

# The Historian's Exchange

The newsletter of the Association of Public Historians of New York State

VOLUME 17 NUMBER 2

MAY 2013

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

What a Conference	1
Wait 'Till Next Year	1
From the State Historian	2
Pomeroy Foundation	3
Presidents Message	4
Conference Views	5
Regions	6
News Around	6
Membership	7
Leadership	8

## What a Conference!!

Historians from around the state gathered in Syracuse from April 16-19, 2013 as APHNYS held its statewide annual conference. This was our first conference without the assistance of staff from Capitol Hill Management, and we knew it would be interesting to see how everyone would fair.

To be honest, this was one of the most successful conferences that APHNYS has had during its existence! Our attendance reached an all-time high of 146 historians. Many of these were first-time attendees. They had no experience to base their opinion on the success or failure of

the conference. In looking at the conference evaluations forms, most commented that it was the camaraderie and the spirit that



made the conference a success in their minds.

We had a record number of sessions available for the attendees, and they presenters did a great job providing both skills and history related session.

Once again our major sponsor was the William G. Pomeroy Foundation. They kicked off the conference by announcing the expansion of the scope of their marker program to cover the years of 1740 to 1899, and a new initiative that involves state and national register places and plaques. More on this can be found later in this issue.



## Wait 'Till Next Year!

In 2013, APHNYS will again be on the move. Not just once, but twice! Our annual statewide meeting will be held from Sunday, March 16, 2014 to Wednesday, March 19, 2014.

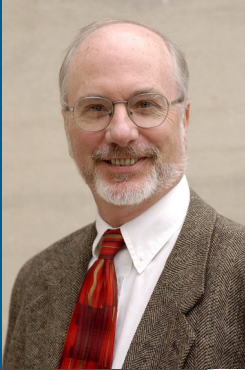
The conference will be held at the Gideon Putnam Resort

in Saratoga Springs, NY. This is the second time we have held our conference there, and the area is ripe with history and ambiance.

Room rates will be \$104 per night and food costs are comparable to the 2013 conference.

But aside from this conference, we will also be offering a one-day symposium in Plattsburgh to commemorate that area's role in the War of 1812.

We will be sending out information on both of these events as they develop.



## From the State Historian

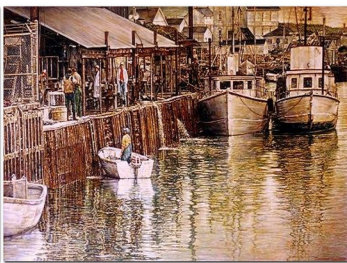
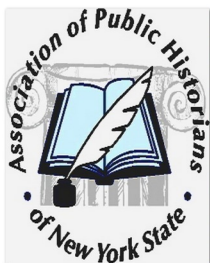
Time flies. I have now attended six APHNYS annual meetings, and I'm thinking that this year's conference in Syracuse was the best one yet. APHNYS has certainly undergone a good deal of change since last year's meeting on Long Island, and it is clear to me that, despite some difficult challenges, the organization is doing very, very well. I attribute this good news to Gerry Smith and APHNYS board members, of course, but also to the skills and dedication of members all across the state.

I am especially pleased to see that we are making great progress with the installation and management of historical markers. Many of us know that New York was one of the first states to install markers (beginning with the placement of "concrete tablets" in 1918). But unlike many other states, New York State abandoned its program and turned over program responsibilities to local governments in 1939. New Yorkers themselves have never abandoned historical markers, of course, and if anything, there has been a resurgence in marker interest in recent years. This was more than evident this spring in Syracuse (and in your annual reports, by the way). APHNYS members are inventorying town and county markers, placing new ones, arranging dedication ceremonies, finding ways to upgrade maintenance of older markers, and much more. And all of us are grateful beneficiaries of the William T. Pomeroy Foundation and its generous and expanding support. I can tell you, too, that in Albany, we are transferring historical marker files from the State Museum to the State Archives, where they will be more readily available to researchers and historians. When all is said and done, New York's his-

torical markers have a future as well as a past. They continue to educate the public about state and local history, raise the quality of life in community after community, and serve the state's important tourism industry.

