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CAA News

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Capital Area Archivists
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The Struggle for Education of Black Children in 19th Century Albany

By Ann Marie Hess, Assistant Archivist at Albany County Hall of Records

In recognition of this year's Black History Month theme, The Crisis in Black Education, the Albany County Hall of Records (ACHOR), presents a new exhibit, *The Struggle for Education of Black Children in 19th Century Albany*. In preparation for this exhibit, Archives staff consulted two publications by noted local historian Marion Hughes, author of Refusing Ignorance: The Struggle to Educate Black Children in Albany, New York, 1816-1873, and Standing Tall: A Tribute to Education. The ideas presented in these works helped to provide us with a framework for this exhibit.

Please see [Struggle for Education](#) on page 4

University at Albany Receives Grant to Create the Digital Archive of Executions from The Council on Library and Information Resources

The Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) selected the University at Albany Libraries' National Death Penalty Archive (NDPA) to receive a 2016 Digitizing Hidden Special Collections and Archives grant. As one of only 17 awards out of a total of 144 applications nationwide, the grant will create the Digital Archive of Executions in the United States, 1608-2002 from the M. Watt Espy Papers' execution files on over 15,000 legal executions in the United States.

The Digital Archive of Executions will be a searchable database of nearly 150,000 documents freely available online to scholars, researchers, and students with metadata available on individuals executed, their race, gender, crime, method of execution, along with Espy's written analysis. A first of its kind database, the Digital Archive of Executions will appeal to a broad range of scholars, including those interested in history, political science, criminal justice, sociology or law.

Please see [UAlbany](#) on page 3

New Tools: Social Networks and Archival Context (SNAC)

By Michael Maloney

OK, so it's not a super new tool, but it's relatively new to me and hopefully new to some of you. So that counts for something, right? I could rename this feature to "New-ish Tools" but that's not the catchiest title so I'll keep it the same. One of the most frustrating things for researchers (and sometimes archivists) is finding out that the collections of someone you're researching are spread across 5 different repositories across the country. That's where Social Networks and Archival Context (SNAC) is useful. SNAC addresses the problem of discovering, locating, and using historical records. Through SNAC's database, you can search hundreds of repositories in order to find out which repositories hold the papers your research subject. SNAC is hooked up to OCLC's WorldCat and gets finding aids from various consortia like the Online Archive of California as well as from

SNAC is pretty much Facebook for historical figures and while you won't find hundreds of posts about your subject's political leanings, you may find the institution that holds this information. I used a presidential example and searched for Chester Arthur in SNAC. The site lists 176 repositories that has documents either created by Arthur, or that reference him. SNAC does have some limitations and is still in its prototype phase, so you won't be able to find collections from every single repository out there, but it's a great starting point to find out where various collections are located.

Arthur, Chester Alan, 1829-1886 Alternative names

Dates:
birth 1829-10-05
death 1886-11-18
Gender:

Authority Source: colu, vah, VIAF, oac, LC, harvard, umi, byu, WorldCat, nypl, pacscl, yale, nara, mhs, lc
Nationality:
Language: eng Latin Alphabet

Biographical notes:

President of the United States, 1881-1885.
From the description of Chester Alan Arthur papers, 1881-1885. (Columbia University in the City of New York). WorldCat record id: 460879506
21st President of the United States.
From the description of Chester Alan Arthur papers, 1847-1886. (New York University. Group [Batchload]). WorldCat record id: 58780571
United States President.
From the description of Card signed : Executive Mansion, Washington [D.C.]. [n.d.]. (Unknown). WorldCat record id: 270873013
BIOGHIST REQUIRED President of the United States, 1881-1885.

