

Capital Area Archivists of New York State

CAA FALL



2012 **NEWS**

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

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**Capital Region Archives
Dinner, Thursday
October 4, 2012, Gideon
Putnam, Saratoga
Springs**

The Capital Region Archives Dinner Committee, in co-operation with the New York State Archives Partnership Trust and Capital Area Archivists, is proud to present the Seventeenth Annual Capital Region Archives Dinner. It will be held at the historic Gideon Putnam Hotel in Saratoga Springs on Thursday October 4, 2012.

The keynote speaker is Dr. Jennifer Dorsey, Director of Siena College's Center for Revolutionary Era Studies, who will be speaking about draft dodging during the War of 1812. Her talk is based on a larger research project based on the life of tenant

farmer George Holcomb and the diary that Holcomb maintained for fifty years in Rensselaer County, New York.

Each Year, the Archives Dinner Committee recognizes individuals and organizations who or which have made significant contributions to the preservation and enhancement of local archives as part of our annual celebration. Last year, we recognized the achievements of CSEA in documenting its history; the Clifton Park/ Halfmoon Library and Clifton Park Town Historian John Scherer for working to preserve town historical records. In recent years, we have honored the GE Elfun Society Volunteers, the Researching New York Conference, Susan McLane, Elaine Wheeler, Robert W. Arnold III, Andrew Raymond, Jan

Membership dues can be sent to Gertrude Hutchinson at:
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Allen, the late Albert Fowler, Len Tantillo, and Hon. Kathleen Newkirk.

For information about obtaining tickets to this year's dinner please email Brian Keough, bkeough@albany.edu. We look forward to seeing you on Thursday October 4, 2012 at the Gideon Putnam in historic Saratoga Springs, NY. You can also contact us through our web site at: <http://www.archivedinner.org/>.

Longshore Soldiers: Life in a WWII Port Battalion - Book Talk and Signing by Andrew Brozyna

On Saturday, October 13, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. at the Schenectady County Historical Society, 32 Washington Avenue, Schenectady, NY 12305. The cost is \$5.00 and is free for SCHS Members.

Brozyna will discuss the WWII experience of Schenectady native Cortland Hopkins and other area GIs who served with him – from welding tanks at ALCO, to storming the beach in Normandy, to braving V-bombs in Antwerp. Brozyna's book, *Longshore Soldiers*, chronicles the wartime

experiences of port battalion veterans, part of the US Army's Transportation Corps, responsible for ensuring military were delivered to the front line. *Longshore Soldiers* offers a compelling narrative, packed with first-hand accounts and personal histories, of an overlooked aspect of WWII. The author examines how these veterans kept the Allied armies moving as they marched into the Reich.

Brozyna works in book publishing and is the grandson of Cortland Hopkins, a veteran of the 519th Port Battalion.

For more information, contact Melissa Tacke, Librarian/Archivist at the Schenectady County Historical Society, by phone at 518-374-0263, option 3, or by email at librarian@schist.org. The Schenectady County Historical Society is wheelchair accessible, with off-street parking behind the building and overflow parking next door at the YWCA.

Hall of Records to Celebrate 30th Anniversary on October 17, 2012

Albany County Hall of Records will celebrate its

30th anniversary on Wednesday, October 17, 2012 from 10AM-2PM. All interested chroniclers of history are invited to the open house at 95 Tivoli Street, Albany, New York.

Speakers will give the annals of the Hall of Records, exhibits will be on display, and tours of the facility will be available. Light refreshments will be included.

We are very proud of our accommodations which include Archives, Micro-Imaging and Records Center and would be most happy to have our public partake in our celebration. You are cordially invited to join us in October.

miSci (the Museum of Innovation and Science) Announces New Erie Canal Audio Tour Grand Opening August 17

miSci (the Museum of Innovation and Science, formerly the Schenectady Museum) announces the grand opening of a new **Erie Canal Audio Tour**, which highlights the innovative technology that made the canal possible and how this technology impacted the lives of Schenectady residents. Funded by a grant from the Erie Canalway National

Heritage Corridor Commission, the 1.2-mile tour along Erie Boulevard in downtown Schenectady explores the Erie Canal through 14 mobile audio stops accessible by cell phone and QR codes. The Tour is hosted by Pittsford, NY-based OnCell, which offers a state-of-the-art technology platform providing location-specific interpretation to your visitors.

"From one of the first radio stations in the United States, WGY, to a mobile tour of today, OnCell is thrilled to help share the rich history of Schenectady through mobile technology," said Thomas Dunne, OnCell President and CEO.

Erie Canalway Executive Director Beth Sciumeca said, "We are so pleased to support this worthy project. The Erie Canal was among the first wave of innovations that transformed not only Schenectady, but the state and nation. The tour shares the great story of the canal's impact on the lives of residents and businesses, and the growth of a city whose foundation remains grounded in technology."

The first Tour stop is titled *Opening the Erie Canal* and examines the DeWitt Clinton's inaugural journey along the canal in 1825 as well as the reaction to the new mode of transportation by communities along the canal. Other stops include *Westinghouse*, which highlights George Westinghouse, Jr.'s invention of the air brake while living along the canal, and *Winter Along the Canal*, which looks at the economic impact of a frozen canal on families who relied on the canal for their livelihood.

Tour stops are labeled by window decals at current businesses on Erie Boulevard and State Street occupying spots with historic significance to the development and impact of the Erie Canal. miSci officials opted to collaborate with local businesses as hosts for the window decals because they did not want the current construction project along Erie Boulevard to delay the opening of the Erie Canal Audio Tour.

"miSci is proud to partner with and expresses sincere appreciation to the businesses hosting Erie Canal Audio Tour stops,"

said miSci board president Brad Lewis.

