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ANGELICA TOWN MINUTES
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TOWN/VILLAGE HISTORIAN JOB DESCRIPTION

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES: Incumbent in this position conducts research into and records the local history of Angelica; work is performed independently with general direction given by the Town/Village Board. Does related work as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:

Collects, records and preserves all present and future historical data, memos, articles, etc. for future generations. Coordinates Town and Village historical activities; available to direct tours and perform lectures on local history.

Identifies artifacts and determines value of antiques.

Makes periodic reports to County Historian and New York State Archives.

Coordinates storage and record procedures for Town/Village records.

FULL PERFORMANCE, KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Working knowledge of Angelica and local county history; working knowledge of genealogical researching methods; photographic knowledge to present slide presentations and record historical events; ability to research historical data from a variety of sources and compile and records same; ability to lecture or correspond on Town/Village/County history; ability to write reports and keep records; ability to get along with others; public speaking skills; initiative; resourcefulness; neatness.

Allegheny is an ancient indian tribe--*the Allegewi*—they were driven out by the Iroquois. Washington Irving deemed the name upon the land. *Allegewi-henna*, meaning, country and people east of the Mississippi, *henna*, meaning river.

ALLEGANY COUNTY IN 1810

The county was erected in 1808, Angelica was the only town until March of 1808.

Angelica was founded in 1801 but was established February 25, 1805, incorporated May 2, 1835.

Angelica stretched from the Pennsylvania boarder to the Town of Grove.

Part of Angelica was taken form Leicester, Genesee County and part of Steuben County.

Angelica was named after John Church's mother, *Angelica*, who was the eldest daughter of General Phillip Schuyler.

From 1810 to 1820 the boundaries of Angelica remained unchanged. 1831 to 1840, Angelica reduced down to its existing size.

ANGELICA TRIVIA

FIRST DEATH: Ira Stephens, killed over gambling. First person buried in *Until Day Dawn* cemetery.

FIRST BIRTH: Catharine Mullender.

Nearest post office was in Bath, New York. A messenger was sent once a month to deliver and pick up mail, also to run errands.

1806-1807, important French political exiles moved to Angelica. The D'Autremonts and the DuPonts. DuPonts being the same DuPonts who now reign in Delaware as the DuPont Chemical Company.

Angelica was the only town in the county to have slaves.

Transit bridge was the first bridge built in 1809.

First Masonic funeral, in Angelica, January 2, 1813.

1811, the turnpike from Angelica to Olean was completed. Making the entire stretch from Bath to Olean complete. The road was one of the greatest routes to the west.

William B. Rochester, son of Nathaniel Rochester, founder of the city of Rochester, settled in Angelica about 1820. He was a lawyer who eventually went to Congress and then on to the Supreme Court.

NEWSPAPERS: Angelica Republican, established 1820 by Franklin Cowdery. Also the Angelica Everyweek.

ANGELICA CHURCHES

Presbyterian Church was the first church established. Erected first in 1831, the present building was complete in 1856. In 1857 it became the Congregational Church.

Episcopal Church—Reverend Davenport H. Phelps first held services in 1821 at the Court House. In 1831 the First Cornerstone was laid. In 1833, lightning destroyed the partially completed building. On August 30, 1834, the building was completed only to be destroyed by fire on February 10, 1847. The present building was completed July 23, 1848. The pipe organ cost \$1300.00.

Methodist/Episcopal Church—believed to have first services in 1827 but the records are lost. Present church erected in 1873.

Baptist Church—first services were held in private homes and the Court House and sometimes at the Methodist/Episcopal Church in July 1834. On January 20, 1859, the church was erected.

Catholic Church—1847 was the first service. Construction of building began in 1848 and completed in 1850.

ANGELICA SCHOOLS

Angelica Academy—on May 12, 1836, an act was passed to establish a place of learning for both sexes. Twenty years later the academy was founded. In November 1867 the building was burned. It was located on the south side of Main Street a few rods of the Presbyterian Church. Twelve years followed with no school.

Wilson Academy—September 21, 1885, the first term was held. A Yale graduate, John P. Slocum was the principal. No building was available for the first year and school was held at the Court House. In the summer of 1886, part of the Rev. Lewis Thibou Estate, 13 acres and a large brick house was bought by the school trustees and altered to fit the school.

MISCELLANEOUS

PARK: is five acres, five churches surround it and the Town Court House. The land was deeded to the people of Angelica on September 8, 1831 by John Church and his wife. It was to only be used for public enjoyment.

1805-1859 Angelica was the County seat. 1859-1892 Angelica was half-shire.

1864 the First National Bank of Angelica was formed but failed. On January 1, 1890 the State Bank of Angelica was established.

LAWYERS: Richardson & Robbins, Smith & Dickson

DOCTORS: H.E. Cooley, C.R. Spencer, C.N. Hammond

HOTELS: Charles Hotel, A.K. Fletcher, Marion House, J.S. Ess.

Moses Burr, Grandson to Moses Van Campen, left his grandfathers belongings, artifacts and articles to the Wilson Academy and the Angelica Library.

ALLEGANY COUNTY

Phelps & Gorham purchase included: Almond, Andover, Independence, Burns and Alfred.

Towns of the Morris Reserve: Wellsville, Angelica, Amity, Scio, Allen, Birdsall, West Almond, Granger, Ward, Grove, Willing and Alma.

Towns of Holland Purchase: Canedea, Belfast, Friendship, Hume, Centreville, Rushford, Cuba, Wirt, New Hudson, Genesee, Bolivar and Clarksville.

IN THE FIELD



September 1995 Information on Records Management for New York's Local Governments

Special Issue

Records Disasters and Their Prevention *Being Prepared for the Unthinkable*

When a creek overflowed in the early morning of August 18, 1994, the water flowed downhill into a village in the Southern Tier. The water made its way to lower ground bursting open the doors that lead to the lower level of the village hall. In only a few minutes, water filled both the village's inactive records storage room and the police department's records room with three feet of water. (See Page 3)

Disasters Are Sudden, Unexpected, and Cause Significant Destruction.

This entire issue is devoted to disasters and how to prevent them. The information should help you understand the importance of being prepared for the unthinkable -- a disaster that affects your local government's records.

Disasters are caused by nature -- floods, earthquakes, storms, and tornadoes - or by man -- arson, plugged drains, leaky roofs, and faulty wiring. Some hazards cannot be avoided, but others can be made less severe or eliminated entirely by recognizing and preventing potential risks. Local government officials should know how to take the necessary precautions, purchase the necessary supplies, and plan the appropriate response activities to prevent or minimize potential disasters. This can be accomplished by writing a disaster plan.

How Do You Plan for a Disaster?

Many local governments find it helpful to develop checklists to help them prepare for and react to a disaster. The lists, along with instructions, can then be organized into a sound and effective plan. A disaster plan should include the following:

- ♦ prevention checklist
- ♦ resource list
- ♦ list of tasks to be done immediately following a disaster
- ♦ salvage priority list
- ♦ equipment location list

Copies of the lists should be kept by the chief executive officer and the records management officer (RMO). One copy should be stored in an easily accessible off-site location.

Once the disaster plan is completed, test it. Periodically, plan a disaster drill to make sure all local government officials, employees and public safety officers know what to do, just in case there is a real emergency.

One afternoon in the winter of 1995, a Hudson Valley school district's administration building was destroyed by fire. Investigators determined that the fire was electrical in origin and probably broke out in the records room of the one-story brick facade building constructed in the 1930s. The building and the records it housed were a total loss. (See page 3)

Disaster Prevention

A regular program of building and grounds inspection and maintenance can prevent or reduce common emergencies. Create a prevention checklist that includes the following information:

1. Identify the natural and environmental hazards your records might be subjected to such as tornadoes, floods, earthquakes, or violent rain or snow storms.

2. Identify the vulnerabilities of the building and its mechanical systems. Check the outside for adequate water runoff, accumulation of water on the roof, and properly working gutters and drains. Within the building, regularly check the fire protection, plumbing, electrical, and heating/cooling systems. Remember to include appliances in your check. Make sure electrical wiring is not overloaded, pipes don't leak and windows, and skylights are well-sealed. Identify potential risks to records if there were no heat in the building or if a power outage were to occur.

3. Identify where and how archival and vital records are stored. Make sure that duplicate and security copies of vital records are stored off-site. Check to make sure records are protected by boxes or other enclosures. Records should not sit directly on the floor. They should be raised a minimum of 4" off the floor. Records should not be stored in a basement or other area subject to flooding, or under or near water sources such as water/steam pipes, air-conditioners/dehumidifiers, or restrooms and sewage pipes. Do not store flammable and combustible materials with records or in adjacent storage areas. Keep food and trash away from records.

Disaster Occurs! What Next?

Immediate Action

• Don't panic. Stop the source of the problem. For instance, turn off the source of water if the problem is a burst water pipe.

• Protect or remove your records from the disaster.

• Stabilize the environment. Mold and mildew thrive in warm, moist environment (70° F and 60% RH) and can begin to grow within 48 hours after records first get wet. To stabilize the environment, lower the temperature of the room to below 60° F, and reduce the humidity by using dehumidifiers. Discourage mold growth by using fans to keep the air moving.

Once mold and mildew grow, information on paper records may be irretrievably lost. To retard their growth, the records should be frozen, then freeze-dried.

◆ Contact your Regional Advisory Officer (RAO) or an archival consultant to discuss preservation techniques and salvage efforts before you begin.

Resource Lists

Resource lists direct you to the help, expertise, and equipment needed to cope with an emergency situation. These lists should provide the name of the service and a contact person's name and day and evening telephone numbers. If a disaster occurs, make the appropriate calls immediately.

A telephone list should include: fire department, police department, security, building maintenance, chief executive officer, records management officer, State Archives and Records Administration (SARA) RAO, insurance agent, finance officer, utility companies, legal advisor, electrician, locksmith, plumber, telephone company, carpenter, exterminator, and janitorial service. Additional contact people might include an archival consultant and paper conservator.

An equipment and supplies list might include: freezer space, dehumidifiers, drying space, fans, pallets, plastic sheeting, portable sump pump, portable generator, refrigerator trucks, wet-dry vacuum, unprinted newspaper, plastic trash bags, rubber gloves, data recovery service, freeze-drying service, fork lift, and fumigation.

Salvage Priorities

An up-to-date inventory of records is essential. Using the inventory, develop a records salvage priority list that includes all records essential to the continuing operation of the government. These include records that protect the government's legal and fiscal interests, preserve the rights of constituents, and archival records. The list should include the name of the records and their locations.

Equipment Location List

To prevent and combat potential disasters, there are essential pieces of equipment that should be readily available. The location of this equipment should be part of a disaster plan. The list of equipment should include such items as: fire extinguishers, smoke alarms, and water detection devices. The location of water main, gas, electric, and sprinkler system turn-off valves should also

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A Disaster Occurs! What Next?

Immediate Action

- ◆ Don't panic. Stop the source of the problem. For instance, turn off the source of water if the problem is a burst water pipe.
- ◆ Protect or remove your records from the disaster.
- ◆ Stabilize the environment. Mold and mildew thrive in a warm, moist environment (70° F and 60% RH) and can begin to grow within 48 hours after records first get wet. To stabilize the environment, lower the temperature of the room to below 60° F, and reduce the humidity by using dehumidifiers. Discourage mold growth by using fans to keep the air moving.

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To prevent and combat potential disasters, there are essential pieces of equipment that should be readily available. The location of this equipment should be part of a disaster plan. The list of equipment should include such items as: fire extinguishers, smoke alarms, and water detection devices. The location of water main, gas, electric, and sprinkler system turn-off valves should also

be included on the equipment list. A schedule for routine testing of the equipment should be established.

Real-life Situations: Village Flood

When a police dispatcher noticed the two flooded records storage rooms, he contacted village officials, who mobilized employees to remove the soggy records. The RMO immediately contacted an archival consultant and a SARA RAO. Both advisors recommended that the wet records be removed, frozen and then freeze-dried. The RMO contacted a local cheese processing facility to inquire about freezer space. The company responded by providing forklifts and trucks to load and transport the records to the plant freezer.

In the meantime, the RMO filed for an emergency disaster grant from the Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund (LGRMIF) to help defray the costs of recovering the records.

The village experienced a complete recovery of its damaged records. Why? The village had a well established records management program. The village's records management policy and procedures handbook clearly listed staff responsibilities, who to contact, and contained a copy of the records inventory.

Real Life Situations: School District Fire

The tragic fire that swept the school district took a heavy toll in records and information. Aside from the main student record files, which are housed in individual school buildings, the loss of records from this fire was devastating. Accounts payable, contracts, Board of Education records, tax rolls, special education student files, active personnel records, and an estimated 70 cubic feet of archival records went up in flames. Although some of the records had been microfilmed, some of the master microfilm was stored in the same room with the corresponding source documents.

In the wake of this disaster, the district directed its efforts to reconstructing the vital records needed to resume essential business operations. Most of the work involved identifying and photocopying duplicate records from other sources and sorting over 200 cubic feet of charred, water-damaged records pulled from the wreckage. Working with their RAO, the district applied for and received a disaster grant from the LGRMIF. The expenses incurred by the district were significant: staff overtime, additional clerical support, the cost of recreating tax rolls and other vital records, and printing working copies of microfilm held by SARA.

What can be learned from these two examples?

- ◆ Basements are often inappropriate locations for storing records.
- ◆ Store duplicate or security copies of vital records off-site.
- ◆ Locate freezer space and make contact with the owner.
- ◆ Develop a contact list.
- ◆ Keep copies of the disaster plan, insurance policy, building plans, and current records inventory off-site.
- ◆ Periodically, walk through your facility with government officials and public safety personnel to assess potential risks.

Electronic Records Disasters

Electronic records disasters can range from a temporary interruption, such as a power failure, to a catastrophic disruption that includes the total loss of equipment or data. The more a local government relies on computer technology for creating, managing and storing records, the more precautions it should take to safeguard its electronic data. Local governments can plan for and prevent electronic records disasters:

- ◆ Use an uninterruptable power supply (UPS) to protect against data loss from power failures.
- ◆ Select off-the-shelf software whenever possible and store a complete set of documentation off-site.
- ◆ Obtain source code and documentation for custom written software and store a copy off-site.
- ◆ Invest in virus control software and implement it regularly and consistently.
- ◆ Develop and implement a regular backup schedule and store a complete backup off-site.
- ◆ Maintain an inventory of all hardware configurations and software in use. Store the inventories off-site.
- ◆ Make a backup copy of all software in use and store off-site.
- ◆ Determine the records and files that are essential or irreplaceable. Store copies off-site.
- ◆ Assess recoverability of records and documents from other sources (e.g., hard copies, microfilm, other local government or state agencies with copies).
- ◆ Identify a government with a similar computing environment and enter into an agreement to provide disaster recovery assistance for each other (i.e., to act as a "hot site" for each other and to allow for remote backup via telecommunications).

***Additional Information
and Assistance***

To obtain examples of disaster checklists, information leaflets, fact sheets and instructions for preparing a disaster plan call (518) 474-6926.

For more information on:

Disasters and record preservation, contact Archival Services at (518) 474-4372.

Disasters and electronic records, contact Technology Services at (518) 474-4372.

Disaster Recovery Grants, contact the Grants Administration Unit at (518) 474-4485.

If you have a disaster, or require assistance preparing a disaster plan, contact your Regional Advisory Officer.

Disaster Recovery Grants

Grants of up to \$10,000 are available for disaster recovery. For the purposes of disaster recovery projects a disaster is defined as: *Damage caused by fire, water, man-made or natural phenomena where an immediate response is necessary to prevent the irretrievable loss of vital, permanent, or archival records.*

The disaster recovery program is open to all local governments in New York State, except New York City municipal agencies. Applications for disaster recovery grants may be submitted at any time.

When a disaster occurs, it is critical that the local government *contact the Regional Advisory Officer immediately.* The RAO will draft a site visit report. This report, accompanied by a grant application form (LGRS-1) and a completed proposed budget (FS-10), constitutes the disaster recovery application, which is then submitted to SARA's Grants Administration Unit.

SARA expedites the review and approval of disaster recovery applications. To date, the Commissioner has approved 11 disaster recovery awards totaling \$71,000.



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TOWN OF ANGELICA
ANGELICA, NY

14709

Mohawk Valley Beckons Historians To Come Region V Hosts Annual Meeting And Conference



The Annual Meeting and Fall Conference of AMHNYS will be held on September 21-23, 1995 at the Holiday Inn at Johnstown, New York. Hosts for the meeting will be historians from Region V. A Planning Committee chaired by Lew Decker, Fulton County Historian and municipal historians from Schenectady, Schoharie, Montgomery, Fulton, Herkimer, and Oneida Counties has

planned an excellent array of workshops designed to introduce historians to the Mohawk Valley and to guide them in their work.

The conference will open with lunch on Thursday, September 21. During the afternoon a panel will discuss "Historic Markers." Phil Lord, Coordinator of the State Historic Marker Program will address the group on "A Tale of Two Markers." Alice Begley, Town of Guilderland, Albany County will bring her commentary on "One Historian and her Town's Markers."

A Report will be given on the Schoharie County Bicentennial. Helene Farrell, Town of Middleburgh and other historians will present their story of the county's 200 years.

Wade Wells of the Johnson Hall State Historic Site will provide a view of "Sir William Johnson: Mohawk Valley Baronet."

Evening dinner will be followed by Keynote Speaker, James Morrison, Deputy City of Gloversville Historian. Morrison will appear as Captain James Gardiner of the Tryon County Militia who will offer "An Account of the Revolutionary War in the Mohawk Valley."

— Above illustration by Gerald Maloney —

The Annual Meeting of AMHNYS will be held on Friday morning. At this time regional presidents will report and the Nominating Committee will present a slate for 1995-97.

A report will be presented on the Mohawk Valley Heritage Corridor by the new Coordinator, Karen Engelke.

Milo Stewart of the New York State Historical Association will present on the topic "Preservation of Visual Material." He will be followed by Bruce Reinhold, also of the association, who will discuss "The Yorker Program and the Local Government Historian: Opportunities for Youth Involvement." The afternoon will end with Michael Unthank who will explain "The Decentralization Program in the Arts: Opportunities for the Local Government Historian."

