SEPTEMBER 13-15
WATERSHED MOMENTS

ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC HISTORIANS OF NEW YORK STATE
2021 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
OSWEGO, NY
Taste how good it is to make history.

Showcase your community’s famous dish with a roadside marker from the Pomeroy Foundation's newest grant program, Hungry for History™.

These markers tell bite-sized stories about local and regional prepared dishes... Like salt potatoes in Syracuse, the Salt City.

What iconic food dish originating from your region deserves celebration?

The next Hungry for History grant round opens on February 28, 2022. Save the date.

Marker Criteria
- Must be a prepared, ready-to-eat dish, such as an entrée or dessert (like Philly Cheesesteaks, or Florida’s Key Lime Pie)
- Must contain a minimum of 2 ingredients
- Dish must be created prior to 1960
- Dish must be historically significant to the greater community or beyond
- Dish (or variation of dish) must have origins in the local or regional community
- Dish is still available/eaten today or in some form
- No brand names allowed (e.g. Hershey’s, Kraft, etc.)

Commemorating History in New York State & Beyond... One Marker at a Time

NYS HISTORY blue and yellow markers commemorate historic people, places, things or events in New York State.

LEGENDS & LORE® Lake monsters. Folk heroes. What legends, myths and folktales should be spotlighted in your community?

HISTORIC CANALS Transportation canals helped shape the nation. Perhaps there is one in your neighborhood that deserves recognition.

NATIONAL REGISTER Providing marker and plaque grants to public properties and historic districts listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

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Keynote Address

Way Beyond Seneca
Falls: Women's Suffrage
in New York State—
Public History and the
Power of Place

Presented by Judith Wellman
7:15 PM
Monday, September 13

Based on several different public history projects relating to women’s suffrage across New York, Judith Wellman will present a sample of historic sites illustrating the development and diversity of New York State’s remarkable movement for women’s suffrage. This movement involved millions of New Yorkers all across the state and resulted in the single largest expansion of voting rights in the state’s—and ultimately the country’s—history.

Judith Wellman is Professor Emerita, SUNY Oswego, and Principal Investigator, Historical New York Research Associates. Dr. Wellman has more than 40 years of experience in research, teaching, cultural resource surveys, and grants administration in Underground Railroad history, African American communities, women’s history, U.S. history, and historic preservation.

Masks are required for unvaccinated participants
All attendees are encouraged to mask for safety

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**EXHIBIT HALL AND THE EXCHANGE**

We invite you visit our exhibitors and sponsors throughout the conference in the Riverfront Hospitality Room on the 2nd Floor of the Lake Ontario Event & Conference Center.

Be sure to stop by The Exchange gathering space inside the exhibit hall to relax and connect with friends and colleagues.

Complimentary beverages and light refreshments will be available between sessions throughout the conference.

**EXHIBIT HALL HOURS:**

Monday, September 13, 12:00 pm – 6:00 pm  
Tuesday, September 14, 8:00 am – 1:00 pm  
Tuesday, September 14, 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm  
Wednesday, September 15 – 8:00 am – 12:00 pm

**EXHIBITORS**

- Cornell University Press  
- New York State Archives Partnership Trust  
- Oswego County Historical Society  
- Syracuse University Press  
- Visit Oswego County  
- William G. Pomeroy Foundation
9:00AM-12:00PM PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP 1

Training for Newly Appointed Historians

Are you a newly appointed historian? Do you need a refresher concerning the duties of a local government historian? This session will review the duties and responsibilities of local government historians in New York—and the obligations your appointing officials have toward you as historian. The presenter will share tips and encourage audience members to share their ideas and bring to the group any issues of concern. Please note: This is a 3-hour session that runs until noon. Presented by Ray LaFever

9:00AM-10:15AM PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP 2

How to Become a Registered Historian

Presenters will review the history and benefits of the APHNYS Registered Historians program and explain the application process. Presented by Mary Cascone and Karen Osburn.

10:45AM-12:00PM PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP 3

Creating a Historic Sites Database (Streaming)

Members of the Wayne Historians Organization (WHO) will demonstrate their historic sites database and explain how it was developed. The database currently focuses solely on Wayne County, with more than 1,000 entries, but the developers see it as model to be adapted or scaled up for use statewide. The database is designed to encourage residents as well as cultural heritage tourists to explore local sites. During the Covid-19 pandemic, WHO used the database as the basis for a “Wayne County Challenge” to encourage families with school-age children to do driving tours, providing questions to prompt discussion; they are now developing a guidebook and reward system for those who complete the challenge. Presented by Gene Bavis, Jim Paprocki, Rosa Fox, and Peter Evans.

