

CAA



NEWS

Fall

2004

**Fall, 2004**

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

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**“Archives Lost and Found In Translation”  
MARAC Spring Conference  
2005  
Albany, NY**

MARAC's Spring meeting is being held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in downtown Albany from April 21 to April 23, 2005. The meeting is a joint meeting with CAA and the New York Archives Conference.

The program theme, "Archives Lost and Found in Translation," promises a wealth of informative and interesting sessions that will appeal to the full spectrum of attendees. Speakers will explore the many ways in which archival documents are translated, from literal translation of Dutch colonial documents into English, to the translation that occurs when people use archives to write history and fiction. Although we occasionally lose something in

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**Legislative Sunsets and CAA**

At the Annual Meeting of Capital Area Archivists (CAA) on March 31, 2004, at the Albany County Hall of Records, CAA members discussed the need to support legislation eliminating the sunset provision of the Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund (LGRMIF) and the Cultural Education Fund. The LGRMIF supports hundreds of projects to improve the management of local government records through a competitive grants process. It supports the identification and protection of archival records, the deployment of information technologies, the destruction of obsolete records, and the storage of inactive records. Additional information about the Fund was published in the Spring 2004 issue of CAA News, which is available online at

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

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## Capital Area Archivists of New York State

translation while using archival materials, we more often gain insight into our past and future.

The conference will provide many opportunities to explore Albany and the surrounding Capital District. The recently renovated New York State Archives, the State Capital, the Albany Institute of History and Art, Historic Cherry Hill, and Peebles Island State Park (home of New York's Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation) will be included in tours and a reception. Those who prefer to explore on their own will have ample opportunity to learn about the heritage of New York State, including Dutch exploration and settlement, early American history, the colorful Albany political landscape, and our rich architectural tradition.

All CAA members are encouraged to attend and reminded to register as members of CAA. Profits from the conference will be distributed according to registrants stated affiliation with CAA, MARAC, or NYAC. Please consider registering as a member of CAA to insure we receive the full benefit of co-sponsoring what is sure to be a great meeting in Albany.

### **“The Challenges of Restricted Collections” CAA Fall Program**

**November 16, 2004, 4:30 pm**

CAA's Fall program is a discussion led by three local archivists facing the difficulties of holding and providing access to restricted collections. Robert Freeman, Executive Director of the NYS Committee on Open Government will speak on public access to government information; Chris Hunter, Director of Archives at the Schenectady Museum will speak on corporate collections; and Rachel Donaldson, archivist for the Foundation of NYS Nurses will speak on the recent HIPAA legislation and medical records in archives. Participants are encouraged to bring questions and share experiences they've had in handling restricted collections, as an archivist or researcher.

The program will be held at the Veronica M. Driscoll Center for Nursing in Guilderland, NY. Light refreshments will be available.

Seating is limited. Please RSVP to Rachel Donaldson at 518/456-7858 x24 or [rdonaldson@foundationnysnurses.org](mailto:rdonaldson@foundationnysnurses.org) to reserve your place.

### **LGRMIF Sunsets (continued)**

All CAA members were urged to write to their elected officials in support of eliminating the sunset provision. A motion was made and then passed by the membership that CAA passes a resolution of support for elimination of the sunset provision. The text of the resolution is available at <http://library.albany.edu/speccol1/caa/Minutes/CAAMinutes3-04.htm>. Copies of the resolution were sent to Gov. Pataki, Sen. Joseph Bruno, Rep. Sheldon Silver, and members of the State Senate and Assembly representing Capital Region districts. Senators Elizabeth Little, a cosponsor, and Neil Breslin as well as Assemblyman Ronald Canestrari responded to CAA affirming their support for the fund and eliminating the sunset provision. A complete list of those who received the resolution is available at CAA's website.

The Senate and Assembly both overwhelmingly passed the legislation to remove the sunsets on the Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund and the Cultural Education Fund. According to the legislation these funds will become permanent and will not need to be renewed. In order to take effect, the legislation will eventually need the governor's signature, which it had not received as of publication.



