



**Researching New York 2019: A Conference
on New York State History**
www.nystatehistory.org

University at Albany, SUNY
November 21-23, 2019
Updated November 10, 2019

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 21, 2019

11:30 AM: Registration

Barnes and Noble Reading Room, Science Library

SESSION I: 12:15 – 1:45

Digital Viewpoints, A New Focus on Digital History

Mine Will be a Watery Grave: Mapping Great Lakes Shipwrecks
Jack Grobe, University at Albany, SUNY

The Gangs of New Bedford – Reexamining the American Whaling Crew
Dan Petty, University at Albany, SUNY

Adventures in the Fur Trade
Sarah Scott, University at Albany, SUNY

Comment: **Serenity Sutherland, SUNY Oswego**

History, Memory, Commemoration, & Public Policy

"It's a Story of Heroes": Disaster Commemoration and Public Memory
Timothy Kneeland, Nazareth College

What Can No Longer Be Seen: Reconstructing a Forgotten Neighborhood
James A. DeVinney, Corn Hill Historian

Comment: **Valerie Balint, Historic Artists Homes and Studios.**

SESSION II: 2:00 – 3:30 PM

50 Years After Stonewall: Documenting, Preserving, and Presenting LGBTQ+ History

The Rochester Gay Liberation Front
Timothy D. Judd, Independent Historian

Shoulders to Stand on: Early Efforts to Preserve Local LGBTQ+ History & Archives
Evelyn Bailey, Out Alliance

Rochester's LGBTQ Landmarks
Larry Francer, Landmark Society of Western New York

Stonewall: 50 Years Out - A Model for Community Curated Exhibits
Christine L. Ridarsky, City of Rochester/Rochester Public Library

Reclaiming the Narrative: Bringing Stories from the Margins to the Center

Over the past three years, museums and other cultural institutions have devoted time and resources to promote the 100th anniversary of World War I. While traditionally been overshadowed by the Second World War, this anniversary has provided a unique opportunity to highlight an event that had a significant impact on the 20th century and beyond. During this anniversary period, educators and museum professionals have designed and implemented programs stressing the importance of WWI in the broader sweep of American and World history. Now that the celebrations of the 100th anniversary are over, there is a risk that World War I will fall back into obscurity.

The goal of this presentation is to provide tools and strategies to integrate local World War I history into the daily conversation for museums and schools through primary source documents, small group discussion, and collaborative breakout sessions. Tips for further study, museum interpretation and programming, professional development, and exhibitions will also be discussed. Not only designed for public historians, this session will also assist educators with curriculum development and support a wide variety of learning modalities.

Vivian E. Davis, Division of Historical & Cultural Affairs, Bergen County, NJ.

Canal Conundrums: Researching 200 Years of New York State Canal History

Researching the 200-year history of New York's canals is challenge, as is making collections accessible to a wide range of researchers. Physical and digital resources are scattered among various state, academic, and cultural institutions and in personal collections. In the roundtable discussion, participants from both the seeker and keeper communities will share challenges and propose solutions to improve access to the documentation of New York's canal history.

Chuck Piotrowski, Moderator. New York Canal Corporation
Frank Sadowski, Author / Webmaster of www.eriecanal.org,
Jennifer Fairall, Standish Library, Siena College
Jim Folts, New York State Archives
Jennifer Dorsey, McCormick Center for the Study of the American Revolution, Siena College.
Susan D'Entremont, Capital District Library Council (CDLC)
Brad L. Utter, New York State Museum

Hear the panel, then join Brad Utter at 6 PM at the Museum, during the reception, for a gallery talk at the Erie Canal Exhibit, Enterprising Waters.

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	New York History Journal
Heritage New York	New York State Canals
Hudson River Valley Institute, Marist College	SUNY Press
New York State Archives & Archives Partnership Trust	Syracuse University Press
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. Drop in to the Science Library, Room SLG 24, around the corner from the registration area.

