

# THE HISTORIAN'S EXCHANGE

## Association of Public Historians of New York State

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NOVEMBER 2015

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## Tis the End of the Year, and All Through the House...

Once again it has happened—the hours have turned into days. The days have turned into weeks. The weeks have turned into months, and now we are counting down the days until that big crystal ball makes its way down the pole at Times Square to mark the start of another year.

And once again, we will ask where did it go? Many will comment that time seems to go faster the older we get. (It does—doesn't it?) In April, I had the honor of being elected to my third and final term as your president. I wasn't sure I wanted that third term, and in many ways, but I was willing to give it the old college try. Now with APHNYS's status being stable, we are poised to move into a new chapter in our own history.

In 2016, we are moving our annual conference to the fall. This will once again allow the membership—not just your elected board of trustees—to vote on the budget for the next year. It also puts trustees'

terms of office on the same calendar as our fiscal year. It moves our regional meetings to the spring to reduce some of the conflicts in scheduling we had seen with the fall meetings.

All that seems to be for the good; but it has required the APHNYS board to consider how it will operate in the future. On November 21, your trustees met in the Albany area to consider these changes and more as we approach 2016.

Among our actions was a review and update of board appointments, including regional coordinators and committee members. Most of the roughly 30 people who were serving in these capacities had been appointed two years ago, and their terms had come to an end.

So in not so diplomatic terms, and borrowing from a certain presidential can-

didate—they were all told, "You're fired." Of course, this was not done so callously. These people have played an important role in getting APHNYS back on track—they have held meetings, planned conferences, chosen award winners, advised, and audited. I cannot sufficiently express my sincere gratitude for all that they have done.

Many of these members have been asked to continue to serve the organization in some capacity or another. But we have also broadened our recruitment efforts to engage new members and members from areas of the state that may not have been well represented in APHNYS recently.

This effort to expand our reach is especially important with the vacancy in the position of the State Historian. And also in light

[See p. 2: From Our President](#)



## From Our President (continued)...



of the recent announcement that the Conference on New York State History will merge with the Re-searching New York History Conference in 2016, which is held in November rather than June.

What will these changes mean for APHNYS, and better yet, what will they mean for public historians in New York? That is what we need to work on in 2016. APHNYS has the opportunity to help shape the way a new State Historian will work in the state. And we have an opportunity to push our message about the importance of public historians at conferences aimed not only at historians, but for groups such as the Association of Towns, NYSAC, or the Council of Mayors.

APHNYS already has a place within the National Council on Public History, having recently been invited to provide a representative to serve on its new Government Historians Committee and participate in its nationwide conference. As to the others, we are working in that direction, but each one takes time, and money.

But we need to inform all appointing bodies that we, as historians, exist, that we protect and promote our communities, that we are officers of our governments and deserve the respect that that office entails. One initiative that we will work on in 2016 is a push to have every vacancy filled for every community. We will also be trying to ensure that those vacancies are filled by individuals and not museums, historical societies, etc.

This will not take away from our ongoing initiatives to install historical markers or to add resources to our webpage. Both are important and need our attention. As does improving communication with our members. Toward that end, I will be attempting to write a regular blog that will be uploaded to our website, promoted on Facebook, and blasted out via email to all historians in the state on a regular basis. I have not yet arrived at the point of learning Twitter, but we have resources there as well.

In a few words, I was ready to quit at the end of

this year, as I was very tired and feeling a bit weary. But during our board meeting last month, I was aware that there is much work to do... but there is also much momentum and many new directions to pursue that will give us the chance to grow—as an organization, as APHNYS members, and as historians.

Like those pilgrims who sat down with the Native Americans in 1621 to give thanks for their survival of that year, but also for the promise that the future held—I give thanks to all of you, to the board, coordinators, committee members, and the many more who have helped me survive this year. They have given me the promise of continuing the work of APHNYS and moving us to new heights in 2016.

I wish each and every one of you the happiest of Holiday Seasons.

