

CAA NEWS

Spring 2007



Spring, 2007

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

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Hot Summer Programming from CAA

Interested in using historical records in the classroom? Do you have records in your collection that would interest students? Join CAA on June 21, 2007 at 4:00PM for a presentation on primary sources in the classroom by Stacy Pomeroy Draper, Curator of the Rensselaer County Historical Society.

The presentation will combine a discussion of the 1862 "Great Fire" educational program developed by the RCHS followed by a walking tour of fire related sites in downtown Troy.

On May 10th 1862 Troy suffered its greatest loss by fire. A spark from a locomotive ignited a covered wood railroad bridge to Center Island, and a strong west wind drove the fire into Troy and by evening 508 buildings had been destroyed and at least 8 persons lost their lives. The financial loss was \$3.9 million dollars.

The University at Albany Department of Special Collections and Archives Presents "The Secret Lives of Toys"



The University Libraries' M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives is showing an exhibit "The Secret Lives of Toys and Their Friends: Selections from the Miriam Snow Mathes Historical Children's Literature Collection." Curated by Kali M.D. Roy, graduate student assistant, the exhibit is drawn from the Mathes Historical Children's Literature Collection (<http://library.albany.edu/speccollection/children.htm>) and features a small sampling of historical children's literature about adventures based on the lives of

continued on page 2

Capital Area Archivists of New York State

Participation is limited to 30 people so please RSVP to John Diefenderfer by June 14th (518) 462-5593 or jdiefenderfer@dc-northeast.org.

The Rensselaer County Historical Society is located at 57 Second Street, Troy, NY. Parking is on-street so you may want to arrange to carpool with other CAA members.

“Secret Lives of Toys” continued

toys. The Miriam Snow Mathes Historical Children's Literature Collection includes over 10,000 children's books and periodicals published in the 19th century and up to 1960. The central purpose of the Mathes Collection is to provide the texts of works that are generally no longer available in children's library collections today—and to make them available for historical, literary and cultural study and consultation by scholars, students, teachers, librarians and the interested public. The exhibit is available through May during normal hours for the Department of Special Collections & Archives, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Monday – Friday.



Spotlight on Local History: Albany Medical Center Schools of Nursing Alumni Association Exhibit

The nurses of the Albany Medical Center Schools of Nursing Alumni Association were pleased to be able to highlight their schools' proud history in an exhibit at the East Greenbush Public Library in the month of April. The exhibit featured photographs, nursing uniforms, pins and rings and other artifacts of the nursing schools which have been affiliated with Albany Medical Center over the years.



The exhibit was spearheaded by Paula Zenzen (above, with the exhibit) a 1966 graduate of the Albany Medical Center School of Nursing. Paula is Corresponding Secretary for the Alumni Association and volunteers her time in the schools' archives at Albany

Medical Center. While the exhibit will be removed from the library at the end of the month, anyone interested can see items from the schools on display in the White Pillars Lobby and on the fourth floor of Albany Medical Center. The exhibit, in part, celebrates the publication of the book *The Legacy of Nursing at Albany Medical Center* by Mary D. French and Elsie L. Whiting. To purchase the book please call 518-262-3322.



New York Archives Conference 2007 June 13-15, 2007 Canisius College, Buffalo, NY

This year's NYAC conference is underwritten with support from Eloquent Systems, Gaylord, Hollinger Corporation, Hudson Microimaging, and University Products. The conference will feature program sessions on topics as diverse as “Working with Unusual Researchers,” “Mixed Record Jurisdictions in a Single Repository,” and “Selling Your Institution to Potential Funders.”

Plenary speaker Jeff Cannell, Deputy Commissioner for Cultural Education at New York State Education Department, will speak on “The Place of Archives and Historical Societies in Cultural

continued on page 3

Capital Area Archivists of New York State

“Archives Conference” continued

Education’s Mission.”



Conference attendees will have the opportunity to take advantage of tours of Buffalo’s Forest Lawn Cemetery, the Frank Lloyd Wright designed Darwin Martin House (above) and the Buffalo Public Library Buffalo & Erie County Central Library, Grosvenor Room And Mark Twain Room.

View the conference program online at:
http://www.ithaca.edu/library/archives/loac/NYAC_2007_final.pdf



“Ask Geoff!”



The University at Albany’s *UAlbany Magazine* introduced a new column in its Fall 2006 issue. “Ask Geoff,” featuring University Archivist Geoff Williams, provides a forum for alumni, students and others to ask questions about the history of the school. The first column featured questions on the names the college has held, what a normal school was, and the history of the downtown campus. Do you have a question for Geoff? Email gwilliams@uamail.albany.edu.



CAA Takes On Electronic Records

On February 5, 2007, CAA sponsored a Society of



University at Albany Archives Students Share Their

continued on page 4

For submissions to the next

CAA NEWS

please contact Sean Heather McGraw, CAA Newsletter Editor
at
rdonaldson@foundationnurses.org

Articles and announcements are accepted on an ongoing basis.