I was also pleased to see how people across New York are commemorating the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War (and am recalling with a smile how newspaper headlines were just a few short years ago claiming that "New York Doesn't Care to Remember the Civil War"). Judging by your annual reports and the conversations I've had with many of you, it is clear that New Yorkers do care to remember the Civil War. And local historians throughout the state who hold records of the war, as well as artifacts, are preserving them, making them available, and conducting wonderful public programs. I want also to once again express my gratitude to all of you who have contributed in one way or another to the State Museum's award-winning exhibition "An Irrepressible Conflict: New York and the Civil War." The exhibition is proving so popular that Museum officials are considering extending its life beyond a year. So if by chance you haven't had the opportunity to travel to Albany to see the exhibition, by all means, consider a visit.

Meanwhile, I will be visiting some of you in the coming weeks. I am honored to be speaking at a "Museum Weekend" event sponsored by the Clinton and Essex County historians in Keeseville on June 1<sup>st</sup> and at the Warren County Bicentennial Commemorations at Lake George on June 12<sup>th</sup>. If you are sponsoring a historical event this summer let me know. If I'm free, I would be very happy to join you.



## New Grant Round Dates From the Pomeroy Foundation



It is hard to believe we have completed the first year of expanding The William G. Pomeroy Foundation's Historic Roadside Marker Grant program to include the entire State of New York! The grant round for Regions 1-3 is now again officially open. You are receiving this email as you fall within these regions, as defined by APHNYS. [www.aphnys.org](http://www.aphnys.org)<<http://www.aphnys.org>>

Since beginning our grant program in 2006, The William G. Pomeroy Foundation has funded almost 100 Historic Roadside Markers in 12 counties within New York State. The William G. Pomeroy Foundation strongly believes that Historic Markers play an important role in local historic preservation. They preserve your history, educate the public, and foster historic tourism which in turn can provide much needed economic benefits to the towns and villages where the markers are placed. The application form, helpful hints,

and a description of the program are available on our website at [www.wgpfoundation.org](http://www.wgpfoundation.org)<<http://www.wgpfoundation.org>> under the Historic Roadside Marker Grant Program Section. This information is found in the 'How to Apply' section of the drop down menu. You may also be interested in looking at the 'Current Markers Section' of the drop down menu to see the markers we funded last year in your regions. We want to fund many more markers, so everyone is encouraged to apply. You may apply for more than one marker, and you can still apply if you have received funding in the past.

### Important Deadlines:

- \* 5/01/13 - Material available online
- \* 6/14/13 - Deadline for phone consultation to verify primary source. Please call Nancy Maliwesky at 315-476-3000 x2530. (application should be filled out and primary source assembled before the call)
- \* 7/01/13 - Applications must be postmarked
- \* End of Q3 2013 - Awards granted

Also, please be sure to check our website in June as we have another exciting program that will be available to all 501(c)(3) organizations and

municipalities in NYS. The William G. Pomeroy Foundation will be providing funding for a plaque or a sign if your property or district has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Applications will be accepted anytime throughout the year. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. I can be reached at (315) 476-3000 x2576. We look forward to our partnership with APHNYS and to assist communities all over New York State preserve their local history through historic markers. Please help us spread the good news to colleagues in your regions!

Sincerely,  
Paula

Paula Miller  
Executive Director  
The William G. Pomeroy Foundation  
315-476-3000 x2576 |

[info@wgpfoundation.org](mailto:info@wgpfoundation.org)>  
PO Box 3327 | Syracuse, NY 13220-3327



## From the President's Desk...



It has been a month since the 2013 statewide APHNYS conference ended in Syracuse. It was a great conference for APHNYS with a record number of historians from all parts of the state attending. What I gathered from watching and talking to so many of our historians was a sense of camaraderie and spirit that was strong and perceptible.

Nearly a third of those attending had never been to a conference prior to this year's event. That is significant as we work to rebuild APHNYS into a viable statewide organization. We will not deny that our membership numbers are down from two or three years ago. Much of that has to do with budget cuts in municipalities and choices where dollars are going to be spent. But, we will be honest, and we realize that some of it goes to the questions of what APHNYS means to our historians and what we have and can do for them.

What can be said, is in that one month since the conference, our membership has increased by 20%!! Our conference evaluations were very positive and many told me that this was our best conference yet. I have long believed that word of mouth is the best advertising. Those historians going back to their communities and telling others of their experience helps to spread the word that APHNYS is getting better and stronger.

The other part of the equation is making APHNYS the strong partner in the history field so that it can respond to the needs of the historians. What that means is providing substantial regional meetings in all parts of the state each fall. We are on track for that this year as we create better meetings so more historians can participate.