Links to collections

- Archival Collections **176**
- Related Resources **11**
- Related External Links **8**

Related names in SNAC

People **142**

Agassiz, Louis, 1807-1873 associatedWith
Akeley, Healy Cady, 1836-1912. associatedWith
Aldrich, Nelson W. (Nelson Wilmarth), 1841-1915. associatedWith
Alfred Magill Randolph. associatedWith
Allen, Campbell correspondedWith
Andrews, Byron, 1852-1910. associatedWith
Angell, James Burrill, 1829-1916. associatedWith
Arnold, Isaac Newton, 1815-1884. associatedWith
Arthur, Alan, associatedWith
Arthur, Chester Alan, 1864-1937 correspondedWith
Asher, Louis Eller, 1877-1948. associatedWith
Bancroft, George, 1800-1891 associatedWith
Beecher, Henry Ward, 1813-1887. associatedWith
Behling, E. H. (Emil H.), 1858-1938. associatedWith
Benjamin F. Butler (Benjamin Franklin)

Visualize:

- List collection locations
- Radial Graph Demo
- View source EAC-CPF

Subjects:

- Railroads--Virginia.
- Bannock Indians
- Canals--United States.
- Cigars--Taxation
- Civil Procedure and Courts
- Civil service
- Civil service.
- Customs administration
- Customs administration--New York (State)--New York.
- Customs administration.
- Harbors--United States.
- Horses--Virginia.

The SNAC Profile of [Chester Arthur](#) gives links to archival collections, people he associated with (his friend list), and other subject headings he may be affiliated with.

One of the coolest features of SNAC is the zoomable radial graph demo which shows you just who your subject is connected to. It offers a "six degrees of Kevin Bacon" experience for whichever person or topic you're researching. So you can figure out just how the subject of your research is connected to other historical figures. This [link](#) shows the connections of people, families, and organizations to the Titanic.

SNAC helped me recently with a reference on Christopher Yates who was lieutenant-colonel of the Second Albany County Militia in Schenectady. He also served as a deputy quartermaster general under Philip Schuyler during the American Revolution. We have some documents from Christopher Yates in the archives of the Schenectady County Historical Society, but through SNAC I was able to find out that Syracuse University has a decent sized collection of Yates' correspondence with many letters to and from various residents of Schenectady. SNAC is not only a great research tool, but it is also fun to poke around and find out who was on your favorite historical figures "friend list."

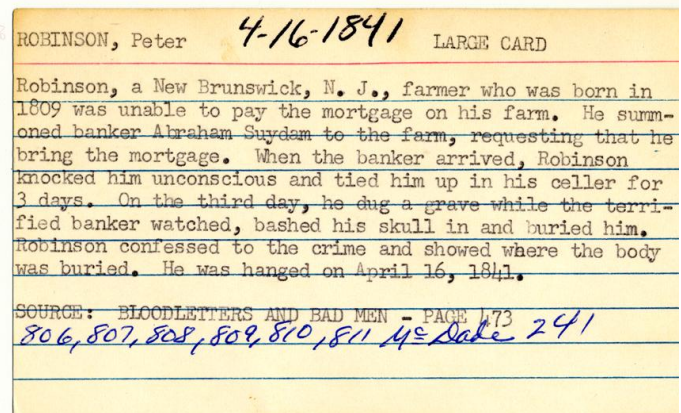
UAlbany Continued from page 1

Future researchers might utilize specific records related to individual criminal cases, while others might review broader material to analyze umbrella issues, like innocents executed, or collect data to mount a legal defense. All of this information will be freely exposed as linked data through a modern application programming interface (API) to enable a wide variety of computational use. The project will try to incorporate user-centered design, which means we are going to get feedback from users as early as we can. Hopefully this produces a system that is intuitive and looks and acts like the rest of the web.

Espy devoted nearly four decades of research to documenting more than 15,000 executions in America, dating from 1608 in colonial Jamestown, inspiring the *New York Times* in a 1987 article to describe Espy as America's foremost "death penalty historian." Espy traveled extensively, spending countless hours painstakingly compiling information about executions becoming widely known for his unique collection of files on capital punishment.

Beginning in 1970, with only his personal resources, Espy began his quest to verify all government sanctioned executions in this country. Espy's research and writing profoundly shaped scholarship on capital punishment. Prior to his work, most scholars estimated there had been roughly 5,000 people executed in the United States. Over the course his research, Espy created over 25,000 typed index cards that summarize the story of each individual execution, with references to source material.