—Gerald Smith,  
APHNYS President

## 2016 Committee Membership

As President Gerald Smith noted in his message, the APHNYS Board of Trustees met in November and began selecting committee members for terms beginning in 2016. We are still in need of a few volunteers who are willing to serve on the following committees:

- Nominating Committee— solicits and recommends candidates for officer and board positions
- Finance Committee — works with the Treasurer to develop an annual budget recommendation and monitors spending
- Audit Committee — meets annually to review fiscal matters and ensure proper financial handling
- New Historian Orientation Training Sub-Committee — develops training programs to help orient newly appointed historians at the annual conference or through other channels

Committee members must be an appointed government historians and current, paid-up members of APHNYS. If this is something you may wish to consider, please contact Smith at [aphnys@yahoo.com](mailto:aphnys@yahoo.com), or by leaving a message at 607-595-1571.

## Annual Report Time is Near!

With the calendar year quickly coming to an end, it is time to start thinking about writing and submitting your 2015 annual report. These reports inform the State Historian, your county historian, and your government officials and constituents about the important work that you do in your community and leave a historical record to guide the work of future historians.

There are no set guidelines for what your report should include, but some things to consider are presentations/talks you've given to public, school, or professional groups; books or articles you've written; committees you've served on and projects you've worked on, including the outcome; and awards you've received. And don't forget statistics—number of phone calls, letters, emails, etc., that you've responded to.

Send your report via snail mail or email to:

Jennifer Lemak, Acting State Historian

Cultural Education Center

222 Madison Avenue

Albany, NY 12230

[jennifer.lemak@nysed.gov](mailto:jennifer.lemak@nysed.gov)

Don't forget to send copies of your report to your county historian and to members of your appointing bodies!

## Around the state...



Parks and Trails, NY, Executive Director Robin Dropkin, presented a Public Leadership Award to

**Town of Montezuma Historian Cheryl Longyear** in June. Longyear was recognized as a community leader for her work in rallying funding, community support, and a vision for the Montezuma Heritage Park. The work resulted in an attractive trail system that residents and visitors can use to bike, hike, walk, and learn about the town's cultural and historical significance.



State Archivist Thomas J. Ruller presented the William H. Kelly Annual Archives Award for Excellence in Local Government Archival Development to **Rochester City Historian Christine L. Ridarsky** and colleagues in October. The award, presented by the NYS Archives and the Archives Partnership Trust, recognized the city's continued development and management of a comprehensive archival program that preserves and makes the City's historical records widely accessible to the public.



# Association of Public Historians of New York State

## **2016 ANNUAL STATE CONFERENCE**

***Syracuse, NY - September 15-17, 2016***

***Register and reserve your hotel room NOW!***



The Association of Public Historians of New York State is pleased to announce that the 2016 Annual State Conference will be held in Syracuse on September 15-17, 2016, in conjunction with the New York State Family History Conference. APHNYS members will have the opportunity to attend NYSFHC sessions at no additional cost. Accommodations and most conference sessions will be held at the Holiday Inn—Syracuse/Liverpool.

Please note the change in timing, as APHNYS has historically held its annual conference in the Spring. The move to a Fall conference will reduce conflicts between our conference and others normally held in the Spring, such as the Museum Association of New York and the New York Statewide Preservation Conference, and provide new opportunities to partner with organizations such as NYSFHC.

The APHNYS conference draws between 175-200 Local Government Historians and supporters of local history from across the Empire State. NYSFHC draws hundreds more.

Due to the popularity of the NYSFHC and a limit on the total number of attendees the conference venue can accommodate, we are encouraging APHNYS members to **REGISTER EARLY**, both to ensure that they are able to reserve a spot and also to take advantage of an early bird discount. You may register for only **\$65** before **May 31, 2016**. After that, registration increases to \$75. Use the form on the next page to register.



**Reserve your room now, too!** We also highly recommend reserving your hotel room as soon as possible. The Holiday Inn and Conference Center—Syracuse/Liverpool is conveniently located at 441 Electronics Parkway, Liverpool, NY, across from the NYS Thruway (I-90) Electronics Parkway exit toll booth and one mile from the 7th North Street I-81 exit. Located 5 miles from Syracuse Hancock International Airport (SYR) with flights provided by Air Canada, American Eagle, JetBlue, USAirways, Delta and United, the hotel offers complimentary shuttle service to and from the Airport.

The conference rate is **\$129** per night, plus applicable fees and taxes. To reserve your room, **contact the hotel directly**, at **315-457-1122** and use the discount code "**CGS**." Do not use the hotel's toll free number or website, as you will not get the conference rate.

