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CAA News

Fall 2018

Capital Area Archivists
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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Black History at ACHOR
- 2 23rd Capital Region Archives Dinner
- 3 DHPSNY Workshops and Webinars
New York State Archives Training
- 4-5 Black History at ACHOR (continued)
- 6 Student Research Awards
- 7 2018 Archives History Award

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Black History Records from the Archival Collection at the Albany County Hall of Records (ACHOR)

By Annmarie Hess, Assistant Archivist at ACHOR

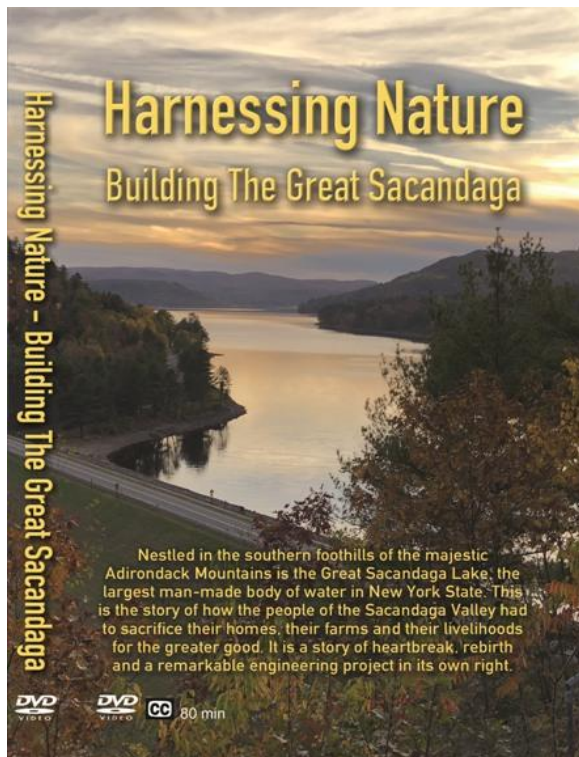
While conducting research for the 2018 Black History Month Theme, *African Americans in Times of War*, Archives staff noticed that there were few historical documents that pertained to the theme among the holdings of the Albany County Hall of Records (ACHOR). Due to the lack of resources available on the subject, I thought it would be beneficial to create a 'guide' of compiled items related to black history in Albany County. Research included searching the ACHOR's internal inventory system and a quick survey for related resources kept at our facility.

The contents of "this guide" (a 2 inch binder available for use at ACHOR) includes items/records from:

General ACHOR Holdings: This references a resource found as a single document or as part of a volume. Some documents have been displayed in ACHOR's Black History Month exhibits such as a receipt of payment to Benjamin Lattimore, 1811. Lattimore, a cart man and free person of color, was paid the sum of \$14.80 to haul cargoes of earth from the city streets. This document was exhibited in *Black History Month 2015 Black and Free: Living in Early Albany*. For *Black History Month 2016: Hallowed Grounds: Sites of African-American Memories*, an Albany Common Council Resolution directing the laying out of a burial ground "to be set apart for people of colour (color) of this city" August 3, 1812, was displayed.

Continued on page 4

The 23rd Annual Capital Region Archives Dinner



It's that time again! Our annual Capital Region Archives Dinner will be held on **Wednesday, October 3 at 5:30 pm**. The year's dinner will be held at Longfellows Restaurant at 500 Union Ave, Saratoga Springs. The invitation and RSVP form can be found at www.capitalarchivist.org/caa/?page_id=398. Please RSVP by September 25, 2018

Our guest speakers this year are Saratoga County Historian Lauren Roberts and Director of Saratoga County Planning Jason Kemper. They will be presenting on their documentary *Harnessing Nature: Building the Great Sacandaga*. This documentary explores how the people who lived in the sacrificed their homes, farms, and livelihoods in order for a much needed reservoir to be built. Archival records were vital and determining factors in researching and successfully producing the documentary.