The evening Awards Dinner will feature entertainment by "Galantry" a musical group from Fort Stanwix, Rome, New York who will offer eighteenth century music. Outstanding historians of New York State will be honored by AMHNYS.

Saturday's program will include three presentations. Jackie Murphy, Montgomery County historian, will discuss "Historian as RMO: an historian confronts an Archival Program." William Watkins, Herkimer Home State Historic Site will tell us about "Nicholas Herkimer of the Mohawk Valley." An Open Session with opportunities for questions and comments will be led by President Dr. Marilyn Van Dyke and Acting State Historian Dr. Joseph Meany.

Following Lunch which concludes the conference, self guided tours of the historic homes, canals, forts, and battlefields of the valley will be available.

Outstanding Historians To Be Recognized

At the Awards Dinner of the Annual Meeting New York State's Outstanding Historian for 1995 will be recognized. After a review of the historians' contribution to local history, a traditional plaque will be presented. Photos of the event are placed in the AMHNYS archives.

Jack Rafferty, historian for the Town of Moreau, serves as Recognitions Chair. He is currently polling all the regions asking for their nominations. Nominations are due July 15 in the form of a one page presentation.

Under the current guidelines for selection, an outstanding historian has measured up to the task of being a municipal historian, has produced some "work" of note, has made a contribution to the community, and has expertise based upon length of service.

Nominating Committee To Prepare Two Year Slate

Under the Bylaws of AMHNYS (Article V) an election of Executive Officers takes place at the Annual Meeting every two years. The next election will take place at the fall meeting in Johnstown. The Nomination Committee, appointed by the President, consists of William Johnston, Chair (Region IV - Farmingdale), Laura Prieto (Regions 1 - Carthage), Jean Olton (Region III - Colonie), and Richard Sullivan (Region VII - Chittenango). The committee is currently conducting its search and will present a slate at the Annual Meeting, Friday, September 22 in Johnstown. Regional Presidents have been asked to present name of interested candidates. William Johnston may be contacted at 25 Sherman Road, Farmingdale, NY 11735.



AMHNYS Officers 1994-96

PRESIDENT

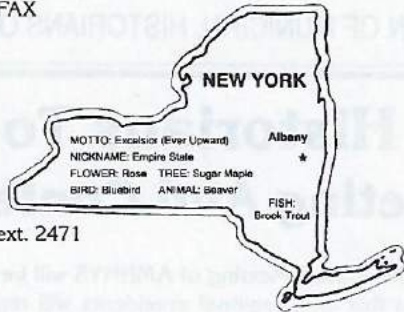
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Telephone: 607-539-6464 ext. 14

President's Message

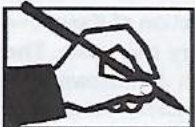


As I complete two years as the President of AMHNYS I would pause to ask you to reflect on our organization. We are young. Having been first organized in 1970 it would seem that we still have many growing pains. Here are some questions we wrestle with:

- * How do we encompass all municipal historians across the state?
- * How do we develop a strong visible image of historians and their work?
- * How do we recognize the outstanding work so many historians produce?
- * How do we contribute as stewards of New York State history?
- * How do we finance our endeavors?

At a time when services are declining and costs need cutting, it becomes necessary for historians to band together to carry out their valuable work and keep their niche in government. It is my hope that AMHNYS can serve as an organization to help all of us. It has been a pleasure to serve during the past two years.

— AMHNYS President Marilyn Van Dyke —



Do You Have A Flair For Writing?

We need more historians to be involved in the production of the Empire Exchange. Please contact Dr. Marilyn Van Dyke at 518-745-4407 (Wednesdays) if you would be interested in joining the Empire Exchange staff.

Many thanks to the contributors for this issue: Dr. Joseph Meany, Mary DeMarco, Dorothy Alsdorf, Dorothy McGee and the Regional Presidents.

Budget Cuts Mean Changes at State Level

Dr. Joseph Meany to Serve as Acting State Historian

With the current paring back of government in New York State, Governor Pataki has mandated cuts in the New York State Education Department. Among those cut was the Office of State Historian. In addition, the NYS Division of Cemeteries in the Department of State was eliminated.

The office of Chief Historian was cut. Dr. Kenneth Ames left the position. Philip Lord, Jr. is now Acting Chief Historian. For the immediate future Dr. Joseph Meany serves as Acting State Historian.

Robert Mulligan, Historian Curator and Tom Elliot, Director of Exhibit Production Facility were laid off.

The New York State Division of Cemeteries will be moved to the office of Attorney General with Edward Hand as the sole remaining staff. Dr. Ralph Perfetto, Director of the division, was released from his position.

AMHNYS/CHANYS Explore Ways To Cooperate

Municipal historians and county historians have a lot in common. The two professional organizations for historians in the state are currently exploring these commonalities along with the differences in the two jobs. We are learning a lot about each other and trying to find ways to help each other.

The AMHNYS/CHANYS Cooperative, sometimes referred to as the Entente Cordiale, has been meeting regularly during 1994 and 95 in Utica, NY. Some of the topics of discussion have included the job description, membership dues, using a pro bono attorney, need for a Department of History, a glossary of historical terms, and certification for historians.

The dialogue will continue with the next session to be held on July 6. AMHNYS representatives are Dr. Marilyn Van Dyke, Mary DeMarco, and Tally Almquist. CHANYS representatives are Tom Eldred, Shirley Tramontana, and Barbara Dix.

Ed Winslow Remembered

On Saturday, July 29 at St. Agnes Cemetery, Route 32, Menands, a memorial ceremony will be held in honor of Edmund J. Winslow, former NYS Senior Historian. On the occasion of the 56th birthday of Mr. Winslow, a standard blue and yellow state marker will be placed on his gravesite. A Mass will be celebrated at Our Lady of Angels Church, Albany followed by a dinner for historians. A reception will follow at Gateway Museum, South Troy. Ed Winslow served as Senior Historian for 23 years from 1967 to 1990.

IN MEMORIAM

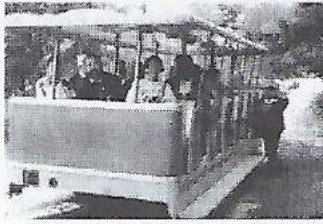
Paul Stapley (Town of Schroon) passed away in the Spring.

Nicholas Meyer (Village of East Williston) passed away in his 90th year on May 6. He was an active member of Region IV, serving as a member of the Planning Committee for the 1994 AMHNYS Conference in Ronkonkoma.

Pearse O'Callaghan, retired Director of the NYS Division of Cemeteries passed away recently in NY City. Mr. O'Callaghan was the initiator of the idea for the NYS Cemeteries Name/Location Project which is currently underway in AMHNYS. Many of us remember his excellent workshops on cemeteries given in 1992 and 1993.

Region IV Hosts Superb Conference On Long Island

— A Potpourri Of History Is Presented —



"Off to Old Bethpage Village"

The fall conference of the Association of Municipal Historians was held at the Holiday Inn at McArthur Airport from Sept. 22-24. The program began with a colloquium, "What Have You Been Doing?" "In this session, newly appointed historians and experienced historians shared information on current projects and

programs. Robert Sisler, Historian for the Village of Port Jefferson, made the next presentation, "Shipbuilding on Long Island," focusing on the four hundred ships which were built in Port Jefferson during the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Edward Smits, Nassau County Historian, detailed the history of Long Island's two planned communities, Garden City and Levittown.

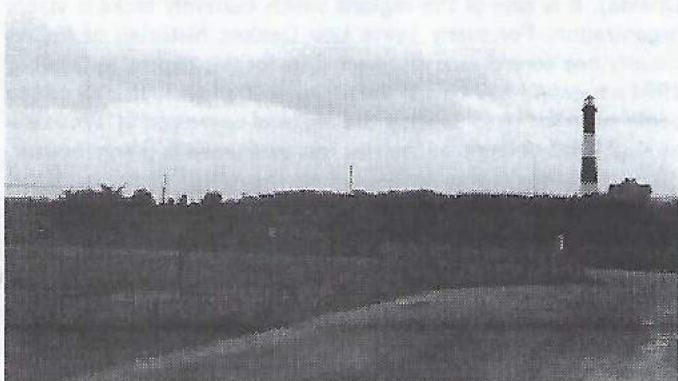
The dinner speaker for this first day of the AMHNYS Conference was the Queens Borough Historian, Henry Ludder, whose presentation was entitled "A Portrait of Long Island."

The Friday session began with "Long Island: Cradle of American Aviation," presented by Joshua Stoff, Curator of Collections, Cradle of Aviation Museum. This was followed by "Rails from the Metropolis" in which Vincent Seyfried, Garden City Historian, spoke about the History of the Long Island Railroad and Wallace Broege, Director of the Suffolk County Historical Society, discussed the work of Hal Fullerton who was employed by the LIRR to promote immigration to the Island.

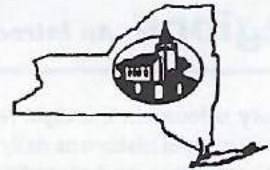
Conference participants spent Friday afternoon on a bus tour of Robert Moses State Park on Fire Island and Old Bethpage Village, a restored 19th century Long Island Village. The tour concluded with a reception and tasting of Long Island wines, sponsored by the Friends for Long Island Heritage.

Natalie Naylor, the Director of Long Island Studies Institute was the dinner speaker on the topic, "Long Island's History and Heritage."

Dr. Marilyn Van Dyke, AMHNYS President, conducted the business meeting on Saturday morning. Michael Lynch from the Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation spoke on the topic, "A Historian's Role in the OPR/HP Self-Study." The concluding session of the AMHNYS Conference was a Concurrent Skills Session involving Archival Skills sponsored by the Long Island Archives Conference and Oral History Skills with Elly Shodell from the Port Washington Public Library.



Fire Island Lighthouse



Committee Launches NYS Cemeteries Name/Location Survey Project — Lynn Fisher Heads First Ever Statewide Service Project To Involve All Historians

Dr. Marilyn Van Dyke, President of the Association of Municipal Historians of New York State, has announced the formulation of the NYS Cemeteries Name/Location Survey Project, a first time service project of the organization which will impact on the state's collected history. The project, designed to take two years, will identify all the cemeteries in New York State by name and location and will develop a catalog for use by the public, local historians, researchers, and others who might be interested.

The project is headed by Lynn Fisher, historian for the town and village of Tully. Other members of the project committee include: Suzanne Meredith, Town of Union historian, Marilyn Robinson, White Creek historian, Thomas Eldred, President of the County Historians Association of New York State and Cayuga County historian, Ralph Perfetto, Director, NYS Division of Cemeteries, and Eleanor Preston, President Tully Area Historical Society.

Town, village, city, county and borough historians across the state will be actively engaged in collecting the survey data which lists a cemetery's name, location, type, status, and first and last burial dates. Individual burials will not be included.

*NOTE: First Project Deadline for Local Historians: Oct. 1, 1995.

For further information contact: AMHNYS NYS Cemeteries' Name/Location Survey Project Committee, P.O. Box 201, Tully, New York 13159.

Archivist Named For AMHNYS

Evelyn Ellis, AMHNYS outstanding historian for 1994 and historian of Lindenhurst, has been named Archivist for AMHNYS. Evelyn will help the organization to preserve its history and to secure its archives. She will be in charge of writing a short history telling our story. In addition, she will keep the scrapbook, photos, and other memorabilia of the organization. AMHNYS dates back to 1970 and was incorporated March 22, 1979. Members having any data on the early days of the organization are requested to send it to Evelyn Ellis, Village Hall, 430 S. Wellwood Avenue, Lindenhurst, NY 11757.

EMPIRE EXCHANGE is published twice annually for members of the Association of Municipal Historians of New York State. Your suggestions and contributed writings are always welcome. All copy for publications should be presented on 8 1/2" x 11 single-sided paper with double-spaced lines. Send your ideas or copy to Dr. Marilyn Van Dyke, Empire Exchange Editor, Town of Queensbury, 742 Bay Road, Queensbury, NY 12804

In The Regions *An Introduction to the 8 Regional Organizations of AMHNYS and their Presidents*

The key to history is found in the eight regions of AMHNYS. Here the local municipal historians daily search for answers from the past, collecting and recording the vast story of those who came before us. Regional Presidents serve as gatekeepers for the historians and the AMHNYS organization. As members of the Board of Trustees they are actively engaged in the work of our organization. In this issue we are introducing the Presidents who provided the copy about their regions. We recognize the "good work" they do as leaders in the regions.

REGION I is located in the upper portion of NYS and includes membership from St. Lawrence, Clinton, Jefferson, Lewis, Franklin, and Essex Counties.

PRESIDENT E. JANE LAYO has served as the leader in her region since June 1994. She is the historian for the Village and Town of Waddington. Her family was one of the original families settling in St. Lawrence County. Her goals include better communications with members and potential members, increasing membership, the designation of a statewide Municipal Historians Recognition Day, a revitalization of the certified historians program, a video recording of regional history, developing seminars/workshops while rotating meetings around the region, and participating in the NYS Cemeteries Project. Jane has also instituted a personal newsletter and visits to the county historians meetings.

Jane says, "I inherited a good region that has presented some fabulous programs to their members and have provided a sound organization beneficial to all. One of my greatest concerns for the future is the documentation of the 20th century and I am working on how to approach this concern."

REGION II (Upper Hudson Historical Federation) includes Saratoga, Washington, Warren, Hamilton, and Essex counties, all of which have a part in the Adirondack Mountains are at some point touched by the Hudson River. While most members of the federation are officially appointed local government historians, all are not. The organization encourages membership from the general public.



PRESIDENT PAUL LODING is completing a 2 year term. He serves as historian for the Town of Kingsbury and the Village of Hudson Falls. His goals are to encourage communication between all historians in the five counties. The group is working on the cemetery project of the state organization.

Paul says, "The Upper Hudson Historical Federation covers what is truly the most historic area of the northeastern United States. From the early settlement of the region in the late 17th century on through the early 19th century the region was the scene of military activity. Armies of France, Great Britain, and the United States passed back and forth through the region. The main route of travel was through the Hudson, Lake George and Lake Champlain corridor. The last military activity was during the War of 1812. Through the 150 years of military activity, easily 200,000 soldiers passed through the region."

On the south end of the region can be found the Saratoga National Historical Park, site of the "Turning Point of the Revolution." On the north end can be found historic Fort Ticonderoga. In between there are no less that a dozen 17th and 18th century battlefields, among them Fort Ann, where the Stars and Stripes are said

to have been carried in combat for the first time in July 1777.

The region was the first in NYS to have an operating canal. The Champlain Canal, connecting the Hudson River and Lake Champlain was opened in 1823, two full years before the Erie Canal. The opening of the canal connected the region economically with the lower Hudson Valley."

REGION III serves about 265 active appointed historians in a nine county area (Albany, Green, Rensselaer, Columbia, Sullivan, Ulster, Orange, Dutchess, Putnam, Westchester and Rockland) surrounding the Hudson River estuary.

PRESIDENT MARIA MACRI was elected in October 1994. From 1990 to 1990 she served as historian for New Baltimore in Greene County. Maria's goals include expanding communication between local historians and improving the support network in the region.

On her region Maria says, "The Hudson Valley is rich in maritime and agriculture history and hosts many colonial sites. There is a broad array of 19th century resource material also available. We have several Urban Cultural Parks in our area, the Appalachian Trail, and a large number of historic parks and interpretive sites."

REGION IV includes Long Island (Nassau and Suffolk) and New York City.

PRESIDENT CHARLES G. MEYER has served as regional president since 1992. He is the historian of the Village of Centre Island.

His first goal he says is to achieve an increase in our membership roles and to develop a subsequent interest in our organization.

Of his region Charles says, "As host zone this past September 1994 for our annual meeting, I was struck by the number of historical assets Zone IV has to offer from Long Island Sound on our north to the Atlantic Ocean and beaches on the south; shipbuilding, whaling; aviation played a special role in the early 20th century; the Long Island Railroad and the development of Long Island."



REGION V consists of the six counties of the Mohawk Valley (Schenectady, Schoharie, Fulton, Montgomery, Herkimer, and Oneida). It is one of the regions which currently lacks a viable organization. For many years Lew Decker, historian of Fulton County has served as a representative for this region. In October 1994 a meeting was held in the region to explain AMHNYS and to begin an initiative to develop the regional organization. While the turnout was not large, an interest was expressed in going forward. Historians in the region agreed to host the AMHNYS Annual Meeting in September 1995 at Johnstown and to share their knowledge of the Mohawk Valley. In addition, historians are getting to know one another by participating in the AMHNYS Cemetery Project under the guidance of Janet Deutmeyer, a volunteer from the Tully Area Historical Society.

continued on page 5

In The Regions

(CONTINUED)

REGION VI was established in the 1970's for the historians in the nine counties of central NY (Cayuga, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Oswego, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne and Yates.



PRESIDENT LYNN FISHER is in the first of a two year term as President. Lynn has served as Co-Secretary for Region VI. She is the historian for the Town and Village of Tully. Lynn also heads AMHNYS' first statewide service project, the NYS Cemeteries Name/Location Project. Her goals include getting to know her region, increasing membership in AMHNYS and CHANYS, involving the county historians in distributing mailings and gathering memberships, forming a Banner Committee, producing the Region VI newsletter, holding regional conferences in the counties not visited in a while, expanding the treasury, encouraging historians participation in local/county meetings and in the NYS Cemeteries Name/Location Project, and to expand and preserve Region VI's archives.

A strong leader in her region, Lynn says, "Some of our geographic features were created or improved by the last Glacial Age of 10,000 years ago. Our highest point of elevation is 19,000 feet in Fabius, NY. The Iroquois League was centered in our region. Seneca Falls was home of the 1st Womens' Right to Vote Convention in the US (1848). One point in the 19th century saw our Pompey, NY people hold the majority of state offices. Syracuse in Onondaga County is home to the over 100 year old NY State Fair while the Finger Lake wineries compete successfully in Europe as well as the US. Many of our businesses: Corning Glass, Carrier Air Conditioners, the Everson Art Museum and history museums like the Onondaga Historical Society and Erie Canal Museum and educational institutions: Cornell, SUNY Oswego, Syracuse University to name just a few, have excellent, far reaching reputations. Our region claims two presidents of US: Grover Cleveland and Millard Fillmore. For over two centuries, visitors have enjoyed our beautiful lakes, valleys, and mountains. From our early plank road north from Syracuse, the 1800 Hamilton to Skaneateles Turnpike and 1825 Erie Canal, our region has been the crossroads of NYS and gateway to western NY and beyond."

