

CAA

Fall



NEWS

2005

Fall, 2005

CAA NEWS is published by the Capital Area Archivists of New York State.

Officers

Amy Schindler
President, Web Manager
Craig Carlson
Vice-President
Susan D'Entremont
Secretary
Brian Keough
Treasurer
Chris Hunter
Membership Chair

Board of Directors

Rachel Donaldson
John Diefenderfer
Newsletter Editor
Jean Root
Amy Rupert
Emily Southworth
SISP-SAA Liaison
Bonita L. Weddle
Geoffrey Williams

Visit CAA online at
<http://library.albany.edu/caa>

For membership information,
contact Chris Hunter at
(518)-786-4879 or
hunter@schnectadymuseum.org

SAA-SSA Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund

The Society of Southwest Archivists and the Society of American Archivists announced the creation of the SSA-SAA Emergency Disaster Assistance Grant Fund--a fund established to address the stabilization and recovery needs of archival repositories that have been directly affected by Hurricane Katrina.

Any repository that holds archival records or special collections and that is located in Hurricane Katrina-affected areas of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, or Mississippi is eligible to apply for a grant. The repository need not be a member of SSA or SAA.

Grant monies may be used for the direct recovery of damaged or at-risk archival materials; such services as freeze drying, storage, transportation of

continued on page 2

Your CAA Membership

In the past, CAA has had an informal membership year, but as CAA's members and mailing list have grown maintaining an accurate list of members is increasingly difficult. To alleviate some of the confusion, CAA has decided to move to a calendar year membership. Every member of CAA will have the same annual membership renewal date in January effective in 2006.

Please note that if your name is *NOT* highlighted on the mailing label affixed to this newsletter, your dues have not been paid for 2005. A membership renewal form is included with this newsletter and is available online at

<http://library.albany.edu/caa/>.

All questions regarding membership should be directed to CAA Membership Chair Chris Hunter at (518) 382-7890, ext. 241 or hunter@schnectadymuseum.org.

Capital Area Archivists of New York State

materials, and rental facilities; supplies, including acid-free boxes and folders, storage cartons, cleaning materials, plastic milk crates, and protective gear; and to defray the costs for volunteers or other laborers who assist with the recovery.

IF YOU ARE ABLE TO ASSIST OUR COLLEAGUES BY SUPPORTING THE FUND, PLEASE VISIT <http://www.archivists.org/katrina/contribute.asp> TO MAKE YOUR DONATION. BOTH SAA AND SSA HAVE CONTRIBUTED \$5,000 IN "SEED" MONEY TO ESTABLISH THE FUND.



Owing to the extent of the devastation in areas hardest-hit by Katrina and Rita, the full extent of the damage suffered by historical records repositories is not yet known. However, archivists and other information professionals have begun assessing the situation in the Gulf Coast.

On September 14-16, staff of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH) led an Emory University conservator and a Georgia Archives preservation specialist on a tour of nineteen repositories in three Gulf Coast counties. The team, which focused on permanent and vital local government records and local history collections, reported that facility damage was extensive and that mold

growth was a pervasive problem. For more information, see

http://www.sos.state.ga.us/archives/Katrina_Preservation.htm.



Remains of Waveland City Hall

On September 18-20, MDAH staff led a small team of representatives from the Society of American Archivists (SAA), the Council of State Archivists, and Heritage Preservation on a tour of six libraries and archives in Waveland, Gulfport, and Biloxi. The team discovered that the hurricane had demolished several repositories, including Waveland City Hall. Moreover, records in water-damaged repositories were subsequently compromised by mold and high humidity. They also found that even repository personnel whose homes had been destroyed were in many instances coming to work and trying to salvage damaged records. A copy of their report is available online at http://www.archivists.org/news/katrina_visit_report.asp

Current information about the holdings of many New Orleans repositories—and the whereabouts of many archivists displaced by Katrina and Rita—

is available on the Weblog established by the Society of Southwest Archivists (<http://www.ssacares.org>). At present, it seems that a number of Crescent City repositories, among them the Historic New Orleans Collection and the main branch of the New Orleans Public Library (which houses the municipal archives) suffered minimal damage. Some records held by the New Orleans Notarial Archives were submerged in water for a number of days; these records have been removed and freeze-dried, and undamaged records were placed in secure storage. However, the fate of records held by a number of other repositories remains unknown.



