

Researching New York 2017: A Conference on New York State History University at Albany, SUNY

Update October 29, 2017

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 16, 2017

11:30 AM: Registration
Barnes and Noble Reading Room
Science Library

SESSION I: 12:15 – 1:45

“Related” Notable Women-Activism

Hannah Feake Bowne: An Unknown Quaker Woman
Kate Lynch, Independent Scholar

Angelica Schuyler Church: Women’s Shifting Power During the American Revolution
Danielle Funciello, New York State Museum Research Fellow in History

Twelve Years a Single Mother: Anne Northup
David Fiske, Independent Scholar

Comment: **John Riley, Siena College**

New York and Beyond: History, Memory, & Legacies of Activism

A Place for Miss Anthony: The Election and Installation of Susan B. Anthony into the Hall of Fame for Great Americans
Kate Culkin, Bronx Community College, CUNY

From Suffrage to World Peace: Carrie Chapman Catt & Rosika Schwimmer Finding Common Ground On An International Stage
Cara Dellatte, New York Public Library

Parading to Suffrage: Harriot Stanton Blatch Takes the Baton from her Mother
Suzanne Schnittman, Independent Scholar

Comment: **Jennifer Hull, Colgate University**

Digital History Workshop 1:15 – 3:15 PM

Digital Tools for Public Historians: This workshop is open to all with conference registration, however we do request advance sign-up as space is limited. On the day of the conference, seats will first be available to those who signed up in advance. See conference registration page to register separately for the workshop

This session will introduce public historians- and anyone else interested - to easy-to-use, free, off-the-shelf digital tools. Topics include: Wordpress, Omeka, Neatline, KnightLab resources, and podcasting. It's not necessary to bring a laptop, but it couldn't hurt!

Ann Pfau, Independent Historian
Maeve Kane, University at Albany SUNY
Andrew Lang, SUNY Poly Children’s Museum of Science and Technology
Steve McEarleane, New Netherland Institute

Moderator: **David Hochfelder, University at Albany, SUNY**

SESSION II: 2:00 – 3:30 PM

Roundtable Discussion. Examining Disaster: Learning from the Methodologies and Practices of Contemporary Historians, Disaster Researchers, and Archivists

Sifting Through Settled Dust: A contemporary historian's approach to collecting, managing, and interpreting primary and secondary sources in the aftermath of disaster

Jessica DuLong, Independent historian, journalist.

The Ethics of Disaster Research

James Kendra, University of Delaware Disaster Research Center

Investigating disaster improvisation: The power of observation for long term research and Understanding

Tricia Wachtendorf, University of Delaware Disaster Research Center

The Archivistics of Memory: The Role of Archivists and Archival Repositories in the Post-Disaster Context

Valerie Marlowe, University of Delaware Disaster Research Center

Revolutionary Times

Manifest Frontiers: Old Fort Schuyler and Commercial Expansion in Post-Revolutionary New York

Nolan Cool, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

The Training and Tactics of the British Army in Preparation for the Burgoyne Campaign and the Invasion of New York in 1777 and The Battle of Fort Anne: "In Consequence of this Action Fort Anne was burnt and abandoned..."

Matthew Zembo, Hudson Valley Community College and King's College, London

Comment: **Christopher Pastore, University at Albany, SUNY**

3:30- 4:15 Coffee Break/Exhibitor Showcase

Barnes & Noble Reading Room

Science Library

Spend some time in the exhibit area visiting our conference sponsors and book exhibitors

SESSION III: 4:15 – 5:45 PM

"Doing History:" Archives, Preservation & Memory

Come on Along and Join Us: New York State and Federal Government Perspectives on the 1970s Children's Television Program Vegetable Soup

Jeffrey S. Reznick, U.S. National Library of Medicine of the National Institutes of Health

The Preservation of Public School Buildings in Upstate New York's Small-City School Districts

Andy Roblee, Environmental Design & Research

Building a Statewide Urban Renewal Preservation and Research Network

David Hochfelder, University at Albany, SUNY

Comment: **Cynthia Falk, SUNY Oneonta and Cooperstown Graduate Program**

The Role of the Municipal Historian in Researching New York: A *Festschrift* in Honor of Ruth Piwonka