The schedule is as follows:

5:30 – Cash Bar & Hors d'oeuvres

6:30 – Dinner and Program

7:45 – Awards

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. Send any ideas to our newsletter editor at librarian@schenectadyhistorical.org

DHPSNY Workshops and Webinars



DHPS|NY
DOCUMENTARY HERITAGE
& PRESERVATION SERVICES
FOR NEW YORK

DHPSNY is holding a series of workshops throughout New York. Mold: Prevention, Detection, Recovery is a half-day workshop that will discuss how to identify mold, the environmental factors that allow mold to grow and thrive, and how to prevent an outbreak. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and procedures for handling the health risks of a mold outbreak will also be discussed. Attendees will learn best practices for cleaning moldy books and papers, as well as identifying when it's necessary to call a conservator or a professional mold remediation company.

The dates and locations for these workshops can be found at <http://dhpsny.org/events/upcoming>.

They are also holding quite a few webinars throughout the fall and early winter of 2018. Topics include a series on funding. The first of this series is on Tuesday, October 2nd and focuses on New York State's Discretionary Grant Program for the Conservation and Preservation of Library Research Materials (C/P) and the Documentary Heritage Program (DHP) Grants. The second webinar in the series is on Wednesday, November 14 is all about crafting a successful narrative for your grant applications.

Other topics include the duties & responsibilities of nonprofit boards, establishing a social media presence for your organization, and getting started with emergency preparedness.

More details can be found at <http://dhpsny.org/webinars>

New York State Archives Training

The New York State Archives offers training on a wide variety of topics. The next workshop will be:

For a full list of sessions and to register please visit the New York State Archives website at <http://www.archives.nysed.gov/workshops/schedule>

Keep on the lookout for our upcoming LGRMIF Grant Application Information Sessions which will begin this November!

All State Archives workshops are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted.

Black History Records from the Archival Collection at the Albany County Hall of Records (ACHOR)

Continued from Page 1

Other resources were found while performing research for exhibit topics or while performing data entry into the ACHOR database. For example, I came across interesting documentation such as the Proceedings of the Albany Common Council Minutes and Reports 1872, concerning Thomas Elkins and his compensation for medical services. In the documentation it was suggested that Elkins should be paid \$600 for services for helping injured and sick prisoners. Dr. Elkins provided care when many doctors did not want to provide medical services to prisoners. Also found within Indictments was a case involving Aaron Richardson, licensed owner of a theatre called "The Opera House." Richardson was charged with 'Excluding (a) Citizen on Account of Race or Color' in 1873. Richardson "did exclude the said John F Payn (partly of African descent and commonly called a colored man) from the full and equal enjoyment [of said theatre]..." Richardson plead not guilty to the charge.

Directories: The spelling and/or punctuation used in the spreadsheet is information as it appears in the directories, beginning with the 1830-31 volume. The 1834-35 Directory states on page 8: "The colored population are in *italics* designated by an *asterisk* (*)." With first and last name, address and occupation provided within the directory, this compilation of names, etc. will be useful as we conduct research for future topics and exhibits. Note: ACHOR does not have the following directories: 1835-36, 1836-37, and 1845-46.

Chattel Mortgages: While processing this record series, I often consulted a directory to check the spelling of a name or an address. If a name appeared italicized I took note, as that individual/information may be useful for a future Black History Month Exhibit. I did not check every name of every chattel mortgage therefore it is highly probable there are other Chattel Mortgages listing black individuals as a Mortgagor or Mortgagee. Prior knowledge of some historical black citizens aided in my discovery of chattel mortgages linked to local abolitionists such as Stephen Myers, William Henry Johnson and Abigail Mott. These findings led to a collaborative 2016 Archives Month, *From Albany to Freedom: An Underground Railroad Story* with Paul and Mary Liz Stewart, co-founders of the Underground Railroad History Project of the Capital Region. The Stewart's 'project' is housed in what is now known and referred to as the Stephen and Harriet Myers Residence.

