

# Museum gets grant to expand Black content

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A grant will enable Genesee Country Village & Museum to expand its programming about the history of enslavement and Black Americans' experiences in the Genesee Valley.

The museum announced Wednesday, Sept. 18, that it had received a \$188,841 grant from the Museums for America, part of the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the primary source of federal support for the nation's libraries and museums.

The statement said that a multi-year initiative will focus on the educational interpretation of four key buildings in the museum's 19th-century Historic Village: the Nathaniel Rochester House, Land Office, the Livingston-Backus House and the Quaker Meeting House. The museum will use the money to train its staff and to work with experts and others to create in-person interpretations, exhibits, audio tours and school programs.

"We are committed to expanding the stories we tell to include the full range of 19th-century Black experiences in our region," Becky Wehle, president and CEO of Genesee Country Village & Museum, said in a statement. "This project will honor the voices that have been marginalized and ensure that all visitors see their histories represented and valued."

The buildings at Genesee Country Village & Museum were moved there from their original sites.

According to the museum's website, the Nathaniel Rochester House was purchased by Col. Nathaniel Rochester, who moved from Hagerstown, Maryland, to Dansville in 1810 with his family, 10 enslaved people and some of his neighbors. "The colonel moved north, he said, 'to escape the influence of slavery, to set his slaves free, and to rear his family in a free state.'" He later laid out the village, now the city, of Rochester.

To learn more about Genesee Country Village and Museum, go to [gcv.org](http://gcv.org).



**The Nathaniel Rochester House, in the Historic Village at Genesee Country Village & Museum, was built circa 1797 in Dansville.** PROVIDED BY GENESSEE COUNTRY VILLAGE AND MUSEUM