBlue, United, and USAir. You can rent a car at the airport or take a short taxi ride to the Syracuse intermodal station for Amtrak or bus connections to Utica.

Albany International Airport (ALB) is 90 miles east of Utica and is served by Air Canada, Cape Air, Continental Express, Delta, southwest, United, and USAirways. You can rent a car at the airport or make Amtrak or bus connections at Schenectady.

Automobiles:

Utica is about 240 miles from New York, 260 miles west of Boston, 200 miles east of Buffalo, 390 miles north of Washington, and 400 miles south of Montreal.

Go to www.siahq.org to register for the 2012 SIA Fall Tour and for more information about sites, links to host company websites and in-plant videos, event updates, local information, and suggestions for things to do on your way to and from Utica.

There are lots of great IA and non-IA sites to visit within a hundred miles of Utica – the Adirondack Museum, Blue Mountain Lake; Farmers' Museum and Baseball Hall of Fame, Cooperstown; Hanford Mills, East Meredith; along with some outstanding micro-breweries. We will post a map and links to some of the high-points on the SIA website later this summer to help you plan your trip and as a means to entice you to come early and stay late.

SIA 2012 Fall Tour Registration - Utica, NY October 18-21, 2012

Name: _____

Affiliation (for name badge): _____

Spouse/Guest: _____

Affiliation (for name badge): _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State/Province: ___ ZIP/Postal Code: _____ Country: _____

Phone: Day: _____ Evening: _____

Email Address: _____

1. Check if you wish **NOT** to share information with other attendees
2. Check if you (or companion) may require special meals – we will contact you by phone or email to define your requirement.

 Note: **All registration fees are on a per-person basis**, including any late fees. Full Member and Student Registration fee includes Thursday Evening Reception, one all day-Friday Process Tour, one all-day Saturday Tour & Boat Ride but **DOES NOT** include the optional Thursday Tours, optional Saturday Evening Banquet or optional Sunday Tours. All tours are space-available, first come, first served, with preference given to those persons paying for a full registration.

FALL TOUR REGISTRATION (add lines and total)

All fees are on a per-person basis. **MAKE TOUR SELECTIONS TOP RIGHT**

SIA Member Registration...(per person).. ___@ \$200 = \$ _____

(if 2012 dues are paid, if not renew now or join now – must be member)

Student Registration.....(per person)..... ___@ \$100 = \$ _____

(must include copy of current ID of full time student status)

Age of students under 18 _____

Late Fee (after Oct. 1)...(per person)..... ___@ \$40 = \$ _____

FALL TOUR OPTIONAL EXTRAS

Thursday Trenton Falls Hydroelectric plant ___@ \$20 each = \$ _____

Departs noon, return 2:45

Thursday F.X Matt/Saranac Brewery ___@ \$15 each = \$ _____

Tour and Tasting 3:00 – 4:30.

(transportation on your own, brewery is 9 blocks / ¼ mile from Hotel Utica)

Saturday Banquet at Piers & Blake..... ___@ \$45 each = \$ _____

Sunday Fall Foliage Rail Tour ___@ \$33 each = \$ _____

Sunday Bicycle Tour ___@ \$20 each = \$ _____

Optional Extras Total.....\$ _____

SIA 2012 MEMBERSHIP DUES (Renew or new member): Please check the membership level at which you would like to join or renew. (Mailing addresses outside of the U.S. and Canada require an additional \$10.00 for mailing charge).

_____@Individual.....@ \$50 = \$ _____

_____@Household (Joint).....@ \$55 = \$ _____

_____@Full-Time Student.....@ \$20 = \$ _____

_____@Non-U.S./Canada mailing fee....@ \$10 = \$ _____

Friday tours are filled on a first come basis using your registration form post mark date or your online registration date.

Please indicate order of preference
 (1-first choice, 2 second choice, 3-third choice)

	You	Guest
F1. Utica	___	___
F2. Rome	___	___
F3. Little Falls	___	___

Tours sites and groupings are subject to the hospitality and production needs of host manufacturers. SIA will update its Fall Tour web page and will inform registrants via email if changes occur.

PAYMENT SUMMARY

Registration Total.....\$ _____

Optional Extras Total.....\$ _____

SIA Membership Total.....\$ _____

Scholarship Travel Fund.....\$ _____

Preservation Grant Fund.....\$ _____

TOTAL PAID.....\$ _____

For more information about the fall tour, please call the SIA Events coordinator, Ron Petrie at 216-372-8623 or email siaevents@siahq.org

Method of Payment: Personal check or money order (in U.S. dollars drawn on U.S. bank). Make check payable to **SIA 2012** OR register and pay by credit card online at **www.siahq.org**.

Mail payment and form to:
 SIA 2012 Fall Tour
 Department of Social Sciences
 Michigan Technological University
 1400 Townsend Drive
 Houghton, MI 49931-1295 USA

Hotel Utica is the headquarters for this year's SIA Fall Tour.

Make your reservations directly with the hotel by phone to secure the SIA conference rate
 877-906-1912 or 315-724-782

SIA Fall Tour Utica, New York October 18-21, 2012



Erie Canal at Utica Weighlock ca. 1915
Hotel Utica in background