REGION VII surrounds the geographical center of NYS. Included are ten counties (Schuyler, Chemung, Tompkins, Tioga, Cortland, Broome, Madison, Chenango, Otsego and Delaware) with four which border the Pennsylvania northern boundary.

PRESIDENT MARILYN G. MOWRY will conclude her two year term in 1995. Marilyn serves as historian for the Town of Scott. Her priority goal is communication within the region and within AMHNYS. "So many local historians are trying to struggle on their own and are not aware of the wealth of help services." Marilyn hopes to attend at least one meeting in each county before her term is up.

Of her region, Marilyn says, "The southern tip of three Finger Lakes reaches into three counties. Our area is basically industrial and farming, consisting of many state and county parks. These parks cover lakes, trails along lovely deep gorges. We can also boast to many higher educational facilities.

Many counties, townships, and villages offer historical societies and museums, offering research



and study tools to help historians with their investigations and to gain knowledge of these municipalities. Several municipalities host festivals, Old Home Days annually and many have celebrated centennials, or are looking to a celebration in the future."

REGION VIII is located in the extreme western part of the state and includes the nine counties of Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Livingston, Niagara, Orleans, and Wyoming.

PRESIDENT WARREN C. MOFFETT has served in the presidency for three and a half years and will complete his term in just six months. Warren is historian for the Town of Aurora and the Village of East Aurora. He presently serves as regional representative on the NYS Cemeteries Name/Location Project. On behalf of his region he does a great deal of traveling to make meetings in central or eastern NY.

Warren says his primary goal is to get more historians from the region to join the state organization. To this end he has been working to sign up members at his regional meetings.

Speaking about his region, Warren says, "Being the most western part of the state, our towns were the last to be settled. After the Holland Land Company acquired the land, settlement started at the end of the 18th and early in the 19th centuries. Thus many towns are celebrating 175th anniversaries about this time. A few will soon have bicentennials."



Meetings in the Regions

Region	Date
I	First Friday April and October Annual Meeting June
II	First Saturday May and October
III	Third Saturday May and October
IV	Sometime in first two weeks of June and November
V	We are organizing the region. To be announced
VI	First Saturday May and October
VII	First Saturday May and October
VIII	First Saturday May and October



AMHNYS members are always welcome!

1995 Outstanding Historians Named By AMHNYS

At a Gala Awards Dinner held on September 23, 1994 during the Annual Meeting and Conference on Long Island, AMHNYS recognized the work of two outstanding historians. Evelyn Ellis of Lindenhurst and Persis Boyesen of Ogdensburg were recipients of plaques denoting their "good works."

AMHNYS Outstanding Historians are selected annually in the regions by other historians and nominated for the honor. Guidelines for selection include measuring up to the task of being a municipal historian as described in the job description, producing some "work" of note, making a contribution to the community, having expertise based upon length of service. The award has been given annually since 1990. The first recipient was Dorothy McGee, historian of the Town of Oyster Bay and the Village of Matinecock.

Evelyn Ellis



"I have tried to encourage residents to preserve the community of the past."

Evelyn has served as the historian of Lindenhurst since 1969. Since early 1970 she has been writing weekly articles on local history for the South Bay's Newspaper. Her more than twenty years of writing has produced a lot of historical copy. As a member

of the Lindenhurst Historical Society (350 members - 75 to 100 at meetings), Evelyn has assisted with writing programs on local history for the group. She was also instrumental in establishing the NYS marker at Valley Forge.

Evelyn has served as Secretary of AMHNYS and as Secretary of Region IV. She was appointed Archivist for AMHNYS in 1994 and is in the process of writing a short history of the organization.

Evelyn has been previously honored for her work in the community by the American Legion Auxiliary Post #1120, by the Association of Suffolk County Historical Societies. In February 1995 she received the Good Citizen Award from the Huntington Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution.

Persis Boyesen



"I keep finding history hidden in places, letters, buildings, anywhere. All of a sudden it will pop out, and that's the search I keep making."

Persis Boyesen has served as the historian of the Town of Oswegatchie and Village of Heuvelton since 1964. In 1986, she was also appointed the City of Ogdensburg historian. As a teacher/educator Persis has made significant contributions to the history of the northern NY area for over 30 years. She edited the *History of Heuvelton and Vicinity* by Corland Smithers. She wrote histories of the Galilee and Heuvelton Methodist churches. She served as a collaborator with Cornell Reinhart for his text on Isaac Johnson, a freed slave in the Waddington area. She was an editor of *Tree Talks*, a publication of the NYS Genealogical Society.

Much of Persis' local research has centered on French origins in the 1750-60 period and British occupation during the American Revolution. She has been involved with archeological digs at Fort La Presentation, military enactments by Forsythe's Rifles Brigade, and local historical plaques.

Persis has been honored by the Ogdensburg Chamber of Commerce and the St. Lawrence Legislature. She also holds the Bessie Walldorf Award from Region I.

Presently Persis serves as Vice President of Region I and is a member of the St. Lawrence Historical Association.

Persis' AMHNYS Outstanding Historian Award was presented on Long Island and accepted by Edna Finn, historian for Saranac Lake. Persis accepted the award at a special reception in her honor on October 30 in the Tiffany Room of the Remington Museum in Ogdensburg.

Our Story Is History

-PR Tells It All-

Contributed by Marx DeMarco, PR Chair

Public relations, according to Webster, is the art of developing understanding, and good will between a person, firm, or institution, and the public. This is a brief, accurate description of one of the major goals in the Plan of Work for AMHNYS.

Understanding and goodwill! These characteristics have been our guide for every item of publicity generated for AMHNYS during the past two years. We began with \$1,000 bills which were distributed to all of the Conference attendees in New York City in 1993. They were also given to each Town Supervisor at the Conference. Historians also received press releases prepared by the Director of Publicity for distribution to their local newspapers. An AMHNYS information booth was part of the public relations plan each year for the display and distribution of pamphlets, brochures, and posters. This year, AMHNYS buttons, and mugs were on display along with a special brochure which summarized the information contained in the Historians' annual reports to Dr. Meany. A scrapbook was begun and is being used for photographs and written information related to AMHNYS Conferences. Region II created a 3' x 5' banner showing symbols from each of the five counties in the Upper Hudson area. Several other counties are beginning to plan for similar banners. Prior to each conference, the eight Regional Presidents received special publicity material for distribution to the Historians in their respective counties. And last, but not least, a number of Historians wore period costumes for the 1993 Conference.

All of these activities were designed to provide information about the invaluable services provided by Municipal Historians and to increase understanding about what Historians must do according to New York State law, how they do it, and why. Since acceptance and goodwill result from understanding, Historians will become increasingly more effective as they collect, protect, and disseminate the vital materials related to their individual communities' past, present, and future.

47 Attend February Conference in New York City

The meeting of the Association of Municipal Historians, held each year in conjunction with the Association of Towns Conference in New York City, began on February 19 with the AMHNYS Officers' Meeting conducted by Dr. Marilyn Van Dyke, AMHNYS President. The 1995 Plan of Work was discussed. New appointments were made for the following committees: Public Relations, Certification, AMHNYS/CHANYS Cooperative, and the NYS Cemeteries Name/Location Survey Project.

On Monday, February 20, AMHNYS historians participated in a joint session with the Town Clerks Association on the topic *What to Do When Disaster Strikes* presented by Prudence Backman, Associate Archivist, SARA. This was followed by a panel discussion by the borough historians: John Manbeck (Brooklyn), William Tieck (Bronx), Doris Rosenblum (Manhattan), Henry Ludder (Queens), and Richard Dickenson (Staten Island). *Interpreting the Financial History of New York* was the final presentation made on Monday by Dr. Joseph Meany, Acting State Historian. A visit to the Museum of Financial History was cancelled by a bomb threat on Wall Street.

On Tuesday, February 21, the historians attended the annual Breakfast Meeting of the Association of Towns. The main speaker for this year's session was Governor George Pataki who outlined his plan to reduce the state's spending. Due to the change in the Governor's schedule, Irving Sloane's presentation *Before the Camera* was postponed to a later date.

Dr. Marilyn Van Dyke conducted the AMHNYS business meeting. Members voted to accept the services of a pro bono attorney when needed. Discussions followed on dues, job descriptions, and certification. A tour of the recently opened Museum of the American Indian at the Custom House followed.

The Wednesday session included special Association of Towns workshops related to labor relations, personnel policy, and NYS Retirement System's pension and death benefits.

Acting State Historian Urges New Research Initiative For Local Historians



With the close of the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the second world war, Acting State Historian Joseph Meany has offered two possible new research initiatives for the Local Government Historians of New York State.

Dr. Joseph Meany

Boom And Bust In The Empire State

This is a project in economic and local history. Local historians would receive introductory training in economic history. They would then be encouraged to examine the economic cycle as it played out in their communities. We know that the nineteenth and twentieth centuries were characterized by alternating cycles of boom and bust. Local historians would scrutinize these periods - the Panics of 1837 and 1857, 1873 and 1893, and even the Great Depression and the OPEC oil embargo of 1973-1974 as well as the alternating periods of prosperity - with a view to identifying and documenting the impact of their particular jurisdiction. The goal would be to select the best dozen or so reports and edit them for publication.

Native Sons And Daughters: New Yorkers And American Westward Migration

This is a project in emigration and local history. We know that New Yorkers played an important part in American westward migration. Jedediah Strong Smith, the first American to reach California by the overland route (1826), was born in Bainbridge originally Jericho, Chenango County, New York. Joseph Smith, founder of Mormonism, experienced his religious revelations (1820) near Palmyra, Wayne County, New York.

Colonel Henry Leavenworth, the founder of Fort Leavenworth, Kansas (1827), was born in Delhi, Delaware County, New York. Generals Philip Sheridan and William Jenkins Worth founder of Fort Worth, Texas (1846), came from Albany and Hudson, New York, respectively. Even William Bonnie, "Billy the Kid," (1859-1881), hailed from Brooklyn, New York. Moreover, although all my examples are men, I believe there is a strong women's history component to this story only awaiting the research to bring it forth.

As with the previous proposal, local government historians wishing to participate will receive training in the techniques of emigration history. They will then be encouraged to search the histories of their communities for sources on the westward movement and settlement of native New Yorkers. They will be encouraged to produce a written report on the results of their research. The best will be selected for inclusion in a proposed publication.

The production of these two volumes will provide increased prestige for the local historians whose work is selected and a boost for the network of New York State local government historians generally.

Membership Is Number One Goal For AMHNYS

— Much work is needed to bring all municipal historians under the AMHNYS umbrella —

Membership is what AMHNYS is all about. The primary purpose and goal of the original founders, Julia Reinstein and Dr. Louis L. Tucker, former State Historian, was communication.

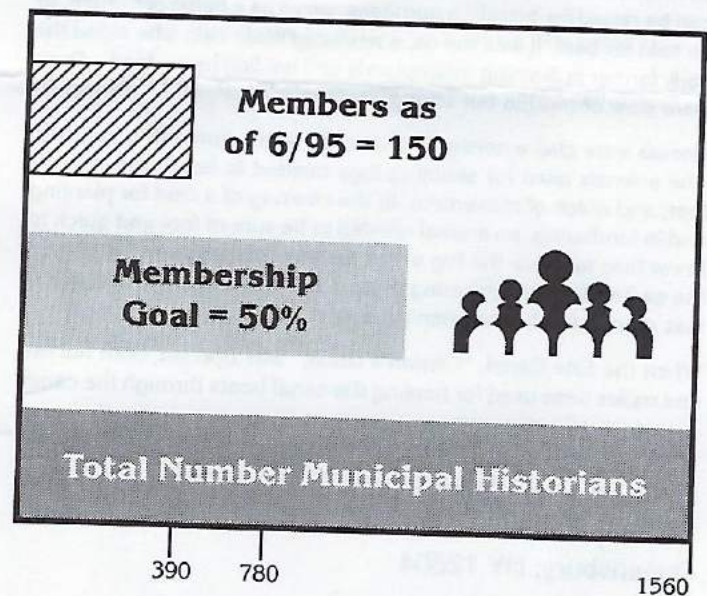
Together we are a strong organization for history and preservation. Together we can exchange views and add to the motivation of our municipal historians.

It is thrilling and productive to hear what other historians are achieving in their municipalities.

Joining sometimes need a one-to-one introduction and encouragement. If every member historian will try to bring in one new member, we will be on our way.

Please send your ideas for increasing membership to the membership chair: Dorothy Horton McGee, AMHNYS Vice President, P.O. Box 142, Locust Valley, New York or any member of the Membership Committee: Everett Lee, Warren Moffett, and Tally Almquist.

1995 Membership Still Short Of Goal

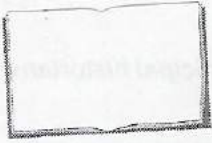


- * Adopt a Historian
- * Collect Dues at Regional Meetings (save postage by mailing all at once)
- * Plan a membership goal in your region (our goal is to have 50% of all municipal historians in AMHNYS this year)

It's Not Too Late!

Send your 1995 membership dues (still just \$5) to Everett Lee, AMHNYS Treasurer, RR 2, Box 517, Rushmore Road, Stormville, NY 12582.

HISTORICAL READINGS OF INTEREST



McCutchen, David. The Red Record: The Wallam Olum, The Oldest Native North American History. Avery Publishing Group, Inc., Garden City, NY, 1993.

This work traces the migration of the Lenni Lenape from Asia to America and explains the Wallum Olum (The Red Record), the first written record of native American history on this continent.

Kindleberger, Charles P. Manias, Panics, and Crashes: A History of Financial Crises. Basic Books, Inc., 1989.

A classical history of financial crises in America. An excellent text for those planning to research the boom and bust periods in their community.

Stilgoe, John R. Common Landscape of America 1580-1845. Yale University Press, New Haven, CT and London, 1982.

An historical study of how the American landscape was carved by the early settlers - an historical approach to land use planning.

ANIMALS INFLUENCE NEW YORK STATE HISTORY

(Contributed by Dorothy Alsdorf, Historian Emeritus, Saratoga County)

It is doubtful if many of us think of animals, either wild or domestic, as having had influence upon the development of our state. The truth is that both groups of animals were extremely influential in making of both our state and our nation.

Because NY State is so diversified in its different areas, it would be just about impossible to say that any single area was indebted to any one animal. For starters, think of the ox. This animal is predominately a beast of burden. An ox is born to a cow, a female bovine animal. If the calf is a male it has several fates ahead. He can be raised for breeding purposes, serve as a beast of burden, or be sold for beef. It was the ox, a neutered male calf, who aided the early farmer in draining swamplands and hauling heavy loads. Oxen were slow of motion but strong.

Horses were also a necessity especially in the lumbering industry. The animals used for skidding logs needed to be strong, sure of foot, and quick of movement. In the clearing of a field for planting and in lumbering, an animal needed to be sure of foot and quick to know how to place the log which he was dragging behind him. In the earlier days of lumbering a good skid horse, generally a mare, was among the lumberman's greatest assets.

When the Erie Canal, "Clinton's Ditch," was opened, both horses and mules were used for hauling the canal boats through the canal

waters. It was generally thought that the mules were best used for that job. Speed was not a requirement so they were quite adequate.

The family horse in many cases was of influence to its owners as well as to the nation. In this area during the Revolutionary War there was a woman known as "Blue Belt." She was of the Arnold family. Horses were her "big thing." Just preceding and during the time of the Battle of Saratoga, Blue Belt rounded up horses for the colonial forces to use. Her story is fascinating but can only be mentioned here. Our army needed many things and horses were among the greatest one of these needs. Many historians credit our victory in a large part to these horses.

An early horse in the revolutionary period was Belrose. He was a black stallion owned by Captain Hezekiah Baldwin, a veteran of the French and Indian War and still an active soldier of the Revolutionary War. Belrose carried saddle bags of adler ash from Newcomb to Glens Falls. In the beginning these ashes were used in making paint but later were a basic ingredient for gunpowder. His trip was made by himself twice and sometimes three times a week.



Dr. Marilyn Van Dyke
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TOWN OF ANGELICA
Jennifer C. Gunter
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Corning, New York 14830

Empire Exchange 





Special Issue DHP DOCUMENTARY HERITAGE PROGRAM

This issue of *For The Record* is devoted to New York's **Documentary Heritage Program (DHP)** established on September 1, 1988, when Governor Cuomo signed the Documentary Heritage Law. The DHP provides support for archives, libraries, historical societies, and other programs that collect, hold, and provide access to historical records, and for organizations providing advisory services to such programs. Project grants are available to strengthen historical records programs, arrange and describe records, encourage use, develop improved techniques and approaches to the management of historical records, and support related activities. The Law indicates a priority for projects that improve the documentation of racial and ethnic groups and of underdocumented subjects, institutions, and activities.

The nine Reference and Research Library Resources Systems (3R's) receive DHP aid to provide advice and training to historical records programs in their regions. Funds are provided for the central administrations of CUNY and SUNY to guide development of campus archival programs. The State Archives and Records Administration (SARA) administers the program.

The Documentary Heritage Program: Continuity and Change

The Legislature acted during the 1993 State Budget process to provide that at least \$500,000 will be made available annually to the Documentary Heritage Program (DHP) from the Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund. The two programs have very similar goals and methods. Although there is no guarantee that this funding will continue beyond the December 1995 Improvement Fund sunset, there is, for the first time, a basis to

plan for the DHP operations beyond a single year.

As this newsletter goes to press, the State Archives and Records Administration is seeking advice of the State Historical Records Advisory Board, the Local Government Records Advisory Council, and the regional DHP services sponsors to reconsider priorities and refine delivery systems for maximum effectiveness and impact, from now until December 1995. ♦



Mohawk basketweaver Mary Adams at home on the Akwesasne Reservation. This photo is just one kind of record that folklorists use to document this craft; oral history is another. The NY Folklore Society received a DHP grant to help it ensure the permanent survival of such documents created by folklorists.