SESSION III: 4:15 – 5:30 PM

In Conversation with Edward Berenson – A Craft Talk
With Paul Grondahl, Director, NYS Writers Institute.

A discussion on researching and writing his just published work, *The Accusation: Blood Libel in an American Town* (2019), a chilling investigation of a remarkable incident of antisemitism in the upstate town of Massena, New York in 1928. See more on Edward Berenson, below, for his 7:30 PM Public Lecture Co-sponsored by the NYS Writers Institute

The Business of History

A diverse group of practitioners discusses the interplay of history and commerce in public and private settings. In what ways does historical expertise advance civic and corporate interests, and vice versa? What role does effective historical scholarship and presentation play in advancing and promoting tourism? What needs to be done to ensure effective representation that includes difficult histories?

Sheila Curran Bernard, Moderator, University at Albany, SUNY; Director, Institute for History and Public Engagement, <https://www.albany.edu/ihpe>

John A. Bonafide, Director, Technical Preservation Services Bureau, New York State Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation, <https://www.albany.edu/cahr/advisory-bonafide.htm>

Jackie Gonzales, Research Historian, Historical Research Associates, Inc., http://hrassoc.com/hra_member/jackie-gonzales/

Karin Krasevac-Lenz, Executive Director, Hart Cluett Museum (formerly the Rensselaer County Historical Society), www.hartcluett.org/

Aine Leader-Nagy, Director of Community Engagement, Albany Institute of History & Art, <https://www.albanyinstitute.org>

Maeve McEneny, Education and Heritage Coordinator, Discover Albany Visitor Center, www.albany.org.

New York State Museum Events

Note: The bus from the University to the Museum will leave after the last afternoon session. Meet at the registration desk. If you did not sign up for the bus when you registered, please do so at the registration desk. Seats may be limited.

6:00 – 7:15 PM Reception

Museum Galleries will be open during the reception.

6:15 PM Gallery Talks – Meet in the Museum Lobby

The Erie Canal. Join exhibit curator and Senior Historian Brad Utter for a themed exhibit tour of *Enterprising Waters: New York's Erie Canal*. Brad will highlight what travel was like for tourists, travelers and canalers. Highlighting artifacts and images in the exhibit he will also discuss some of the popular tourist destinations in and around the canal in the 1800s.

The Woodstock Art Colony. Join exhibition curator and Senior Historian Karen Quinn for a themed tour of *The Historic Woodstock Art Colony: The Arthur A. Anderson Collection*. Highlighted will be the art, personalities, and friendships of George Bellows and his circle who played a key role there in the 1920s.

7:30 PM Featured Event.

***The Accusation: Blood Libel in an American Town* Edward Berenson, New York University**

Berenson, a noted scholar of modern French history, speaks about his most recent work, a chilling investigation of a remarkable incident of antisemitism in the upstate town of Massena, New York in 1928. After a 4-year-old girl, Barbara Griffiths, vanished in the woods, townspeople and police accused local Jews of committing “ritual murder,” a popular slander against the Jews of Europe during the Middle Ages.

A native of Massena, Berenson is Professor of History and Director of the Institute of French Studies at NYU. His recent books include *The Statue of Liberty: A Transatlantic Story* (2012), and *Heroes of Empire: Five Charismatic Men and the Conquest of Africa* (2010). Recipient of the American Historical Association's Eugene Asher Distinguished Teaching Award, Berenson was named Chevalier de l'Ordre du Mérite by French President Jacques Chirac in 2006.