Sponsored by the Center for Applied Historical Research, University at Albany, SUNY

This session will explore the vital role of the local historian in researching the history of New York, the only state requiring by law that a public historian be appointed in every municipality. Using the work of dynamic Town of Kinderhook historian Ruth Piwonka as a case study, this roundtable conversation will uncover some of the ways in which the deep place-based knowledge of New York's local historians supports wide-ranging scholarship. Ruth Piwonka has a long history of conducting original research and contributing substantially to the research of others. From her vantage point in Kinderhook, her research interests include the colonial Dutch, Columbia County historic houses and open space conservation, and African-American history.

Moderator: **Ivan Steen, Center for Applied Historical Research, University at Albany, SUNY**

Roderic H. Blackburn, Dutch Material Culture Project

James Bradley, Martin Van Buren Papers

Charles Gehring, New Netherland Research Center

William Krattinger, New York State Division for Historic Preservation/University at Albany, SUNY

David William Voorhees, Jacob Leisler Institute for the Study of Early New York

Patricia West McKay, National Park Service Martin Van Buren Site

Film Screening and Discussion: The Great Subway Race of 1967, A Work in Progress

"The Great Subway Race of 1967," a Video Documentary in the Making

Michael Miscione, Manhattan Borough Historian

Comment: **Laura Wittern-Keller University at Albany, SUNY**

5:45 PM Bus to Milne

University at Albany Downtown Campus

6:00 Reception, Milne Hall

7:30 PM Keynote Talk

University at Albany, SUNY Downtown Campus

Page Hall

The Gargoyle Hunters

John Freeman Gill

The New York Times contributor, is the author of the debut novel *The Gargoyle Hunters* (2017), a Barnes & Noble "Discover Great New Writers Pick." A deeply emotional story of a father and son and the obsession that drives their relationship, the novel solves the mystery of a brazen and seemingly impossible architectural heist. Gill, an expert on historical architecture, writes "Edifice Complex," a monthly column in *Avenue* that explores the biographies of historic New York City buildings and their occupants.

John Freeman Gil is a native New Yorker and longtime *New York Times* contributor whose work has been anthologized in *The New York Times Book of New York* and *More New York Stories: The Best of the City Section of The New York Times*. His writing has appeared in *The Atlantic*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *The New York Observer*, the *International Herald Tribune*, *New York* magazine, *Premiere*, *Avenue*, *The New York Times Book Review*, and elsewhere. A summa cum laude graduate of Yale University, where he won two prizes and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, he received an MFA in Writing from Sarah Lawrence College. He lives in New York City with his wife, three children, and a smattering of gargoyles.

A book signing will follow immediately after the talk.

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 17, 2016

**8:15 AM: Registration, Continental Breakfast
Barnes & Noble Reading Room
Science Library**

SESSION IV: 8:45-10:15 AM

Finding Women's Stories: A Quilt, A Poem, A Novel

Anna and Phillis: Slavery and Freedom in the North Country, 1790-1825
Ellen Adams, Alice T. Miner Museum

Helen Rich: St Lawrence County's First Suffragette
Bryan Thompson, Historian Town of De Kalb

A Woman for Mayor: A Novel Idea in 1909
Margaret D. Stocker, India House Foundation

Comment: **Samantha Hall-Saladino, Albany County Historical Association/Fulton County Historian**

North Country Women: Building a Women's Suffrage Exhibit at the Adirondack History Museum

Adirondack Suffragists: 100 Years of Votes for Women
Margaret Bartley, Adirondack Museum
Gerald Zahavi, University at Albany, SUNY

Progressivism in Rural New York
Terry Hamblin, SUNY Delhi
Lisa Tessier, SUNY Delhi

"Suff Bird Women:" Staten Island's Suffragists as Grassroots Activists
Gabriella Leone, Staten Island Museum

Comment: **Laurie Kozakiewicz, University at Albany, SUNY**

Beyond Boundaries: Public-Private Partnerships and Rochester's Suffrage Centennial Exhibit

This roundtable session will examine the community partnership that developed around Rochester's celebration of New York State's Suffrage Centennial. It will explore how this partnership emerged, the agencies involved, how we worked together to identify and achieve common goals, our successes and challenges, and how we plan to continue the partnership beyond 2017 with the specific aim of sustaining our community's celebration of women's rights through the national centennial of the 19th Amendment in 2020 and beyond.