Albany County Treasurer's Office: Burials of Wives or Widows of Discharged Soldiers Etc. Burials of Deceased Soldiers Etc. 1904-1933, and Deceased Soldiers' Burials & Headstones 1884-1904. For the 2018 theme *African Americans in Times of War*, I skimmed the aforementioned volumes looking for names mentioned in the *Autobiography of William Henry Johnson*. Johnson noted the following men: John G Steward, Charles B Morton, William H Topp, William P McIntyre, William H Matthews, Primus Robinson, Benjamin Cutler, and George Morgan who assisted Stephen Myers in recruiting black men who served in the Civil War as part of the 54th Massachusetts Regiment. I also consulted the *History of the 54th Regiment of Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry 1863-1865*, 2nd Edition (1894) by Luis F Emilio (online resource). Eleven black citizens from Albany were mentioned in Emilio's publication, including Charles Bell, William Briggs, William Everson, William Francis, Benjamin Halmers, James Jones, Edgar Morgan, Alexander Thompson, John Titus, Abraham Thompson and Henry Wood.

Continued on page 5

Black History Records from the Archival Collection at the Albany County Hall of Records (ACHOR)

Continued from Page 4

Some of those officers were found in the Albany County Treasurer's volumes as well as other black men who had served in various black regiments or 'colored' troops. Many of these soldiers are buried in local cemeteries; Albany Rural Cemetery, St Agnes, and Graceland. A few widows of the black soldiers were also listed and are buried in local cemeteries. Again, more names may be found upon a closer look at the volumes or with a greater knowledge of military regiments, companies, personnel, etc.

Register of Manumitted Slaves 1800-1828: This volume contains the names of persons freed from slavery and is available at ACHOR. The index was copied and pasted directly from the ACHOR database system. The Index lists owner name, name of slave and date of manumission. A digital copy of this register is also available at ACHOR.

Other Resources at ACHOR: These are mostly reference materials. Some of the resources helpful in researching topics and exhibit planning for Black History Month are *Standing Tall: A Tribute to Education*, by Marian I. Hughes, 1984; *Source Materials for Black History, Albany NY*, Edited by Adele Jackel, 1972; and the *Autobiography of William Henry Johnson*, 1900.

Clubs, Events, Societies, Etc.: Other past and present history relating to black citizens of Albany County. The Albany Female Lundy Society was mentioned in the *Autobiography of William Henry Johnson*. According to Johnson the society "organized in the City of Albany June 19 1833, by a few and earnest benevolent colored ladies for mutual benefit and the development of social, intellectual and religious principles."

The *Bi-Centennial History of Albany History of the County of Albany NY From 1609 to 1886, Howell and Tenney, 1886*; gives a brief summary of the Charles Sumner Benevolent Association "an organization of colored men in Albany. This society takes the name of that illustrious statesman and emancipator who is revered by the oppressed of all nations and of all climes, the late Hon. Charles Sumner, United States Senator from Massachusetts, was organized in 1875."

The guide is not a definitive collection of our records and other resources available at ACHOR. I expect updates to be made as our collections are processed, as new discoveries happen, and further resources are made available.

I hope this guide helps aid the staff at ACHOR and researchers alike.

AnnMarie Hess
Assistant Archivist
Albany County Hall of Records

NEW YORK STATE ARCHIVES

STUDENT RESEARCH AWARDS

All entrants must use
historical records.