12:00PM-1:00PM - LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

1:00PM-3:00PM - CONFERENCE KICK-OFF AND ANNUAL MEETING (STREAMING)

Welcome to Oswego
APHNYS President Christine L. Ridarsky, Oswego Mayor William J. Barlow Jr., and Oswego County Administrator Philip Church

State of the State Address
Devin Lander, New York State Historian

APHNYS Annual Meeting of the Membership
B. Introduction to the New York State Historic Newspaper Project

The NYS Historic Newspapers Project website, run by the Northern New York Library Network with support of the Empire State Library Network, provides free access to 11 million pages of historic newspaper content from every county in the state. This session will include a discussion about the history of the project, an overview of the process for adding newspapers, and a brief demonstration. Presented by Chuck Henry.

A. Fort Ontario’s Quasquicentennial Crossroads (Streaming)

This is a watershed year in Fort Ontario’s 266-year history—2021 marks the quasquicentennial, or 225th anniversary, of the British Evacuation in 1796. A National Park Service study team is currently evaluating the fort’s history, buildings, collections, artifacts, and archaeology to determine whether it qualifies for designation as a National Park. This presentation will explore the process of obtaining the federal designation, as well as the conditions, events, individuals, and other factors that have enabled Fort Ontario to maintain a military mission since 1755 and, since 1949, operate as a historic site and recreational area. This includes the fort’s unique history as the only refugee shelter for Jewish Holocaust victims in the United States during WWII. Presented by Paul A. Lear.

B. How Bank Records led to the Discovery of African American Women and Female Abolitionist Societies in Troy, NY (Streaming)

The recent addition of the Troy Savings Bank archives to the Hart Cluett Museum of Historic Rensselaer County’s collection has proved to be a gold mine in researching African American Women in Troy. It has broadened knowledge of their involvement in the abolition movement and led to a better understanding of how these previously unknown women lived and worked in Troy. Presented by Kathy Sheehan.

B. Preserving and Promoting Your Local Historical Records and How the State Archives Can Help

Local history provides unique information and stories of people and communities. It also creates a context for regional, state, and national history. But what is the local historian’s role in identifying and promoting historical records? This session will consider the nature and challenges associated with local records, where they may be located, and options to preserve and make accessible these local treasures. We will also discuss State Archives programs designed to help government historians organize, promote and preserve these valuable local historical records. Presented by Michael P. Martin.

5:30PM-6:30PM - NETWORKING/RECEPTION

6:30PM-8:30PM - DINNER AND KEYNOTE SPEAKER

7:15 PM - KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Judith Wellman, "Way Beyond Seneca Falls: Women’s Suffrage in New York State—Public History and the Power of Place"
9:00AM-10:15AM - CONCURRENT SESSIONS

A. Publishing For the Municipal Historians (Streaming)

Historians spend much of their time researching fascinating local history topics that are unknown to the community at large. When the research is complete, how can these stories find a larger audience? Publish your work! This panel discussion will inform municipal historians about different outlets for publishing. Panelists include Devin Lander, Josie Madison, and Michael McGandy.

B. Lake Ontario’s Maritime Heritage: A National Marine Sanctuary Proposal

In 2017, eastern Lake Ontario communities submitted a nomination to the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to consider the area as a national marine sanctuary to manage and interpret Lake Ontario’s maritime heritage resources, including historically significant shipwrecks. NOAA initiated the sanctuary designation process in 2019 and is working with the State of New York and local communities to develop a proposal. This session will provide an overview of the National Marine Sanctuary System, the national marine sanctuary proposal (including a description of the shipwrecks), and the involvement of the local Sanctuary Advisory Council. It will also highlight the Haudenosaunee Confederacy’s connection to Lake Ontario. Engagement with the audience will be an important part of this session to get ideas and share information about the area’s maritime heritage. Presented by Ellen Brody.

10:45AM-12:00PM - CONCURRENT SESSIONS

A. Creating Your Digital Resource Library (Streaming)

The COVID-19 pandemic left many historians working away from their normal offices and their physical research collections. This session is intended to help historians identify and, when possible, save copies of primary and secondary research sources to create their own digital resource library. Links are not enough, because URLs and collections may change. With your own digital library, research materials are available anytime and anywhere. Presented by Mary Cascone.