The cards document brutal murders, robberies gone wrong, slave revolts, and judicial processes of states, colonies, Native American tribes, and the federal government. Some of the individuals executed are not documented anywhere else in the historical record, and examining the results of horribly deviant crimes or possible miscarriages of justice when an innocent person was sentenced to death provide a different perspective on society. Espy collected over 100,000 pages of primary and secondary source material on executions spanning hundreds of years provide an unrivaled window into the nation's death penalty practices.



For more information and examples of the index cards go to:
<http://library.albany.edu/node/3120>

The enhanced availability of these uniquely valuable historical records, made possible through their digitization, represents a tremendous opportunity for researchers and promises to be a watershed event for advancing death-penalty scholarship.

Housed at the Libraries' M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives, the NDPA mission is to build a collection of archival materials from individuals and national organizations that played substantive roles in the history of capital punishment. Through a partnership between the School of Criminal Justice and the Libraries that began in 1999, the NDPA has acquired personal papers and organizational records to document the emergence, development, and coordination of a political and social movement related to the death penalty.

The NDPA collections present a comprehensive picture of political debate, reform, legal maneuvering, and academic research from nationally recognized experts on legal executions in the United States. Scholars gain access to primary sources that provide insight into the process, influence, and interplay of academic scholarship and political debate over capital punishment. The NDPA contains primary sources in compelling thematic areas, such as civil rights, advocacy efforts of victims' families, and legal history as well as research examining challenges to the death penalty's constitutionality, deterrence, wrongful convictions, and sentences for capital crimes.

Struggle for Education continued from page 1

The exhibit begins with a facsimile of an 1857 map and key which points to sites where black children attended school throughout the 19th century in Albany, New York. The locations for the schools are identified and extensively documented in Marion Hughes' *Refusing Ignorance*, which uses several documents from ACHOR's holdings.

Next, a timeline is featured which summarizes events that had an impact on Albany's black community and their attempt to establish schools. Records that are associated with the events in this timeline are noted and showcased in the exhibit. The timeline begins with an 1811 Deed for land purchased by Benjamin Lattimore, a noted member of Albany's black community, from Elizabeth Schuyler Hamilton (widow of Alexander Hamilton) for the sum of \$400. This lot, now 90-92 Broad Street, was the site of the first school built for the education of Albany's black community. The time line ends in 1913 with the hiring of the first African-American public school teacher, Harriet Lewis and links to the display of the Merit List of Candidates for Appointments as Teacher, 1891-1916, showing Harriet's average score (89.15).

Records gathered from ACHOR's holdings for the exhibit include documents from the Board of Education, the City Clerk, the City Engineer, the County Clerk and the Common Council. Among documents presented include a Teacher Certificate for Thomas Paul, a teacher and principal of the Wilberforce School as well as an annual list of supplies for the school. The Wilberforce School served as the sole public elementary school for black children for nearly three decades, spanning the years 1845-1873.

In addition to using some of the records documented in Hughes' works, additional research was done using Board of Education and Common Council Minutes from the early part of the nineteenth century (1808 -1854). Extensive review of the minutes reveal the city's intentional segregation of the education system for black and white children. A compilation of these minutes in a "notebook" was created with scanned images of the original, handwritten documents alongside transcriptions for improved legibility.

The documents presented in this new exhibit not only expand our understanding of African- American history in Albany but also the more general history of public education in Albany. The exhibit can be seen at the Albany County Hall of Records, Monday - Friday, 8:30 - 4:30. The exhibit will continue to be on display until this summer. An online version of the exhibit can also be found at;

<http://www.albanycounty.com/Government/Departments/AlbanyCountyHallofRecords/OnlineExhibit.aspx>

Save the Date

**The Annual Archives Dinner will
take place on Tuesday, October 3,
2017**

Documentary Heritage and Preservation Services for New York Workshops

By Jason Henn, DHPSNY Communications Assistant

Documentary Heritage and Preservation Services for New York (DHPSNY) launched last September with the objective of providing free, comprehensive preservation services and education programs to the nearly 4,500 collecting institutions across New York State. Since last fall, this effort has included awarding planning and assessment services (archival needs assessments, preservation/conservation surveys, and strategic planning assistance) to eighteen institutions—including Capital-area repositories—with another wave to be announced in May. So far this year, five area organizations have applied for DHPSNY's planning and assessment services.