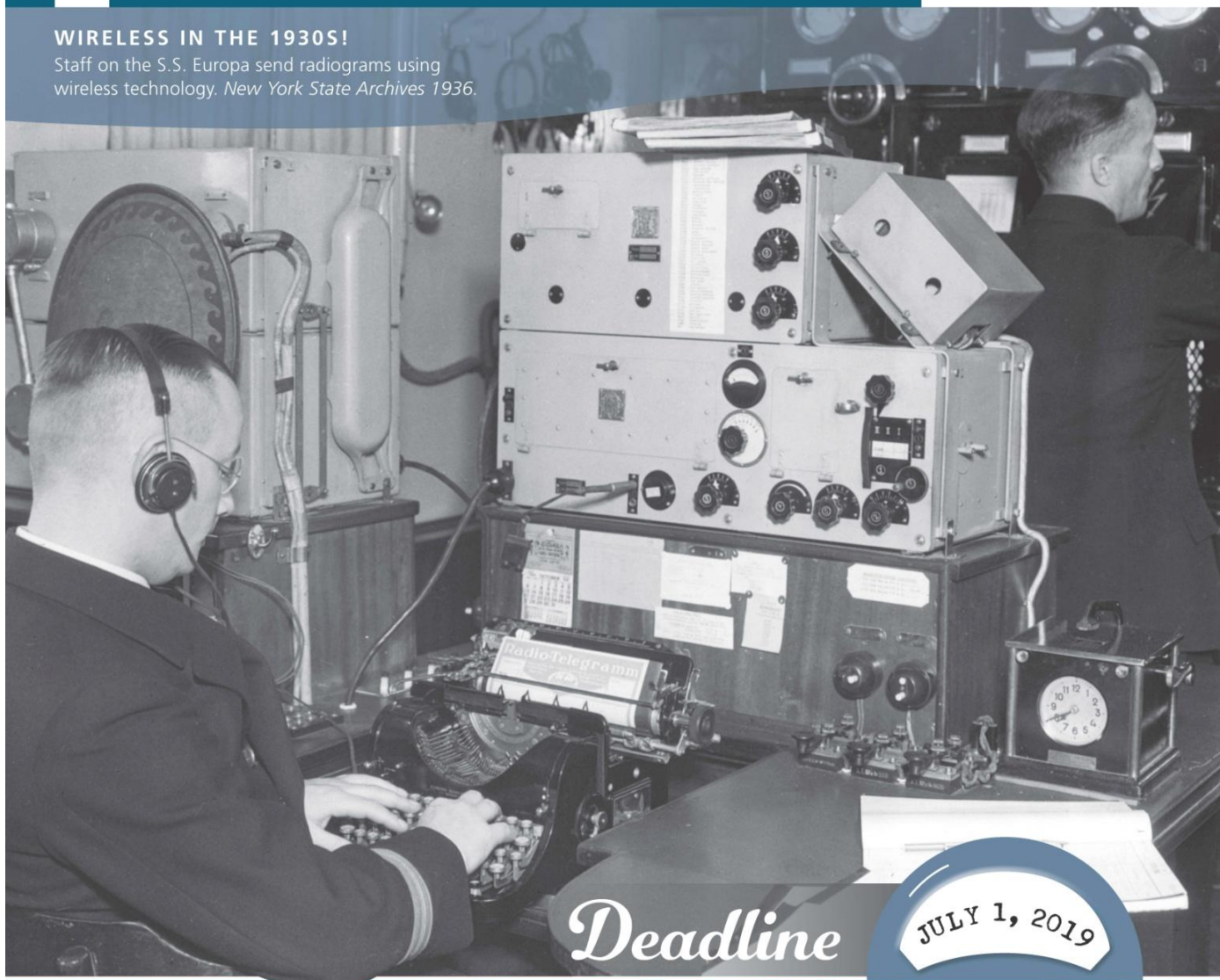
Historical records are:

Photographs • Letters • Diaries
Maps • Broadside/posters
Deeds, and more

Categories: Computer-based
projects like websites, PowerPoint
presentations, etc. • Exhibits
Documentaries • Performances
Historic marker proposals
Research papers

WIRELESS IN THE 1930S!

Staff on the S.S. Europa send radiograms using
wireless technology. *New York State Archives 1936.*



Deadline

JULY 1, 2019

**Individual and group
entries welcome.**

Three awards (grades
4-5, 6-8, and 9-12) will be
presented in the Fall 2019.

An official entry form must accompany each application.

**For official guidelines
and an entry form:**

www.archives.nysed.gov
click on: Education

**New York State Archives
Partnership Trust**

9C49 Cultural Education Center
Albany, New York 12230
(518) 473-7091
archedu@nysed.gov

Funding for these awards is provided by the Laura and Robert
Chodos Endowment and support from donors to the Archives
Partnership Trust. A non-profit support organization that supports
the work of the State Archives, the Trust builds education,
preservation and outreach programs not funded by the State,
making accessible over 350 years of New York's colonial and state
government records. The State Archives is a program of the New
York State Education Department. www.nysarchivestrust.org

To view the guidelines and application, scan this code with
your smart phone (you'll need a barcode scanner app).



THE EMPIRE STATE
2018
ARCHIVES & HISTORY AWARD

A CONVERSATION WITH AWARDEE
STEPHEN LANG

Hosted by
HAROLD HOLZER

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25
ALBANY, NY

PRESENTED BY



*Archives
Partnership
Trust*