B. Consider the Source: Bringing Historical Records to the K-12 Classroom

In this session, participants will learn about Consider the Source New York and how this online resource can help them promote their local historical records to K-12 teachers. Local communities are filled with valuable, informative historical records that reflect the rich and diverse history of New York State. However, historians often comment on the difficulties in getting those resources into the hands of K-12 students. The New York State Archives Partnership Trust has developed a new online resource for educators to make those resources readily available and tailored for their classrooms. Presented by Jordan Jace.

12:00PM-1:00PM - LUNCH
**1:00PM-4:00PM – FIELD EXPERIENCES (CHOOSE ONE OPTION)**

Tour 1: Fort Ontario State Historic Site and Safe Haven Holocaust Refugee Shelter Museum

Tour 2: H. Lee White Maritime Museum and Richardson Bates House Museum

**5:30PM-6:30PM – NETWORKING/RECEPTION**

**6:30PM-8:30PM – ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER**

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15**

**9:00AM-10:15AM – CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

A. Planning for the 250th Commemoration of the American Revolution (Streaming)

In just a few short years, the country will be commemorating the semiquincentennial of the American Revolution. New York State played a central role in the war and should use this anniversary to highlight its history and grow its economy through heritage tourism. Panelists will discuss this unique opportunity for municipal historians, historic sites, and regional groups to engage the public in programming, lectures, publications, and celebrations that bring our history to the mainstage. Panelists include Devin Lander, Johanna Porr Yaun, and John Scherer.

B. Documenting Urban Renewal

Between 1949 and 1974, the federal government spent $13 billion to revitalize America’s cities. This session will discuss how to locate urban renewal records, what information they contain, and how we can use them to tell engaging community histories. The possibilities will be demonstrated through a case study of the City of Binghamton and its long history with both flooding and Urban Renewal campaigns. Presented by David Hochfelder and Sean P. McGee.

**10:15AM-10:45AM – BREAK**

**10:45AM-11:30AM – CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

A. Preserving & Interpreting Historic Cemeteries (Streaming)

This session will explore traditional 18th and 19th century burial practices in New York State, common stone types and carving traditions, iconography, and methods of preserving historic grave monuments. Suggested “do’s” and “don’ts” in treating historic headstones also will be covered in the context of developing a volunteer program for interpreting local burying grounds and cemeteries. Presented by Zachary Studenroth. (Anyone who is registered for the post-conference workshop at Riverside Cemetery is encouraged to attend this session.)
Six years before the first women’s rights convention in Seneca Falls, NY, in 1848, Maria Rynders cast a ballot in the Waterford, NY, election, becoming one of the first women in the state to do so. But she was an unusual and remarkable woman for other reasons, as well. A sister to the famous (or infamous) Captain Isaiah Rynders, longtime enforcer and leader of Tammany Hall, Maria Rynders was married nine times, served as a cook on a canal boat, operated a house of assignation, and led a long and fascinating life that led to her being featured in “Ripley’s Believe It or Not.” She may have been the inspiration for a character in Walter Edmund’s book, Rome Haul. Presented by Russ VanDervoort.

12PM - CONFERENCE CONCLUDES

POST-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP

1PM-4PM Riverside Cemetery: Introduction to Conservation Treatment

This hands-on workshop will introduce participants to the basic conservation treatments and practices used in preserving historic cemeteries and burying grounds. Topics that will be covered include how to use survey sheets to record monument conditions, photographic recording techniques, non-destructive cleaning methods and materials, and the basics of stabilizing tilted monuments. We will also address when to bring in a professional conservator. Be prepared to get dirty! Presented by Zachary Studenroth. (Pre-registration is required along with a materials fee of $15)

ON-DEMAND SESSIONS

Two additional pre-recorded conference sessions will be available on-demand to all conference registrants (in-person and virtual):

Session 1: Bigger is Not Always Better: The New York State Master Plan for School District Reorganization (Pre-recorded)

In 1958, the New York State Legislature directed the State Education department to create an updated Master Plan for School District Reorganization in the State. In response to a growing suburban development and increasingly shrinking rural regions, this plan called for the centralization of the last remaining Common School districts and the consolidation of several small rural schools. This session explores the failure of state policy to find its place in rural areas with a metro centric view of “bigger is better.” Specifically, it examines two instances of resistance against the attempt to consolidate and the results. Presented by Casey Jakubowski.

