



Researching New York 2018 A Conference on New York State History

University at Albany, SUNY
November 15-17, 2018

Updated October 30, 2018

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 15, 2018

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

WORKSHOP: Thursday 11:30 AM-1:30 PM

There is no additional cost for this workshop, but participants should register in advance. For those attending the conference, onsite conference registration and packet pick-up will be available at 11 AM.

Working With Data for Small Institutions, Public Historians, and Independent Researchers

Maeve Kane, University at Albany, SUNY

This hands-on workshop introduces participants to the basics of preparing, analyzing, and presenting data from collections or historical research. Ever wonder what to do with financial or quantitative information? Have a long list of items, documents, or people and want to think about presenting them in new ways? Want to know where to find census and other data to contextualize your collections or research? We will walk through the steps of finding, cleaning, analyzing, and presenting historical data using real historical data. This workshop assumes no technical background or prior experience, and all experience levels are welcome.

Participants should plan to bring their own laptops, and download and install two free programs before the workshop begins: OpenRefine (<http://openrefine.org/download.html>) and Tableau Public (<https://public.tableau.com/en-us/s/download>). Please note that Tableau does have a paid version, but we need the free version only. Participants should also have a working Gmail account they can log into on the machine they will be using. Links to the data we will be working with will be provided at the workshop. If you have questions or technical difficulties, please email Maeve Kane at mkane2@albany.edu.

SESSION I: 12:15 – 1:45

A Reappraisal of Urban Renewal: Evaluating “The Architecture of Good Intentions.”

Evaluating Urban Renewal Resources for the State and National Registers of Historic Places

Jennifer Walkowski, New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

A Civic Center: Urban Renewal in Utica

Walter Wheeler, Hartgen Archeological Associates

A New Look at Urban Renewal

Kathleen LaFrank, New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

Comment: **Michael F. Lynch, New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation**

Revolutionary Allegiances Across New York

"We then walked up the broad Way": John Adams's Revolutionary New York City
Christopher F. Minty, The Adams Papers Massachusetts Historical Society

Ethnicity, Alliance, Family and War: Scots-Irish Immigration, Defense of the New York Frontier and Cherry Valley Massacre
Terry McMaster, Independent Historian

Naturalization Under New York's First Constitution
Cody Nager, The Graduate Center, CUNY

Comment: **Aaron Noble, New York State Museum**

Art and Historical Memory in the Hudson Valley

William Ranney's 1853 Painting Purchase of Manhattan Island as a Reflection of Historical Memory
Stephen T. McErleane, New Netherland Institute and University at Albany

Thomas Cole and the Makings of a Catskill Artist
Matthew DeLaMeter, University at Albany, SUNY

Public Memory and the Woodstock Art Colony: Highlighting the Arthur Anderson Collection and Exhibition at the New York State Museum
Karen Quinn, New York State Museum

Comment: **Chris Pryslopski, Hudson River Valley Institute, Marist College**

SESSION II: 2:00 – 3:30 PM

The Health of New York: Stories from the Archives

The Syracuse Health Demonstrations
Nicole Topich, SUNY Upstate Medical University

Finding Heroes of New York State's "Forgotten" Epidemic
Teresa K. Lehr, Rochester Medical Museum and Archives

Institutionalized at Staten Island in the Nineteenth Century
Patricia Salmon, Staten Island Museum (retired)

Comment: **Gertrude Hutchinson, Sage Colleges**

Long Island Indian Country: The Invisible People of Suffolk County

Researching the 1st Indian Women in New York State to receive a Medical Degree: Dr. Susan Smith McKinney Steward (1817-1918)

Marguerite Smith, Esq., Shinnecock Indian Nation

Olivia Ward Bush (1869-1944), Preserving Some of the Algonquian Montauk Language and Folklore

Madelyn E. Jackson, Montaukett Indians/Suffolk County Native American Advisory Board

Jeremiah Sells: A Footnote in New York State History

Helen Sells, Setalcott Nation/Suffolk County Native American Advisory Board

Living in the Shadow of the William Floyd Estate

Mary Treadwell, Unkechaug Indian Nation/Suffolk County Native American Advisory Board

Moderator: **Sandi Brewster-Walker, Montaukett Indians/Long Island Indigenous People Museum**

New Yorkers Respond: Slavery and the Civil War

Yours for the Slave, A. B., Jr.: The Abolitionist Life of Abel Brown

Ryan Jones, Historian & Documentary Filmmaker

Andre Coulter, Focused in Entertainment

"The Execration of History": New York's Opposition to Congressional Reconstruction

Alan Singer, Hofstra University

The Ties That Bound Them Together: Rural New York Civil War Letters

Melissa Franson, Binghamton University (SUNY)

Comment: **Rebekah Oakes, Martin Van Buren Historic Site**

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

Cornell University Press

Fordham University Press

SUNY Press

Syracuse University Press

Hudson River Valley Institute, Marist College

New York State Archives/Archives Partnership Trust

University at Albany M E Grenander Archives & Special Collections

OPEN HOUSE New York State Archives - Hackman Research Residencies. Conference attendees are invited to learn about the Larry J. Hackman Research Residency program, which supports travel, lodging, and other costs of on-site research in state government historical records in the New York State Archives. Archives staff will provide information about the application process and archival records that support research in New York history from the 17th century to the present.