Documenting the Life of Everyday New Yorkers



both document this dynamic reality and to foster understanding of it.”

Folklore Project

Another project, sponsored by the New York Folklore Society, will make important information on the lives of New Yorkers available statewide. New York has had a unique system of publicly funded folklorists, as well as numerous independent folklorists, for a number of years. The Folklore Society wants to ensure the permanent survival of documentation being created by folklorists. These materials include oral histories with members of ethnic groups discussing how they learned and practiced a particular craft; collections of folktales from particular regions or groups around New York; and the folklorists’ own written, photographic, audio, and video records of exhibits, folklife events, and other community projects.

A Folk Archives Council, established with assistance from a Documentary Heritage Program grant in 1992, is developing guidelines to help folklorists manage their documentation as they create it and ensure that it can be placed in a library or archives. The Council will also introduce archivists to the world of documentation produced by folklorists, and to how it can fill important gaps in information about the life of everyday New Yorkers. The Council will also sponsor workshops for folklorists and archivists. John Suter, Director of the Folklore Society, is enthusiastic about the opportunity to bring valuable folklife materials to researchers around New York State: “Folklore materials are unique, invaluable resources that can be used by scholars conducting social and cultural historical research, sociologists, educators teaching local and world history and the arts, governmental agencies conducting environmental impact studies, and other scholars in related endeavors.”

Both projects described above are excellent examples of work supported by the Documentary Heritage Program to ensure the documentation of *all* New Yorkers. ♦

Everyday life in New York includes domino games at El Balcon Boricua, a Puerto Rican casita in East Harlem. Casitas are built by community members on vacant city lots and used as cultural centers and social clubs.

“We are the people. We go on.” These are the poignant closing lines in *The Grapes of Wrath*. While the lives of everyday people in New York do indeed “go on” amidst the ebb and flow of national and international events, it has always been difficult to ensure that their history survives. A number of DHP projects are contributing to the retention of information about New Yorkers who don’t make the news, but who are part of the cultural, family, and working heritage of New York.

Cooperative Project in New York City

“Ordinary People, Extraordinary Lives” is a project to ensure systematic documentation of New York City’s social history. The project is a cooperative venture of the METRO 3R’s Library Council’s Collection Development and Documentation Strategies Committee, the New York University Program in

Public History, and the Robert F. Wagner Labor Archives. A task force is assessing existing social history documentation in the New York City municipal area, and developing strategies for making information about this documentation more readily available. The project will also sponsor a conference for historical records custodians, historians, museum professionals, and educators to promote better understanding of 20th-century urban social history and, especially, to foster cooperative efforts to preserve and interpret recent New York City social history. According to project director Debra Bernhardt, “Adequately documenting the diversity and complexity of daily life in New York is a daunting challenge. New York is a city constantly undergoing transformation, responding to ever-changing waves of newcomers. A shrinking economic base contributes to underlying cultural and ethnic tensions. Archivists and historians labor under a grave responsibility to

Bringing New York History To The People

Computers have become a potent tool for archivists and librarians to increase access to information about the past. The Documentary Heritage Program (DHP) has made funding available to library systems, historical societies, and archival repositories for a range of automation projects. Today, when library patrons in some regions of New York search regional online catalogs, they will find information about the kinds of historical records that exist in local repositories. Before such information was automated, a researcher would have to spend extensive time searching through printed guides, contacting potential repositories, and talking to librarians and archivists to find relevant materials. Even then a researcher could not be sure he/she had located most or all of the potential sources.

Historical Records in CD-ROM Catalogs

In three of New York's regional Reference and Research Library Resource systems — North Country, Southeastern, and the Capital District — information about historical records holdings is included in the regional CD-ROM catalog. (easily accessible laser disks that tell a researcher what is available on a particular subject in various libraries



Researchers in three of the State's regional Reference and Research Library Resource systems can use computers to find information about historical records in CD ROM catalogs.

and other repositories in the region).

The information about historical records was compiled by the Historical Documents Inventory (HDI), a statewide survey of historical records repositories conducted by Cornell University between 1978 and 1991. When the HDI was completed, information about the historical records in each county was published in a series of over 70 volumes. Today that information is available electronically in the regional CD-ROM catalogs. Now when researchers use Southeastern's automated catalog to seek information on the American Revolution, they will find not only books about the subject, but they also will discover historical records from such repositories as the Adriaance Memorial Library, the Beacon Historical Society, and the Dutchess County Clerk's office.

John Hammond, Director of the North Country 3R's Library Council, emphasizes the importance of the automated access that is available in his region: "Having historical records available in NORPAC, our CD-ROM catalog, is an important way for us to make all of our region's resources available to

our patrons. Especially in a region like ours, which covers a large geographical area, the automated catalog provides users with information before they make a long trip to a library or archives. It also draws attention to the extremely valuable historical resources that are available in public libraries, universities, and historical societies in our region."

With DHP funds, the Capital District Library Council is not only including information on historical records in its CD-ROM catalog, CaDiLaC, but is also trying to ensure awareness and use of this resource. The Council is planning a series of workshops and a spring 1993 publication to show librarians and researchers how to use the catalog to locate historical records.

Other Organizations Automate Access

DHP support for automated access to historical records is not limited to the 3R's. The New York State Nurses Association, the New York Botanical Garden, and the Delaware County Historical Association have received DHP funds to

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Nelida Perez, **Center for Puerto Rican Studies, Hunter College:** *The Belpre and DeArt-eaga papers would have most definitely been lost as there were no longer family members interested in preserving them, or able to do so. Our survey and the DHP support could not have been more timely!*

DHP Reflects New York's Diversity

The exceptionally rich and colorful tapestry of New York's population is woven from the experiences of its people, including those of the numerous ethnic and racial groups who have contributed to the growth and development of the Empire State. The DHP provides funding for projects that identify, survey, and undertake the systematic collection of records that document the experiences of these groups and other underdocumented subjects, institutions, and activities. Some projects entail studies and reports on ways to document these subjects; surveys to locate appropriate records; and meetings and conferences to discuss documentation and collections issues. Others involve arrangement and description of records, increasing access to them, and encouraging their use. The projects described below demonstrate the DHP's commitment to saving the historical records that reflect the ethnic and cultural diversity of New York State.

Puerto Rican Documentation Project

Centro de Estudios Puertorriquenos (Center for Puerto Rican Studies), Hunter College, completed a two-



Teachers who participated in a DHP-supported training institute used historical records to research topics as varied as the Iroquois confederacy and Irish immigration.



Project Archivist Lisa M. Stevenson (right) examines the records of the M.C. Lawton Civic and Cultural Club with past president Juanita Lewis (center) and SUNY at Albany student Gwynne Lee Jenkins. The Lawton Club records were recently acquired by the SUNYA Library as part of the DHP-funded Capital District Black History Project.

year survey to identify records of lasting value to the Puerto Rican community of New York City. The project archivist examined the records of important organizations, as well as privately held manuscripts. Twenty-six collections were surveyed, representing topics ranging from literary criticism, political rights, and activism, to organizational history. These materials, which document social, political, and cultural activities of the Puerto Rican community, have been donated to the Centro's Library and Archives for permanent safekeeping.

Black History Documentation Project

The goal of this State University of New York at Albany project is to survey and develop a plan for the systematic collection, administration, and preservation of historical records relating to the history of blacks in the Capital District. Twentieth-century records relating to individuals and activities in the black community have been tar-

geted, since these records are frequently lost or overlooked. An advisory committee, comprising members of the black community and a project archivist are working to heighten the community's awareness of the importance of its records. A report describing the survey process, methodologies, and recommendations will be prepared and circulated to Capital District repositories and other programs that are interested in black history.

Reinstein Family Records

The emerging role of women and ethnic groups in the early 20th century and the rise of professions in Western New York are documented in the papers of one prominent family, the Reinstens of Cheektowaga, New York. The Cheektowaga Public Library's goal in this project is to arrange and describe textual and photographic materials from the Reinstein Family Collection, 1870-1982. The Reinstens immigrated to the U.S. from Germany in the mid-1870s and gained prominence in Western New York through commu-

DHP

DOCUMENTARY HERITAGE PROGRAM

Bruce Reinholdt, New York State Historical Association:

As we continue to strive for improvements in teaching about cultural diversity, we realize that using historical records...are invaluable for their immediacy, relevancy, and identity. They are compelling for students for their reality. They are close at hand and represent a personal quality to history rather than distance, removed and impersonal.



Historical records of the Reinsteins, a prominent and socially active family in Western New York, include this 1910 10th-anniversary photo of the people who were involved in producing The Daily People, the socialist newspaper. Shown here are Boris Reinstein (third row, last man on right) and Daniel DeLeon (second row, last man on right), a socialist leader and journalist who helped found the Industrial Workers of the World (The Wobblies).

nity involvement of several family members as doctors and real estate developers. The records' subject matter is varied, but includes valuable information on the Reinstein family's role in events connected to the Russian Revolution and on its participation in the Socialist Labor Party in the United States.

"Diversity in Documents," Training Institute for Teachers

The New York State Historical Association, New York State Council for the Social Studies, and the Capital District Council for the Social Studies conceived this project as a response to the State Education Department's "New Compact for Learning" call for educators to use existing cultural resources. It reflects current directions in education that emphasize cultural diversity. In the summers of 1991 and 1992, elementary and secondary teachers from around the State gathered in Cooperstown to learn how to locate, iden-

tify, and incorporate historical records into their lesson plans. "When students examine and analyze historical documents, such as letters or wills, they are able to connect with the past in a more per-

sonal and meaningful way," explained David Golden, Chair of the Capital District Council for the Social Studies. At the end of the institute, teachers returned to their classrooms with document-based lesson plans on a variety of subjects, from the early settlement of Potsdam as seen through the eyes of a housewife, to the life of Irish workers on the Erie Canal, to the Iroquois and their idea of confederation. ♦



As part of a lesson based on historical records, one elementary teacher provided her students with quill pens to create their own records, echoing the educational experience of students from previous centuries.

THE DHP PLANTS SOME SEEDS



In times of budgetary constraints, the importance of Documentary Heritage Program (DHP) grants for strengthening historical records repositories is evident in those programs which have been able to use DHP "seed money" as leverage to gain additional support. Three former recipients of DHP grants for program assessment and planning have now received Federal competitive grants. The Albany Institute of History and Art, the Shaker Museum, and the Juilliard School of Music used DHP grant funds to seek the advice of an archival expert, prepare long-range plans, and establish program priorities. These institutions later successfully applied to the National Historical Publications and Records Commission for grants totaling more than \$200,000 to undertake the priority work identified by their plans. These grants enabled the three programs to evaluate records for their archival value, make them accessible through sound arrangement and description methods, and develop policies to guide their administration and care. This is an example of the importance of the DHP grants program for providing critical resources to help institutions establish sound plans



A small DHP grant acted as leverage for the Shaker Museum to gain a larger Federal grant to ensure that archival documents, such as this lavishly illustrated one, received appropriate care.

Courtesy Shaker Museum and Library

Lorena Garmezy, Curator, **Niagara County Historical Society:** I have appreciated the help and assistance the Documentary Heritage Program has provided to the Niagara County Historical Society. It has been invaluable to the small historical agencies in the region that do not have the advantage of a trained archivist on staff... Your newsletters are filled with excellent information and the workshops I have attended are well organized.

and policies to compete for funds at the national level.

The DHP planted another kind of seed when Potsdam High School teacher Susan Jackson attended the DHP-funded "Diversity in Documents" training institute. With her newly gained knowledge of the educational value of historical records, she helped her students discover historical records at their local museum, historical society, and at their very own

school. The result was "Pride and Progress: A Small History of Potsdam Schools," a booklet that received the Board of Regents 1992 Archives Week Award for Student Research Using Historical Records, Grades 9-12. ♦



Lea Kemp, Chair, DHP Advisory Committee, **Rochester Regional Library Resources Council:**

Through public programming and outreach efforts, the DHP has identified many, hitherto unknown, collections of important documentary materials in the region. It has encouraged the custodians of these materials to make their collections accessible to the public.



Regent Laura Bradley Chodos (left) presents the 1992 Archives Week Award for Student Research to Potsdam High School students Shane Hall, and Daniel Bradish, and their teacher Susan Jackson.

STRENGTHENING HISTORICAL RECORDS PROGRAMS

The Documentary Heritage Program (DHP) is committed to strengthening historical records programs throughout New York State. Each year DHP regional archivists conduct site visits and technical consultations. Their purpose is to assess the strengths and weaknesses of programs; provide advice and assistance to improve programs; help institutions obtain technical information and resources; and actively encourage networking among institutions. The benefits of DHP advisory services are evident in improved policies and procedures developed after DHP consultations.

For example, **The Buffalo General Hospital** began organizing its archival records some time ago, but lacked a full-scale archival program. After a consultation by Western New York DHP Archivist Heidi Ziemer and hospital staff attendance at several DHP workshops, the hospital developed a series of administrative policies governing its archival holdings. Hospital staff formed



Bob Wyer, a Delhi, New York, photographer, took this photo of the Cannonsville General Store in 1940. The town of Cannonsville no longer exists, having been flooded to create the Cannonsville Reservoir, part of the New York City water supply system. Wyer donated his collection of 115,000 negatives to the Delaware County Historical Association.



One room schoolhouse, Delhi School District #2, 1940. Advice from a DHP Regional Archivist helped increase researchers' access to the extensive photograph collection of the Delaware County Historical Association.

a committee to develop a mission statement and collection and accessioning policies. These actions raised the visibility of the archives to the hospital administration. The trustees and officers became interested in using the archives in their community outreach programs and in designing exhibits within the hospital building. The hospital is now developing a records management program which would be linked with the newly developed archives program.

In other cases, technical assistance from DHP archivists has enhanced the capacities of historical repositories. For instance, **The Delaware County Historical Association (DCHA)** is purchasing an automated cataloging system that follows national descriptive standards, after consulting with South Central Regional Archivist Tammy Gobert. By following her recommended approach, DCHA will develop finding aids to facilitate use and also share information about its holdings with the Research

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Strengthening Historical Records *continued from page 7*

Libraries Information Network (RLIN), a national online library data base. This automation will be of significant assistance in providing researchers access to the association's holdings.

The Cunningham Dance Foundation established an archival program a number of years ago in order to document the work of Merce Cunningham and the performances of the Merce Cunningham Dance Company. Although the

part-time archivist had "physical control" over the collection — that is, the materials were arranged correctly, housed in proper acid-free folders and boxes, stored in the best environment possible, and easily retrieved for research purposes — the foundation needed to gain greater "intellectual control" over the collection through automated access. After working with the DHP, the foundation is developing policies about the acquisition and use of its holdings and acquiring specialized software to automate the collection's finding aids. This effort will contribute to the development of uniform standards and guidelines for cataloging dance collections and materials. Once the cataloging software is operational, the foundation and other repositories will be able to share more information electronically. The results of the consultation not only laid important groundwork for improved administration and access to the archive's holdings, but also contributed to the development of cataloging software for dance companies and other repositories throughout the country. ♦

Bringing New York History

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increase access to their holdings through automation. Each of these repositories is using a microcomputer with software designed especially for archives and manuscripts repositories. The software enables the repository to describe its records, as well as to provide online access to researchers. This information can be shared with the national systems such as RLIN (Research Libraries Information Network) and OCLC (Online Center for Library Cataloging). Thus, information about the historical records in Delaware County, New York are now accessible to the researcher in Marin County, California.

In the hands of archivists and librarians, the power of the computer to increase access to information is just beginning to be recognized. The DHP has played an important role in encouraging and supporting libraries and archives to use the power of technology to enhance access to historical records and to better serve the needs of researchers, teachers, business people, genealogists, and others who seek information about the past. ♦

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For the Record is compiled by the New York State Archives and Records Administration and published by the State Education Department. The newsletter is available free of charge to State agencies, local government, and historical records and research programs.

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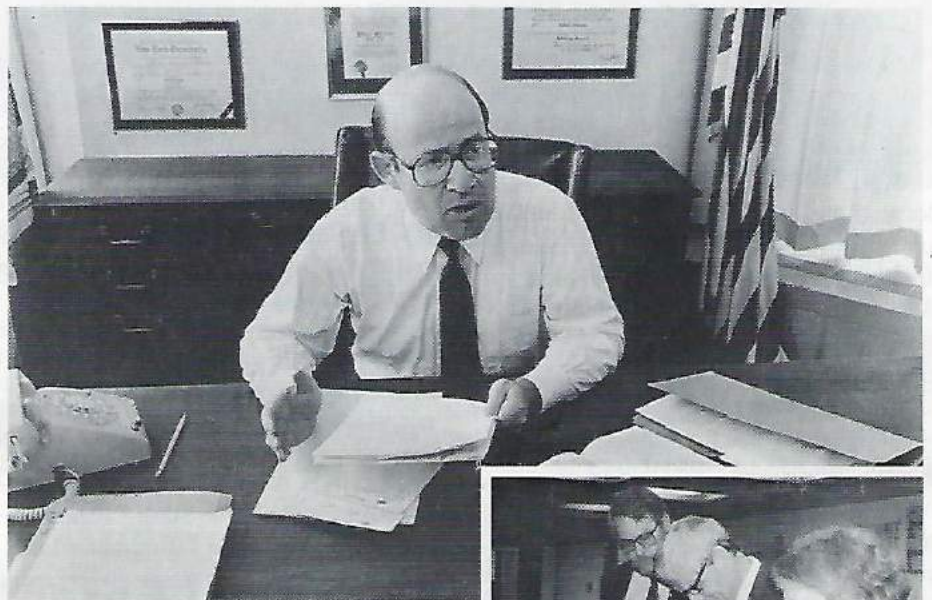
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Attorney General and Comptroller Records Transferred to Archives

Several months before leaving office in December, Attorney General Robert Abrams visited State Archivist Larry Hackman to finalize legal arrangements for the disposition of his executive office files. As a result, Archives and Law Department staff worked together to establish an official records disposition schedule and prepare most of Attorney General Abrams' executive office records for transfer to the State Archives. Some records have already been transferred, and others will follow when they are no longer needed to conduct the Law Department's current business.

