

The Historian's Exchange

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In this issue:

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| <i>President's message</i> | 1 |
| <i>State of NYS History</i> | 2-3 |
| <i>Did you know?</i> | 3 |
| <i>Pomeroy Foundation</i> | 4-5 |
| <i>Treasurer's report</i> | 5 |
| <i>Conference highlights</i> | 6 |
| <i>Elections & Awards</i> | 7 |
| <i>APHNYS Leadership</i> | 8 |



A message from our president

The following message is adapted from the annual report APHNYS President Rosemarie Tucker delivered at the 2017 Annual Conference in Poughkeepsie, October 30-November 1.

The past 11 months have been a learning curve for me as President of APHNYS. Although I have been on the board in previous positions as an officer, being the leader takes on a lot of responsibility. I thank all the Trustees, Officers, and Regional Coordinators for doing their part to keep us moving ahead.

As you will read in the Treasurer's report, we are financially stable.

I would like to find a way to encourage more of our members to attend to our conferences. I hope to offer some financial assistance to a historian who has not attended a conference in the past three years. The guidelines, amount, review committee, and other details have to be worked out yet. As this develops, you will receive an email from me and find information in an upcoming issue of our newsletter and on the APHNYS website. We may have to find additional funding to cover postage to those of you who do not have email.

I encourage every historian to acquire an email address. If you don't have a computer, you may use one at your local library. Check your email at least every two weeks. There are many free email providers that you can use. Some popular ones include gmail.com, outlook.com, and aol.com.

I encourage you to contact me by way of email at aphnys@yahoo.com or via telephone or letter. Please let me know if you are interested in serving APHNYS as a trustee or committee member. We are always looking to expand our ranks!

Thank you for all your support for APHNYS.

Rosemarie Tucker
President, APHNYS

A message from the State Historian:

The State of New York State History

The following message is adapted from the State Historian's annual message delivered at the 2017 Annual Conference.

The year 2016-2017 was an incredibly busy year for history in New York State. The New York State Museum opened three major exhibits in 2017 to celebrate important historical anniversaries:

[A Spirit of Sacrifice: New York State in the First World War](#)

April 15, 2017-June 3, 2018

[Enterprising Waters: New York's Erie Canal \(Phase 1\)](#)

September 16, 2017-October 20, 2019

[Votes for Women: Celebrating New York's Suffrage Centennial](#)

November 4, 2017-May 13, 2018

These were only some of the important anniversaries to take place in 2017, which also saw the 240th anniversaries of the state's First Constitution, the Battles of Saratoga, and the Burning of Kingston, as well as the 100th anniversary of the creation of the State Police,

among many other local anniversaries.

State Historian Initiatives

As State Historian, my accomplishments for the year have been:

- Development and launch of the Office of State History Website and Newsletter: <http://www.nysm.nysed.gov/research-collections/state-history>.
- Development and implementation of two day-long facilitated training opportunities for county and borough historians: October 14, 2016 (with the NYS Association of Counties, APHNYS, and the NYS Association of County Clerks) and August 25, 2017 (with APHNYS and GAHWNY)
- Creation of the NYS History Advisory Group which brings together representatives from State Agencies, Federal Agencies, State-wide organizations, academia, and local government historians for twice-yearly meetings.
- Participation and attendance at 28 conferences/organizational meetings totaling over 5,500 miles of travel.



Ongoing Initiatives

Of course, there is always more to do. Some of my ongoing initiatives include:

- Working with various state government stakeholders on NYS history related projects.
- Working with organizations and stakeholders within the history field on coordinating efforts.
- Working with key stakeholders to ensure that the *New York History Journal* continues to be published beyond 2018.
- Working with APHNYS, GAHWNY, Researching New York, the Museum Association of NY, Greater Hudson Heritage Network, Humanities NY, etc. to providing professional development opportunities to the field.

Continued on page 3...

State of NY State History

Continued from page 2...

- Developing a NYS history podcast for distribution.
- Working with stakeholders, teachers, and historians on building and strengthening [NYS History Day](#) and [NYS History Month](#).

Making Local Government Historians Reports Easier!

Per § 57.09 of the NYS Arts and Cultural Affairs Law, all appointed local government historians *shall make an annual report, in the month of January, to the local appointing officer or officers and to the state historian of the work which has been accomplished during the preceding year.* In an attempt to make this process easier, I have created an uploadable online form, available at



<http://www.nysm.nysed.gov/research-collections/state-history/resources/annualreport>, to allow historians to input their information.

Submitting the form will automatically generate an email to me and to the submitting historian with the information enclosed. The data will also be automatically stored and enable me to compile a useful statistical abstract of the field, which I will share annually. A downloadable version of the form will be made available on

the website as well for those who wish to print it, fill it out separately, and mail it back to me.

As always, please contact me directly with any feedback or questions at:

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Devin Lander
State Historian

Did you know?

All officially appointed government historians in New York State are eligible to receive a NYS Library Historian Borrower's Card. This card allows you to borrow from the State Library's Collection (picked up or shipped to your office) and to access to a variety of online databases, including millions of magazine, journal and newspaper articles. For additional information, visit <http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/reference/borrowers/historians.htm>.