## Capital Area Archivists of New York State

### ***Rensselaer County Goes to War: War and the Home Front, 1775 -2003* On view: May 15 - December 23, 2004**

The Rensselaer County Historical Society (RCHS) is pleased to announce its next major exhibition, *Rensselaer County Goes to War: War and the Home Front, 1775-2003*.

This exhibit looks at Rensselaer County residents' response to war over 200 years and how that response has helped to shape the county over time. RCHS Curator Stacy Pomeroy Draper states that one of the reasons this exhibit was organized was to focus on the impact war has on those who served and those who stayed home, as war has always been fought on both the war front and the home front.

Using RCHS's vast library and museum collections as a resource, the main exhibit and two smaller companion exhibits, *Letters Home/Remembrances* and *Wartime Stories: The Community Responds to War* will look at issues related to patriotism, protest, politics, trade and commerce, industrial innovation and social change by examining the conflicts the United States has taken part in from the American Revolution to the recent war in Iraq. The focus is on the local impact of these international conflicts and seeks to ask questions of

visitors that help to make connections between the past and present.

Among the highlights of the collections that are on view are the John Ellis Wool Coatee (War of 1812) and items related to General Ogden Ross, and the City of Troy commemorative sword presented to General Wool. RCHS's superb collections of military uniforms and examples of civilian clothing will also be displayed, many for the first time. Diaries, letters, photographs and remembrances, both written and in the form of objects sent back home, will be seen in *Letters Home/Remembrances*, an exhibit in the Library Lobby. Biographical sketches of individuals sent in by the public make up the panels of *Wartime Stories: The Community Responds to War*, adding a very personal perspective to the other exhibits.

This major exhibition has had generous underwriting from the Bert Johnson Charitable Foundation in support of educational programming related to the exhibit, the Capital District Civil War Roundtable in honor of RCHS Graduate Intern Christopher Kolakowski and from Michael Halloran.

### **Foundation of NYS Nurses Receives DHP Grant**

The Foundation of NYS Nurses' Bellevue Alumnae Center for Nursing History received a grant from the Documentary Heritage Program to continue their project "Executing a Plan to Document the Role of the Nursing Profession in Mental Health Services in New York State." The DHP grant in the amount of \$18,233 will allow the Foundation to complete Phase II of the project: Identifying Relevant Historical Records, a statewide records survey.

The goal of the records survey is to identify records documenting the role of professional nurses, the nursing profession, and professional nursing organizations in the prevention and treatment of mental disorders and the promotion of mental health in New York State from 1900 to the present. The project will commence this Fall and be completed by June 2005.

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## Capital Area Archivists of New York State

**Materials Suitable  
for the CAA  
Archives should be  
submitted to**

**Amy Schindler  
University at Albany  
LE-355  
1400 Washington  
Ave  
Albany, NY 12222**

### **Albany Manuscripts Database**

The Albany Manuscript Database is a project of graduate student members of the student chapter of the Society of American Archivists in the School of Information Science and Policy at the University at Albany. Students working on the project attended the SAA Annual Meeting in Boston and presented a poster session on the manuscript project to SAA members. The goal of the project is to create an online database of manuscript

collections in the Capital District that relate to the city of Albany. This tool will be a major resource for researchers interested in the history of the city of Albany. To date, the project team has completed the survey of repositories, collected the raw data into a database, and sorted out unnecessary records. The graduate students have undertaken the time-intensive work of cataloging the manuscript collections that have not been cataloged in order to add them to the database. After completing the cataloging the students hope to create an Access database with the eventual goal of linking a version of the database to an online interface for remote user access. Those interested in the project should contact Anthony Taglianetti at [thetags4@yahoo.com](mailto:thetags4@yahoo.com) for further information about the project.