It means keeping our membership informed and bringing them news in a timely manner. This is the second newsletter of the year, with two more to come. Plus, our website is up and running. I have added the Find a Historian listings that are now up-to-date, and a Speakers Form as promised. Soon, we will add back all the historical markers data, and other features to make our site current and relevant.

APHNYS is now one of the leading historical agencies in the state. We presented a panel discussion at the Conference on New York State History in Cooperstown in June and we have another conference called UnCommon Standards in Albany in August that we will present the historians role in education.

We are meeting on regular basis with the State Historian, the State Archives, the Office of Cultural Education, the Social Studies Council, and the New York State Historical Association to find common ground and direction for all of us. We agree that working together can create a better history community for the Empire State.

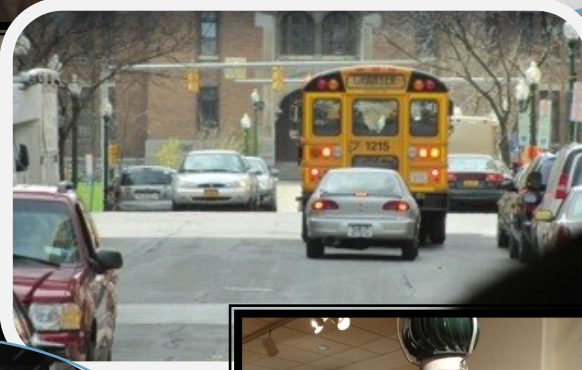
Lastly, we are getting our financial house in order. We are paying off our debts and building for the future. But we can only do that if everyone joins as a member of APHNYS. To represent you, we need you. You will find a membership form in this newsletter — please consider joining if you have not already joined.

In the August newsletter, news of all our regional meetings. Until then, keep watch on our website — [www.aphnys.org](http://www.aphnys.org). Stay tuned!!

