

CAA Newsletter

Capital Area Archivists

www.capitalarchivist.org/caa CAANY@yahoogroups.com

Inside This Issue

- 1 A Master Flourisher
- 2 Capital Region Archives
Dinner 2019
- 2 Archives Month
- 2 New Hire at SCHS
- 3 A Master Flourisher cont.
- 4-6 Upcoming Workshops
and Programs

Officers:

Greg Wiedeman,
President
John Diefenderfer
Vice-President
Keith Swaney,
Secretary
Brian Keough,
Treasurer
Michael Maloney,
Newsletter Editor
Emily Allen,
Board of Directors
Craig Carlson,
Board of Directors
Michael Martin,
Board of Directors
Mark Wolfe,
Board of Directors

A Master Flourisher

David Vaughan was a 19th Century Draftsman, surveyor, mapmaker who was mainly known for his visually interesting work at the New York State Engineer and Surveyors office. Whether he was creating a detailed map or recording how much earth would need to be excavated for the first enlargement of the Erie Canal, he knew how to make his work visually interesting with ornate calligraphy, great attention to detail, and interesting sketches.

Vaughan elevated the act of doodling to an artform and would often title himself as "Flourisher" rather than draftsman. This is especially evident in a record series held at the New York State Archives titled "Final calculations regarding construction of state canals." This is a collection of 21 volumes from the mid-1850s that consist of calculations, accounts and estimates for the enlargement of various sections of the canal as well as the construction of structures related to the canal. These volumes are very similar to each other and the content is relatively consistent from volume to volume. It is uncertain exactly who the creator of each volume is, but starting with volume 10, some of Vaughan's stylistic preferences appear.



Ornate cartouches encase the words "West Troy Weigh Lock" along with a doodle of a man with a hat underneath. By page 84 of the volume, there is the sense that Vaughan dislikes routine. Pages 84 through 117 concern the work to be done on the San Sai Kill Aqueduct in Schenectady County. Each page has the words "San Sai Kill Aqueduct" in a different style of calligraphy ranging from an elegant, more formal technique to a rustic style where he designs each letter to look as they were formed from a tree branch.

Continued on Page 3

Capital Region Archives Dinner

The Capital Area Archivists Dinner this year will be held on Thursday, October 10, 2019 at Key Hall in Schenectady. Key Hall is located right inside Proctor's Theater and can be accessed from either Proctor's State Street entrance, or the rear entrance near the parking garage. This year's speaker is Dr. Laura Wittern-Keller who will speak on New York's collection of movie censorship records as well as Hugh Flick, the archivist who became a head censor and also preserved the film scripts. Check out <https://www.capitalarchivist.org/caa/> for more info. We hope to see you there!

Archives Month

While it may be too late to plan events for Archives Month 2019, it's never too early to start planning for next year. Check out the links below for some great Archives Month programming ideas.

- [Archives Month Philly](#) is a well-established consortium of archives and history organizations in the greater Philadelphia area. Their site offers some fun and innovative Archives Month ideas.
- [The Council of State Archives](#) offers a sampling of archives month ideas from various state archives across the country
- [The Archives Month Action Guide](#) published by the New York State Archives is a comprehensive guide for planning programs, media coverage, interviews and more.

New Hire at the Schenectady County Historical Society

The Schenectady County Historical Society is excited to announce the hiring of their new Librarian/Archivist, Marietta Carr. Marietta joins SCHS all the way from Cleveland, Ohio where she was the archivist at the Cuyahoga Community College. In this position she focused on collaborating with faculty to bring the collection into the classroom and increasing the discoverability of the collection through finding aids and other descriptions.

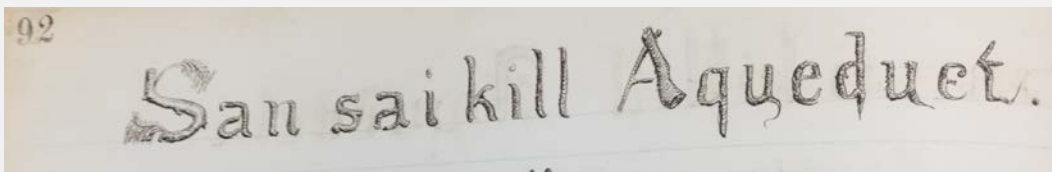
Her current goals at SCHS include learning where everything in the collection is located and getting to know the SCHS community, especially their excellent volunteers. Eventually Marietta plans to encourage the community's engagement with the collection through increased access and discoverability, grow and preserve the collection, and use the materials in a variety of programs and outreach activities.

Welcome to the Capital Region, Marietta!