### **DHP Grant Application Roundtable September 30, 2004 CDLC Albany**

The Capital District  
Documentary Heritage Program

(DHP) will be presenting a workshop on the 2005 DHP grant applications. This program will explain the DHP grant application process and documentation priorities. In addition it will provide tips for writing a strong grant proposal. Participants are encouraged to bring project ideas for discussion. For more information contact Susan D'Entremont at 518/438-2500

**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 or meeting hosts. If you are interested in the possibility of holding office or hosting a future meeting of CAA, please contact Amy Schindler, President of CAA, at (518) 437-3934 or [aschindler@uamail.albany.edu](mailto:aschindler@uamail.albany.edu).

# Capital Area Archivists of New York State

or sd'entremont@cdlc.org.

## Archives Week 2004

Archives Week provides an opportunity to engage our local communities in exploring the heritage, culture, and wealth of New York history through historical documents, photographs, and artifacts. New York's cultural institutions, such as historical societies, libraries, and museums collect and preserve an astounding array of historical materials. Archives Week is a chance to increase public awareness and support of these collections.

Information about Archives Week events is available from CDLC at [http://www.cdlc.org/Programs\\_And\\_Services/dhp/dhparcwk.shtml](http://www.cdlc.org/Programs_And_Services/dhp/dhparcwk.shtml) and from the New York State Archives at [http://www.archives.nysed.gov/a/newsroom/news\\_archivesweek.shtml](http://www.archives.nysed.gov/a/newsroom/news_archivesweek.shtml).

## Archives Dinner 2004

### Co-Sponsored by CAA

The Capital Region Archives Dinner is the annual celebration of our documentary heritage in New York's Capital Region.

The Ninth Annual Capital Region Archives Dinner will be held on Wednesday, October 6, 2004, in the 1920's-era Ballroom of the Mohawk Golf Club in Niskayuna, Schenectady County, NY. Cash bar from 6 to 7 PM, with dinner at 7 PM.

The Club is located at 1849 Union Street, Niskayuna, just off Route 7.

Our Guest Speaker for 2004 is Richard E. Tucker, Chair of the Adirondack Research Library of the Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks. Mr. Tucker will offer his unique insight into the historic conflict between preservation and recreation in the Adirondacks, and his efforts to "connect the collections" of Adirondack history as he prepared a forthcoming book on the history of Adirondack skiing.

This year's Dinner will once again include Awards, Recognitions, and Appreciations as part of our gathering.

The Capital Region Archives Dinner celebrates the written treasures of our history in Albany, Fulton, Montgomery, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, and Schoharie counties. Your active participation is welcomed! Please contact [knewkirk@townofbethlehem.org](mailto:knewkirk@townofbethlehem.org) to volunteer, and thank you for your interest in archives.

**RESERVATIONS:** The cost of this year's dinner is \$30 made out to "Capital Region Archives Dinner" and can be mailed to Hon. Kathleen Newkirk, Bethlehem Town Clerk, 445 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, NY 12054. Please indicate your choice of meals from the following: Chicken Francaise; Trout Almondine; or Eggplant Parmesan.

For additional information visit <http://www.archivesdinner.com>.

## UHA Fall 2004 Workshops

The Upstate History Alliance is presenting a series of workshops this fall focusing on Conservation for Exhibitions. The workshops include:

- *Introduction to Exhibition Conservation*  
September 20, 2004  
Clinton Historical Society, Clinton  
9:30 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.
- *Matting & Framing*  
October 18, 2004  
Saratoga County Historical Society, Ballston Spa  
9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- *Mannequins: Displaying Costumes*  
October 25, 2004  
Rensselaer County Historical Society, Troy  
9:30 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.
- *Exhibit Case Design and Retrofit, Object Supports and Mounts*  
November 15, 2004  
Cayuga Museum of History and Art, Auburn  
9:30a.m.- 4:00p.m.

See the UHA Website at <http://www.upstatehistory.org/services/uhaworkshops.html> for registration information and additional workshops.