Among the Attorney General's files listed for transfer on the official Law



Records from Robert Abrams' four terms as Attorney General will be preserved and made available to researchers at the State Archives.

RIGHT: Before Edward Regan left office, he visited the State Archives to discuss the transfer of records documenting his 14 years as State Comptroller. He is shown here with State Archivist Larry Hackman and Christine Ward, Chief of Archival Services, examining earlier State financial records in the State Archives.



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Department records retention and disposition schedule are subject files, correspondence files, speech files, and litigation files. In total there are nearly 500 boxes of records providing evidence of Mr. Abrams' 15-year tenure as New York's 60th Attorney General. During his four terms, Mr. Abrams gained a national reputation for his leadership in New York and beyond on issues such as

environmental protection, crime victim's rights, and consumer protection.

Mr. Abrams, who initially took office less than nine months before the State Archives opened, became the first New York Attorney General to ensure that his executive office files were sent to the State Archives. In addition, before he left office, Attorney General Abrams

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Attorney General

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initiated a broader evaluation of senior-level staff records in the Law Department. This effort continued as this issue went to press.

Files from Office of Edward Regan

Former State Comptroller Edward Regan, who left in April, also met in advance with State Archivist Hackman to plan for records disposition. Mr. Regan was first elected in 1978 and reelected three times. His records document over 14 years during which he was responsible for oversight of State government accounts and expenditures, supervision of local government fiscal audits, issuance of bonds, and the investment of billions of dollars of State funds. Mr. Regan's executive office files are contained in over 200 boxes. His staff also located and transferred about 20 boxes of executive office files that remained from Arthur Levitt's 23-year tenure as State Comptroller. Regan is now Director of the Jerome Levy Economics Institute at Bard College.

State Archivist Hackman noted that Mr. Abrams' and Mr. Regan's personal interest in the legal disposition of their executive office files reflected, in part, an increased awareness of archives and records management responsibilities and of SARA's services to State agencies. "It is gratifying to know that two of the State's three elected executive officers, including the State's chief attorney, understand the importance of the Archives as the institutional memory of State government and recognize that nearly every State official shares responsibility for record keeping. The action of Mr. Abrams and Mr. Regan are an example to all public officials." Hackman also thanked the Records Management Officers and other staff in the Law Department and the Office of the State Comptroller who worked with Archives staff to inventory, analyze, schedule, and prepare the records for preservation. ♦

On-Line Directory for Finding Information in State Government

Every year State government spends millions of dollars collecting and maintaining vast quantities of information. Government information is kept on forms or in paper files, or it is produced in publications, photographs, audiovisual productions, and maps. Today, more and more information at all levels of government is stored in databases, geographic information systems, computer files, and other electronic formats. While much of this information is valuable to government itself and to citizens, potential users rarely know what information exists, where it is located, or how to access it. One missing link in the evolving telecommunications and information infrastructure that eventually will better connect citizens with their government is a directory of the information resources available through computer networks.

Archives and Library to Develop Information Locator System Prototype

The State Archives and Records Administration and the State Library are jointly developing an Information Locator System (ILS) for State government information. An information locator is an on-line directory that identifies information sources and provides assistance in how to gain access to those sources. SARA and the State Library are uniquely situated to lead ILS development because both organizations already maintain a variety of on-line access tools that help users locate selected State government information sources, and staff in both organizations have extensive experience providing access to government information. The ILS will describe State agency programs; provide listings of government services, personnel, and other directory information; and help users locate a wide variety of useful government information. Ultimately, the ILS may include descriptions of thousands of government information sources with in-

structions for how to access the information, or the names of people to contact for assistance.

SARA and State Library staff are developing a prototype ILS focusing on a limited number of sources and involving a few agencies. The aim of the ILS prototype project is to work out policy issues and technical problems before embarking on a full-scale ILS. The prototype will use software called "Gopher," a popular software tool for organizing information that is accessible through the Internet. The prototype project will also direct users to the contents of selected electronic sources, such as databases and documents, that they will be able to view and download from a computer terminal or microcomputer connected to the Internet.

Technology Creates Challenging Policy Issues

Evaluating information policy and access issues is the most important objective of the ILS project. "The policy issues are more challenging than the technical problems," says Margaret Hedstrom, Director of SARA's Center for Electronic Records and codirector with Jerome Yavarkovsky of the State Library, of the ILS project. "The technology allows us to access and manipulate massive amounts of information easily. But many of our information access tools and policies are remnants of the previous generation when paper and print media were the predominant mode for information dissemination." Gaining all the benefits that new networking technologies promise will require better access tools, like the ILS. Information access policies have to accommodate a new environment where information can be copied, manipulated, reorganized, and reproduced easily. The new technological capabilities raise important questions about access, privacy protection, security, and fair use of government information.

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Archives Committee Meets

Members of the Visiting Committee to the State Archives have been enthusiastic advocates on behalf of improved archival services. Pictured here during a recent meeting are (top row, left to right): **Dr. Sung Bok Kim**, Associate Professor of History, SUNY Albany; **Regent Saul B. Cohen**; **Liisa Fagerlund**, Chief, United Nations Archives; **Rex Smith**, Editor, Troy Record; **Rosemary Harrigan**, Social Studies Teacher, Duanesburg Junior-Senior High School; **George Mitchell**, Counsel and Deputy Commissioner, Division of Criminal Justice Services. (Bottom row, left to right): **Assemblyman Sam Hoyt**; **Pat Molholt**, Columbia University Health Services; **Regent Floyd S. Linton**, Chair of the Visiting Committee; former **Senator John B. Sheffer II**. Other members of the Committee are **Elizabeth D. Moore**, Counsel to the Governor; **John Dojka**, Archivist, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute; **Dr. Bruce Johnstone**, Chancellor, SUNY; **Regent Adelaide L. Sanford**; and **Assemblyman Albert Vann**. **Senator Kemp Hannon**, **Assemblyman Kevin Cahill**, **Court of Appeals Judge Joseph Bellacosa** (replacing Chief Judge Judith Kaye), and **Regent James C. Dawson** are new members of the Visiting Committee.

Archives Acquires More Electronic Records

Reflecting the dramatic changes in the way information is recorded, the State Archives, increasingly, is acquiring records in electronic format — digitized information on computer disks and magnetic tapes. Because such information can be copied and manipulated in numerous ways to meet an individual's research needs, the State Archives has prepared detailed user guides to assist the researcher, and archivists are available to arrange for delivery of electronic files. Recently, the electronic holdings of the State Archives increased with the following accessions:

From the New York State Data Center the Archives accessioned the **United**

States Census of Population and Housing Summary County Files for New York State (1970). These records contain aggregate data pertaining to New York residents (age, sex, race, education, occupation, marital status, family composition, etc.) and their places of residence (type, size, value, utilities, appliances, etc.). Because of the broad range of unique data found in census records, it is anticipated that these files will be heavily used.

The Governor's Office of Employee Relations transferred the **Grievance Tracking Files (1984-1990)**. These records include data from all Executive Branch agencies relating to grievances

and disciplinary actions brought by State employees; they provide unique documentation on State employer/employee relations.

The State Education Department's Information Center on Education transferred its **Basic Educational Data System Institutional Master Files (1967-1981)** to the Archives. These computer tapes contain data on each school district, public and private school, and BOCES in New York including the institution's name and location, enrollment, number and type of professional staff, information on school facilities, and summaries of special educational programs offered. ♦

Research in Progress at the Archives

One of the rewards of an archivist's work is to support research in progress and, later, to view the final products of research. Every day archivists who serve the public in the State Archives research room, on the 11th floor of the Cultural Education Center, have the opportunity to observe and facilitate important and innovative uses of archival records. As indicated by the following examples, research is by a variety of types of researchers on a wide range of topics, and with diverse purposes.

◆ Two biographies of Alfred E. Smith are now being researched using the former governor's correspondence and subject files in the Archives. These will be the first modern studies

of one of New York's best known and most influential governors.

◆ A biographer of eminent jurist Benjamin Cardozo, judge of the Court of Appeals and later justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, has made extensive use of confidential Court of Appeals case memoranda prepared by Cardozo. These, and similar internal Court memoranda transferred to the Archives, are available for research under terms approved by the Court of Appeals.

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1993 ARCHIVES WEEK AWARDS

The Board of Regents and SARA presented the 1993 Archives Week Awards at a luncheon ceremony at the State Education Building in Albany:

- | | |
|--|---|
| William Hoyt Archival Advocacy Award | Former Assemblyman James R. Tailon,
Former Senator John B. Sheffer |
| Program Excellence in an Historical Records Repository | Foundation of the New York State Nurses Association |
| Excellence in Local Government Archival Program Development | Ontario County |
| Excellence in State Agency Program Development | Office of the State Comptroller |
| Student Research Using Historical Records, Grade 5-8 | Meisha T. Lohmann,
Newark Valley Middle School |
| Student Research Using Historical Records, Grade 9-12 | Tim Darnell, Clyde-Savannah Junior/Senior High School |

"Special Inducements to Colored Volunteers in way of Bounties, full U.S. pay, etc., for service in another State" is the last line of this Civil War enlistment broadside in the State Archives. This Niagara County record is from the Division of Military and Naval Affairs, Adjutant-General's Office, Correspondence and petitions, 1821 - 1896.

- ◆ A doctoral dissertation in progress employs Archives records to study the early history of the Rand School (now the New School in New York City). Records of the school were obtained by the "Lusk Committee," a legislative commission which investigated radical organizations during the "Red Scare" of the 1920s.
- ◆ Another doctoral candidate is finding a wealth of information on the New York City school decentralization controversy of the 1960s in the files of former Education Commissioner James E. Allen.

Some of the records in the State Archives help document important chapters in the history of African Americans. For example, a group of researchers interested in African Americans in the Hudson Valley has found abundant data on New York blacks who served in the Civil War. One academic researcher is working on a biography of



Advertisements for Hinckel, Beverwyck, and Dobler, three local breweries, figure prominently in this 1910 photograph of the Erie Canal terminus in Albany. The Thruway Authority will be consulting State Archives records to develop historic resources along the Erie Canal corridor.

the noted African American film director Oscar Michaux; another is preparing a filmography of Michaux' works. Each is using photocopies from the State Archives of scripts of Michaux' films. The Archives' collection of 55,000 motion picture scripts is the largest in the nation; the scripts were acquired by the Education Department's Motion Picture Division, which reviewed and sometimes censored movies in New York between 1921 and 1965.

The Department of Correctional Services (DOCS) is sponsoring research on the incidence of tuberculosis among inmates of Clinton Correctional Facility (Dannemora) in the early twentieth century. The findings may help DOCS develop policies and procedures for the control of TB in correctional institutions today. Consultants hired by the Thruway Authority to survey and develop historic resources in the Erie Canal corridor will be making intensive use of the Archives' massive holdings of canal maps, plans, and drawings. A county historian from a major upstate urban county has studied the operations of publicly sponsored children's day-care facilities during World War II, using War Council records now in the State Archives.

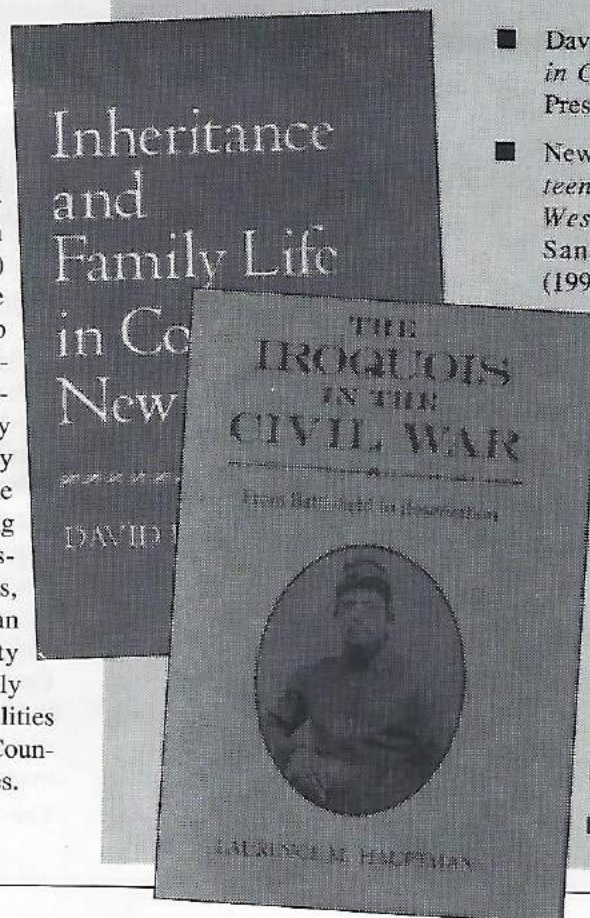
Records can have instructional uses for both children and adults. Increasing numbers of public school teachers are using documents from the State Archives and other repositories to help bring history alive for their students.

In addition to educational, scholarly, and public policy research uses, the State Archives supports extensive use by genealogists, legal researchers, journalists, and others. ♦

New Books Drawing on State Archives

- David E. Narrett, *Inheritance and Family Life in Colonial New York* (Cornell University Press, 1992)
- New York State Museum Bulletin, *Late Eighteenth Century Vegetation of Central and Western New York State*, by P. L. Marks, Sana Gardescu, and Franz K. Seischab (1992).
- Timothy Gilfoyle, *City of Eros: New York City, Prostitution, and the Commercialization of Sex, 1790-1920* (W. W. Norton & Co., 1992)
- Laurence Hauptman, *Formulating American Indian Policy in New York State, 1870-1886* (State University of New York Press, 1988) and *The Iroquois in the Civil War, From Battlefield to Reservation* (Syracuse University Press, 1993).

A sampling of recent publications based on records in the State Archives. Hauptman's *The Iroquois in the Civil War* was a recent History Book Club selection.



BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS FOR MANAGING MODERN RECORDS

The State Archives and Records Administration's (SARA's) **Building Partnerships Project** is studying how the "information revolution" is transforming the way State agencies manage their information systems. One component of the project, which is carried out by staff in SARA's Center for Electronic Records, is a survey of information management policies, practices, and technological trends in 60 of New York's 86 State agencies. As expected, the survey shows dramatic changes in the ways State agencies create and use information. One in every six New York State employees now has a micro-computer on his/her desk, and many of these microcomputers are linked to local and wide-area networks. Many agencies use or are planning to use newer technologies. [See chart.] To address the record keeping issues raised by these new technologies, cooperation is needed among information resource managers, agency records management staff, and SARA's professional records management staff. SARA's role in this changing environment is to develop partnerships among records creators, records users, and the technical staff who manage records.

Applying Records Management Principles to Electronic Records

New York State agencies create and maintain records to document their decisions and actions, meet financial and legal obligations, and be accountable to the public. These requirements do not change when agencies maintain records in nonpaper formats. For example, when an agency adopts an automated accounting system, it still is required to certify that the accounts are true and accurate, to make the financial records available

for audits and for public review, and to develop retention and disposition plans for the records in the system.

Services such as publications and training to help agencies manage modern records have been a successful component of SARA's programs for several years. Through the Building Partnerships Project, SARA staff are expanding their expertise in the management of electronic records so that they can help agencies better define record keeping requirements, determine retention and legal admissibility requirements, and meet long-term preservation needs. One lesson SARA is learning from the

copy of all data and programs in their mainframe computer systems, and some agencies use data administration tools to document and control the data in active systems.

However, the survey also reveals that few agencies have extensive policies for identifying and accommodating public access to electronic records, for meeting audit and accountability requirements, or for managing records created with microcomputers. Many agencies identified these latter areas as critical to future policy development. Perhaps the most important conclusion from the survey is that the needs and approaches of program staff, records managers, and data processing staff can converge to address the challenging record keeping issues.

Members of these diverse communities are seeking answers to more complex record keeping questions such as, "When do e-mail systems create records?" and "How is the legal ad-

missibility of an electronic record ensured?" Program managers, auditors and legal staff in agencies are looking to SARA for advice on these questions.

Policies to Be Developed

SARA will use the survey's results to understand better the tools that agencies use for managing information in electronic information systems, the role of technical staff in meeting record keeping needs of program staff, and the areas where SARA can assist in meeting the challenges new technologies present for record keeping. The survey, along with other components of the **Building Partnerships Project**, will enable SARA to identify and share the best agency approaches to records and information management and assist in the develop-

Continued on page 8

New Information Technologies Being Used or Considered by Agencies

<i>Technologies</i>	<i>Currently Using</i>		<i>Being Considered</i>	
		<i>Percent</i>		<i>Percent</i>
Optical Character Recognition	20	33%	16	26%
Geographic Information Systems	13	21%	15	25%
Digital Imaging	10	16%	25	41%
Full Text Databases	10	16%	16	26%
Electronic Document Interchange	7	11%	23	38%
Object Oriented Programming	6	10%	15	25%
Artificial Intelligence	5	8%	10	16%
Multimedia	5	8%	18	30%

Building Partnerships Project is that data processing staff focus on the management of information technology and data, but it is program staff who are responsible for managing records and meeting record keeping requirements. SARA can help agencies identify diverse perspectives and resources needed to manage electronic records in this complex environment.

Survey Reveals Strengths and Weaknesses

The project's survey reveals that many agencies have excellent policies for insuring the physical security of computerized information and well-developed practices for managing information in mainframe computers. For example, agencies typically employ backup procedures to produce a periodic

Expanding Access to the Archives

In 1993, State Archives reference staff responded to over 30,000 requests for information. The Archives hopes that increased use of information technology, the opening of a satellite office in New York City, and expanded public access hours in Albany will enable it to respond to even greater reference demands in 1994.

Technology to Expand Access

Most requests for information come now through traditional methods of inquiry: personal visit, phone call, or letter. However, an increasing number of researchers are using sophisticated technology to conduct their research, seeking faster and easier access to archival records.