A featured public event of the University at Albany History Department's annual Researching New York Conference. Cosponsored by the UAlbany Religious and Judaic Studies Programs, the New York State Museum, Archives Partnership Trust, and the New York State Writers Institute with support from Humanities New York

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 22, 2019

8:30 AM: Registration, Continental Breakfast
Barnes & Noble Reading Room, Science Library

SESSION IV: 9:00-10:30 AM

Roundtable: Across the Divide: Collaboration Between Academic and Public Historians

Michelle Finn, Office of the Rochester City Historian
Michael Oberg, State University of New York, College at Geneseo
Cheryl Sampson, The College at Brockport, State University of New York
Jose Torre, The College at Brockport, State University of New York

New York in the World

Dolly Diplomacy: Raggedy Ann and the Albany-Moscow Theater Exchange
Jasmine Bumpers, New York State Archives

When Wall Street met Missionaries in Korea
Margaret Stocker, India House Foundation

Bausch & Lomb, Rochester, and the Transnational Optical Arms Race
Jack Grobe, University at Albany, SUNY

Commentator: Susan Lewis, Emerita, SUNY New Paltz

SESSION V: 10:45 AM – 12:15 PM

New York State History: A New Dialogue

In New York State, historians work everywhere from universities to museums to local historical societies. How can we strengthen the dialogue between academic and community historians who value research and writing? We'll begin our session with a conversation among panelists from New York's different historical communities; then we'll open up to engage everyone at our session.

Robert W. Snyder, Moderator, Rutgers University-Newark; Manhattan Borough Historian
Susan Goodier, SUNY-Oneonta, former book review editor, *New York History*
Devin L. Lander, New York State Historian; co-editor *New York History*
Jeffrey T. Sammons, New York University
Julie Casper Roth, University at Albany, SUNY; Skidmore College; Independent filmmaker

Progress and Reform

From Homework to Tessie the Tanner: Women in Fulton County's Glove and Leather Industry
Samantha Hall-Saladino, Fulton County Historical Society/Fulton County Historian

Female Reformers, Male Politicians, and Progressive Era Special Education Reform in New York: A Comparative Study
Elizabeth Horning, University at Albany, SUNY

Vassar College: Launchpad for New Women and the Nineteenth Amendment
Suzanne Schnittman, Independent Scholar

Comment: Eric Cimino, Molloy College

12:15 PM. Friday
Lunch Keynote, Campus Center Ballroom

***From Dumps to Glory': City Planning, Coastal Reclamation, and
the Rebirth of Flushing Meadow for the 1939-1940 New York World's Fair.***
Kara Schlichting, Queens College, CUNY.

In the 1930s, the infamous ash dump at Flushing Meadows, Queens stood as stark proof of the consequences of an unplanned periphery. On this wasteland, planners merged urban environmental and technological infrastructure to build the 1939-1940 New York World's Fair, the "World of Tomorrow." While the fair is most often remembered in terms of its futurist theme, the creation of the Flushing Meadows fair site was grounded in the very real, contemporary forces of Progressive infrastructure systems and federally-funded public works. The history of the fair site makes visible how urban planners, public works officials, and engineers merge the city's technological and environmental infrastructure to build the World of Tomorrow as the New York metropolitan area came of age. Her talk draws on her just published work, *New York Recentered: Building the Metropolis from the Shore*, University of Chicago Press, History of Urban America series (2019). Kara Schlichting's work in late-19th and 20th-century American History sits at the intersection of urban, environmental, and political history, with a particular focus on property regimes and regional planning in greater New York City.

Book signing in the Exhibit area immediately following lunch.

SESSION VI: 1:45-3:15 PM

Art, Architecture and the Public Sphere.

Power: Three New York WPA Murals by Eric Mose
Anna O'Meara, H.E.R.O. High School, Bronx

Autopsy of the New Deal Health Infrastructure of New York: The Hospitals of Isadore Rosenfield
Charles Giraudet, Architect DPLG/Photographer

The Architecture of Catholic Modernism In New York State: From Post War to Vatican II
Frampton Tolbert, Architectural Historian New York City

Comment: **Kerry Dean Carso, SUNY New Paltz**

Revolutionary Concerns

Re-Envisioning the Canon: Three Colonial New York Printers and Their Transnational Routes
Mark J. Noonan, New York City College of Technology, CUNY