Gerry Smith, President

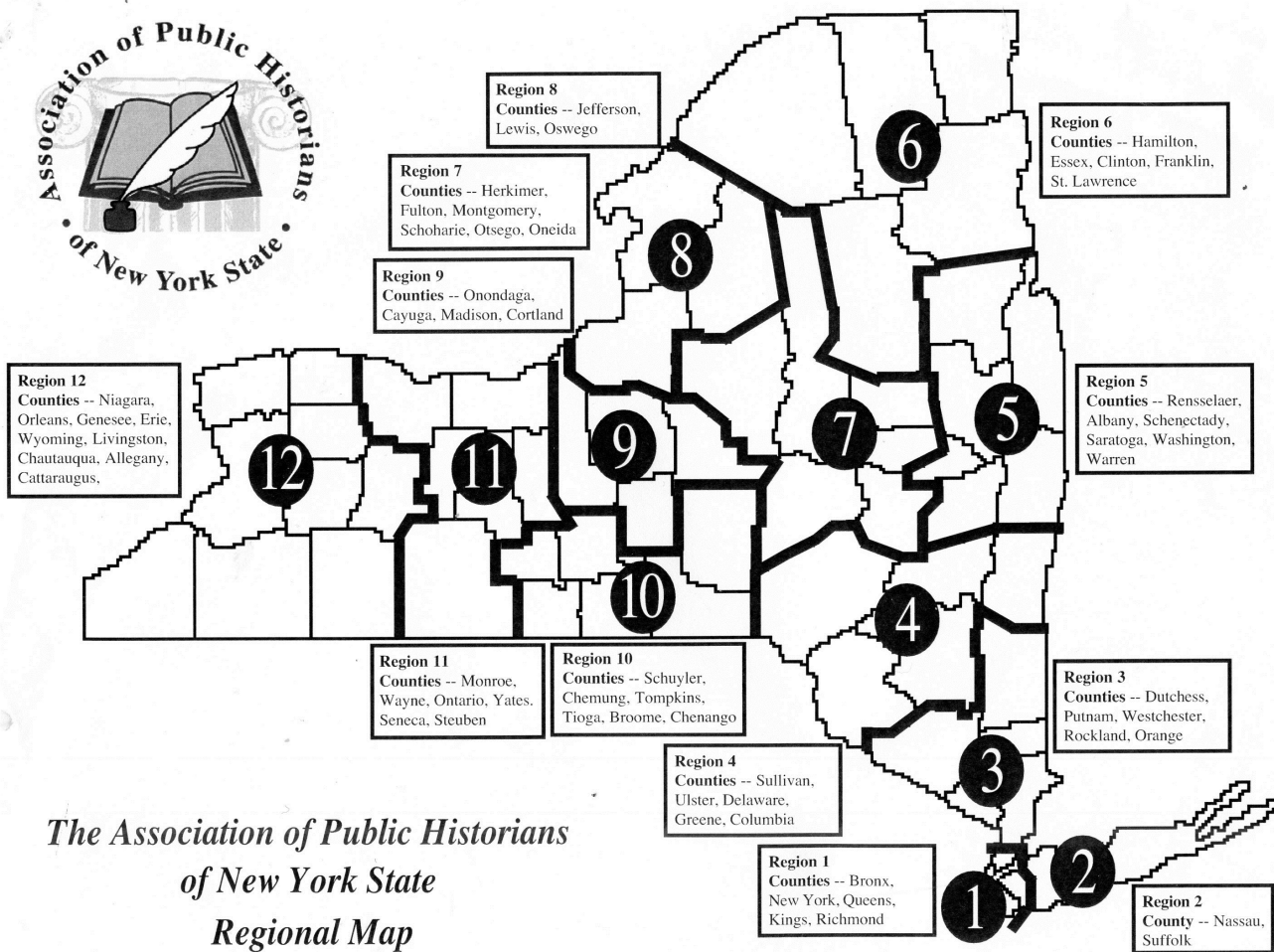


# Views From the Conference



Thanks to Barbara Durfee, Michelle Finn, and Clifton Patrick for providing photographs of the conference.





## News From Around The State

Joan O'Dell, Town of Horseheads Historian reports that the Village of Horseheads is celebrating its 17th anniversary during 3013. There are a number of events planned throughout this anniversary year. A bronze statue of Military Pack Horse has been commissioned and it was unveiled at a dedication ceremony that was held on May 18, 2012 in the village. Officials from around the area were in attendance. We, at APHNYS, congratulate the village and its residents for their work to honor their history and heritage.

The City of Binghamton will be commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Binghamton Clothing Company Fire that occurred on July 22, 1913. Mayor Ryan and City Historian Gerald Smith (APHNYS President) and others will be in attendance at the site at the time of the fire. The fire claimed 32 lives, most were women who worked in the four-story building. Many are buried in a mass grave at the city's Spring Forest Cemetery. An historical marker denotes the site, and the city's Fire Department maintains the cemetery plot.

Path Through History Weekends were held throughout the state during the first two weekends in June. This renamed event, which began last year as Heritage Weekend, has begun to take hold with many facilities hosting events and opening their doors. Bill Glidden reports that in Clinton County, the Adirondack Coast Cultural Alliance, with funds from CVNHP, hosted Museum Days. Visitors enjoyed the Town of Plattsburgh's town hall for its first exhibit on Plattsburgh's citizens in the Civil War.

Remember to send other news from around the state by mid July to be included in the August 2013 issue.





## Association of Public Historians of New York State 2013 Dues Notice and Membership Application

**Membership Dues Amount: See Chart Below**

**PLEASE TYPE or PRINT CLEARLY AND FILL OUT COMPLETELY!**

Membership for: ☐ Historian ☐ Deputy or Co-Historian ☐ Assistant ☐ Affiliate Member

Historian of: ☐ County ☐ Town ☐ Village ☐ City ☐ Borough ☐ Other

Name of Municipality: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of original appointment as Historian \_\_\_\_\_ (estimate if not sure)

Are you a New Historian? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Name of Prior Historian (if recalled) \_\_\_\_\_

Member's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Member's Mailing Address: (to receive correspondence, newsletters, conference info, etc. from APHNYS) \_\_\_\_\_

Municipal Billing Address: (If you want your membership renewal sent directly to your municipality for future payments) \_\_\_\_\_

Member's Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*We strongly encourage Historians to set-up an e-mail account in order to receive APHNYS updates!*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_  
\*\*\*\*\*

APHNYS does hereby certify that the items of the account are true and correct; that no Federal or State taxes for which the municipality is exempt are included; and that no part of the same has been previously paid. APHNYS has new mailing addresses. The fiscal address for receiving dues, conference payments, etc. is APHNYS, PO Box 2985, Setauket, NY 11733. Regular correspondence should be sent to APHNYS, PO Box 366, Chenango Bridge, NY 13745. If you have questions, email us at [APHNYS@yahoo.com](mailto:APHNYS@yahoo.com) or call 607-595-1571.

