

CAPITAL AREA ARCHIVISTS OF NEW YORK STATE



CAA NEWS

FALL, 2001

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

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www.albany.edu/sisp/people/students/saa/CAA/index.htm

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CAA Fall 2001 Program

Albany Institute of History & Art
Wednesday, November 14, 2001
5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

Please join us on November 14 at the Albany Institute of History & Art for the CAA fall program. Wes Balla, Curator of History, will present *City Neighbors: Documenting Ethnicity in Albany*. Following the program, Balla and Librarian Jennifer Benedetto will lead a tour through the Institute's new facilities. Please RSVP to Jean Root Mahalov, 454-5190 or mahalovj@mail.strose.edu.

AIHA is located at the intersection of Washington Avenue and Dove Street in downtown Albany, one block west of the New York State Capitol. From I-787 take Empire Street Plaza Exit, bear right onto Swan Street. Follow Swan Street two traffic lights to Washington Avenue. Turn left onto Washington Avenue. Turn right onto Dove Street. The entrance to the AIHA parking lot is on the right.

AIHA offers limited parking for visitors in its lot on Elk and Dove Street. During the week, metered parking is available on nearby streets and there are several lots and garages nearby. There is also some free on-street parking within walking distance.

Recap: Recent Capital Area Archivists Programs

Spring 2001

On May 8, 2001, the M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives hosted a large group at the Spring Program of CAA. Sandy Stuart, Coordinator of the New York State Freedom Trail Commission discussed the mission and activities of the Commission and gave a fascinating presentation on the African American struggle for freedom in New York State. She also brought a traveling Freedom Trail display. Please visit the New York Freedom Trail's website at www.nyfreedom.com.

Fall 2000

On a snowy December 14, 2000, CAA members who braved the weather were treated to a tour of the Hudson Mohawk Industrial Gateway housed in the Burdon Iron Works Museum in South Troy. Tom Carroll, Executive Director, discussed the Gateway's collections and conducted the tour. Please visit the Hudson Mohawk Industrial Gateway's website at www.rpi.edu/~carroll/gateway1.html.

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DOCUMENTARY HERITAGE PROGRAM GRANT AWARDS 2001-2002

The following Capital District institutions received grants for 2001-2002:

-Canajoharie Library and Art Gallery to survey local repositories and businesses relating to the food processing industry in Fulton and Montgomery counties. The goal is to develop a guide and catalog record for each publicly accessible collection identified.

-The College of Saint Rose to plan and host a meeting of archivists, records users, historians, educators and representatives of underdocumented groups to identify documentation priorities in the Capital District. (For more information, see page 3).

-The Korean Fellowship Association of Greater Albany Area, Inc. to conduct preliminary surveys and locate records related to the Korean community in the Capital District.

-New York Folklore Society (based in Schenectady) to train and support community scholars in identifying, surveying and collecting archival records related to Hip Hop in New York City.

-New York State Social Work Education Association to continue a project to identify holders of material related to "Kendra's Law," a legislative amendment related to mandated treatment of individuals with mental health histories of violence and non-compliance with treatment. The overall goal of the project is to establish a centralized collection of documentation that

currently exists in relation to Kendra's Law.

-Silver Bay Association YMCA to arrange and describe records related to this 100 year old YMCA training and conference center.

-University at Albany, SUNY, to identify, survey and plan for the collection of records related to environmental affairs



DHP GRANT APPLICATIONS DUE MARCH 1

The Documentary Heritage Program (DHP) is a statewide program administered by the New York State Archives. For Fiscal Year 2002-2003 \$100,000 in grant funds are available for focused projects that support the DHP goal of ensuring the identification, retention and availability of historical records for underdocumented groups and subjects in New York State.

Five documentation areas have been targeted for attention:

1. Mental Health Activities in New York
2. Environmental Affairs
3. Latino/Latina-Hispanic communities
4. Deindustrialization and Economic Revitalization in Twentieth-Century New York
5. New Population Groups in Twentieth-Century New York.

Funding is available for three types of projects:

- Projects to identify, survey and plan for the systematic collection of records.
- Projects to arrange, describe and make available historical records.

- Historical records strategic planning projects.

Applications will be accepted from not-for-profit archives, libraries, historical societies, museums and similar institutions within New York State, and from consortia or cooperating groups of such agencies.

Grants will be available in amounts from \$1,000 to \$25,000 for personnel; travel; service contracts, supplies; materials, and equipment needed for the project.