The Archives is planning to take full advantage of technology to expand access to the Archives. All information in the **Guide to Records in the New York State Archives** (as well as additional descriptive information about many records series) is already available in a computerized catalog that can be used at the Archives and can be accessed by anyone with a computer, modem, and phone line.

"The published **Guide** is just the tip of the iceberg for descriptive information about our holdings," said Tom Mills, Director of State Government Records Services. "And, increasingly, we will make computerized information about our holdings available on CD ROM and over the Internet, so that researchers can search using computers at local libraries or even in their offices or homes."

"Beginning next year, if we have funding, researchers will also be able to use their computers to directly access some archival records. This includes records, such as the 1970 and 1980 summary census data for New York, that was originally created in electronic format. Other records, such as heavily used Governor's Bill and Veto Jackets, will be scanned and converted to computer images."

The Archives is also working with the State Library to develop an Information Locator System (ILS), an automated system that will direct users to all types of State government information, regardless of its location. The ILS will help users locate and use the electronic archives, along with all the other information that will be available through the developing telecommunications, or "information highway," system. (See article on p. 2.)

"In ten years, many researchers won't have to visit our research room in Albany because archives, like many other information resources, will be delivered to them via telecommunications networks," said Mills.

New York City Office in Planning Stages

Meanwhile, the Archives also plans to open a research service office in New York City where researchers immediately will have access to the Archives' automated catalog, a variety of other finding aids, and microfilm copies of the most important and heavily used Archives' holdings. An archivist will also be available to advise researchers on potential research projects and offer special training and workshops for Archives' users.

In Albany, the Archives hopes to expand its hours of operation to serve researchers on weekends. ♦

350 Years of Records!

Now Available:

Guide to Records in the New York State Archives

The State Archives holds 350 years of historical records from Dutch and British Colonial times to the present. Available to assist researchers is the **Guide to Records in the New York State Archives**. The 497-page **Guide** is a quality paperback that provides

- ❖ a key to understanding New York State Government
- ❖ organizational histories of 85 State agencies
- ❖ lists of records from each agency and its predecessor agencies
- ❖ index to government functions
- ❖ index to organizational names

Copies are available from the State Archives for \$15.95.

This cartoon of Theodore Roosevelt, who was an Assemblyman and Governor of New York, is one of the many historical illustrations and photographs that appear in the **Guide to Records in the New York State Archives**.



On-Line Directory

continued from page 2

A fully developed ILS will improve public access to a wide variety of government information and will provide important benefits to government itself. By making government information easier to locate, agencies will be able to share more information and make better use of the large volumes of information that government collects and maintains. Related ILS projects are envisioned or underway in the Federal government, some local governments, and several other states. The concept of a national information infrastructure includes a vision where anyone with access to the Internet at home, at work, or through widely dispersed public access terminals will be able to locate and use government information. Although it will take years to develop this vision fully, the ILS project is an important first step for New York State government information. ♦

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On behalf of the Regents and the State Archives and Records Administration, Assemblyman Sam Hoyt (center) presented the 1993 William Hoyt Advocacy Award at Archives Week ceremonies in October. The award, named in honor of Hoyt's father, was shared by former Senator John B. Sheffer (left) and former Assembly Majority Leader James Tallon (right) in recognition of their legislative efforts for archives and records management programs.

Building Partnerships

continued from page 6

ment of policies that meet government's and the public's information needs.

SARA: Present Services for Modern Systems

The Building Partnerships Project provides SARA with the direction needed to refine and augment the services it currently provides to agencies for managing modern records. SARA currently

provides workshops on managing electronic records, using optical imaging systems, and ensuring the legal admissibility of electronic records. In addition SARA has issued publications on optical imaging, managing electronic records in office systems, optical character recognition systems, and legal admissibility of electronic records. These tools and services help agencies create adequate documentation and manage records in an environment of rapidly changing technology. ♦

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HISTORY DIRECTIONS

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE NEW YORK STATE HISTORIAN

WINTER 1994

The following is excerpted from an address presented by Joseph F. Meany Jr., Senior Historian in the New York State Museum's Office of State History, to the annual meetings of the Association of Municipal Historians of New York State [AMHNYS], held in New York City in February 1993, and the County Historians Association of New York State [CHANYS], held in Albany in March 1993.

The Local Historians Law [Arts & Cultural Affairs: Chap. 57.15] states: "the State Historian, at regular intervals, not less than once a year, shall indicate to the local historians the general lines along which local history material is to be collected," and by extension conducted.

Over the years, this mandate has been honored more in the breach than the observance. For a long time I have considered it a missed opportunity that I would like to put right. In December, Louis Levine, Director of the State Museum, asked me to assume responsibility for our office's liaison to the local government historians. As part of an action plan for local historians, I proposed to give an annual ad-



Hugh Hastings, First State Historian

New York: The State of History

dress early each year in order to review the past year's activities in history and to set some priorities for the coming year. It is the time of year when the President and Governor present their annual State of the Union and State of the State addresses and, in a modest way, I take these as my model.

As this is my inaugural effort in this endeavor and since we are after

all historians, I thought it would be useful to review the history of the State Historian's Office and its relations with the historical community from its inception in 1895 down to the present. Finally, I will review the details of the action plan for local government historians that I submitted to Lou Levine in January.

The Early State Historians

The first State Historian of New York was appointed in 1895, following the enactment of legislation creating the office. [Chap. 393 of the Laws of 1895: AN ACT to provide for the appointment of a State historian and for the compilation of the military and naval records of the State.] Although as a journalist and politician he lacked formal training in history, Hugh Hastings, the first State Historian who served from 1895 to 1907, was responsible for the publication of *The Papers of Daniel Tompkins* (published 1898-1902), as well as the *Papers of George Clinton* (1899-1904). These documentary editions of the papers of two of New York's most important early governors pointed the way to further scholarly activity by the Office of the State Historian.

Hastings was succeeded in 1907 by Victor Hugo Paltsits, one of the most famous and feisty State Historians. Paltsits outlined his ideas on the office in an address on *The Function of the State Historian of New York* delivered to the annual meeting of the New York State Historical Association in Albany on October 13, 1908.

During his tenure, Paltsits became embroiled in a major bureaucratic battle with Andrew S. Draper, the Commissioner of Education, who created the mighty State Education Department by combining, under the Board of Regents, the responsibilities of the Superintendent of Public Instruction for elementary and secondary schools with the Regents oversight of higher education. In 1911, when Draper succeeded in also annexing the Office of the State Historian (and making it subordinate to the Commissioner of Education), Dr. Paltsits resigned in protest. Paltsits went on to become one of the most distinguished directors of the New York Public Library.

Paltsits was succeeded by James A. Holden, a Glens Falls journalist. Holden was interested in North Country history and entered the then current controversy over the burial place of Lord Howe, a popular British general killed at Fort Ticonderoga in 1758. [See James A. Holden, "The Campaign of 1758: New Historical Light on the Real Burial Place of George Augustus, Lord Viscount Howe," *Transactions of the New York State Historical Association*, X (1911)].

The bulk of Holden's energies, however, was devoted to salvaging historical records and museum objects from the disastrous Capitol fire of March 1911. Today, his personal collection of research materials is preserved in the Glens Falls Public Library.

The year 1916 marked the first time someone other than the governor named the State Historian of New York. In that year the Commis-

sioner of Education and the Board of Regents appointed James Sullivan, a school administrator. Sullivan, however, was a trained historian with a Ph.D. from Harvard University. Following the tradition established by Hugh Hastings, the first State Historian, Sullivan returned to the work of documentary editing, completing the first three volumes of *The Sir William Johnson Papers*.

Sullivan's administration included the years of United States' involvement in World War I, and it was due to his foresight that the New York State Legislature enacted the Local Government Historians Law in 1917 mandating the appointment of a historian as a public officer in every city, town, and village in the state. These first local government historians were to assist the State Historian in documenting the service of New Yorkers in the "Great War." It was the first network of officially-appointed local historians in the country.

In 1923, Sullivan was succeeded by the distinguished historian Alexander C. Flick, then Professor of History at Syracuse University. It was during Alexander Flick's 17-year tenure that the Office of the State Historian saw its most scholarly and prolific period. Flick continued the publication of *The Sir William Johnson Papers*. For the sesquicentennial of the American Revolution (1925-1932) Flick produced *The American Revolution in New York: Its Political, Social and Economic Significance* (1926). His crowning achievement, however, was his service as editor of the 10-volume *History of the State of New York* (1933-1937).

This publication, completed with the collaboration of Dixon Ryan Fox, President of the New York State Historical Association and of Union College, was one of the landmark achievements of the Office of the State Historian.

The Great Depression

The Great Depression dealt the publications program of the State Historian a severe blow. There was a shortage of paper, and budgets were cut drastically. During the 1930s, the attention of the office perforce shifted from publications to projects inspired by FDR's New Deal. These included the New York State Committee on Geographic Place-Names which recorded traditional place names and still recommends name changes to the Federal Committee on Geographic Place-Names; the State Historical Records Survey which compiled and published a comprehensive guide to historic records repositories in New York; and the State Historic Marker Program which authorized the erection of thousands of roadside historic markers marking sites of historic significance usually nominated by local government historians. These blue and yellow tablets became one of the most characteristic and familiar sights along New York State highways.

It was also in the 1930s that the network of local government historians was extended by authorizing the appointment of borough and county historians. It is interesting to note however that as governor, FDR, himself the local historian of the Town of Hyde Park, New York, vetoed the provision for salaries for the borough and county historians.

World War II

With the retirement of Alexander Flick in 1939, his son Hugh Flick became Acting State Historian. After Hugh Flick's entry into military service in 1940, he was succeeded by Arthur Pound, a well-known literary figure. The publications and marker programs, however, became casualties of the Second World War, and Pound's energies were taken up in organizing arrangements for the protection of the state's historical records in

the event that the state capitol came under Axis air attack.

The Corey Years

Following World War II, Arthur Pound was succeeded by Albert Corey, perhaps the best known of all the State Historians of New York. A Canadian by birth, Corey was Professor of History at St. Lawrence University at the time of his appointment as State Historian. During Albert Corey's 17-year tenure the focus of the Office of the State Historian shifted dramatically and, I submit, not necessarily for the better.

During the Corey administration, the Office of the State Historian was given responsibility for managing the state's historic site system. These thirty-some sites and structures were transferred from the Conservation Department and the transfer reflected the increasing emphasis on historic preservation and restoration that followed the success of the Colonial Williamsburg Restoration effort funded by the Rockefeller Foundation in Virginia.

Although under Corey's administration four more volumes of *The Sir William Johnson Papers* were completed, the new responsibilities for the site system occupied the State Historian to a considerable degree inevitably leaving less time and fewer resources for research and publication. In fact, this may be identified as the moment that the Office of the State Historian turned from scholarship to field service. Albert Corey inaugurated a policy of attempting to provide one-on-one assistance to historical societies and history museums, which are chartered by the Board of Regents. This policy, in my view, was never viable since we lacked the staff to meet the needs of what became over 1,600 historical and cultural entities in every corner of the state. It was this vacuum that led ultimately to the organization of the system of regional service organizations - the

Regional Conference of Historical Agencies, the Federation of Historical Services, the Lower Hudson and Western New York Conferences, and the Metropolitan Historic Structures Association - which are now struggling to meet the needs of historical agencies in their areas.

Albert Corey left one more legacy. On the national level, he led the movement that took historians specializing in local history out of the American Historical Association and led to the founding of the separate AASLH - the American Association for State and Local History. This was unfortunate because it resulted in an estrangement between academic scholars and the local historians and historical agency people. In my view, the profession as a whole would have been better served if local historians had remained as an autonomous caucus or committee within the AHA so that the lines of trust and communication that are so badly needed remained open.

This is not to deny Albert Corey's sincere devotion to the cause of local history, a cause for which he worked tirelessly. He spent a great deal of his time in the field helping and encouraging people and, indeed, he suffered his fatal heart attack while on the Thruway returning from a visit to a local historical society in central New York. The AASLH has honored Corey by giving his name to their highest achievement award in the field of state and local history.

Following the death of Albert Corey in November 1963, Milton Hamilton, the last editor of *The Sir William Johnson Papers* was named Acting State Historian and managed the affairs of the Office of the State Historian until his retirement in 1965. During this period he also completed the monumental task of indexing *The Sir William Johnson Papers*.

The Rockefeller Commission

It was in this period that Governor Nelson Rockefeller named a "blue ribbon" commission, chaired by Commissioner of Education James Allen, to study the Office of the State Historian and to make recommendations. In 1967, the Task Force recommended that the State Historian be made Assistant Commissioner for State History in the Education Department and that the responsibilities of his office be divided into five bureaus.

- First, a Bureau of Historical Research; this unit would continue the long tradition of editing and publishing documents related to New York State History. The function is carried on today under the auspices of Charles Gehring's New Netherland Project of the State Library that translates, edits, and publishes - at the rate of about one volume a year - New York's Dutch colonial documents.
- Second, a State Archives; this is the origin of the present and much expanded New York State Archives and Records Administration [SARA], under State Archivist Larry Hackman.
- Third, a State History Museum; while the idea of a separate history museum was quickly scrapped, this marks the inauguration of history as the fourth scholarly discipline at the State Museum, alongside geology, biology, and anthropology; it also marks the creation of a history curatorial unit to manage the State History Collection.
- Fourth, a Bureau of Field Services; this unit would provide assistance to both historical societies and history museums chartered by the Board of Regents and to the officially-appointed municipal and county historians who, since their creation in 1917 and 1932 respectively, were mandated to look to the

State Historian for guidance and direction and to report to him or her annually on their activities. This is the origin of the present Bureau of External Services which provides assistance to historical agencies seeking Regents charters as not-for-profit educational corporations; and the Office of the State Historian, which at present consists of one individual - yours truly!

- The Fifth Bureau was to manage the State Historic Site System, which in 1966 was transferred, first to an entity called the New York State Historic Trust, and later to the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation where it is managed today along with the State's Urban Cultural Park and National Register programs.

Thus, although the Rockefeller Commission's recommendations were not adopted in total and did not result in an aggrandized State Historian's Office, many of the recommendations did come to fruition in one form or another.

When Louis Leonard Tucker became State Historian and Assistant Commissioner for State History in May 1966 the future seemed bright. Clouds began to appear almost immediately however. First, the removal of the site system from his jurisdiction undercut the rationale for an Assistant Commissioner. Since that time, the diminished role of the Office of the State Historian with respect to historic sites has been purely advisory.

Second, in 1969, Tucker's Office of State History was designated the official staff and secretariat for the newly created New York State American Revolution Bicentennial Commission. From that moment forward, the office was consumed with

the planning and execution of the Bicentennial of the American Revolution, eventually becoming less a unit of the State Education Department, and more an adjunct of the Bicentennial Commission. Therefore, when the post-Rockefeller fiscal crises became apparent in the winter of 1976, and all state agencies were required to cut millions of dollars and hundreds of positions from their payrolls, it was not surprising to see this impact disastrously upon the Office of State History.

sponsibilities until 1980. The office was renamed the Division of Historical Services and was integrated into the structure of the New York State Museum for the first time.

In January 1979, a strengthened Division of Historical and Anthropological Services was created within the State Museum bringing together for the first time all the elements of cultural education which concerned themselves with the history and pre-history of human activity in New York State. Paul J. Scudiere, a former research historian, was named director of the new division and, in 1980, he assumed the title of ninth State Historian of New York.

During the decade of Paul Scudiere's administration, while the curatorial unit managed the State History Collection for the museum, the Office of the State Historian addressed the needs of the field. An annual bibliography, *Research and Publications in New York State History*, was compiled and published, each year growing larger and more sophisticated. An annual

meeting, *The Conference on New York State History*, succeeded the earlier "College Conference" for academics only, and expanded to bring together local government historians, historical agency staff, and scholars with a research or teaching focus on New York history. A traveling symposium, *The Seminar on New York History*, intended as a forum for new research in New York State history, met at historical agencies and on college campuses throughout the state, and two publications, *The Working Papers of the Seminar on New York History*, were published. Theme Booklets on topics in New York State history were inaugurated. A computer-based community history project, *The Colonial Albany Social History Project*, was launched as a model de-

State Historians of New York with their Term of Office

Hugh Hastings	1st State Historian, 1895-1907
Victor Hugo Paltsits	2nd State Historian, 1907-1911
John A. Holden	3rd State Historian, 1911-1916
James Sullivan	4th State Historian, 1916-1923
Alexander C. Flick	5th State Historian, 1923-1939
Hugh Flick	Acting State Historian, 1939-1940
Arthur Pound	6th State Historian, 1940-1946
Albert Corey	7th State Historian, 1946-1963
Milton Hamilton	Acting State Historian, 1963-1965
Louis L. Tucker	8th State Historian, 1966-1976
John S. Still	Acting State Historian, 1977-1980
Paul J. Scudiere	9th State Historian, 1980-1990
Kenneth L. Ames	10th State Historian, 1990-present

The position of Assistant Commissioner for State History was abolished along with most of the staff of the Historical Research and Local History Services units. The staff of the office as a whole was cut by more than half from 34 positions in 1976 to 15 in 1977. Those of us who knew Len Tucker were delighted to learn that he had become the Director of the Massachusetts Historical Society, the oldest and most prestigious state historical society in the nation and an organization that he continues to lead today with his customary quiet good judgment.

Following Len Tucker's dismissal, John Still, chief of the History Curatorial Unit, was named Acting State Historian, a position he filled in addition to his curatorial re-

mographic study that could be replicated in communities all over the state. Finally, a three-day residential workshop, *The Institute for Local Historians*, was begun at the Institute for Man and Science in Rensselaersville, New York, to train newly-appointed local government historians, to expose local historians to first-rate scholars and hands-on training, and to create a cadre of motivated local historians who would carry the message to jurisdictions across the state.

Unfortunately, with few new resources beyond the commitment of our staff, it has proved impossible to institutionalize most of these initiatives. In May of 1990, Kenneth L. Ames succeeded Paul Scudiere as State Historian. An American Studies specialist from the Winterthur Museum in Wilmington, Delaware, Ames' primary responsibility is the exhibit program of the State Museum. Tragically, Ed Winslow, the man who for 20 years was the office's liaison with local historians, died in August 1990 and, as you know, many of the initiatives mentioned above have languished since then.