File Cabinet

For other areas outside of the city of New Orleans, The Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation is also gathering and disseminating information about the current status of archives and other cultural institutions in storm-affected areas (<http://www.louisianahp.org/rescue/InstitutionsListView.asp>). However, the extent of the damage suffered by repositories

Capital Area Archivists of New York State

in the Gulf Coast parishes is not known: access to southern Louisiana communities affected by Katrina and Rita is still strictly limited, and archival teams have yet to perform any sort of assessment. Given the extent of the destruction in some of these communities, it is likely that many historical societies and local government archives were either demolished or badly damaged.

The American Association of Museums (<http://www.aam-us.org/aamlatest/news/hurricane.cfm>) and the American Library Association (<http://www.ala.org/ala/online/hurricanekatrinanews/katrinanews.htm>) are also posting reports about the status of archives, libraries and museums affected by Katrina and Rita.

◆
**University at Albany
Dedicates National Death
Penalty Archives**

The University at Albany held a dedication in honor of the creation of the National Death Penalty Archive, a partnership

between the Capital Punishment Research Initiative at the School of Criminal Justice and the M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives at the University Libraries, on August 9, 2005. The keynote speaker was Hugo A. Bedau, Emeritus Professor at Tufts University. Bedau is a current commentator and active opponent of the death penalty. He was recently chairman of the National Coalition Against the Death Penalty and a member of the board for the American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts. The event also included an exhibit and tours of the Department of Special Collections and Archives.

The Capital Punishment Research Initiative (CPRI) was founded in the late 1990s at the School of Criminal Justice. The CPRI has three primary purposes: to build and maintain a national archive for historical documents and data on the death penalty; to plan and conduct basic and policy related research on capital punishment; and to

encourage scholarship, conduct graduate and undergraduate training, and disseminate scientifically grounded knowledge about the ultimate penal sanction. In collaboration with the M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives at the University Libraries, the CPRI established the National Death Penalty Archive (NDPA). The NDPA collection of historical materials will be an unrivaled resource for scholars, students, and the public interested in the history of capital punishment in America, and in the legal and political battles engendered by this sanction. In addition to housing the records and documents of leading figures in scholarship and legal and community organizations concerning capital punishment, the NDPA includes a program of oral history interviews featuring prominent activists and professionals involved in death penalty abolition efforts and related work.

For submissions to the next

CAA NEWS

please contact John Diefenderfer, CAA Newsletter Editor
at
jdiefenderfer@dc-northeast.org

Articles and announcements are accepted on an ongoing basis.

Capital Area Archivists of New York State

Collections in the National Death Penalty Archive include the collections of Hugo A. Bedau, William J. Bowers/Capital Jury Project, Joe Ingle/Southern Coalition on Jails and Prisons, Ernest van den Haag, and Alvin Ford. For more information on the NDPA and CPRI, visit <http://library.albany.edu/speccol/ndpa.htm> and <http://www.albany.edu/scj/cpri.htm>.



Save America's Treasures State Archives and State Library Completed National *Save America's Treasures* Grant Campaign

The New York State Archives and the New York State Library have completed the private match for the National Park Service's and the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Save America's Treasures grant for conservation of New York State's Revolutionary War treasures. According to *Save America's Treasures* program officials, the grant was awarded to the state in recognition of the fact that the documents and artifacts included within the state's collections are of national importance and must be

conserved for future generations. The total cost of the two-year conservation project is \$163,981. Funding for the project consists of \$81,990 from the federal government, \$40,478 in-kind from the State Archives and State Library, and \$41,513 in private contributions raised by the Archives Partnership Trust. Private support for this project has been received from the Lucius Littauer Foundation, the Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation, the Dyson Foundation, RNN-TV, and Trust Board members Barbaralee Diamonstein-Spielvogel and Ann Bittenwieser.