Session 2: Biography: Lucy Gwin and the Fight for Disability Rights (Pre-recorded)

This session will explore the types of records and archives that lend themselves to biographical research, using the life of Lucy Gwin as a case study. Gwin established Mouth magazine in Rochester, NY, in 1990 to give voice to persons with disabilities. Her magazine debuted at about the time the Americans with Disabilities Act was signed into law by President George H. W. Bush. Gwin’s advocacy journalism and disability rights activism is the focus of a book being written by the presenter and scheduled for release by the University of Massachusetts Press in October. Presented by James M. Odato.
**Gene Bavis**, a retired social studies teacher, has served as Walworth Town Historian 1977-1989 and 2004-present. He is a Trustee of the Walworth Historical Society, Chair of the Wayne Historians Organization, and Co-Chair of the Wayne County Bicentennial 2023.

**Ellen Brody** has worked for NOAA’s Office of National Marine Sanctuaries for 25 years.

**Mary Cascone** is Town of Babylon Historian. Her projects for the town have included seven local history books, creation of the Town of Babylon History Museum, restoration of the U.S. Life-Saving Station at Oak Beach, and installation of over 20 historic markers. She has contributed to local history topics for local news outlets, newsletters and podcasts.

**Peter Evans** is Wayne County Historian.

**Rosa Fox** is Town of Huron Historian.

**Chuck Henry** is the Integrated Technologies Coordinator at the Northern New York Library Network. As Technical Project Lead, he manages the newspaper digitization process, provides server maintenance, and web development for the NYS Historic Newspaper Project. He also serves as primary web developer for the NY Heritage.

**David Hochfelder** is Associate Professor of History at SUNY Albany. He is working on a digital history of urban renewal in New York State called Picturing Urban Renewal.

**Jordan Jace** is the Assistant Director for Education and Development at the NYS Archives Partnership Trust and Statewide Coordinator for the New York Council for History Education (NYCHE) and the Student Research Awards program. Jace is also project manager for Consider the Source New York, a new online resource for K-12 educators.

**Casey Jakubowski** is Chair of SUNY Hudson Valley Community College’s Department of Liberal Arts and General Studies. He is the author of Thinking About Teaching and A Cog In the Machine (both Edumatch Publishing).

**Ray LaFever** has been the historian for the Town of Bovina since 2004. He worked for 20 years for the New York State Archives before retiring in 2010.

**Devin Lander** is New York State Historian and Head of Museum Chartering for the State Education Department. He also co-host of the podcast A New York Minute in History co-editor of the New York History journal. He was elected as a New York Academy of History Fellow in 2020.

**Paul A. Lear** has been Historic Site Manager at Fort Ontario State Historic Site since 1999.

**Michael P. Martin** is the Central New York Regional Advisory Officer for the New York State Archives, where he provides guidance in records management to local governments, large and small, throughout the area.

**Michael McGandy** is Senior Editor and Editorial Director of the Three Hills at Cornell University Press. Three Hills, a trade imprint, publishes smart, informative, entertaining, and provocative non-fiction books about New York State and the Northeast.

**Sean P. McGee** is the Historic Preservation & Neighborhood Planner for the City of Binghamton, New York. He is also the Deputy Broome County Historian.

**James M. Odato** is an award-winning daily newspaper reporter who has worked in Binghamton, Schenectady, Albany, and Buffalo, NY. He has been working on a soon-to-be-published biography of Lucy Gwin since 2018.

**Karen Osburn** is City of Geneva Historian.

**Jim Paprocki** is a member of the Wayne Historians Organization and web developer for Wayne County’s online database of historic sites.

**Lauren Roberts** is Saratoga County Historian.

**John Scherer** is Town of Clifton Park Historian.

**Kathy Sheehan** is Rensselaer County and Troy City Historian and an Educator at the Hart Cluett Museum in Historic Rensselaer County.

**Zachary Studenroth** is Village of Southampton Historian and co-founder of the non-profit Burying Ground Preservation Group, Inc., which provides preservation services to historic cemeteries on Long Island.

**Russ VanDervoort** is Town of Waterford Historian, Deputy Mayor of the Village of Waterford, and President of the Waterford Canal and Towpath Society.

**Johanna Porr Yaun** is Orange County Historian.
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City of Oswego

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