SESSION III: 4:15 – 5:30 PM

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

The Nature of the Environment

Historic quarries and quarriers in Erie and Niagara Counties, New York, 1820-1920

Mariana Rhoades, St. John Fisher College

Dream of a Lake George Park

Ellen Apperson Brown, Independent Scholar

Comment: Kendra Smith-Howard, University at Albany, SUNY

New York State Museum

6:00 PM Reception

7:00 PM Staged Reading



Possessing Harriet

By Kyle Bass

A staged reading of **POSSESSING HARRIET**, a new play by Kyle Bass, commissioned by the [Onondaga Historical Association](http://www.onondagahistorical.org/) and directed by Tazewell Thompson. (For more information on the history, <http://www.urbancny.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Fair-Fugitive-HH-article-1.pdf>.)

POSSESSING HARRIET will have its world premiere production at Syracuse Stage,

October 17-November 4, 2018, (<https://syracusestage.org/showinfo.php?id=83>)

In 1839, Harriet Powell, a young, mixed-race, enslaved woman slips away from a hotel in Syracuse, New York, and escapes from the Southerner who owns her. With the aid of a mysterious free black man named Thomas Leonard, Harriet finds temporary safe harbor in an attic room at the home of impassioned abolitionist Gerrit Smith. With the slave catchers in pursuit, Harriet spends the hours before her nighttime departure on the dangerous journey to Canada in the company of Smith's young cousin Elizabeth Cady, an outspoken advocate for women's equality. Confronted with new and difficult ideas about race, identity, and equality, and with confusion, fear, and desperation multiplying, Harriet is forced to the precipice of radical self-re-imagination and a reckoning with the heartrending cost of freedom.

This reading of **POSSESSING HARRIET** is a featured public event of the annual Researching NY Conference, cosponsored by the UAlbany History Department and the NYS Archives Partnership Trust with support from Humanities NY. Additional support for **POSSESSING HARRIET** from the NYS Museum, NYS Writers Institute, the Graduate Program in Public History, the Department of Africana Studies, and the Department of Music and Theatre.

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 16, 2018

8:15 AM: Registration, Continental Breakfast

Barnes & Noble Reading Room

Science Library

SESSION IV: 8:45-10:15 AM

No Soil Better - Frederick Douglass at 200 in Rochester

Parking (Lots of Love): Anna & Frederick Douglass' 1st Rochester Home

Hinda Mandel, Rochester Institute of Technology

28-30 North Clinton Avenue: A recently discovered Frederick Douglass property in Rochester

Richard Newman, Rochester Institute of Technology

A Legacy in Bronze and Granite: The Frederick Douglass Monument's Place in Rochester

Christine Ridarsky, Historian, City of Rochester, NY

The Radical Nature of Frederick Douglass's Reform Efforts

Jose Torre, The College at Brockport, State University of New York

Comment: **Autumn Haag, University of Rochester**

Varieties of Experience: 1910s New York

NYC/Peking: Recovering a 1914 Exhibit of Art of the Pacific as Soft Power Diplomacy

Margaret Stocker, India House Foundation

Quentin Roosevelt and the Great War: A New York Military Aviation Pioneer

John Staudt, Hofstra University/The Wheatley School

The Triangle Fire: A Proving Ground for Modern Urban Firefighting

Matthew McDonnell Connor, NY FDNY/CUNY Graduate Center

Comment: **Eric Cimino, Molloy College**

SESSION V: 10:30AM – 12:00 PM

Power and Authority in New York State from the Revolution to the Early Republic

Localist Landscapes: Soldiers' Visions and Nostalgic Optimism in the Continental Army

Matthew J. Hollis, Binghamton University, State University of New York (SUNY)

William Smith, Jr. and the Future of Empire

Helena Yoo Roth, The Graduate Center, The City University of New York (CUNY)

"Protecting the persons and property of the good subjects of this State": The Collapse of Local Governance and the Rise of the State in Westchester County, New York, 1775-1783

Dillon Luke Streifeneder, The Ohio State University

Comment: **Edward F. Countryman, Southern Methodist University**

Telling the Hard Stories: Slavery in New York A Roundtable Discussion

Tricia Barbagallo, University at Albany, SUNY
Kyle Bass, Syracuse University (playwright, *Possessing Harriet*)
Ian Mumpton, Schuyler Mansion State Historic Site
Oscar Williams, University at Albany, SUNY