Some of the items identified for conservation include:

- George Washington artifacts including a dress sword, surveying instruments, pistol, and a first draft of the Farewell Address of 1796
- Documents recovered from the boot of captured British spy Major John André that established Benedict Arnold as one of the most infamous traitors in

- American history
- Letters from George Washington to New York Governor George Clinton including one urging Clinton to call out the state militia to help

Membership in Capital Area Archivists of New York (CAA) is available for individuals and institutions. Dues are only \$5 per year, and membership benefits include our informative newsletter and three meetings a year.

To renew your membership or to become a CAA member see the CAA website for forms and information:

<http://library.albany.edu/caa/>

Become more involved with CAA

Would you like to become more involved with the governing and planning of the Capital Area Archivists of New York? CAA is looking for enthusiastic and organized individuals to serve as officers on our Board. If you are interested in the possibility of holding office, please contact Amy Schindler, President of CAA, at 518/437-3934 or aschindler@uamail.albany.edu.

Capital Area Archivists of New York State

- sustain the war effort
- Letters from Israel Keith that describe military operations in the battle of White Plains, Burgoyne's Invasion, the Saratoga Campaign, and the Penobscot Expedition from the perspective of a Continental Army soldier

Once conserved, these documents and artifacts, will be available for digitization (documents only) and exhibition. The State Archives and State Library are additionally working to develop a program of public activities that will put prominent focus on the transformational role of New York State in the nation's inaugural conflict. This comes at a time when extraordinary attention is focused on the American Revolution.

◆ **Daughters of Charity Receive Grant to Document Catholic Education**

The Daughters of Charity Archives of the Northeast Province was awarded a Documentary Heritage Program grant by the New York State Archives to study the Daughters' role in the history of Catholic education in New York State. The grant funds will be used to locate records pertaining to the thirty-two educational institutions in New York State operated and staffed by the Daughters of Charity from the mid-nineteenth-century to the present.

The immediate goal of the project is to inventory diocesan records, the project also aims to identify any relevant Parish, community or private collections held by local parishes, schools, alumni associations, former students, and historical societies. A complete list of the orphanages, elementary and secondary schools is available from the Daughters of Charity Archives. If you know of any unpublished records related to these schools please contact John Diefenderfer to participate in the project 518/462-5593 or jdiefenderfer@dc-northeast.org.

In addition to traditional elementary and secondary schools, the Daughters of Charity also provided educational services to mentally retarded and developmentally disabled children through innovative case management and residential programs. The survey will also locate records relating to these non-traditional educational settings.

◆ **CAA Listserv Available to Members**

New CAA Listserv
A listserv for members of CAA is now available through Yahoo! Groups. The intention is to offer a listserv with postings of particular interest to professionals and institutions in the Capital Region including exhibits, new collections, temporary closings, job postings, and related news and information. All CAA members

whose contact information and membership dues are up to date will be receiving an email invitation to join the listserv in October. To join the listserv if you do not receive an email invitation simply go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/> and search for the group name "CAANY." The list's administrators will then approve requests to join.

◆ **Allen Weinstein to Speak in the Capital Region**

Dr. Allen Weinstein, the Archivist of the United States, will be among the featured speakers at New Yorkers and the Military: From the Colonial Era through World War II. This conference, which is sponsored by the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, will bring together historians, archivists, and genealogists and highlight the research uses of military records.

New Yorkers and the Military will be held on November 10-12 at the Gideon Putnam Resort and Spa in Saratoga Springs. Dr. Weinstein will be the conference's dinner speaker on Friday, November 11.

For more information about the conference or to register to attend (\$125 for the full conference, \$75 for a single day), contact Lauren Maehrlein at 212-755-8532, ext. 36, or send an e-mail to education@nygbs.org.