Capital Area Archivists of New York State

“Archives Students” continued

Knowledge

The University at Albany, State University of New York student chapter of the Society of American Archivists brought their knowledge to a new audience this semester. Students gave lectures on archives, archivists and using primary sources to two University at Albany Information Literacy undergraduate classes at the end of February. The students used the opportunity to explain what archivists do and why it's important. Professor Vivien Zazzau was happy to welcome the guest lecturers into her classroom to raise understanding and enthusiasm for archives among her students. Class attendees were given a contact list of archives repositories in the area and encouraged to visit to see archives and archivists at work.



**Capital Region Archives
Dinner Presents: Beyond the
Archives and Archaeology:
Using the Digital Revolution
to Interpret Lake George's
"Sunken Fleet of 1758"**

The Capital Region Archives Dinner will be held on Wednesday, October 3rd at Longfellows in Saratoga Springs. This year's speaker will be Joseph W. Zarzynski (Bateaux Below, Inc.) and Peter Pepe (Pepe Productions).



Over the past few years Bateaux Below, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation that conducts underwater archaeology studies at Lake George, and Pepe Productions, a Queensbury-based multi-media production firm, have collaborated on several projects related to Lake George's submerged colonial history. Underwater archaeologist Joseph W. Zarzynski and digital technology specialist Peter Pepe will give a multi-media presentation on using digital technologies to interpret Lake George's Land Tortoise radeau

continued on page 5

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 planning programs for the Capital Area Archivists of New York? CAA is looking for enthusiastic individuals with fresh ideas to serve on our Ad-Hoc Program Committee. If you are interested in the possibility of joining this committee, please contact John Diefenderfer, President of CAA, at 518/462-5539 or jdiefenderfer@dc-northeast.org.

Capital Area Archivists of New York State

“Archives Dinner” continued

shipwreck and the other British vessels of Lake George's "Sunken Fleet of 1758." The presenters are part of the team that created the 2005 award winning documentary-"The Lost Radeau: North America's Oldest Intact Warship," and they are currently working on another documentary about French and Indian War shipwrecks in the "Queen of American Lakes." This program celebrates the 250th anniversary of the French and Indian War (1755-1763).

For more information contact Archives Dinner co-chair Susan D'Entremont at SD'Entremont@cdlc.org.



Museum Studies Students Visit the Foundation of New York State Nurses



Students from the Cooperstown Graduate Program in Museum Studies took a break from their usual museum tours to visit a different kind of repository. These students saw an archives in action when they visited the Bellevue Alumnae Center for Nursing History in Guilderland.



Saratoga Springs Heritage Day

**May 20, 2007
12:00-4:00pm**

The rich history of 19th century Saratoga Springs will be celebrated at The Visitor Center, in Congress Park (below) and at the Saratoga Springs History Museum with a variety of performances, demonstrations, and activities; the event is free and open to the public.



Mayor Valerie Keehn will open the event by unveiling a bronze plaque at 262 Broadway, the site of the Convention Hall, which was a presence on Broadway from 1893 until it was destroyed by fire in 1965. Sonny Bonacio and Tom Roohan are co-sponsoring the Convention Hall Plaque, the second in a series of Heritage Plaques to be placed on Broadway. There will be a short reception at The Visitor Center following the plaque ceremony. In honor of Heritage Day and the plaque, a limited edition stamp featuring Convention Hall, complete with a special cancellation envelope and an insert with additional facts about the building, will be on sale at The Visitor Center; the stamp is the second in a series of Heritage Day Collectible Sets.

Heritage Day events will include performances by noted balladeer Linda Russell, Native American tracking lore and stories by Jim Bruchac of the Ndashinna Education Center, and "Punch and Judy," traditional puppet show entertainment by the Punch Bowl Sisters, Dr. Sharon Peck and Debbie Peck Kelleher. There will be a screening of "Historic Views of the Spa City" and several artisans and educators will demonstrate crafts and medicines common during the 1800's, and the role of Saratoga's 77th Regiment in the Civil War. The Saratoga Springs History Museum will feature an exhibit of old mineral water bottles on loan from the National Bottle Museum.

Kids of all ages will be encouraged to play games that were popular during the 19th century or to practice dance steps of the era under the guidance of Paul Rosenburg of Homespun Occasions. Visitors will have the opportunity to make their own silhouette portraits, take a guided walking tour of some of the Putnam family homesites, visit the Putnam Burying Ground, chat with members of the Victorian Ladies about their elaborate period dress, or chat with Gideon and Doanda Putnam, Saratoga's Founding Father and his wife, who will be eager to share their reactions to the changes in the area since they last lived here.

For more information on Heritage Day, call Mary-Jane Rau Pelzer at The Visitor Center: 587-3241