Moderator: Sheila Curran Bernard, University at Albany, SUNY

Born in New York: Jell-O and Knox Gelatine- Advertising and Image Making for two Iconic American Products

Jell-O – How it became America’s Most Famous Dessert
Lynne Belluscio, LeRoy Historical Society

Health First: Marketing Knox Gelatine and Mrs. Knox to American women
Rachel Greenfield, Independent Scholar

Celebrity Association and the Soft Sell: Marketing Gelatin on 1930s Radio
Cynthia Meyers, College of Mount Saint Vincent

Comment: Lauren Kozakiewicz, University at Albany, SUNY

Lunch Keynote, 12:00 – 1:30 PM Campus Center Ballroom

The Al Smith Decade in New York History: the Making of the Revolution of '28 Robert Chiles, University of Maryland



This fall marks 100 years since Al Smith’s election as Governor of New York—a post he would hold over four of the next five terms. During that decade, Smith transformed politics and policy in the Empire State, while establishing the basis of his 1928 Presidential run. Robert Chiles will describe how Smith’s New York years made the presidential campaign of the “Happy Warrior” a genuine “Revolution of ’28,” while also discussing the process of researching Smith’s New York years and their influence on national politics.

Robert Chiles earned his PhD in History from the University of Maryland. He has published articles in leading journals including *Environmental History*, *The Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era*, *New York History*, and *North Dakota History*. He was awarded the New York State Library Cunningham Research Residency and the New York State Archives Partnership Trust Hackman Residency, both for his work on Governor Alfred E. Smith. *The Revolution of '28: Al Smith, American Progressivism, and the Coming of the New Deal*, was published in 2018 by Cornell University Press. He has taught at Loyola University Maryland, Goucher College, and is currently a senior lecturer at the University of Maryland.

SESSION VI: 2:00 PM –3:30 PM

History's Relevance: A Discussion on Articulating the Value of the Historical Enterprise A Roundtable Discussion

Jennifer Lemak, New York State Museum
Nora Slonimsky, Iona College
Christine Ridarsky, Historian, City of Rochester

Moderator: Devin Lander, New York State Museum

Working it Out: Women, Life, and Labor in Mid-Twentieth Century America

Moderately Feminist: Eleanor Roosevelt and Public Support of Married Women's Right to Work
Andrea Monteleone, Binghamton University

Gender, Religion, and Rural Life: Reconsidering Dorothy Day and the Catholic Worker on the Land
Sally Dwyer-McNulty, Marist College

Fallout Feminism in Cold War New York, October 1962
Michael Gunther, Georgia Gwinnett College

Comment: Nancy L. Roberts, University at Albany, SUNY

Order and Disorder in Early New York--Evidence from Court Records

New York's Supreme Court: Maintaining Public Order in the Revolutionary Era
James D. Folts, New York State Archives

The Courts as the Eyes of the Culture: The Process of Dehumanization in Colonial New York
Geof Huth, New York State Unified Court System

Upon Complaint of the Overseers of the Poor: The Dutchess County Court and Poor Law, 1721-1830
William P. Tatum III, Dutchess County Historian

Comment: Richard Hamm, University at Albany, SUNY

3:45 PM - 5:00PM Plenary Panel

Writing History: How to Bring the Past to the Present

Michael Doyle, Geoff Wisner and Robert W. Snyder

In a moderated conversation, two authors explore how they write history that is soundly researched, compellingly written, and aimed at the general reader. Geoff Wisner, essayist and book reviewer, will discuss his current project: two volumes selected from the diaries of George Templeton Strong. Michael Doyle, a Washington, DC reporter since 1988, will discuss his most recent book: *The Ministers' War: John W. Mears, the Oneida Community and the Crusade for Public Morality*. In our conversation and an open discussion to follow, attendees can explore everything from finding a good topic to uncovering sources to shaping a narrative. The discussion will be moderated by Robert W. Snyder, professor of Journalism and American Studies at Rutgers, and author of *Crossing Broadway: Washington Heights and the Promise of New York*.

Panelists

Michael Doyle is a reporter for E&E News in Washington, D.C. and a professorial lecturer in journalism at The George Washington University's School of Media and Public Affairs. The author of *The Ministers' War*, *Radical Chapters* and *The Forestport Breaks*, all published by Syracuse University Press, he has contributed as a freelancer to myriad magazines. A graduate of Oberlin College, he earned master's degrees from Yale Law School and The Johns Hopkins University.