**Look for additional details in coming months!**





# APHNYS CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

September 15-17, 2016, Syracuse, New York

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ **Conference Registration**  
Guest registrant name: \_\_\_\_\_ **First Rush**—postmarked/registered before Nov. 30, 2015  
(Guest registrants of the APHNYS conference may only attend the APHNYS sessions.)  
Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ APHNYS Member \$55 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ APHNYS Guest \$25 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ **Early Bird**—postmarked/registered before May 31, 2016  
E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
APHNYS Region: \_\_\_\_\_ APHNYS Member \$65 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Historian for: \_\_\_\_\_ APHNYS Guest \$30 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Town, Village, City, County or Borough)

## Please check all that apply:

- ☐ I am a newly or recently-appointed Public Historian.  
☐ I have been a member of APHNYS since \_\_\_\_\_.  
☐ I am a Registered Historian.  
☐ This will be my first visit to Syracuse.

## Lecture Choices:

The APHNYS 2016 will run concurrently with the NYS Family History Conference. APHNYS registrants may attend any of the NYSFHC conference lectures at no additional cost, but will not receive the NYSFHC syllabus. The NYSFHC syllabus will be available for purchase at the NYSFHC booth in the exhibitor hall.

## Membership:

For those who have yet to renew or wish to join APHNYS for 2016

### Dues for Historian and/or Co-Historian are 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

### Dues for the following categories are as follows:

Deputy and/or Assistant Historian ..... \$25.00  
Affiliate Member..... \$25.00

(Affiliate Membership is for any cultural agency, educational institution, corporation, historical societies, museums, 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)

**For the 2016 conference, Affiliate Members who join as Affiliate members on or before September 15, 2015, will be eligible for the member registration fee.**

## Friday Afternoon APHNYS Excursion(s):

- ☐ TBA (cost \$30) Limited to 40 attendees.  
☐ TBA (cost \$30) Limited to 40 attendees.

## Regular—after May 31, 2016

APHNYS Member \$75 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

APHNYS Guest \$35 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration total (lectures)** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Thursday Dinner & Program \$45 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Friday Breakfast \$25 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Friday Lunch & Lecture \$32 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Friday Dinner & Program \$45 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday Breakfast \$25 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday Lunch & Lecture \$32 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Excursions & Membership:

Friday APHNYS Excursion 1 \$30 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Friday APHNYS Excursion 2 \$30 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Fee \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: IF ATTENDEES MUST CANCEL DUE TO EMERGENCIES PRIOR TO 72 HOURS OF THE CONFERENCE, ALL FEES WILL BE RETURNED EXCEPT REGISTRATION FEES. IF CANCELLED LESS THAN 72 HOURS, MEAL COSTS ALSO CANNOT BE RETURNED.**

Please make checks payable to APHNYS  
and return this form to:  
APHNYS 2016 Conference  
P.O. Box 2985  
Setauket, NY 11733

For more information go to [www.aphnys.org](http://www.aphnys.org)



# **Association of Public Historians of New York State**

## ***2016 ANNUAL STATE CONFERENCE***

***Holiday Inn, Syracuse, NY - September 15-17, 2016***

### ***CALL FOR CONFERENCE PAPERS/PANELS***

The Association of Public Historians of New York State is pleased to announce that the 2016 Annual State Conference will be held in Syracuse, September 15-17, 2016. This conference will be in conjunction with the New York State Family History Conference. APHNYS is currently accepting proposals for conference presentations. Proposals can be submitted for papers, panels and interactive programs. This joint conference will draw approximately 600 attendees, with at least 150 Local Government Historians and supporters of local history from across the Empire State.

The Planning Committee is especially interested in proposals that offer:

- Insights into the history of Syracuse and its communities
- Family History
- Genealogy and the Local Government Historian
- Heritage Tourism
- The Historian and the Common Core
- Transportation & Trades in New York State
- Skills and Techniques for Local Government Historians, Family History Researchers

To submit your proposal, please complete this form and return to APHNYS by January 31, 2016.

### **Contact Information**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

## Program Information

Title of Program/Presentation: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Will someone else be presenting with you? (If so, provide names, titles and affiliations.)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please describe your program/presentation. (Feel free to attach more sheets as necessary.)

Offering: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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Any special equipment needs?