Michelle Finn, Rochester Deputy Historian/ Rochester Public Library
Juilee Decker, Rochester Institute of Technology
Jessica Lacher-Feldman, University of Rochester
Moderator: **Christine Ridarsky, Rochester City Historian**

SESSION V: 10:30AM – 12:00 PM

Out Front & in the Shadows

Into the Fray: Suffrage and the Mainstream (Male) Editorial Elite

Brooke Kroeger, New York University and Arthur L. Carter Journalism Institute

Lillian Wald, Florence Kelley and Child Labor Reform in New York's Progressive Era

Bruce W. Dearstyne, University of Maryland/Independent Scholar

Friends, Dear Friends, and Lesbians: NYC Women Librarians, 1901-1950

Robert Sink, New York Public Library/ Independent Scholar

Comment: **Rob Snyder, Rutgers University, Newark**

Challenges: New York Stressed & Stretched

Glimpses of Women's Lives in East New York and Brownsville, Brooklyn

Jessica Roseberry, Baylor University Institute for Oral History

The Buckley Crusade: Conservatives, Race, and Politics in 1965 New York City

Eugene Smith, University at Albany, SUNY

"As New York Goes, So Goes the Nation:" Collective Bargaining and the American Society of Hospital Pharmacists

Daniel J. Smith, Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

Comment: **Carl Bon Tempo, University at Albany, SUNY**

School Suffrage/Education

The Power of Women: Matilda Joslyn Gage and the Women's Vote of 1880

Sue Boland, Matilda Joslyn Gage Center

Women's Enfranchisement before the Nineteenth Amendment: Partial Suffrage Legislation and the Woman Suffrage Movement

Gaylynn Welch, SUNY Potsdam

Educating Teachers in 19th Century New York City

Sandra Roff, Archives and Special Collections, Baruch College/City University of New York

Comment: **Leigh Ann Wheeler, Binghamton University**

Lunch Keynote, 12:00 – 1:30 PM

Campus Center Ballroom

Women and the Dutch Colony:

What New Netherland Can Teach us about Intimate Networks and the Colonization of North America

Susanah Romney, New York University

Between 1624 and 1664, a Dutch colony grew along the mid-Atlantic coast. All throughout what later became New York, Dutch newcomers, native residents, and enslaved Africans wove a series of intimate networks that reached from the West India Company slave house on Manhattan, to the Haudenosaunee longhouses along the Mohawk River, to the inns and alleys of maritime Amsterdam. Women from all these cultures played an essential role in establishing these connections, even though they remained excluded from formal channels of power and weren't able to participate in colonial government. By understanding the role of women in these powerful intimate networks, we can develop a new idea of how colonization first began to transform the landscape of North America.

SESSION VI: 1:45 – 3:15 PM

Women and Community

Murder in the Adirondacks: Community Anxiety and the Female Worker
Elissa Isenberg, Syracuse University

The Blest Family: Women, Sex, and the Socialist Utopia in Oneida, 1848-1880
Molly Jessup, Oneida Community Mansion House

Patterns for Change: Women's Leadership in Syracuse, New York, 1960-1975
Scarlett Rebman, Syracuse University

Comment: **Monica Mercado, Colgate University**

Activists on the Local Stage: The WCTU in Ulster County, Civil Rights in Kingston. Daycare in Albany

"And She Will Enter Every Place:" The Scurrilous Symbols and Radical Rhetoric of the Women's Christian Temperance Unions in Ulster County
Allison Surgeary, SUNY New Paltz

Loud and Quiet in Kingston: The Van Dyke Family's Battle Against Institutional Racism in the 1960s
Abigail Waldron, SUNY New Paltz

Women's Liberation, Family, and the Fight for Daycare at the University at Albany
Sheri Sarnoff, University at Albany, SUNY

Comment: **Susan Ingalls Lewis, SUNY New Paltz**

New York History Day: Cultivating Future Historians

New York History Day is often the first experience future historians have with primary sources. For many, the experience leads to a lifelong love of history careers in scholarship, archives, humanities, local government historians, and teaching at all levels. This session is for archivist, educators, museum professionals, and anyone else interested in mentoring the next generation of historians. Learn the ways you can use your expertise to assist students and teachers with research and creating a National History Day project. The session will address the basics of the History Day program, contest structure, entry requirements and the benefits of supporting students as they become avid consumers of history content.