DHPSNY education programs will also continue in May, and we will be presenting this year at a number of locations convenient to our friends in the Capital-Saratoga region. Our May workshop, **The Process of Processing: A Practical Approach**, will be offered by DHPSNY Archives Specialist Amelia Parks on Thursday, May 4, at the Bethlehem Public Library's Central Library branch in Delmar (Albany County). This hands-on workshop will focus on the fundamentals of archival processing and provide the tools necessary to establish better intellectual and physical control over collections. Topics addressed will include principles of archival arrangement, preservation best practices, and description standards. Participants will work in groups to process a study collection, determine arrangement, complete a basic finding aid, and assign housing priorities. Register: <http://conta.cc/2nzmljB>

Our summer workshop, **Disaster Response and Recovery: A Hands-on Intensive**, is coming to Utica College (Oneida County) on June 7 and the Farmers' Museum-Fenimore Art Museum in Cooperstown (Otsego County) on June 22. For these daylong sessions, both Amelia Parks and DHPSNY Preservation Specialist Gillian Marcus will help participants increase practical knowledge through hands-on salvage of a simulated disaster. Participants will use the Incident Command System while learning to salvage a variety of archival and library materials, including paper, photographs, audio-visual media, and books. Personal safety, initial site assessment, object triage and tracking, and post-disaster debriefing will be addressed.

Participants will also learn about resources and services offered by local and regional emergency management agencies. Knowledge of basic salvage techniques and/or prior attendance in a collections-oriented emergency response workshop is encouraged. Register: <http://conta.cc/2lUVgOx>

Personal safety, initial site assessment, object triage and tracking, and post-disaster debriefing will be addressed. Participants will also learn about resources and services offered by local and regional emergency management agencies. Knowledge of basic salvage techniques and/or prior attendance in a collections-oriented emergency response workshop is encouraged.

Register: <http://conta.cc/2lUVgOx>

Finally this year, our fall workshop, **Fundamentals of Caring for Paper Collections: Handling, Assessing Storage Needs, and Basic Care**, will be presented on Monday, November 6, at the National Museum of Dance in Saratoga Springs (Saratoga County). Gillian Marcus will introduce best practices in caring for any paper-based collection. Topics covered will include: handling guidelines, assessing storage materials and special needs items, prioritizing for treatment, and understanding preservation and conservation terminology. This program is appropriate for those looking to develop new skills, and individuals wanting to increase their knowledge of best practices in the care of paper-based collections. Register: <http://conta.cc/2nvanjF>

To register for upcoming workshops or apply for DHPSNY's free planning and assessment services, visit dhpsny.org. Applications for planning and assessment services are always accepted, and our next review date is scheduled for summer 2017.

The CAA newsletter is made up of stories and news from your institutions. Please consider submitting an article or promoting an event in the next newsletter

Celebrating Women's Suffrage in New York State



A SUSTAINABLE WORLD OF EQUALITY & PEACE: A WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE CENTENNIAL EVENT FRIDAY, MAY 19, 2017 4:00 PM

ROBERSON MUSEUM AND SCIENCE CENTER

30 FRONT STREET
BINGHAMTON, NY 13905



FREIDA JACQUES

Join Humanities New York Public Scholars Sally Roesch Wager and Freida Jacques to discuss the Haudenosaunee influence on the women's suffrage movement in New York State and its continued legacy.

Collaboratively, Roesch Wagner and Jacques explore the impact that Haudenosaunee women, living in absolute equality, had on Euro-American women, who lost all their rights, even their legal existence, when they married. Euro-American women learned from and were inspired by the equal political authority, control of their bodies and property, religious voice, custody of their children, satisfying work, and absence of rape and domestic violence women experienced in Haudenosaunee nations.



SALLY ROESCH WAGNER

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For more information, visit <http://conta.cc/2nNhEfH> or call (518) 474-1303
Event is **FREE** and open to the public—RSVP today!