In addition to partnering with area businesses to host Tour Stops, miSci also partnered with Union College museum studies students to develop the tour content, and invited area residents with a connection to Schenectady or the Erie Canal to read the recorded audio content for the Tour stops. Tour readers include Philip Morris, Proctors CEO and Laura Schweitzer, PhD, Union Graduate College president.

The first Tour stop, *Opening the Erie Canal*, is located at Key Bank, 315 State Street. Other stop locations are: 2 - *Living Along the Canal*: Isopo's Downtown Pizza, 176 Erie Boulevard; 3 - *Port Schenectady*: Wolberg Electric, 152 Erie Boulevard; 4 - *Westinghouse*: Lyle's Hoagies II, 140 Erie Boulevard; 5 - *The Canal to the West*: 1st National Bank of Scotia, 120 Erie Boulevard; 6 - *General Electric*: Erie Crossing, 112 Erie Boulevard; 7 - *Original Route of the Canal*: EOS Technologies, 139 Erie Boulevard; 8 - *Nicholaus Restaurant*: Bangkok Bistro, 268 State Street; 9 - *Winter Along*

the Canal: The Photo-Lab, Inc., 273 State Street; 10 – *Life on the Canal*: Wedgeway Barber Shop, 277 State Street (entrance on Erie Boulevard); 11 – *Charles Steinmetz*: The Grog Shoppe, 277 State Street (entrance on Erie Boulevard); 12 – *Rail Bridge*: Stewart's, 1033 Erie Boulevard; 13 – *The Canal to the East*: Morrette's King Steak House, 1126 Erie Boulevard; 14 – *American Locomotive Company (ALCO)*: Amtrak, Schenectady Rail Station, 322 Erie Boulevard.

Erie Canal Audio Tour brochures are available at miSci (the Museum of Innovation and Science, formerly the Schenectady Museum), 15 Nott Terrace Heights and Proctors, 432 State Street in Schenectady. The Tour is free but normal rate plan charges from your phone carrier will apply.

Founded in 1934, **miSci** is the only science center in Tech Valley offering a multimedia experience for visitors of all ages and serves school children from northeastern New York, western Massachusetts, and southern Vermont. The **Suits-Bueche Planetarium** at miSci

houses the only **GOTO Star Projector** in the northeast and is an official NASA Space Place. miSci's **Archives** include an extensive GE Photograph collection, with more than 1.6 million prints and negatives; an archival collection with more than 3,500 cubic feet of historic materials; and more than 15,000 objects relating to the history of science and technology. miSci offers **FETCH! Lab**, with hands-on activities patterned after the popular PBS show **FETCH!**, in collaboration with WHMT. miSci also offers weekly Science Discovery Demos and Hidden Power Demos, developed by the Franklin Institute and the Penn State Center for Nanoscale Science, a Materials Research Science and Engineering Center supported by a National Science Foundation grant.

The University at Albany is hosting *Researching New York 2012: Science, Technology, and the Environment*, November 15th & 16th, 2012

The organizers of the 15th annual Researching New York Conference brings together historians, archivists, museum curators, graduate students,

teachers, documentarians, and multimedia producers, to share their work on New York State history. Presentations that highlight the vast resources available to researchers, as well as scholarship drawn from those resources, are encouraged. Over two days, Researching New York presents panels, papers, workshops, roundtables, exhibits, and documentary and multimedia presentations on any aspect of New York State history in any time period and from any perspective. This year, we especially encourage proposals that explore the history of science, technology, and the environment in New York. Researching New York. For more information go to: <http://nystatehistory.org/researchny/>.

OUTSIDE THE CAPITAL REGION

The National Archives at New York City is Moving!

The National Archives at New York City is pleased to announce that in the fall of 2012 we will move our office to the Alexander Hamilton U.S. Custom

House at One Bowling Green in New York City.



Our new home will be located in the same building as the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian. The building is currently known as the Custom House building, designed by Cass Gilbert in the Beaux Arts style and listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

At One Bowling Green our patrons will continue to receive the same great service they have come to expect from the experienced National Archives staff. We will continue to provide access to all of our holdings. An increase in our public and outreach programs, and our new proximity to other important New York cultural institutions including the Museum of the American Indian and

Ellis Island, will enable us to reach a wider audience.

In our Welcome Center, we will: provide an introduction to the holdings of the National Archives, feature select original documents in our exhibit gallery, provide information about our public, education and outreach programs, and provide information about our research facility

In our Reference Room, we will provide access to our original records and microfilm collections, certify copies of National Archives holdings in our custody, offer expanded access to our online resources with additional public computers, continue access to NARA's online subscription services including Ancestry, Footnote, Heritage Quest, ProQuest, free of charge

In our Learning Center, we will, host Student field trips and teacher workshops, sponsor Family Fun Activities, provide Finding Family Genealogy Workshops, and offer increased programming that highlights the rich resources of the National Archives.

Announcements

Jenifer Kuba has been hired as Assistant Institute Archivist at **Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute**. Jen began working in the RPI Archives and Special Collections Department in the Fall of 2010 as a University at Albany intern. She later served as Project Archivist on a variety of technology initiatives at Rensselaer, including Archon implementation. Jen replaces former CAA President Amy Rupert, who accepted a position at Ebsco in 2011.

The **College of Saint Rose Archives** now has student newspapers and publications available online and full-text searchable. The issues cover 1921 through 1970. The link to all our digital collections is:

<http://library.strose.edu/archivesdigitalcollections>.

Remember that this newsletter is developed from the stories and news from your institutions. If you have something you'd like to share from your organization, please consider sending an article for the spring newsletter to me at emilysouthworth@yahoo.com