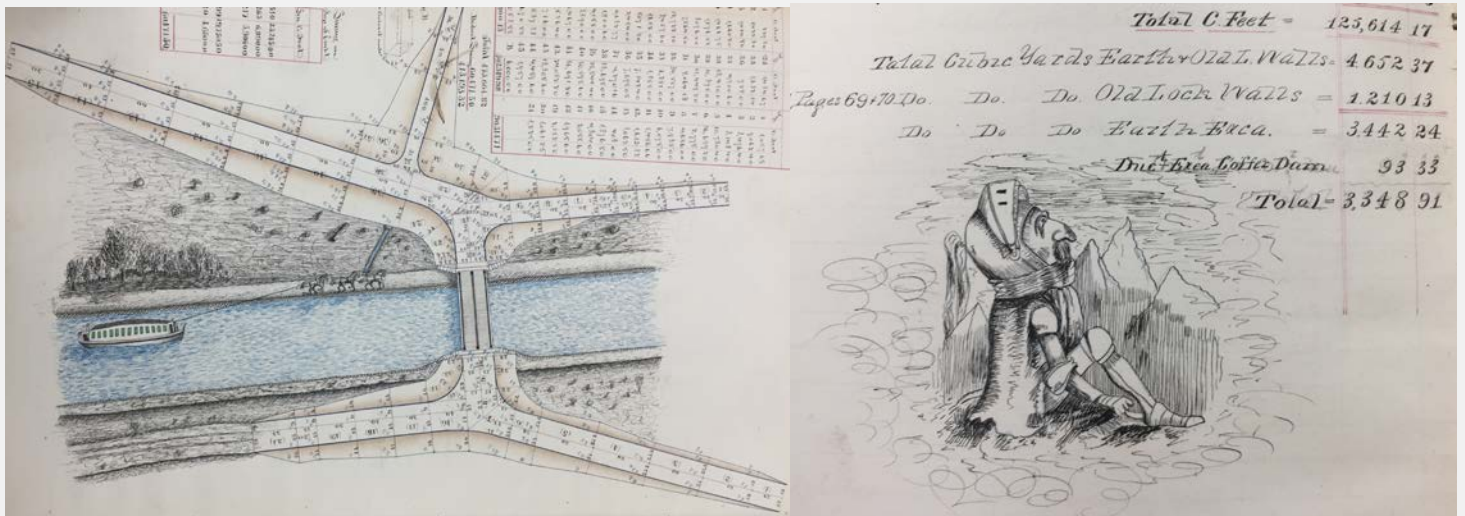
What's new?

Email the CAA
Newsletter Editor
at
Michael.maloney@nysed.gov with
any upcoming
programs, articles,
or any other
exciting news.

A Master Flourisher



In addition to the calligraphy in volumes 10-13 are drawings that are sometimes relevant to his work and sometimes not. Sketches of wooden canal bridges show the grain of the timber being used. What could have been a basic sketch map showing the measurements of roads alongside the Erie Canal turned into a detailed drawing of the canal that shows a canal boat being pulled by three horses.



A personal favorite of these sketches shows up in one of the last pages of volume 13. The drawing shows a knight sitting on the ground, looking up into the sky. He is in front of a mountain range with the sky running up into some of the calculations showing how much earth was to be excavated for a coffer dam. Vaughan's creative ability lives on in these volumes as well as his maps and can give a new generation of doodlers something to aspire to. Read more about Vaughan's life in the [Winter 2016 article of the New York Archives Magazine](#) written by Craig Williams.

-Mike Maloney
CAA Newsletter Editor

Upcoming Workshops and Programs

New York State Archives Fall Workshops

Announcing the New York State Archives 2019 Fall Workshop Season.

To see our workshops or to register, please go to the NYS Archives workshop registration page at <http://www.archives.nysed.gov/workshops/schedule>

**Albany County Clerk, Bruce A. Hidley
and the Albany County Hall of Records
are proud to present**

**A History of
The Albany Fire Department**

**With speaker
Retired Lieutenant Bill Tobler,
Chairman of the
Albany Firefighters Museum**

**Wednesday, October 9th 2019
from 10am to 12pm**

**Tour and exhibit
to follow**

**Albany County Hall of Records
95 Tivoli Street
Albany, NY 12207**

RSVP Jill.Brothers@albanycountyny.gov

Upcoming Workshops and Programs

SAFETY CULTURE FOR CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

Thursday, October 17, 2019

8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Science Library Standish Room



Museums, Libraries, and Archives -

Are there hidden hazards in YOUR collections? Are there chemical or biological risks lurking in the stacks? What health and safety risks should your organization actively plan for?

Keynote by John Van Raalte

Director of Industrial Hygiene Services
at the Occupational and Environmental
Health Center of Eastern New York (OEHC)
in Albany

REGISTER NOW:

<https://tinyurl.com/yxksyjhg>



UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY State University of New York

Upcoming Workshops and Programs

**SCHENECTADY
COUNTY
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

schenectadyhistorical.org

Genealogy Day

**Saturday, October 19, 9am-2pm
at SCHS, 32 Washington Ave • \$8.00**

9-10:15am: "Complex Evidence: Untangling Multiple, Same-Name Individuals" presented by Judith Herbert, Certified Genealogist®

You've found a John Smith in your ancestry and the question becomes, "Which of the possible John Smiths is my John Smith?" The lecture will provide tools and techniques for separating persons of the same name in an area, to ensure that researchers are locking on to the correct individual. Strategies for planning and conducting a surname study will be covered, as well tips for making sure all possible sources have been consulted, which could help to identify the right John Smith.

10:15-11:30am: "Patching Families Together Through Land Records" presented by Tina Post

When genealogists hit brick walls it's not fun. Land records can provide the clues necessary to put stymied research on track again. This presentation will provide examples of how relationships can be gleaned using deeds, bounty lands and land grants. In addition, platting will be discussed as a means of creating more leads to investigate.

11:30-12:45am: "Gravestone Conservation for the Genealogist" presented by Christopher White

Have you ever seen that unreadable gravestone or that toppled monument and wondered what can I do to address its condition? There is a correct way and a wrong way to remedy that gravestone. Christopher White, a genealogist, historian, and gravestone conservator, will present a program on gravestone conservation including cleaning, repair, what to do, what not to do, when to do nothing, and when to seek a professional conservator.

12:45-2pm: Research in the Library