Revolutionary Claims: Peter Fell, Jr.'s Application to West Point
Richard N. Grippaldi, Rutgers University-New Brunswick

The Reintegration of the Hudson Valley Loyalists
Kieran O'Keefe, The George Washington University

Comment: **Christopher F. Minty, The Adams Papers, Massachusetts Historical Society**

"Doing" History in the Age of Hamilton: Challenge and Opportunity **A Roundtable Discussion**

Ann-Marie Barker Schwartz, Musicians of Ma'lwyck
Danielle Funiciello, University at Albany, SUNY
Heidi Hill, Schuyler Mansion
Diane Shewchuk, Albany Institute of History and Art
Patrick Stenshorn, Albany Institute of History and Art

Researching NY attendees are invited to see the Schuyler Sister Exhibit at the Albany Institute of History & Art and enjoy the Musicians of Ma'alwyck musical performance of *Eliza, A Musical Narrative*. Admission is free for Conference attendees. See Saturday 3:00 PM in the program.

SESSION VII: 3:30-5:00 PM

Roundtable: *Environmental History in New York*

Kendra-Smith-Howard, Moderator, University at Albany, SUNY
Andrew Morris, Union College
Christopher Pastore, University at Albany, SUNY
Tina Peabody, University at Albany, SUNY
Kara Schlichting, Queens College, CUNY
Philip Terrie, Bowling Green State University

Engaging Archival Collections Across the Academic Disciplines: Exploring Four New York Projects

Navigating Public Property Records on Long Island: An Historian's Excursion
Tim Keogh, Queensborough Community College

"Took Tea at the Asylum": The New York Asylum for Insane Convicts and the Challenges of Medical History Research
Leslie Ward, Queensborough Community College

A Requiem of Remembrance: The Convergence of the Civil and Criminal Following the Slocum Disaster
Christine Mooney, Queensborough Community College

New York's Dairy Dependents: Historical-Sociological Insights into the Children's Aid Society's Emigration Program and Upstate Dairy Farming, 1853-1929
Amy Traver, Queensborough Community College

From the Forest to the Streets.

The Otsego Forest Products Cooperative: A Unique Experiment
Hugh Canham, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry

Albany's Electric Streetcars and the Creation of a Metro Area, 1886-1906
Wyatt Erchak, Carnegie Mellon University

From Prophecy to Projection: The New York Metropolitan Region Study and Its Critics, 1956-1968
Peter Ekman, Clarence S. Stein Institute for Urban and Landscape Studies/Cornell University

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

Friday evening events.

5:45 PM: Reception

7 PM Page Hall, Downtown Campus

Note: The bus from the University to the Downtown Campus will leave after the last afternoon session. Meet at the registration desk. If you did not sign up for the bus in advance, please do so at the registration desk. Seats may be limited.

Driving While Black - Film screening and discussion **Ric Burns and Gretchen Sullivan Sorin**

This is an advance screening of *Driving While Black*, a feature-length documentary film slated for broadcast on PBS in 2020. From Steeplechase Films: "The film explores the role of the automobile in the lives of African Americans in the early twentieth century, chronicling a crucial and transformative period in American racial, cultural, and social history. Based on over a decade of research by acclaimed African American historian Dr. Gretchen Sorin, the film draws on a rich archive of material from the period – including photographs, advertisements, road signs, maps, letters, and legal records – along with riveting oral histories and on-camera insights of scholars, writers, musicians, artists, religious leaders and ordinary American travelers. The film will center on the emergence, flourishing and eventual obsolescence of a new genre of travel literature aimed at facilitating black automobile travel during the period; including *The Negro Motorist Green Book* – "the bible of black travel during Jim Crow" – published by a Harlem-based businessman named Victor H. Green, and his wife, Alma." <http://www.dwbfilm.com>.