Michelle Hitchcock, Librarian, Cooperstown Junior/Senior High School
Kathy Sheehan, Rensselaer County Historian
Susan Glaser, Retired Educator & Long Island History Day Training Coordinator
Cassidy Lent, Reference Librarian, National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum
Rich Strum, Director of Academic Programs, Fort Ticonderoga & North Country Regional Contest Coordinator
Sarah Loveland, Fenimore Art Museum, New York State History Day Contest Coordinator

Moderator: **Devin Lander, New York State Historian**

3:15 PM: Bus to New York State Museum

**4:00 PM - 5:30 New York State Museum
Huxley Auditorium**

Votes for Women: History and Memory of Women's Suffrage in New York State

A panel discussion featuring the contributors to the catalog accompanying the recent opening of the suffrage exhibit at the New York State Museum.

"An Infusion of Hope:" New York Women in the Post-Suffrage Era
Robert Chiles, University of Maryland

"These Model Families:" Romance, Marriage, and Family in the New York Woman Suffrage Movement
Jessica Derleth, Binghamton University

"Bound Together By the Ties of Humanity:" Sarah Jane Thompson Garnet
Susan Goodier, SUNY Oneonta

Votes for Women: Celebrating New York's Suffrage Centennial
Ashley Hopkins-Benton, New York State Museum

"Just Cause to Feel Proud:" Chautauqua County's Leading Role in Grassroots Suffrage Activism
Traci Langworthy, Jamestown Community College

Recognizing Rights: Men in the Woman Suffrage Campaign
Karen Pastorello, Tompkins Cortland Community College (SUNY)

"Give Her the Fruit of Her Hands:" Women's Suffrage Activity on the Buffalo-Niagara Frontier
Shannon M. Risk, Niagara University

"All Men and Women Are Created Equal:" The Legacy of Seneca Falls
Judith Wellman, State University of New York at Oswego

Moderator: **Jennifer Lemak, New York State Museum**

5:30 PM New York State Museum Gallery Talks

Enterprising Waters: New York's Erie Canal

Brad L. Utter, Senior Historian/Curator for Transportation, Industry, and Agriculture

<http://www.nysm.nysed.gov/exhibitions/enterprising-waters-erie-canal> In honor of the Bicentennial of the Erie Canal's construction, New York State's Office of Cultural Education will present this rich story with the first phase of *Enterprising Waters: New York's Erie Canal* at the New York State Museum. In collaboration with organizations on the canal corridor and across the state, the State Museum will tell the Erie Canal's story with unique objects, documents, and images.

A Spirit of Sacrifice: New York State in the First World War

Aaron Noble, Senior Historian/Curator for Political, Military, and Governmental History

<http://exhibitions.nysm.nysed.gov/WWI/> As the nation commemorates the centennial of American participation in World War I, *A Spirit of Sacrifice* examines how New York State and its citizens played a critical role in the United States' efforts during the war, and discusses its significance to understanding history today. Both on the battlefield and on the home front, through industrial production as well as civic participation and debate, New Yorkers had a considerable impact on the shaping of these events. By the end of the war, the Empire State would lead in the number of soldiers, tonnage of supplies, and money raised to support America's efforts.

Votes for Women: Celebrating New York's Suffrage Centennial

Jennifer Lemak, Chief Curator of History & Ashley Hopkins-Benton, Senior Historian/Curator for Social History

<http://www.nysm.nysed.gov/exhibitions/votes-for-women> *Votes for Women* will celebrate the centennial of women's suffrage in New York State and raise public awareness of the struggle for women's suffrage and equal rights in New York State from the 1848 Seneca Falls Convention through 1917 when New York State granted women the right to vote. The exhibition will also address the nationally significant role of New York State leaders in regard to women's rights and the feminist movement through the early 21st century.