Geoff Wisner, based in New York City, is the editor of *Thoreau's Animals* (Yale University Press, 2017), *Thoreau's Wildflowers* (Yale University Press, 2016), and *African Lives: An Anthology of Memoirs and Autobiographies* (Lynne Rienner, 2013). He is the author of *A Basket of Leaves: 99 Books That Capture the Spirit of Africa* (Jacana Media, 2007). His essays and book reviews have appeared in publications including *Asymptote*, the *Christian Science Monitor*, *The Quarterly Conversation*, *Transition*, and the *Wall Street Journal*.

Robert W. Snyder, professor of Journalism and American Studies at Rutgers-University-Newark, is the author of *Crossing Broadway: Washington Heights and the Promise of New York City* (Cornell, 2015) and co-author of a revised edition of *All the Nations Under Heaven: Immigrants, Migrants and the Making of New York*, to be published by Columbia University Press in 2019. He is a fellow of the New York Academy of History and was a Fulbright lecturer in South Korea in 2016. Formerly the editor of *Media Studies Journal*, he has written for the *New York Times*, the *Daily News*, *The Conversation*, and the *History News Network*.

5:00 PM: Reception Immediately following the talk.

Dinner on your Own.

SATURDAY November 17, 2018

**8:30 AM Registration/Continental Breakfast
New York State Museum - Student Center**

SESSION VIII: 9:00-10:30 AM

Teaching History with Science and Theater: An Interdisciplinary Research Venture between Siena College and the Underground Railroad History Project of the Capital Region. Three teams of students, with their faculty mentors, worked on different aspects of a project.

History

Shelby Crespino, Taylor Flach, Center for Undergraduate Research at Siena College

Moderator, Jennifer Dorsey, Center for Undergraduate Research at Siena College

Computer Science

Christopher Fall, Matthew Pigliavento, Center for Undergraduate Research at Siena College

Moderator, Robin Flatland, Center for Undergraduate Research at Siena College

Creative Arts

Heather Frederick, Hunter Frederick, Rae Nooney, Olivia Waldren, Center for Undergraduate Research at Siena College

Moderator, Krysta Dennis, Center for Undergraduate Research at Siena College

Art, Culture, Memory, Influences

Model Cities: The Landlord, John Lindsay, and the Challenges of Urban Renewal

Rick Armstrong, Kingsborough Community College (CUNY)

New York's Influence on the Modernist Magazine from 1870 to 1910

Ellen Feig, Bergen Community College

Celebrating Settler Colonialism in the Empire State: New York's 1929 Pageant of Decision

Andrea L. Smith, Lafayette College

Comment: **Kimberly Lamay Licursi, Siena College**

SESSION VIII: 10:45- 12:15 PM

African Americans Across the Counties

Key Black Niagaran History from the Underground Railroad to Dr. Martin L. King, Jr.

Michael Boston, College at Brockport

The Ku Klux Klan in St. Lawrence County

Bryan Thompson, De Kalb Town Historian

Comment: Susan Goodier, SUNY Oneonta

Children's Welfare and Education

Child Emigration in the Empire State: The Children's Aid Society's Placement Efforts in Upstate New York, 1853-1880

Amy Traver, Queensborough Community College (CUNY)

The New York State Master Plan for School District Re-organization

Casey T. Jakubowski, University at Albany, SUNY

Comment: Josie Madison, NYS Archives Partnership Trust

Mining the Sources: Pedagogical Approaches to Teaching History

Documentary Editing as Pedagogy: Civil War Letters from the Sewell Raymond Collection, Potsdam Town Museum

Thomas N. Baker, SUNY Potsdam

Zacharey Blackmer, SUNY Potsdam

Emma Woolley, SUNY Potsdam

Utilizing the West Point Foundry Site to Teach the Industrial Revolution

Keith Reilly, George Fischer Middle School

Rob Buccheri, Carmel High School

Comment: Kathy Sheehan, Rensselaer County & Troy City Historian, Rensselaer Co. Historical Assn.

12:15 pm: Lunch
Student Center

Closing Plenary, 1 PM-2:30 PM

Huxley Auditorium New York State Museum

Film Screening & Discussion

Harnessing Nature: Building the Great Sacandaga.

Lauren Roberts, Saratoga County Historian

On March 27th, 1930 the gates to the Conklingville Dam were ceremoniously closed and the largest reservoir in New York State was created. In 1922 the Hudson River Regulating District (HRRD) formed in response to yearly spring flooding occurring along the Hudson. It quickly became clear that building a reservoir at Sacandaga was the best option. The entire valley needed to be cleared--portions of 10 hamlets, 1,200 parcels of land, and removal of 22 cemeteries and several miles of railroad track. As they stood by and watched their former homesteads disappear under 37 billion cubic feet of water, displaced residents of the Sacandaga Valley did not understand why their homes were to be sacrificed to prevent flooding of downstream homes and industry. This film chronicles the incredible journey of this undertaking including first-hand accounts of valley residents. Discussion will also chronicle how the film was made.