Please return completed form with your check made payable to:



APHNYS  
PO Box 2985  
Setauket, NY 11733

### Dues Structure

2013 Annual Dues for Historian is based on Community's population

0 - 1,000 .....	\$25.00
1,001 - 4,000 .....	\$30.00
4,001 - 12,000 .....	\$35.00
12,001 - 100,000 .....	\$40.00
100,001 - 200,000 .....	\$45.00
200,001 - 1+ Million .....	\$50.00

2013 Annual Dues for the following categories are as follows:

Deputy/Assistant Historian Dues .....	\$25.00
Affiliate Member Dues <sup>1</sup> .....	\$25.00

<sup>1</sup> **Affiliate Membership** is for any cultural agency, educational institution, corporation, or individual interested in NY State history and the work of the public historians of New York State. Affiliate Members shall be non-voting members and shall not hold office.



PO Box 366 (regular correspondence) PO Box 2985 (fiscal correspondence)  
Chenango Bridge, NY 13745 Setauket, NY 11733  
(607) 595-1571  
[www.aphnys.org](http://www.aphnys.org)  
[aphnys@yahoo.com](mailto:aphnys@yahoo.com)

## APHNYS Leadership

President - Gerald R. Smith,  
Broome County Historian & City of Binghamton Historian (Region 10)  
PO Box 366  
Chenango Bridge, NY 13745  
(607) 595-1571  
[aphnys@yahoo.com](mailto:aphnys@yahoo.com)

1st Vice-President - Rosemarie Tucker  
Town of Groton Historian (Region 10)  
101 Conger Blvd.  
Groton, NY 13073  
(607) 898-5035  
[roseingroton@yahoo.com](mailto:roseingroton@yahoo.com)

2nd Vice-President- John Scherer  
Town of Clifton Park Historian (Region 5)  
113 Vischer Ferry Rd.  
Rexford, NY 12148  
518-486-2041  
[jlscherer@aol.com](mailto:jlscherer@aol.com)

Treasurer - Barbara Russell  
Town of Brookhaven Historian (Region 2)  
Brookhaven Town Hall  
One Independence Hill  
Farmingville, NY 11738  
631-451-8038  
[brussell@brookhaven.org](mailto:brussell@brookhaven.org)

Secretary – Nancy Pfau  
Town & Village of Sharon Springs Historian (Region 7)  
P.O. Box 134 Sharon Springs, NY 13459  
518-284-2371  
[nancypfau@yahoo.com](mailto:nancypfau@yahoo.com)

### TRUSTEES

Jerry Bates  
Town of Plattsburgh Historian (Region 6)  
151 Banker Rd.  
Plattsburgh, NY 12901  
518-562-6887  
[historian@townofplattsburgh.org](mailto:historian@townofplattsburgh.org)

Peter Evans  
Wayne County Historian (Region 11)  
9 Pearl St.  
Lyons, NY 14489  
315-946-5470  
[historian@co.wayne.ny.us](mailto:historian@co.wayne.ny.us)

Raymond LaFever  
Town of Bovina Center (Region 4)  
2319 County Highway 6  
Bovina Center, NY 13740  
607-832-4609  
[bovinahistorian@gmail.com](mailto:bovinahistorian@gmail.com)

Clifton Patrick  
Town of Chester Historian (Region 3)  
119 Brookside Ave.  
Chester, NY 10918  
845-369-7645  
[historian@thetownofchester.org](mailto:historian@thetownofchester.org)

Christine Ridarsky  
City of Rochester Historian (Region 11)  
1115 South Ave.  
Rochester, NY 14604  
585-428-8095  
[christine.ridarsky@libraryweb.org](mailto:christine.ridarsky@libraryweb.org)

David Sadler  
Towns of Stockbridge, Lenox, Lincoln Historians (Region 9)  
P.O. Box 47  
Clockville, NY 13043  
315-697-6169  
[davidsadler\\_13043@yahoo.com](mailto:davidsadler_13043@yahoo.com)

Matthew Urtz  
Madison County Historian (Region 9)  
138 North Court St.  
Wampsville, NY 13163  
315-366-2453  
[matthew.urtz.madisoncounty.ny.us](mailto:matthew.urtz.madisoncounty.ny.us)

Sharon Wilkins  
Deputy Borough of Manhattan Historian (Region 1)  
2186 5<sup>th</sup> Ave., 7C  
New York, NY 10037  
212-690-9072  
[swilkins@manhattanbp.org](mailto:swilkins@manhattanbp.org)