6:15 PM: Reception

7:30 PM Public Performance
Clark Auditorium New York State Museum

Aleda or The Flight of the Suff Bird Women
Musicians of Ma'alwyck

On Staten Island in 1916 pilot Leda Richberg-Hornsby and the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA) attempted a unique women's suffrage demonstration. Piloting a bi-plane with a cargo of votes-for-women petitions, and a huge banner reading "Women want liberty too," Leda set out to fly over New York Harbor, "bombing" President Woodrow Wilson with petitions as he attended a national celebration at the Statue of Liberty. The elaborate plan was a fiasco as gale force winds necessitated a crash-landing in a Staten Island swamp (with no casualties!) – yet the attempt stands as a testimony to the courage, inventiveness, and dramatic flair of these women in their struggle for suffrage.

The noted Musicians of Ma'alwyck will premiere *Aleda* in June 2018. The Researching New York Conference is delighted to offer the first public performance of substantial scenes from this newly commissioned work, along with a discussion of the history of this event, the research informing the production, and the process of translating history to performance. The performance will also include songs of suffrage, a *one-act chamber opera in three scenes*. Music and libretto by Max Caplan, commissioned and produced by Musicians of Ma'alwyck, and directed by Ann-Marie Barker Schwartz.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2016

8:30 AM: Registration, Continental Breakfast
New York State Museum Student Center

SESSION VIII: 9:00-10:30 AM

Moving on the Canal

The Great Epizootic and the Erie Canal

Travis Bowman, Bureau of Historic Sites, New York State Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation

Constructing the Erie Canal

Ashley Maready, Erie Canal Museum

Commerce on the Canal

Brad L. Utter, New York State Museum

Moderator: **Paul G. Schneider, Jr., Independent Historian**

WORKSHOP: Votes for Women! Exploring women's activism through history to promote civic engagement today

2017 marks the centennial of women gaining the right to vote in New York State. New York women fought for equality before they were even given a voice in the government through the right to vote. They used a variety of strategies to make their voices heard, including petition campaigns, speeches, parades, and their clothing choices. Our students also lack a direct voice in government through voting, but this does not mean that they cannot be engaged in the issues that matter to them in their communities. In this session, we will examine the methods these women used, and explore the ways that, through helping our students connect with these women's stories, we can help our students find their own voices. Participants will learn about classroom materials being developed by the New York State Museum for the upcoming exhibition "Votes for Women: Celebrating New York's Suffrage Centennial."

Ashley Hopkins-Benton, New York State Museum
Kathryn Weller, New York State Museum
Alethea Mouzakes, Shenendehowa High School

New York State Archives' Records Reveal 400 Years of Women's Voices: An Inquiry for Grades 7-12

Although women have only had the right to vote for one-quarter of New York's history, they have had an active voice since the beginning. Documents held by the New York State Archives tell a rich and diverse story of women making their voices heard. These documents include a petition by a Native American requesting that the governor acknowledge that she is a free-born subject of the British colony-- and therefore cannot be sold as a slave, a marriage contract from New Netherland, interviews of female workers conducted by the Factory Investigation Commission, a telegram from a mother demanding her right to send her child to work if she so chooses, and letters from African American women describing discrimination in the workplace.

The New York State Archives is developing inquiries for K-12 teachers to use with their students that are aligned with the Social Studies Framework and Common Core Learning Standards. This session introduces a new inquiry on Women's Rights in New York State focused on the compelling question, "How did women participate in government and society without the right to vote?" Participants will discover how to incorporate primary sources into the classroom using the inquiry method. Participants will receive the full Women's Rights Inquiry with copies of all the documents. The inquiry provides the structure and resources necessary for students to learn how women influence the culture and history of New York today, and even before they could legally vote. These documents also provide examples of citizens in action, taking steps to make their community a better place to live.