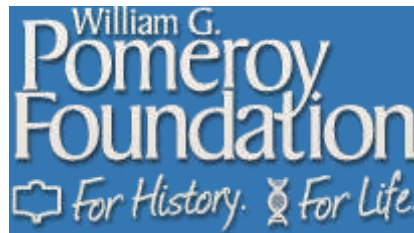
News from the William G. Pomeroy Foundation

The following message is adapted from a report delivered at the 2017 Annual Conference.

It is hard to believe that it was five years ago that staff from the William G. Pomeroy Foundation attended our very first APHNYS Conference and announced we were expanding our Historic Roadside Marker Grant Program to the entire State of New York. Together, we've accomplished a lot.

Since day one, APHNYS has been our signature partner. From the leadership of Past President Gerry Smith & current President Rosemarie Tucker, to board members and Regional Coordinators, thank you for your support of our grant programs. Of all the types of agencies and organizations that apply for markers, it is municipalities that receive the most, so I'd also like to thank all of you – our public historians – for the hard work and perseverance that goes into our application process. We know it's not easy.

To date, we have funded more than 450 markers in 51 counties across the state. I'd



also like to thank our State Historian, Devin Lander, who has always been an advocate for our programs. And a few years ago we had the good sense to bring (APHNYS 1st Vice President) Matt Urtz on board, and he has been a tremendous help to us.

We certainly have grown over the years, not just in the number of markers, but in our grant offerings and partnerships as well. In addition to our traditional Historic Roadside Marker Grant Program, we now offer the National Register Grant Program and have partnered with the New York Folklore Society for the Legends & Lore Grant Program.

Last year, we were approached by Humanities NY to provide Historic Markers for the Centennial of Women's Suffrage in New York by commemorating significant people, places or things instrumental to the cause. Because we like to

keep historic markers fun – we also gave Humanities NY a grant to create Suffrage Selfies by working with our grant recipients to create custom filters for each individual marker. We are going to do the Women's Suffrage Marker Series again in 2018; it will be available online January 1st. This series was a huge success! Dedication ceremonies were extremely well-attended, with women dressed in period attire and wearing Votes for Women sashes. At one site, 150 people participated in a reenactment of a 1913 Women's March.

I want to share an email I received recently:

As the great-great granddaughter of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and the great granddaughter of Harriot Stanton Blatch, both woman's suffrage & rights pioneers, I am scurrying around New York State for the unveiling of Pomeroy plaques in Shoreham, Long Island; Johnstown, at the foothills of the Adirondack mountains; and soon to East Hampton.

At these events, I have noticed that your foundation

Continued on page 5...

Pomeroy Foundation

Continued from page 4...

has created the greatest sense of civic pride that I have witnessed in years. Thus, from the depth of my existence, thank you for recognizing contributions to democracy that have impacted 51 % of the population - women. Your cause is worthy!

As we enter into this next grant cycle, we are also partnering with the NYS World War I Commission to offer grants commemorating the Centennial of New York's role in the Great War. We are also excited to announce that we are offering our first national marker program to

commemorate transportation canals in the United States. Please help us spread the word to any colleagues, family and friends you may have in other states.

So, that's a wrap up of what's going on in our world, and it's a lot. So much so that we have found it necessary to bring in some additional help. We are entering into an agreement with two consultants to work with you in the way that Susan Hughes does today regarding locating primary source documents. We are extremely thrilled to have them onboard soon, and available to assist you. There's also a good chance

that you may know of them, so look for that announcement soon!

In closing, I would like to correct one thing in Ms. Jenkins' email. It is not our foundation that has created this great sense of civic pride, it is all of us together who preserve and celebrate our history with historic markers who together have created this great sense of civic pride. Let's keep in going!

Paula Miller
Executive Director,
William G. Pomeroy
Foundation

As Liza Minnelli sang in Cabaret...

"Money makes the world go 'round'"

Every organization requires money to function, and APHNYS is no different. We exist to represent the network of government-appointed historians who promote the history and heritage of New York State. Whether you've been in the position 20 years or 20 days, APHNYS is here for you. But our ability to work for you relies on your membership to pay for our website, this newsletter, and basic administrative expenses. Our officers, trustees, and regional coordinators donate their time and expenses.

Through careful planning and conservative spending, we've stayed within our budget and maintained a stable financial base during 2017.

The 2018 budget seeks to continue that stability while providing new services and opportunities for members. Because APHNYS is aware of the limited budgets many historians work within, our challenge is to do more for you while keeping memberships at the current rates.

January begins the membership year... Please encourage your fellow historians to become part of our state-wide organization. Join or renew today at www.aphnys.org!

Margaret Hadsell
Treasurer, APHNYS



Highlights



Annual Conference



2017



Awards and New Registered Historians

Right: Awards presented by NYS Historian Devin Lander (center left) and APHNYS President Rosemarie Tucker (center right). Registered Historian certificates presented by Subcommittee Chair Sandra Bradford (far right).

Below: Lander and Tucker present the Excellence in Promoting Local History Award to Alexander Prizgintas.

Board Elections The following board members were elected to their first 2-year terms after being previously appointed to fill vacancies: Rosemarie Tucker, President; Matthew Urtz, 1st Vice President; Raymond LaFever, 2nd Vice President; Margaret Hadsell, Treasurer. April Starling was elected to second 2-year term as Secretary. Trustees William Tatum and John Scherer were re-elected second 2-year term; and Samantha Hall-Saladino, Joseph Marren, and Zachery Studenroth were newly elected to 2-year terms.



Photographs courtesy of Barbara Russell and Christine Ridarsky.

APHNYS Leadership

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