Applications must be postmarked by March 1, 2002. Announcements of projects awarded funding will be made by June 15, 2002. Grants in this cycle are for 12-month projects, from July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003.

Projects not eligible for funding under the DHP:

- Newspapers, which are not considered to be historical records under the DHP law,
- Preservation, i.e., physical work to conserve, restore, or repair records, or reproduction for preservation purposes such as microfilming;
- Creating oral history tapes or video tapes, or transcription of these;
- Item-level description and indexing, and purchase of collections.

Potential applicants are strongly urged to contact the State Archives DHP office to discuss potential projects before submitting an application. The DHP also provides regionally based grant application workshops at various dates and locations throughout the fall. For a list of dates and locations or to

Continued next page

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DHP Grant, cont.

receive a copy of the grant application materials, please contact the New York State Archives by telephone (518) 474-6926, fax (518) 402-5372, or email: dhs@mail.nysed.gov, or contact Susan D'Entremont, Regional Archivist, at (518) 438-2500 or susan@cdlc.org

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Documentation Meeting Planned

On March 15, 2002, the College of Saint Rose Archives will host a meeting to begin discussion on how to ensure that the many ethnic groups that make the Capital District their home are properly represented in the records held by local archives. The objectives of the meeting will be to identify the various ethnic groups that have settled throughout the region, determine what is currently being collected by local historical records repositories on those groups identified, and to formulate a plan to improve documentation of those groups that currently are underrepresented in local repositories. It is hoped that the meeting will result in a small number of focused collecting priorities for the region. These priorities and other results of the meeting will be distributed and publicized throughout the region to help historical records repositories update their collecting policies and to aid in assessing documentation progress in the region over the next few years. The project will be funded in part by a DHP grant.

For further information on the project, contact Jean Root Mahalov, The College of Saint Rose Archivist, at (518) 454-5190 or mahalovj@mail.strose.edu.

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Dudley Observatory Artifacts Featured in Carnegie Institution Exhibit

Archival records and artifacts from the Dudley Observatory used in a pioneering international program to map the stars will be featured in the an exhibit marking the centennial of the Carnegie Institution of Washington that opens December 7 in Washington D.C.

The exhibit, "Our Expanding Universe: Celebrating a Century of Carnegie Science" honors the first hundred years of the Carnegie Institution, established by industrialist and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie in 1902 to fund American research. One of that institution's 11 major initial projects was the Department of Meridian Astronomy, headquartered at the Dudley Observatory, then located in Albany, N.Y. That Department carried out a 35 year project to map with unprecedented accuracy the positions of 33,342 stars easily visible from earth.

As part of this project, the department set up an observatory in San Luis, Argentina to observe stars visible only in the southern hemisphere. It is this 1909-1911 expedition that is featured in the Carnegie exhibit. Artifacts on display include the lens and other portions of a large telescope that was shipped to San Luis and back again, the only time a single telescope was used to map the entire heavens with high precision before the advent of space-based telescopes. Other items on display range from logbooks and observing cards to an invoice for 52 boxes of astronomical instruments shipped between the two sites.

The exhibit will run until May, 2002. For more information, see the Web site http://carnegieinstitution.org/new_home_page/centennial_home_page.html. The Dudley Observatory, now located in Schenectady, N.Y., is the world's oldest independent organization for supporting astronomical research and its history. Its holdings include a library, rare book collection and archives as well as some artifacts from the organization's years as an active astronomical observatory.

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Upcoming Event: Researching the Civil War: Resources at the New York State Library, the New York State Archives and the New York State Museum

Thursday, November 8, 2001, from 10:45 am to 3:00 pm. (The snow date is Thursday, November 15)

The \$10.00 registration fee includes hand-outs. Participants should bring their own lunch or they can order a box lunch for \$10.00. Checks should be made payable to the Friends of the New York State Newspaper Project and sent, with a registration form, to:

Civil War Workshop
New York State Library/FNYSNP
P.O. Box 2402, Empire Plaza Station, Albany, NY 12220

The deadline for registration and lunch orders is Thursday, October 25. Seating is limited. If the workshop is oversubscribed, a waiting list will be created.

For more information see www.nysl.nysed.gov/genealogy/civil/workshop.htm.

For submissions to the next

CAA NEWS

please contact

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at

mahalovj@mail.strose.edu

Articles and announcements are accepted on an ongoing basis.