\_\_\_\_\_

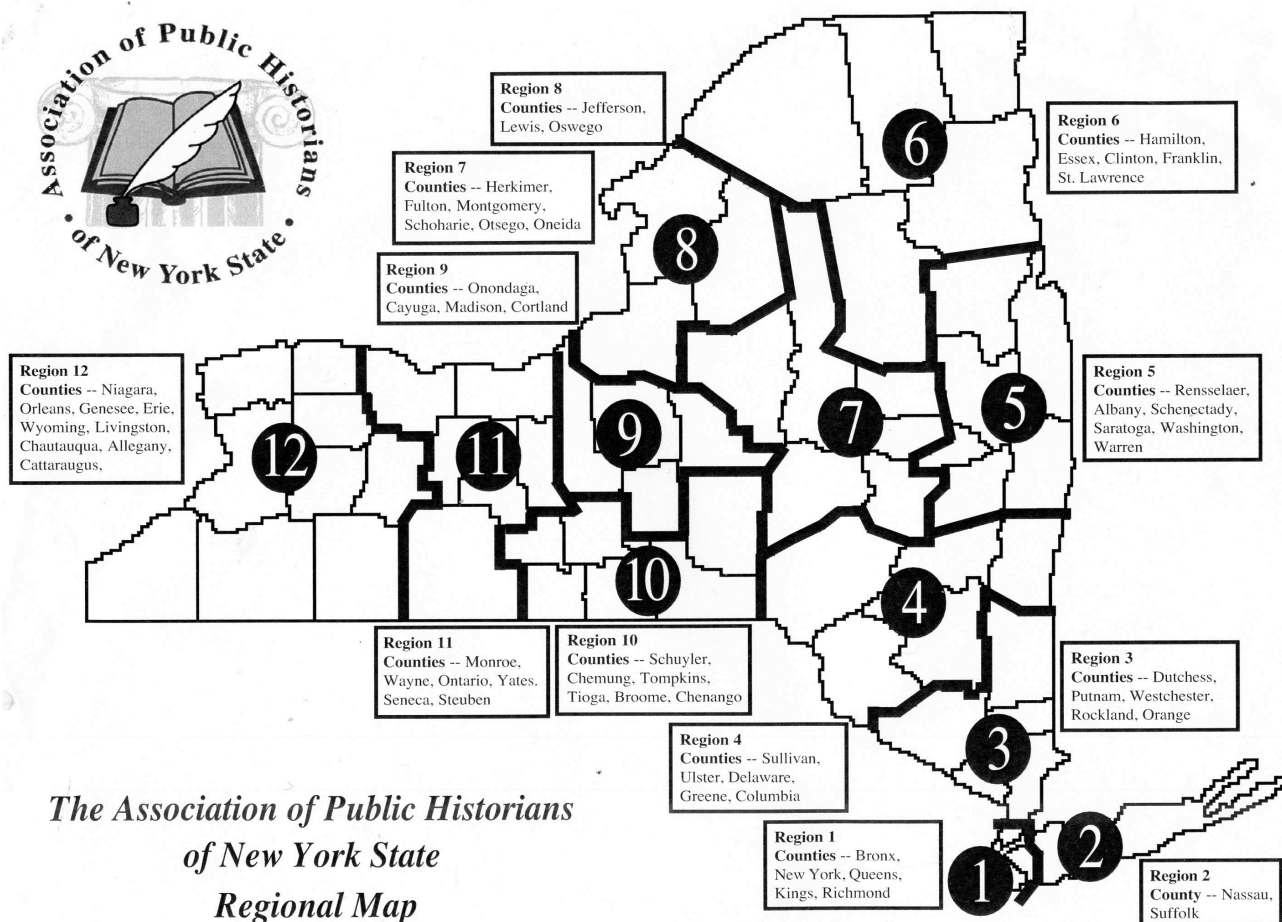
Any size limitations on showings or presentations? (If so, please explain and provide limits.)