This brings my tale down to the present. In December, Louis Levine, Director of the State Museum, asked me to take responsibility for the Local Government Historians as of January 1, 1993. He asked me to prepare an action plan for how our office will manage this program.

Program Rationale

New York State has had an officially-appointed State Historian since 1895, and a network of appointed local government historians since 1917. At present this network consists of 62 county and borough historians, 61 city historians, 938 town historians, and 566 village historians; 1,627 jurisdictions in all. In addition, 34 jurisdictions have appointed assistant, deputy or cohistorians often as a means of introducing

a successor. One jurisdiction, Greene County, has named a Minority County Historian. Thus at full strength there are 1,661 local historians. Currently 137 jurisdictions (11.9 percent of the total) are vacant. Twenty-three jurisdictions have named a historical agency to discharge the duties of the local historian. This is a practice that we discourage because of the potential conflict of interest for a historical society director who, as local historian is a public officer, but as society director reports to a private board of trustees. Nevertheless, it is a trend that we can expect to continue since it offers historical agencies the opportunity to capture the budgets of the local government historian's office.

County and municipal historians are mandated in the Local Historians Law to look to the State Historian for guidance and direction and to report to him or her annually on their activities. In addition, local historians traditionally look to the State Historian's Office to provide education, training, and expertise on a wide variety of subjects relevant to their responsibilities. Because the Office of the State Historian is part of the State Museum, the local government historians represent for the museum a legally mandated, statewide, historical outreach program that provides a contact person in every county and municipal jurisdiction in the state. For these reasons, the local government historians are an important and potentially valuable resource for the State Museum.

Goals

1 Our first goal must be to acquire more complete knowledge of the local government historians and the work that they do, and to begin to quantify that information so that it can be measured and compared and some useful conclusions drawn from the data.

The first task will be to establish a standardized Annual Report Form

beginning in 1993 that will allow the collection of data on the local historians and their activities.

I am aware that many of you have already sent in your annual report. While your obligation has been met, I would ask you, when you receive the new form, to consider taking a few minutes to complete it. I think it will clarify your thinking about your job and it will permit us to include your data in the aggregate and thus make our picture more complete.

Subsequent tasks will be finding the resources to quantify the data from the annual reports and to establish a data base for compiling statistics on the local historians. Secretarial support is an absolute necessity. Currently the files are being maintained at a minimal level through the generosity of a volunteer, Morris Moses. While some progress has been made in organizing the files, more work is required if we are to respond to even a minimal level of inquiries.

2 Our second goal is to revitalize the Office of the State Historian and thus increase the visibility of the State Museum statewide.

The task here is simply to accept invitations to speak to the local historians at their professional conferences, regional meetings, and other venues. I intend to do this. A modest travel budget is required to support this activity.

I also propose to discharge the mandate in the law that requires the State Historian to provide annual direction to the local government historians by delivering an annual address early in each year. I envision this address as a report on the "State of History in New York" in the previous year and a charge to the local historians for the coming year. A third task, also part of the revitalization of the State Historian's office, will be the appointment of an active State Historian. In this regard, I expect to present to Lou Levine

this year a paper outlining the history of the office and laying out the options open to him regarding this appointment.

3 Our third goal is to improve the quality and professional performance of the local government historians and to construct mechanisms to measure progress and assess results. This is a more long-term and more difficult proposition.

Education and training are the best ways to improve professionalism. To this end, I propose an annual one-day workshop for newly appointed historians. This orientation session would be held early each year, beginning in 1994, at the State Museum and would be patterned on similar orientations sponsored by the Education Department for newly elected school board members. In addition, workshops on historical topics should be offered, if requested, at the two annual AMH-NYS and two annual CHANYS meetings. I expect to call on my colleagues on the State Museum staff from time to time to share their expertise.

A more long-term task will be to formulate, and get agreement on, a curriculum for ongoing training that will include an introduction to the various subject areas required of a local government historian. These include American and New York State history, architecture and historic preservation, folklore and oral history, statistics and quantification for the historian, computer science, practical photography, archeology and cultural anthropology, archival methods and material culture, documentary editing, social history, genealogy and family history, as well as economic and environmental history, military history, the history of American art, and the history of medicine and disease. Moreover, finding some method of systematizing delivery and institutionalizing the curriculum once agreed upon will be a formidable future task.

Regular communication with the local government historians is essential. I recommend a quarterly newsletter and will attempt to include notice of current research and publications in New York State history. Recognition by the New York State Museum will be continued in the Edmund J. Winslow Award for Excellence that annually honors excellence in a single project by a local historian, and in the Franklin D. Roosevelt Professional Achievement Award that honors lifetime achievement by a local government historian in the name of the most famous New York State local government historian - FDR, historian of the town of Hyde Park.

4 Our final, and perhaps least tangible, goal is to inspire the local government historians to more professional, more active, and more committed roles in their communities.

This is best accomplished by setting an example and by showcasing the work of others on the State Museum staff and elsewhere who represent community history from both a scholarly and a public programming perspective. The Colonial Albany Social History Project is an excellent, replicable example of the kind of demographic study that many local historians could undertake. The project has already served as the model for similar studies in Dutchess, Westchester, and Putnam counties. Likewise Philip Lord's research-based public programming based on the history of inland navigation in the Mohawk/Erie Canal corridor represents a potent example of the possibilities open to local historians in the area of community history programming.

5 Certain historical anomalies in the structure of the local government historians require correction. While the least populous county in New York State (Hamilton County, 1990 population 5,279) is represented by a county historian and 10 municipal historians, the five

boroughs of New York City with their populations in the millions are represented by only a single borough historian in each borough.

The task here is to amend the Local Historians Law to permit the appointment (without fiscal implication) of a local government historian for each of the 52 Community Boards of Greater New York. This would correct the demographic inequity while at the same time recognizing the historical identity of New York City neighborhoods and perhaps bringing an historical consciousness to the neighborhood level in New York.

6 In the near future I will form a joint technology committee of county and municipal historians to explore the creation of an "electronic highway" linking local historians with computers through a system of "E" mail, and to investigate the possibilities of providing access to computers to more local historians. I will ask for volunteers with computer literacy and/or grants experience to serve on this committee.

7 I want to keep our focus on the 50th Anniversary of World War II through August of 1995. After all, this will be the last opportunity for historians to speak to the participants in an organized way. For the rest of 1995, I will sponsor a broad-ranging discussion of possible themes that we as a group would like to see the local historians explore. It is likely that more than one theme will emerge. The Cold War continues the 20th century/50th anniversary focus, but there are many other possibilities - none of them mandatory. I look forward to your participation in that series of discussions.

Conclusion

I want to conclude with two practical matters, official addresses and correspondence with the State Histo-

Continued on page 15

CHANYS FALL MEETING

The County Historians Association of New York State (CHANYS) held its fall meeting at the Minnowbrook Conference Center in Blue Mountain Lake, New York, October 17 - 19. Theme of the meeting was Adirondack History.

Following a trustees meeting on Sunday afternoon, the group gathered for cocktails and dinner in the main lodge, a rustic setting with a huge Adirondack fireplace and a smashing view of Blue Mountain

Lake and the mountains beyond. Following dinner the membership adjourned to the classroom building a short distance away for the keynote address by Verrick Chittenden of Saint Lawrence University. Chittenden's address, "Don't Trip Over It: Finding Local History in Everyday Life," was informed by his work as head of TAUNY, Traditional Arts of Upstate New York, an innovative folklore and folk art program. His slides and video of New York folk art were both entertaining and thought-provoking.

On Monday morning, the program featured a panel, "How Local Government Historians Can Write Their Way to Fame and Fortune - And Avoid Trouble," ably and humorously chaired by Gerald R. Smith, the Broome County Historian. Panelists were Laura Lynn Scharer, Jefferson County Historian, and John Wilson, Wyoming County Historian and longtime editor of *Wyoming History*.



"A Cozy Nook in West Bay, Blue Mountain Lake," photograph by E. Bierstadt, 1886. Courtesy of Jerold Pepper and The Adirondack Museum.

Following lunch, the meeting continued with a session on "Underwater Archeology and the Colonial Shipwrecks of Lake George." Presenters were Joseph Zarzynski, a high school history teacher and trustee of the Lake George Historical Association, and D.K. Abbass, a professional archeologist. Zarzynski serves as Executive Secretary of Batteau Below Inc., a not-for-profit educational corporation. Batteau Below's mission is to educate the public regarding the preservation of submerged maritime resources such as historic shipwrecks, especially those in Lake George. The organization sponsors archeological projects designed to discover and collect data on historical shipwrecks and to nominate them to the National register of Historic Places. Zarzynski described his involvement in diving activities that resulted in the rediscovery of the sunken remains of clusters of colonial batteaux as well as the discovery of the 1758 radeau *Land Tortoise*, claimed to be Ameri-

ca's oldest intact warship. Abbass, the contract archeologist who supervised the underwater survey of the radeau, described her role in directing the diving team as well as the problems encountered. Both presentations were accompanied by startling images of the wreck on side scan sonar and underwater photography.

Some free time was allowed for hiking and a few hardy souls ignored the rain and took to the

woods after the afternoon session. The Monday evening speaker was Jerold L. Pepper, a historian and librarian at the Adirondack Museum in Blue Mountain Lake. Pepper's lively presentation was entitled "One Grand Unbroken Domain: A Slide History of the Adirondack Park." Following the evening address the group gathered before the fireplace in the main lodge for a session of story-telling, ghost stories mostly from the four corners of the haunted Empire State.

The CHANYS business meeting was begun on Monday and concluded on Tuesday morning after breakfast. Following the reading of the minutes and the treasurer's report, the group heard a report by Lewis Decker, Fulton County Historian, on the initiative to secure borrowing privileges for local government historians from the New York State Library. The membership unanimously passed three resolutions

Continued on page 15

AMHNYS FALL MEETING

The Association of Municipal Historians of New York State (AMHNYS) held its fall 1993 meeting at the Holiday Inn in Kingston, New York, September 23-25. Theme of the meeting was Dutch Heritage in the Hudson Valley Region.

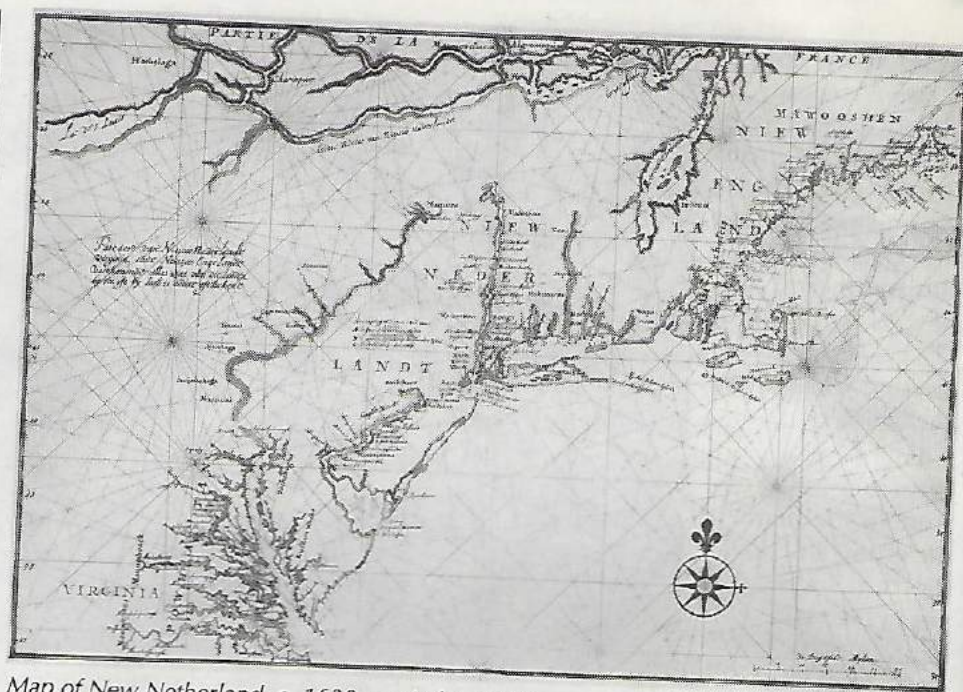
The meeting opened with the customary Awards Banquet. This year the late Andrea Shaw, former President of AMHNYS, Historian of the Town of Amherst, Erie County, and Director of the Old Amherst Museum, was honored. Shaw died in July after a brief illness. Warren C. Moffett, Historian of the Town of Aurora and Village of east Aurora, Erie County, will carry the award to the Shaw family.

Speaker at the Awards banquet was Hudson Valley artist Leonard E. Tantillo who showed slides illustrating the Hudson River School of Art. Tantillo, also showed examples of his own scrupulously researched and richly detailed work. Tantillo specializes in subjects depicting the history of the Hudson Valley. He is currently at work on a large painting depicting the Hudson River sloop *Experiment* returning to Albany after its epic voyage, 1785-1787, to Canton, China. The work was commissioned by KeyCorp.

The evening concluded with live entertainment by folk singer and musician Richard Bala. Bala's repertoire included traditional work and folk songs of the Hudson Valley.

On Friday morning, the program featured a panel discussion of "The Modern Renaissance in New Netherland Studies." The panel was led and moderated by Charles Gehring, Director of the State Library's New Netherland Project, and editor and translator of the Dutch Colonial Documents.

Martha Shattuck reviewed recent



Map of New Netherland, c. 1630, copied c. 1665.
Harrisse Collection, Library of Congress.

scholarship in New Netherland History and distributed a valuable bibliography of recent titles.

Janny Venema, a former secondary school teacher in the Netherlands and Research Assistant for the New Netherland Project, described contacts the project has had with institutions in Europe and anticipated cooperative activities.

Nancy Zeller, also with the New Netherland Project, discussed "Teaching New Netherland History in the Schools" and showed model fourth and seventh grade curriculum packages she and Janny Venema had developed in cooperation with the Glenmont School District. The project was funded by a grant from the New York State Archives and Records Administration (SARA) designed to promote the use of primary sources in school curriculum.

Also on Friday morning, Joseph Algar, Historian of the Town of Bethlehem, Albany County, offered

for sale the publication *Bethlehem Revisited: A Bicentennial Story, 1793-1993*. The book is available for \$29.00 plus \$4.00 for shipping and handling and is available from Bicentennial Publications c/o Bethlehem Town Clerk, 445 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, NY 12054.

Concurrent tours of the New Paltz "Huguenot Street" Historic District as well as the Kingston Historic District were offered in the afternoon.

The AMHNYS business meeting took place on Saturday morning, September 25, 1993. Dorothy Horton McGee, Historian of the Town of Oyster Bay, Nassau County, presented the text of a revised constitution and bylaws as recommended by her committee. A discussion ensued with several revisions suggested by members. The revisions were generally accepted and a clean copy of the proposed constitution and by-laws will be circulated to the membership.

The Nominating Committee, chaired by William Johnston, Historian of the Town of Bethpage, Suffolk County, presented the new slate of officers:

- Marilyn Van Dyke, Historian of the Town of Queensbury, Warren County, President;
- Dorothy Horton McGee, Historian of the Town of Oyster Bay, Nassau County, Vice-President;
- Barbara B.M. Kone, Historian of the Town of Caroline, Tompkins County, Secretary;
- Everett Lee, Historian of the Town of East Fishkill, Dutchess County, Treasurer.

There being no other nominations the membership present unanimously directed the secretary to case a single ballot thereby electing the slate as presented.

Bill Johnston also brought the membership up to date on the plans of Region IV (New York City & Long Island) to host the fall 1994 meeting. Current plans call for the meeting to be held at the Holiday Inn at McArthur Airport in the Town of Islip, Suffolk County. Bill distributed promotional literature on Long Island and extended an invitation to all members to plan to visit the island next fall.

Louis Decker, Historian of the Town of Gloversville and Fulton County, presented a resolution supporting his initiative to secure borrowing privileges for Local Government Historians at the New York State Library. Bipartisan legislation to that effect is to be introduced by Senator Hugh Farley and Assemblyman Jack McEneny (former Albany County Historian). The resolution passed unanimously.

Joseph Meany, Senior Historian with the State Historian's Office at the State Museum, offered a Resolu-

tion in support of the current Budget Initiative of the Office of Cultural Education which would provide funding increases of \$2 million for the State Museum and State Library and \$1 million for the State Archives. Meany explained the proposal, with emphasis on its implications for the State History Office. The resolution was unanimously accepted. The text of the resolution is as follows:

RESOLUTION

Whereas, the people of New York State have, since 1917, enjoyed the work of the unique network of officially-appointed, Local Government Historians who exist in every political jurisdiction of the state, and

Whereas, these Local Government Historians are responsible for collecting, preserving, and interpreting the history of their communities for the benefit of all people, and

Whereas, the Municipal Historians of New York State are mandated in the Local Historians Law [Arts & Cultural Affairs: Chapter 57-15] to look to the State Historian of New York and his staff for guidance, direction and to report to him or her annually on their activities, and

Whereas, the Municipal Historians of New York State traditionally look to the State Historian's staff to provide education, training, and expertise on a wide variety of subjects relevant to their responsibilities, and

Whereas, the Office of the State Historian of New York is a part of the New York State Museum, and

Whereas, the State Museum has, in the past two years, lost twenty-

three percent of its staff [over forty positions], and

Whereas, these cutbacks in the professional staff of the State Museum have seriously eroded the ability of the State Museum and the State Historian and his staff to provide needed statewide services, and

Whereas similar cuts have seriously eroded the services provided to Local Government Historians by the New York State Library [in the area of circulation services and especially in the critical area of acquisitions of recent works in New York State history], and

Whereas similar cuts have seriously eroded the services provided to Local Government Historians by the New York State Archives and Records Administration:

Now therefore we, the Association of Municipal Historians of New York State, representing 61 city, 938 town, and 566 village historians of New York State, respectfully request the Governor and leadership of the New York State Legislature to support the budget initiative of the Office of Cultural Education which will provide critically needed resources to the State Museum, State Library, and State Archives.