SATURDAY November 23, 2019
8:30 AM Registration/Continental Breakfast
New York State Museum
Student Center

SESSION VIII: 9:00-10:30 AM

James Haughton: A Life of Civil Rights and Labor Activism
Michael Spear, Kingsborough Community College, CUNY

In the Perspective of Asian American Movement: Chinese Tenants' Struggles at New York City from 1970s to 1980s
Shouyue Zhang, University at Albany, SUNY

"Shooting them in their cribs": Race, Police Violence, and Perceptions of Criminality in early 1970s New York City
Peter G. Vellon, Queens College/CUNY

Commentator: **Richard Hamm, University at Albany, SUNY**

Roundtable: African American History
TBA

SESSION VIII: 10:45- 12:15 PM

The Outsiders Within

Race, Riot, and Recovery: Identifying Motive and Methods of Response to the Violence of 1863 New York City Draft Riots
Lydia Vernia, CSUSM

Building a Social Network: Black Deaf New Yorkers in the Nineteenth Century
Rebecca A.R. Edwards, Rochester Institute of Technology

New York and the Irish Famine
Harvey Strum, Sage College

Comment: **Kori Graves, University at Albany, SUNY**

Lives and Legends

The Business of Equality: Racial Liberalism and the Legacy of Rufus Brown Bullock
Matthew Ballard, Roberts Wesleyan College/Orleans County Department of History

From the Town of Warren to the Albany State Normal School: A Peek into University at Albany's Past
Bryan Herman, University at Albany, SUNY

Imaginary Brightness: Demystifying the Life and Legacy of William West Durant
Sheila Myers, Cayuga Community College

Commentator: **Rebekah Oakes, National Park Service, Martin Van Buren site**

Film Screening & Discussion: *Colvin - Hero to the North Woods*

This 2016 documentary by Bill Killon tells the story of Verplank Colvin, the "father of the Adirondack Park. Colvin explored, surveyed and mapped the northern reaches of Upstate New York from 1872 to 1900. To protect the forest and watersheds, at a time when the idea of conservation was in its infancy, he proposed a state park for the Adirondack region of New York

Bill Killon is a photographer and filmmaker for commercial, editorial, and cultural organizations including *Adirondack Life* Magazine, The Norman Rockwell Museum, and the Museum of the City of New York. As a 6th generation Adirondack native, Bill has a passion for the history and the folklore of the Adirondacks and Upstate New York.

12:15 pm: Lunch
Student Center

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

Woodstock in History and Memory.

A panel discussion looking at some of the lesser known history of Woodstock and how it is remembered today by those who were there. With **Gerald Zahavi**, UAlbany History Professor and 1969 Festival attendee; **Julia Fell**, Assistant Curator, the Museum at Bethel Woods; **Mark Berger**, 1969 Festival attendee and author of the book *Something's Happening Here: A Sixties Odyssey from Brooklyn to Woodstock*; and **Julie Lomoe**, creator of some of the original artwork associated with the festival, and 1969 Festival attendee.

(Note: Sunday 11/17, 1 PM, NYS Museum, the film *Woodstock: Three Days of Peace and Music* will be screened in its entirety. Free and open to the public.

Special Post Conference Event
3:00 PM Albany Institute of History and Art.

Eliza, A Musical Narrative
The Musicians of Ma'alwyck

Eliza is a fascinating musical narrative of the formative years of Elizabeth Schuyler Hamilton with Musicians of Ma'alwyck (a chamber music ensemble in residence at the Schuyler Mansion State Historic Site, home of Eliza) and actress/singer Eileen Mack. Told through monologue, song and instrumental interludes, this program gives a special glimpse into this strong, durable and often overlooked partner of Alexander Hamilton. Music selections include works drawn from the Library of Congress American Music Collection and from the New York State Library Special Collections. More details at www.albanyinstitute.org/event/product/PUBLIC-PROGRAM-Schuyler-Social-Eliza-a-musical-narrative.html

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