\_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for sharing your knowledge and expertise with  
New York State's Public Historians!**

**Please return this form by January 31, 2016 to:  
APHNYS, P.O. Box 366, Chenango Bridge, NY 13745**

**Better yet — send it send it electronically in PDF format to our e-mail:  
aphnys@yahoo.com**



## Regional Coordinators Around The State

- Region 1:** Sharon Wilkins, Manhattan Deputy Historian, [swilkins@manhattanbp.nyc.gov](mailto:swilkins@manhattanbp.nyc.gov)
- Region 2:** Zachary Studenroth, Town of Southampton Historian., [zstudenroth@southamptonny.gov](mailto:zstudenroth@southamptonny.gov)
- Region 3:** Suzanne Isaksen, Town of Montgomery Historian, [sisaksen@townofmontgomery.com](mailto:sisaksen@townofmontgomery.com)
- Region 4:** Ray LaFever, Town of Bovina Historian, [bovinahistorian@gmail.com](mailto:bovinahistorian@gmail.com)
- Region 5:** Krissy Saddlemire, Village of Schuylerville Historian, [krissysaddlemire@yahoo.com](mailto:krissysaddlemire@yahoo.com)
- Region 6:** Vacant
- Region 7:** Richard Williams, Town of Kirkland Historian, [apulia@verizon.net](mailto:apulia@verizon.net)
- Region 8:** Justin White, Oswego County Historian, [whitej@oswegocounty.com](mailto:whitej@oswegocounty.com)
- Region 9:** Matthew Urtz, Madison County Historian, [matthew.urtz@madisoncounty.ny.gov](mailto:matthew.urtz@madisoncounty.ny.gov)
- Region 10:** Gerald Smith, Broome County Historian, [gsmith@co.broome.ny.us](mailto:gsmith@co.broome.ny.us)
- Region 11:** Peter Evans, Wayne County Historian, [historian@co.wayne.ny.us](mailto:historian@co.wayne.ny.us)
- Region 12:** Barbara Durfee, Town of Sheldon Historian, [sheldonhistorian@aol.com](mailto:sheldonhistorian@aol.com)





## Association of Public Historians of New York State

# 2016 Dues Notice/Membership Application

Membership Year: Jan. 1-Dec. 31      Membership Dues Amount: *See Chart Below*

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

### Membership Category:

☐ Historian   ☐ Co-Historian   ☐ Deputy Historian   ☐ Assistant Historian   ☐ Affiliate Member

Appointed for: ☐ County   ☐ Town   ☐ Village   ☐ City   ☐ Borough   ☐

Other \_\_\_\_\_

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

*Affiliates also list your county*

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

Are you a New Historian? ☐ Yes ☐ No   If yes, name of Prior Historian \_\_\_\_\_

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

Member's Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Municipal Billing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Member's Phone w/Area Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email (please print clearly): \_\_\_\_\_



*We **strongly** encourage Historians have an email address in order to receive APHNYS messages. **All information is sent by email.** Those without email will receive **only** dues notices and conference information.*

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' 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 a person is appointed historian/deputy historian for more than one community, dues are to be paid for each community.** If you have questions, email us at [APHNYS@yahoo.com](mailto:APHNYS@yahoo.com) or call 607-595-1571. Please return completed form with check **made payable and mailed to:**

➡   ➡   **APHNYS**   ←   ←  
**PO Box 2985**  
**Setauket, NY 11733**

### Dues Structure

*2016 Annual Dues for Historian and/or Co-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

*2016 Annual Dues for the following categories are as follows:*

Deputy and/or 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, historical societies, museums, 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

### OFFICERS

#### President - Gerald R. Smith

Broome County/Binghamton City 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  
[roseingrotonny@gmail.com](mailto:roseingrotonny@gmail.com)

#### 2nd Vice-President- Matthew Urtz

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

#### 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 - April Staring

Town of Vienna Historian (Region 7)  
2083 State Route 49  
PO Box 250  
North Bay, NY 13123  
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### TRUSTEES

#### Peter Evans

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

#### Raymond LaFever

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

#### Judith Littlejohn

Town and Village of Elba Historian (Region 12)  
5237 North Byron Road  
Elba, NY 14058  
(585) 698-7190  
[Judithlittlejohn@gmail.com](mailto:Judithlittlejohn@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 L. 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)

#### 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)

#### William P. Tatum, III

Dutchess County Historian (Region 3)  
22 Market Street  
Poughkeepsie, New York 12601  
(845) 486-2381  
[WTatum@DutchessNY.Gov](mailto:WTatum@DutchessNY.Gov)

#### 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.nyc.gov](mailto:swilkins@manhattanbp.nyc.gov)