Unanimously passed at the fall meeting of the Association of Municipal Historians of New York State held in Kingston, New York, September 25, 1993. The resolution was sent to Governor Mario Cuomo, and will be sent to all New York State legislators. **ID**

Book Review

With Hand and Heart—The Courtship Letters of Franklin B. Hough and Mari-ah Kilham; January through May 1849 (Vivian G. Smith, editor; Rhonda Orlieb, illustrator; North Country Books, Inc., Utica, 1993. For more information contact Lewis County Historical Society, P.O. Box 277 High Street, Lyons Falls, New York 13368, or phone (315) 348-8089).

The key to understanding the appearance of this collection of letters from 1849 is the stature of Franklin B. Hough as a 19th century whirlwind of accomplishment in history, science, conservation, government, education, and medicine. Absent his later mark in the world, it is unlikely these letters would be in print much less, after almost a century and a half, extant.

Hough, among historians, is probably best known for his *History of St. Lawrence and Franklin Counties, N.Y.* (1853) and other historical works, and for his role as superintendent of the state censuses of 1855 and 1865. In another realm, he is remembered as a pioneer in forest preservation, working as the first forestry agent for the Federal government in Washington and as publisher of the *American Journal of Forestry*. His geological interest resulted in the discovery of a mineral called "houghite." The *Dictionary of American Biography* (1932) credits Hough with 78 publications in history, meteorology, climatology, education, law, and civil records, in addition to works edited and translated.

Hough's reputation and accomplishments aside, the correspondence with Kilham appeals to modern readers by enabling them to

experience the thinking of two 19th century, northern New Yorkers as they committed themselves to marriage. Readers looking for documentation of Hough's work as a biologist or historian, on the other hand, are likely to be disappointed. To be sure there are references to his interests in nature and history, but the focus of the letters to his future wife is a mixture of observations of his daily life combined with the entreaty, dreaming, flattery, and longing that provided the framework for a projected idyllic marriage with Kilham. For modern readers the Hough letters sometimes create the climate of eavesdropping and even embarrassment, as if they had stumbled into a private conversation and would prefer to back away discretely before discovery.

What is most surprising, perhaps disappointing, but certainly interesting is the ordinariness of the affair. The ideas and emotions expressed here are not promethean. Hough seemed caught up with the idea of an imagined, blissful marriage at hand, one in which his wife would offer him tea or supper upon his return from a late medical call (for he was working full time as a physician at that point). Kilham seemed awed and grateful that a more accomplished individual has chosen her to be his wife, and her letters were cautious so that she'd not sour the affair before its consummation. Gradually, as her marriage approached, she became more outspoken, but mostly she followed Hough's lead in commenting upon topics he raised rather than introducing new ones of her own.

It is important to note that marriage was decided early in the chronological run of these letters, so we, as well as the writers, spend little time in wondering if a proposal

is going to be offered. One was offered and accepted on February 14 or 15, when Hough met Kilham during the only visit during the period of correspondence. (It should be noted here that the two were acquainted a few years before when Hough was a teacher and Kilham a pupil in a public school. Hough subsequently married, but his first wife died, leaving him with an infant daughter.)

Perhaps most interesting to the modern reader, after acknowledging the form and content of the negotiation between the two writers, are Hough's comments about the current events in his life. For example, he wrote to Kilham about the death of a young woman in his community who had taken an abortifacient. Hough told Kilham that the woman's paramour had come to him seeking such a substance, but that he (Hough) has indignantly shown him the door. Hough speculated what would have happened to him if he had provided the material and been discovered.

In another letter, Hough described an uncomfortable situation in which he found himself. After stopping for dinner at the house of an acquaintance who was the father of a marriageable daughter, Hough discovered that the girl's brother was claiming that Hough was "paying attention" to the girl. Hough assured Kilham that he was looking forward to their pending but unannounced wedding and that he had no interest in the other "red head, freckle face long and lean form of a family of blemished character."

There are references to institutions as well as to interests which presage Hough's accomplishments. He refers to the emblem of the Lewis County Society for the Acquisition of Useful Knowledge, for

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There are references to institutions as well as to interests which presage Hough's accomplishments. He refers to the emblem of the Lewis County Society for the Acquisition of Useful Knowledge, for

which he devised a logo. There are mentions of plants, those which he placed around his house and those which he noted in his travels. He reported an invitation to publish a catalogue of St. Lawrence County plants similar to one for Lewis County. He told of columns he had written or would write for local newspapers. And he told Kilham that he had surveyed some Indian forts and intended to "send the maps and description to Albany to the Regents where they will be published at the state's expense." (April 21, 1849)

Hough wrote Kilham often about his work as a physician. He suggested that he labored very hard to preserve lives. At the same time, he had a good business. "So you see we will be able to live comfortably and respectably if we enjoy good health, and without the toil and labor which agricultural business and the dairy impose upon the female members of a household." (March 28, 1849)

Readers are left with the sensation of having witnessed the doubts and frailties of a man struggling with a difficult situation and who saw a marriage as a remedy for much of his unhappiness. If we did not know from other sources of Hough's great success, we would leave these letters somewhat saddened by his condition when he wrote them although hopeful that he and Kilham found happiness together. Knowing what we do of his success as a man of the world and as a father of eight children with Kilham, our departure from the volume is bittersweet. 

Geoffrey Stein
Associate Curator, NYSM

LGH Bulletin Board

This "bulletin board" is open to all local government historians to share information of general interest with other local historians, or to seek information. Send short items to: Office of the State Historian, 3097 C.E.C., Albany, NY 12230; Attention: *History Directions* "Bulletin Board."

CRM = Cultural Resources Management

Local government historians will be interested in a new publication from the National Park Service. The title of this informative monthly magazine is *CRM Cultural Resources Management: Information for Parks, Federal Agencies, Indian Tribes, States, Local Governments and the Private Sector*.

Recent (1993) issues have dealt with such varied topics as "Teaching with Historic Places," (Vol. 16, No. 2); "Preserving Lighthouses," (Vol. 16, No. 7); "Architectural Study Collections," (Vol. 16, No. 8); and much, much more of interest to anyone involved in historic preservation and interpretation.

CRM is available free from the U.S. Dept. of the Interior, National Park Service, Cultural Resources, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127.

Recently Arrived

The redoubtable Rufus B. Langhans, Historian of the Town of Huntington, Suffolk County, has supplied the latest in his series of editions of primary sources of Huntington and Long Island history. Edited by John C. Bakel, they are *Long Island Military Regulations: 1664* and *Long Island Indian Affairs: 1664-1681*. For more information contact the Historian's Office at 228 Main Street, Huntington, NY 11743. As with all publications sent to us by local government historians, these items have been deposited in the local history section of the New York State Library so all New Yorkers will have access to such research.

Institute for Westchester & Local History

The Institute for Westchester and Local History at the State University of New York College at Purchase was inaugurated at a luncheon and reception at the SUNY Purchase campus on Friday, October 1, 1993. Speakers were Prof. Clyde Griffen of Vassar College who spoke on "The Promise of Local History" and Ann Gordon, Editor of the Susan B. Anthony & Elizabeth Cady Stanton Papers, who spoke on "Going to the Sources."

The institute extends an open invitation to all local government historians, historical societies, museums, archives, residents of Westchester, Rockland, Putnam, and Bronx counties, SUNY students, and history enthusiasts generally to participate in their teaching and research programs. Those interested in courses, internships, or research programs may contact Prof. Lisa Keller, Director, Institute for Westchester & Local History, Humanities Room 1061, SUNY College at Purchase 10577, or phone (914) 251-6589 or 251-6550.

Continued on page 12

The Edmund J. Winslow Award for Excellence

In 1990, the New York State Historian authorized the creation of a new award for excellence in the performance of the duties of a local government historian. The award was named in honor of the late Edmund J. Winslow, Senior Historian, who for 22 years was responsible for overseeing and encouraging the activities of local government historians.

The award will be considered, though not necessarily awarded, annually and will recognize one exem-

plary project or accomplishment in a given year. Categories of achievement may include research and publications, public and scholastic programming, historic preservation and conservation, and the overall advocacy of local history within the community.

The nominating form must be accompanied by evidence of outstanding achievement. In addition, at least three letters of endorsement from the nominee's appointing official, another person from the nomi-

nee's jurisdiction, and either a municipal or county historian.

The deadline for nominations for calendar year 1993 must be post marked not later than April 30, 1994.

Return nominations to:
Office of the State Historian
New York State Museum
Room 3097, Cultural Education
Center
Albany, New York 12230

LGH Bulletin Board, continued from page 11

Historic Earthquake Information Wanted

Seismologists at the New York State Museum's Geological Survey are searching for personal accounts, photographs of damage, and any other information about four earthquakes that occurred in the 20th century:

Attica, Wyoming County, August 12, 1929

Warrensburg, Warren County, April 20, 1931

Massena, St. Lawrence County, September 5, 1944
(particularly original photographs from the *Massena Observer*).

Essex and Hamilton Counties, October 7, 1983

The information will be used in an education package the museum is compiling for teachers around the state. Anyone who experienced any of these earthquakes or has primary sources relating to them, or photographs of damage they caused should contact:

Gary Nottis, Geological Education Specialist
New York State Museum,
Geological Survey, Room 3136 CEC
Albany, New York 12230

Awards Given for Scholarship at the State Museum

The Kerr Prize has been awarded to Stephan Bielinski, Director of the Colonial Albany Social History Project, for the best article published in *New York History* in 1992. His article "A Middling Sort: Artisans and Tradesmen in Colonial Albany" appears in the July 1992 issue. The Kerr Prize has been awarded annually since 1971 to recognize scholarly excellence.

Kenneth Ames, State Historian and Chief of History, received the Henry-Russell Hitchcock Award from the Victorian Society in America for his book *Death in the Dining Room and Other Tales of Victorian Culture* (Temple University Press, 1992), and for his contributions to Victorian studies. **11**

THE EDMUND J. WINSLOW AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

1993 NOMINATING FORM

Local Government Historian: _____

Jurisdiction: _____

Official Address: _____

Summary of Project, Achievement, or Accomplishment: _____

List of Supporting Materials Attached: _____

SOUTH CENTRAL
RESEARCH
LIBRARY
COUNCIL

215 North Cayuga Street
Ithaca, New York 14850
607/273-9106

June 1993

To: All participants of the Documentary Heritage Program
From: Pamela Goddard, Regional Archivist

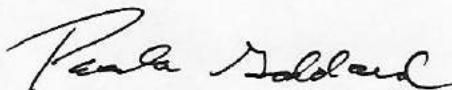
The Documentary Heritage Program Advisory Committee and I are pleased to present this Directory of Historical Records Repositories involved with the Documentary Heritage Program in New York's South Central region. It is our hope that this directory will become a useful tool for increasing networks of historical records programs.

The directory includes libraries, historical societies, academic and corporate archives, and municipal historians, and is organized by county for ease of regional use. We encourage all those involved in the use and management of historical records to send feedback and corrections of this directory. Consider it a work in progress. Over the next year the DHP advisory committee hopes to increase both its accuracy, and the amount of information it contains.

During the past nine months I have had many valuable experiences getting to know records repositories and their personnel through round table meetings, field visits, and training workshops. The input of your ideas and concerns has been helpful in assessing the needs of historical records programs, and it is our hope that useful resources have been made available. I know that I will have the benefit of a broader awareness of regional archival concerns as I return to my position with the Tioga County Historical Society.

The future of the Documentary Heritage Program looks bright, with new funding coming from the Local Government Records Program. As the program is newly funded, it is being evaluated and will take on renewed focus and direction. This promises to be an exciting time, as statewide mandates challenge us to take a close look at how we can more effectively document the history of New York State.

Wishing us all a bright future,



Pamela Goddard
Regional Archivist, Documentary Heritage Program

**SOUTH CENTRAL
RESEARCH
LIBRARY
COUNCIL**

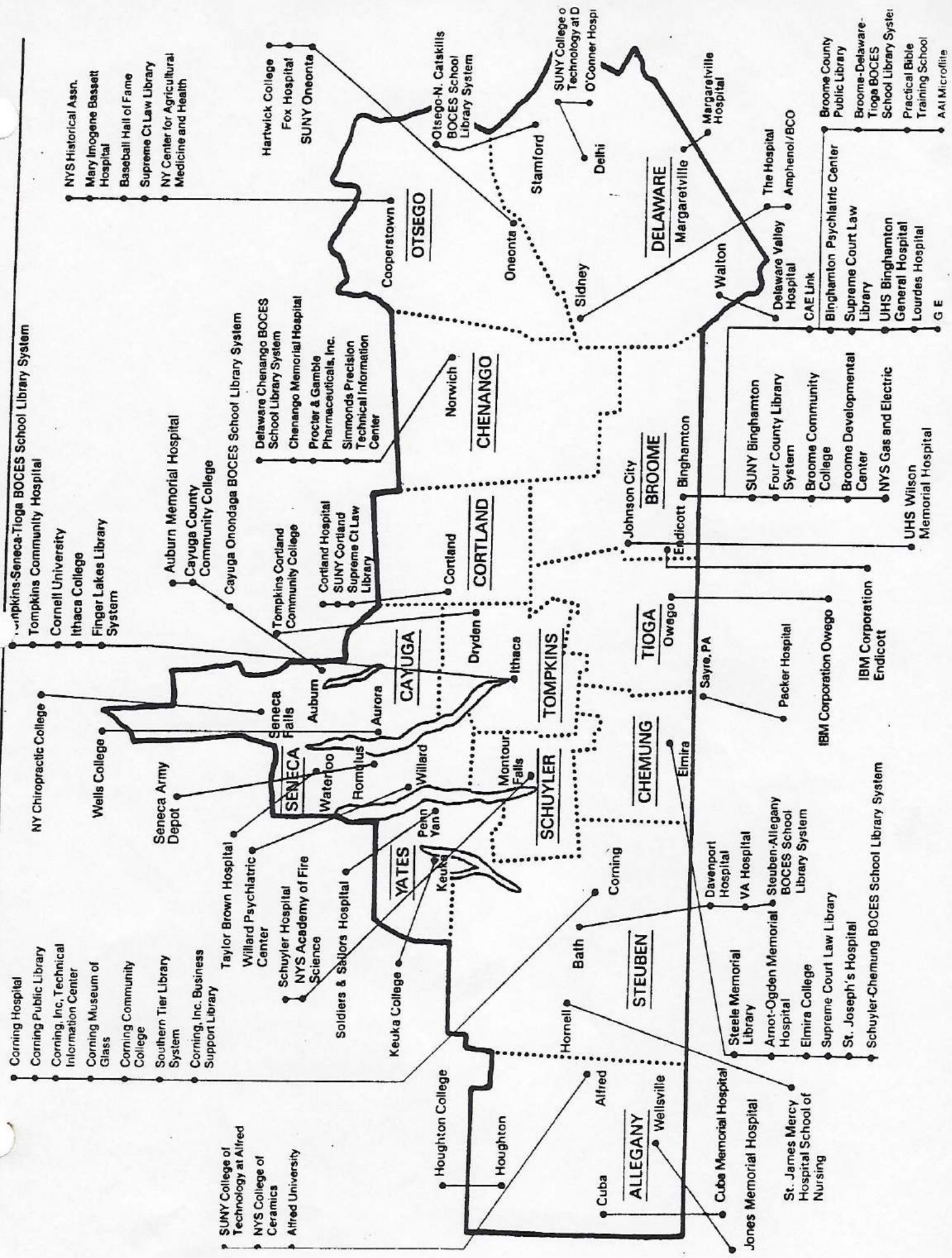
DOCUMENTARY HERITAGE PROGRAM

DIRECTORY

June 1993

**Prepared by
Pamela Goddard
SCRLC Regional Archivist**

MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH CENTRAL RESEARCH LIBRARY COUNCIL



ALLEGANY

Peggy Rase, Historian
81 North Main Street
Alfred, NY 14802
(607)587-8118

Laurie McFadden
Alfred University
Herrick Library
Alfred, NY 14802
(607) 871-2184, (607) 871-2996

Linda Lewandowski
Hinkle Memorial Library, College
Archives & W.N.Y. Historical Collection
SUNY College of Technology at Alfred
Alfred, NY 14802
(607) 871-6313

Elizabeth Gulacsy
Scholes Library
New York State College of Ceramics
Alfred, NY 14802
(607) 871-2948 (w), (607) 974-8897 (fax), (607)
587-9560 (h)

Jean Lang, Town Historian
5146 Kenyon Road
Alfred Station, NY 14803
(607)587-8638

Paula Mitchell, Town Historian
RD
Almond, NY 14804

Mrs. Charlotte Barker, Curator
Almond Historical Society
11 North Main Street
Almond, NY 14804
(607) 276-6166, 276-5565

Twentieth Century Club Library
Almond, NY 14804
(607) 276-5222

Margaret Wood, Historian
27 Dyke Street
Andover, NY 14806

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Lake Street
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Avoca Free Library
Griswold Street
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Bath, NY 14810
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Steuben County Agricultural Society
Memorial Pioneer Log Cabin and Museum
15 East Washington Street
Bath, NY 14810
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Steuben County Historical
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c/o Davenport Library
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Bath, NY 14810
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Corning, NY 14830
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- Laurie Lounsberry
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- Donald A. Rowland, Town Historian
744 East Lake Road
Hammondsport, NY 14840
- Mr. Lindsley A. Dunn, Curator
Glenn H. Curtiss Museum
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Hammondsport, NY 14840
(607) 569-2160
- Greyton H. Taylor Wine Museum
R.D. 2
Bully Hill Road
Hammondsport, NY 14840
- Judith Garrison, Director
Hammondsport Public Library
P.O. Box 395
Hammondsport, NY 14840
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- Robert Oakes, City Historian
58 Bennett Street
Hornell, NY 14843
- Francis R. McBride, Director
Hornell Public Library
64 Genesee Street
Hornell, NY 14843
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- Jasper Free Library
P.O. Box 53
Jasper, NY 14855
- Wilma Welty, Town Historian
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370 Delaware Avenue
Painted Post, NY 14870
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108 Hamilton Circle
Painted Post, NY 14870
- Town of Erwin Museum
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- Pulteney Free Library
Pulteney, NY 14874
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- Anna Cerrillo, Town Historian
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Savona Free Library
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