Jessica Maul, New York State Archives

SESSION IX: 10:45- 12:15 PM

Reconsidering Ramifications of the New York Home Front During and After the Civil War

Rumors, The Union Home Front, and the Experience of War
Jennifer McCabe, University of Kentucky

The Confederacy's Northern Headquarters: How the Confederacy Threatened the New York State and Canadian Border
Cassy Jane Werking, University of Kentucky

A New Line of Work: New York Women and Political Power in the United States Postal Service During Reconstruction
Chad King, University at Albany, SUNY

Comment: **Bruce Eelman, Siena College**

Peter Picked a Primary Source: Student Historians

Many of us can trace our love of history back to a book, a story, an artifact, a photograph, music, a written document, a teacher, maybe a historic building. Something in our past sparked that interest. The State Archives' Student Research Award program serves as a catalyst to ignite a love of history in students. This program, for New York students in grades 4-12, requires that students conduct research in historical records, analyze the information in those resources, and combine what they learn from primary sources with information from secondary sources to develop an engaging project that reflects their own interpretation of past events.

The presenters will introduce participants to this statewide Student Research Award program, and explain how librarians, public historians, educators, and others can recruit and mentor students to participate in this research contest. The panelists will also share their experiences administering this program, working with students, and serving as project judges. Panelists will also explain the connection to the education learning standards. Student projects will be shared and discussed and student bibliographies evaluated.

Emily Allen, New York State Archives
Rebecca Coffey, Loudonville Elementary School
Amy Parks, Loudonville Elementary School
Julie Daniels, New York State Office of Educational Television and Public Broadcasting

Workshop, *Burden of the Ballot: Creating Performative Work from Historic Resources in the Classroom.*

Burden of the Ballot is a 25 minute one-act play taking place in May 1917 at Historic Cherry Hill in Albany. When Emily Rankin's college friend Dorry Scribner comes for a visit, things do not proceed as usual at Cherry Hill. Dorry is a suffragist, and the Rankins are not so sure woman suffrage is a good idea. Addressing the suffrage question brings out the hopes and fears of these women living through this important moment in American history. The play was written and devised using letters written by the Rankins and Scribner, photographs, and suffrage and anti-suffrage writings of the period.

The production of *Burden of the Ballot* will follow this workshop on creating performative work from historic materials, and how work like ours can be applied in the classroom. Krysta Dennis and the cast will discuss the devising and writing process utilized for *Burden of the Ballot* and Dennis' other immersive promenade piece on the suffrage movement, *Votes for Women*. They will address the challenges presented when creating plots and dramaturgically sound material from historic events, and how at times historical accuracy and plot devices can seem to be at odds with one another. Then, in small groups, everyone will work to establish concepts for a number of historical theatre pieces using a selection of documents and images. This will serve to demonstrate how this technique might be used with students.

Krysta Dennis, Siena College

12:15 pm: Lunch
Student Center

Closing Plenary, 1 PM-2:30 PM
Huxley Auditorium New York State Museum

“O Emily, How Could You?” & *Burden of the Ballot*

Deborah Emmons-Andarawis, Historic Cherry Hill
Krysta Dennis, Siena College

“I have just been reading your letter over and am taken aback to see what I had taken for Suffrage Society is Anti-Suffrage Society—O Emily, how could you? How could you go four years through Smith, and take psychology and sociology courses galore... and then turn around and go and be recording secretary for the Anti-Suffrage Society?” On October 14, 1915, Dorry Scribner wrote these words to her one-time college roommate, Emily Rankin. How could a woman, indeed, an educated woman, oppose her own enfranchisement? Why did Emily cast her lot with the anti-suffragists—even serving as the Recording Secretary for the Albany chapter of the New York State Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage? What motivated Emily's anti-suffrage stance?

In discussion and performance Deborah Emmons-Andarawis, Curator at Historic Cherry Hill and writer/director Krysta Dennis, Siena College Theatre faculty, draw on photographs, letters, diaries, artifacts, and more from the collections at Historic Cherry Hill, to richly document Emily's life and illuminate the larger forces that helped shape her opinions—examining Emily's early life as a Van Rensselaer descendent, her education, the influences of progressive womanhood, her place in Albany's elite society, and the larger socio-political climate of the time.

More information, participant bios, and information on additional Researching New York public events are available at www.nystatehistory.org.
